

# **ANNUAL REPORT FY2023**

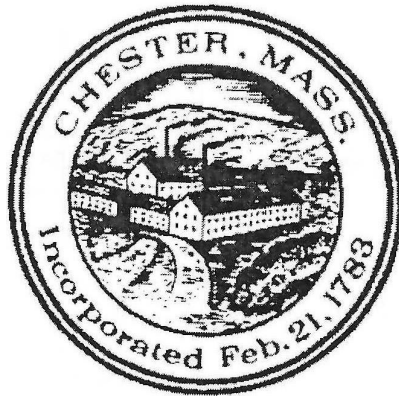
## **TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**



Front Cover Photo by Don Humason

Back Cover Photo by Deborah Broga

TOWN OF CHESTER  
MASSACHUSETTS



*ANNUAL REPORTS of the  
Town Officers*

For the 2023 Fiscal Year  
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



# ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023

TOWN OF CHESTER

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## CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

To the citizens of Chester,

Your Board of Selectmen has been hard at work and actively engaged in governing our Town. There were some personnel changes to the Board of Selectmen as well as the Town Departments:

- Selectmen Jason Forgue resigned from the Board of Selectmen.
- Kathe Warden resigned as Town Administrator to become Town Administrator in Becket. The Board of Selectmen hired Don Humason of Westfield to be the new Town Administrator.
- The Selectboard hired new Highway Department Superintendent Charles “Chip” Dazelle of Huntington.
- After a long and distinguished career Fire Chief Richie Small retired and the Board of Selectmen hired Henry Fristik of Blandford to be our new Fire Chief.

The Selectmen thank Richie for his service to the Town and express their appreciation and gratitude to all the dedicated employees who are committed to keeping our Town running.

Your Board of Selectmen meets every 2 weeks, typically on Monday evenings, in the Auditorium at Town Hall. Our meetings are open to the public and Chester residents are welcome and encouraged to come to the meetings.

Did you know the Town has an official website? It's [www.TownofChester.net](http://www.TownofChester.net). That website is the official source for information, meeting agendas, Town department contacts, Town elections, the Annual Meeting and Special Town Meetings, and more. We invite you to explore the website. Bookmark it and return regularly for news and updates.

Finally, we encourage you to go to the website and click on the “Docs & Forms” tab along the top of the homepage. That tab lists documents by year, going back nearly 10 years. From there you can view the agendas and minutes of the Selectboard and all the Town departments, Boards, and Committees and see all the topics debated and decided by these bodies.

If you would like to get involved in Chester government, there are plenty of opportunities. The Selectboard appoints the volunteers. For more, call the Town Administrator at 354-7760.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you as your Board of Selectmen.

Most sincerely,

John Baldasaro, Chair  
Richard “Andy” Sutton, Vice-Chair  
Brian Forgue, Clerk

Submitted for the Board by Town Administrator Don Humason

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

First, I would like to thank the Selectboard and Townspeople for giving me a chance to work for the Chester Highway Department. The Selectboard and towns people have been supportive in working with me here. We have finished many projects starting with the Johnson Hill culvert and 2 others. We installed that for around \$30,000, saving the town almost \$30,000.

Other Projects completed /or in process this year; updated the drainage on Mica Mill, reset and replaced the guard rails on Middlefield Road hill, paved almost 3500 tons on Middlefield Road, Olin Ave and Western View and Birch Circle, started work on Maynard Hill because the brook side is collapsing, plans are to have the road moved over to make a safer road and reset the guardrails and we put a lot of gravel on the dirt roads this year. There is still a lot of work to do here and always looking for issues that need to be addressed by the residents. Also, in the coming year Prospect Street will have work done above the water line grant, Main St as well. With the help from Selectman Andy Sutton we have been working on many grants also.

