



CHESTER Water Commission CHESTER TOWN HALL Meeting Minutes

01 June 2023

Members Present: Lyle Snide (Chair)
Bob Daley
Tom Bean

Members Absent: none

Others present: Sister Judith Balesandro
Nick Chuisano

Meeting called to order at 4:09pm.

Item 1: The 11MAY2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Item 2: Conducted a public hearing to inform residents of a water rate increase for FY2024. The rate increase is dependent on whether a shared water operator in training MOU is approved by the Blandford Water Commission; no decision has been made yet. If the MOU is approved, the water rate increase is 7%, a monthly \$2.90 increase on the average bill. If not approved, the increase will be 24.3%, a \$10 increase on the average monthly bill. This higher rate is based on having to fund a part-time water operator in training solely from the Chester Water Department budget without grant support from an Efficiency and Regionalization grant that would be available with the shared water OIT MOU.

Item 3: An update was provided on water plant operational improvements, including: upgrades to the SCADA operating system, new pH and chlorine meters and pumps, and piping replacements in the water plant, completion of hydrant flushing of the distribution system, repairing 6 significant leaks resulting in a 63% decrease in water use, and commencing a watershed management plan to harvest timber from the Horn Pond watershed.

Item 4: A brief summary of approved and requested grants was provided, including:

- Approved Asset Management Plan grant that will provide a GIS database of the distribution system
- Approved Lead Service Line Survey grant
- Approved Granulated Carbon Layer grant
- Pending Blandford/Chester shared operator in training MOU agreement
- Pending Efficiency and Regionalization grant

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Submitted,

Lyle Snide, Chair, Water Commission