**Charles “Chip” Dazelle**

**Town of Chester Highway Superintendent**

**Shop 1-413-354-2276 Cell 1-413-393-8946**

## HAMILTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

In the fiscal year 2022-2023, the Hamilton Memorial Library underwent a transformative phase following closures for renovations in preceding years. The appointment of Judy Kelly as the new interim director heralded a new era, characterized by strategic initiatives, and enhanced offerings. Operating 19 hours per week, with Saturday hours included, the library has become a vibrant community hub. Two enthusiastic assistants were hired to curate engaging programs for both children and adults, with a significant focus on STEM learning initiatives. The library's commitment to early childhood literacy is evident through its weekly story time for preschoolers, complemented by creative craft activities. Additionally, the introduction of a monthly LEGO Club on the first Saturday provides a dynamic and interactive space for young minds. For adult patrons, the library has established well-received monthly programs. A book club convenes on the third Wednesday, fostering literary discussions, while a writer's club gathers on the second Wednesday, encouraging local writers to hone their craft. Acting director, throughout the last fiscal year, Tammy Meranda's transition to the director role upon completing her bachelor's degree this May demonstrates the library's commitment to professional development. In response to evolving interests, the Hamilton Memorial Library has strategically expanded its collection. Notably, the graphic novel section has been augmented, and two new sections dedicated to fantasy and science fiction have been introduced, catering to diverse literary tastes. The integration of the Mineral and Rock Museum into regular library hours provides an educational resource, complemented by special events featuring local geology and history enthusiasts. Recognizing the importance of ancestral exploration, the library has incorporated Ancestry.com into its resources to aid patrons in uncovering their individual histories. Enhancements for younger library visitors include the introduction of comfy beanbag chairs and an interactive board designed to stimulate toddlers' curiosity about their surroundings. A successful grant application has facilitated the acquisition of a new drop box and an eye-catching library sign, contributing to a welcoming atmosphere, and offering patrons the convenience of returning books outside regular hours. A notable achievement for the Hamilton Memorial Library is its recent integration into CW Mars. The culmination of a year-long effort by the dedicated staff, this collaboration signifies a significant expansion of literary possibilities for the town of Chester, reinforcing the library's role as a vital community resource. In tandem with these strategic advancements, the Hamilton Memorial Library has invested in modernizing its infrastructure to better serve the community. A new printer and a high-speed modem have been acquired, enhancing operational efficiency, and ensuring patrons have access to faster internet services. Furthermore, the library has conscientiously cultivated a welcoming environment, marked by the introduction of comfortable seating arrangements, fostering a sense of community, and encouraging patrons to explore the library's offerings at their leisure. A newly purchased banner proudly displays the Hamilton Memorial logo, contributing to a visually appealing atmosphere that reflects the library's commitment to excellence. In a commitment to accessibility, the library has undertaken physical improvements as well. A new front door entry sidewalk has been installed, providing a more seamless approach to the library. Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, a handicapped accessible door is slated for installation during this ongoing construction period, ensuring that all patrons can access the library with ease. These comprehensive enhancements underscore the Hamilton Memorial Library's dedication to providing a modern, inclusive, and welcoming space that meets the diverse needs and expectations of its valued community members. We are enthusiastic about the positive impact these changes will have on the overall library experience for our patrons.



**BOARD OF ASSESSORS FY2023 Report**

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Principal Assessor - Mayflower Valuations, LTD

Board of Assessors:

Chair - Timothy Dunn

Member - Rosemary Dalesandro

Member - Kendall Bennett

Assessor Clerk - Laura Lafreniere

Fiscal Year 2023

FY2023 Tax Rate - \$17.83 per \$1000 value

Total amount to be raised \$3,848,141.80

Total receipts received 954,006.42

Tax Levy (\$ amount needed) \$2,894,135.38

Chester has 1,124 properties valued at: \$162,318,305.00

With 101 Exempt properties valued at \$16,746,300.00

Tax Levy (Real Estate & Personal Property)	Tax Rate	Tax Dollars
\$162,318,305.00	X \$17.83	= \$2,894,135.38

This year has been a busy one. Laura and Kendall have been working together towards Kendall taking over the Assessor Clerk's position. Mayflower has started the reports for FY24 revaluation.

The Town Hall and the Assessors' office posted hours are 11 am to 3pm on Tuesdays. We are usually in the office on Mondays 11am to 3pm as well, if coming from a distance, it is always safe to call ahead. Call 413-354-6318 with any questions or concerns. Leave a message and we will return your call when we are back in the office OR email [assessor@townofchester.net](mailto:assessor@townofchester.net) we check our email messages when we not in the office and will email you back.

Property record cards, GIS maps, State tax forms, all Applications (Chapter due Dec 1<sup>st</sup>), Exemption forms (Due April 1<sup>st</sup>) and helpful links, including senior and veteran work off information with applications, are available online at [townofchester.net/assessors/](http://townofchester.net/assessors/)

If you cannot print out any of these forms or applications, please reach out to the assessor's office and we will make sure to get them to you.

**All homeowners are encouraged to view their property cards for accuracy after tax bills are received in January, as abatements can only be accepted up until the February tax due date.** The information on these cards is used to calculate your taxes. Please call the assessors' office at 413-354-6318 if you see any errors or omissions on these cards.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Lafreniere

Kendall Bennett

Assessors Clerk

January 30, 2024

**REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

**Fiscal Year 2023**

**JULY 1, 2022 -JUNE 30,2023**

Vital records are kept by the Town Clerks office and recorded with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Public Health , Vital Registry.

**Vital Records**

Births-14

Marriages-2

Deaths-15

**Dog Licenses**

278 dogs were licensed in town.

Total revenue from dog licenses was \$1485.00

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Donovan

Town Clerk

## CHESTER TOWN COLLECTOR

Annual Report  
7/1/22 to 6/30/23

The tax collector in Chester is an appointed public officer to whom taxes, together with excises, betterments, special assessments and certain other charges, added to and committed by the assessors, are collected. A tax collector only possesses authority to collect only those receivables listed above. All revenue collected in the town of Chester is processed through the Treasurers department.

It is the mission of the Collector's office to provide the highest level of customer service and support to all the Town's constituencies (i.e., taxpayers, employees and vendors) as well as satisfy the legal requirements set forth in Massachusetts General Laws.

All Tax payments may be:

Dropped in secure lock box outside the front of town hall.

Dropped in secure lock box inside the building in the Town Collector's door.

Mailed in.

Brought in person to the office.

\*\* "Postmarks are not considered payment in a timely fashion" per M.G.L. Chapter 59 section 57.

\*\* Bounced checks are not redeposited. A fee of \$30.00 and any accrued late charges will be added to the bill for all checks not honored by your bank.

\*\* Checks will not be held by the Collector for later deposit.

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TAXPAYER TO ENSURE THAT TAX BILLS ARRIVE IN THE COLLECTOR'S OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE DUE DATES. TO ENSURE PROPER POSTING ALWAYS ATTACH THE STUB FROM YOUR BILL WHEN MAILING IN CHECKS.**

Abatements:

A taxpayer may be entitled to an abatement. Filing for an abatement does not stay the collection of taxes. Abatement requests are filed through the Assessor's office and can take two months to move through the refund process.

Excise taxes are billed anywhere from 3-7 times during the course of a year. The largest mailing is done sometime in February or March and usually includes all vehicles that were registered as garaged in Chester for over one year.

Bills are generated by the motor vehicle department and are mailed to the address that is shown on the vehicle's registration. All address changes must be completed on the Motor Vehicle Registry Website.

\*\*\*Massachusetts General Law 60A, section 2 reads "Failure to receive notice shall not affect the validity of the excise" A tax payer who does not receive an excise bill is still liable for the excise plus any interest accrued.

Please see the Treasurer and Accountants sections for collection figures.

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and citizens of Chester, I submit to you the following Annual Financial Report.

Our mission is to ensure that the appropriate financial and auditing controls within the Town are maintained in an efficient, cost-effective and responsive manner. We oversee all departmental appropriations assuring that departments operate within their annual budget. In addition, we are responsible for maintaining all financial records and that they are in compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA

[www.erickinsherfcpa.com](http://www.erickinsherfcpa.com)

Town Accountant

**TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups**  
as of June 30, 2023  
(Unaudited)

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Types Trust and Agency	Account Groups Long-term Debt	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	MLP	Water				
<b>ASSETS</b>									
Cash and cash equivalents	707,805.18	948,569.12	(16,875.89)	1,469,074.74	26,266.06	613,758.76			3,748,597.97
Investments									0.00
Receivables:									
Personal property taxes	(19.19)								(19.19)
Real estate taxes	428,386.04								428,386.04
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(111,929.49)								(111,929.49)
Special assessments									0.00
Tax liens	18,253.20								18,253.20
Tax foreclosures	17,913.13								17,913.13
User fees				642.99	35,549.08				35,549.08
Utility liens added to taxes	102,473.34								102,473.34
Motor vehicle excise	162,327.75								162,327.75
Departmental receivables	12,443.00					37,263.50			199,591.25
Due from other governments									12,443.00
Other receivables									0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds									285,153.30
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,337,652.96</b>	<b>948,569.12</b>	<b>(16,875.89)</b>	<b>1,469,717.73</b>	<b>61,715.43</b>	<b>651,022.26</b>	<b>285,153.30</b>	<b>285,153.30</b>	<b>4,736,954.91</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>									
Liabilities:									
Accrued payroll and withholdings	6,993.38								6,993.38
Agency Funds						12,478.01			12,478.01
Deferred revenue:									
Real and personal property taxes	316,437.36								316,437.36
Special assessments									0.00
Tax liens	18,253.20								18,253.20
Tax foreclosures	17,913.13								17,913.13
Motor vehicle excise	102,473.34								102,473.34
Other receivables									0.00
Utility liens added to taxes				642.99	(99.71)				543.28
Departmental	162,327.75					37,263.50			199,591.25
Due from other governments	12,443.00								12,443.00
User fees				10,556.37					10,556.37
Other Liabilities									1,796.65
Prepaid taxes/fees	1,796.65								1,796.65
Bonds payable			100,000.00						100,000.00
Notes payable									285,153.30
Total Liabilities	638,637.81	0.00	100,000.00	11,199.36	35,449.37	49,741.51	285,153.30	285,153.30	1,120,181.35
Fund Equity:									
Reserved for encumbrances	26,963.92			39,845.34	3,284.13				70,093.39
Reserved for expenditures	311,625.29								311,625.29
Reserved for petty cash				726.34					726.34
Reserved for continuing appropriations	1,843.00								1,843.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit	(96,148.19)								(96,148.19)
Reserved for debt service									0.00
Unreserved retained earnings-Water	18,691.80			617,506.94					18,691.80
Reserve for depreciation	436,039.33			800,439.75	22,981.93	601,280.75			617,506.94
Undesignated fund balance	699,015.15	948,569.12	(116,875.89)	1,458,518.37	26,266.06	601,280.75	0.00		2,692,434.99
Total Fund Equity	1,337,652.96	948,569.12	(16,875.89)	1,469,717.73	61,715.43	651,022.26	285,153.30	285,153.30	4,736,954.91
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Equity</b>	<b>1,337,652.96</b>	<b>948,569.12</b>	<b>(16,875.89)</b>	<b>1,469,717.73</b>	<b>61,715.43</b>	<b>651,022.26</b>	<b>285,153.30</b>	<b>285,153.30</b>	<b>4,736,954.91</b>

## CHESTER TREASURY REPORT

The treasurer's office is responsible for collecting and documenting all money received from all town departments via turnovers and depositing that money into the Town's bank accounts. The turnovers are submitted with money and account numbers, which we post into our software system, Softright. We maintain a cash book which can track all activity of transactions and allows us to reconcile to the bank accounts' activity throughout the year. The cash book shows all the bank accounts in use by the town, along with the beginning and ending balances of the bank statements which represents the Town's total cash. The cash book is also where we post: transfers, voids, warrants, adjustments, and interest. We reconcile the bank statements and cash book to the accountants' general ledger every month.

We print all the Town's checks bi-weekly based on warrants submitted by the departments. We collect all warrants submitted by the Town's departments and scan them to the accountant every non-check printing week for them to process the warrants. After the checks are printed for the current warrant, we match up every payment to the warrants submitted to ensure payments are correct. We stuff all checks and mail them after this process is complete.

We are also responsible for processing payroll which is then sent to the accountant for verification. All town employee information is submitted to us, which we take the correct action to update employees' information in Harpers payroll services and file all documents in the office.

We are typically on-site in the Treasurer's office on Wednesdays but spend many hours off-site per week working remotely.

Best ways to contact the Treasurer's office is via email:

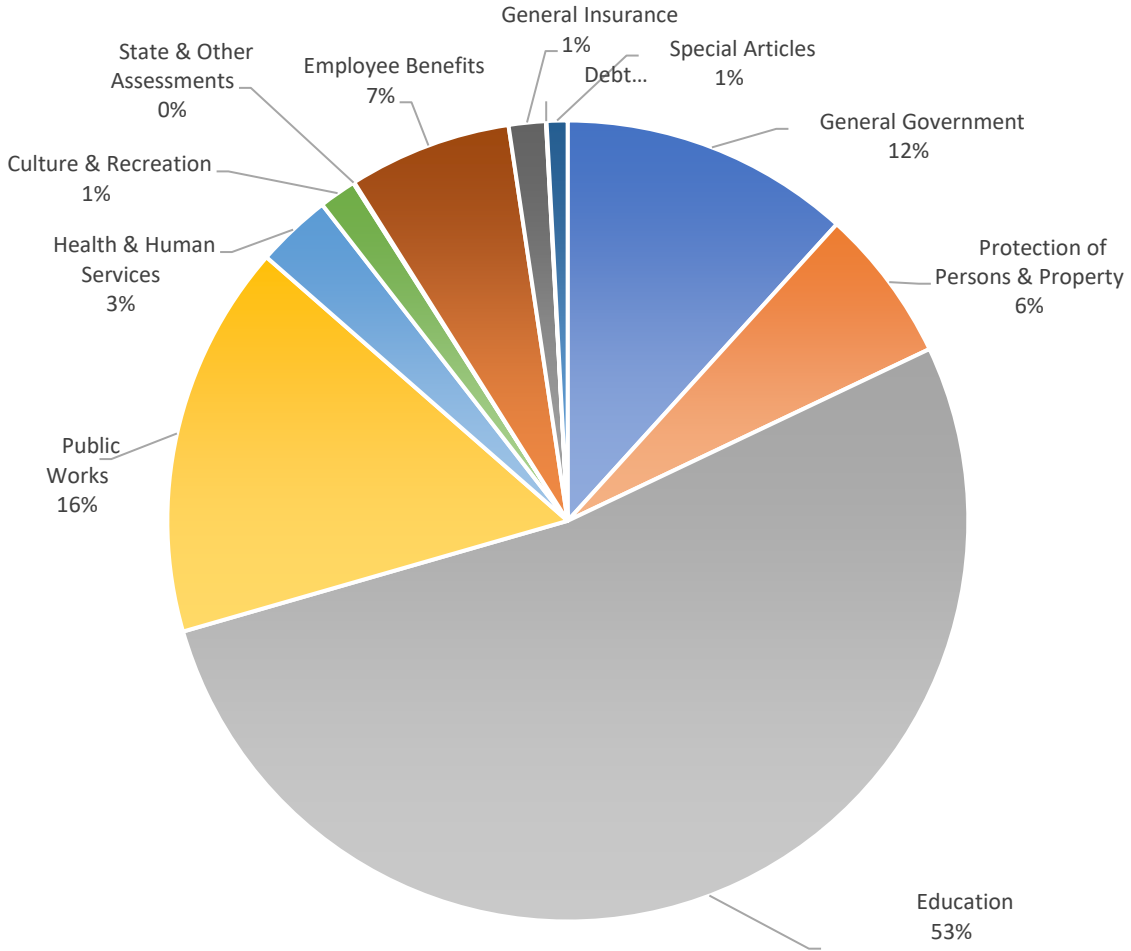
Ivan- Assistant (On-site Wednesdays)- [ivan@massmunifin.com](mailto:ivan@massmunifin.com)

Sara- Town Treasurer- [treasurer@townofchester.net](mailto:treasurer@townofchester.net)

**TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES -  
BUDGETARY BASIS - (NON-GAAP) -  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Budgeted Amounts			Actual	Amounts Carried Forward to Next Year	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Carry Forward	Original Budget	Final Budget	Budgetary Basis		
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 2,852,335.35	\$ 2,852,335.35	\$ 2,853,107.03	\$ -	\$ 771.68
Sale of Tax Foreclosure	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Excise & Other Taxes	\$ -	\$ 151,500.00	\$ 151,500.00	\$ 167,344.99	\$ -	\$ 15,844.99
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 31,185.08	\$ -	\$ (3,814.92)
Charges for Services - Trash Disposal	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 51,524.34	\$ -	\$ (8,475.66)
Licenses, Permits & Fees	\$ -	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 45,568.27	\$ -	\$ 13,568.27
Other	\$ -	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 110,763.65	\$ -	\$ 56,763.65
Fines & Forfeits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,871.23	\$ -	\$ 1,871.23
Interest from Investments	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 17,666.00	\$ -	\$ 15,166.00
Intergovernmental-Comm. of Mass.	\$ -	\$ 338,922.00	\$ 338,922.00	\$ 322,858.00	\$ -	\$ (16,064.00)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,526,257.35</b>	<b>\$ 3,526,257.35</b>	<b>\$ 3,601,888.59</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 75,631.24</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Current Fiscal Year:						
General Government	\$ -	\$ 440,559.00	\$ 428,249.56	\$ 388,411.97	\$ 4,849.35	\$ 34,988.24
Protection of Persons & Property	\$ -	\$ 222,508.00	\$ 224,547.44	\$ 206,442.97	\$ 8,211.73	\$ 9,892.74
Education	\$ -	\$ 1,765,636.00	\$ 1,765,636.00	\$ 1,744,574.83	\$ -	\$ 21,061.17
Public Works	\$ -	\$ 517,117.00	\$ 519,117.00	\$ 527,153.52	\$ 11,402.96	\$ (19,439.48)
Health & Human Services	\$ -	\$ 128,080.00	\$ 128,080.00	\$ 101,010.54	\$ 1,745.65	\$ 25,323.81
Culture & Recreation	\$ -	\$ 56,316.00	\$ 56,316.00	\$ 50,033.44	\$ 754.23	\$ 5,528.33
State & Other Assessments	\$ -	\$ 2,619.00	\$ 2,619.00	\$ 1,458.72	\$ -	\$ 1,160.28
Employee Benefits	\$ -	\$ 252,673.00	\$ 253,187.00	\$ 218,551.31	\$ -	\$ 34,635.69
General Insurance	\$ -	\$ 41,967.00	\$ 50,237.00	\$ 49,416.98	\$ -	\$ 820.02
Debt Service:						
Principal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest and Fiscal Charges	\$ -	\$ 6,050.00	\$ 6,050.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Special Articles	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,030.36	\$ 27,912.86	\$ -	\$ 117.50
<b>Total Current Fiscal Year Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,433,525.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,462,069.36</b>	<b>\$ 3,316,017.14</b>	<b>\$ 26,963.92</b>	<b>\$ 119,088.30</b>
<b>Other Expenditures:</b>						
Prior Year Articles	\$ 54,473.73		\$ -	\$ 10,717.00	\$ 1,843.00	\$ 41,913.73
Prior Year Encumbrances	\$ 45,484.79		\$ 22,148.11	\$ 66,992.06	\$ -	\$ 640.84
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 99,958.52</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 22,148.11</b>	<b>\$ 77,709.06</b>	<b>\$ 1,843.00</b>	<b>\$ 42,554.57</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 99,958.52</b>	<b>\$ 3,433,525.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,484,217.47</b>	<b>\$ 3,393,726.20</b>	<b>\$ 28,806.92</b>	<b>\$ 161,642.87</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ (99,958.52)</b>	<b>\$ 92,732.35</b>	<b>\$ 42,039.88</b>	<b>\$ 208,162.39</b>	<b>\$ (28,806.92)</b>	<b>\$ 237,274.11</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>						
Operating Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,739.95	\$ 20,534.14	\$ -	\$ 1,794.19
Operating Transfers (Out)	\$ -	\$ 29,479.00	\$ 108,353.00	\$ 108,353.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (29,479.00)</b>	<b>\$ (89,613.05)</b>	<b>\$ (87,818.86)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,794.19</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>\$ (99,958.52)</b>	<b>\$ 63,253.35</b>	<b>\$ (47,573.17)</b>	<b>\$ 120,343.53</b>	<b>\$ (28,806.92)</b>	<b>\$ 239,068.30</b>
<b>Audit Adjustments</b>				\$ -		
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning of Year</b>		\$ 578,671.62	\$ 578,671.62	\$ 578,671.62	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Fund Balances, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ (99,958.52)</b>	<b>\$ 641,924.97</b>	<b>\$ 531,098.45</b>	<b>\$ 699,015.15</b>	<b>\$ (28,806.92)</b>	<b>\$ 239,068.30</b>

### BUDGET FY2023 EXPENDITURES



- General Government
- Education
- Health & Human Services
- State & Other Assessments
- General Insurance
- Special Articles
- Protection of Persons & Property
- Public Works
- Culture & Recreation
- Employee Benefits
- Debt



TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Account Number	Description	Balance Forward	Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Closed	Carry Forward	
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>										
10114.00	Moderator Stipend	\$	200.00		\$	200.00	\$	\$	-	
10122.00	Select Board Stipend	\$	7,224.00		\$	6,622.00	\$	602.00	\$	
10124.00	Select Board Expense	\$	2,000.00		\$	1,798.38	\$	201.62	\$	
10124.02	General Office Expense	\$	3,150.00	500.00	\$	3,563.13	\$	86.87	\$	
10124.08	Inspectors Certification Costs	\$	500.00		\$	-	\$	500.00	\$	
10122.01	Town Administrator Salary	\$	62,000.00		\$	60,569.34	\$	1,430.66	\$	
10122.02	Assistant Town Administrator	\$	16,848.00		\$	14,256.00	\$	2,592.00	\$	
10115.00	Finance Committee Expense	\$	100.00		\$	-	\$	100.00	\$	
10115.01	Reserve Fund	\$	10,000.00	(5,039.44)	\$	4,960.56	\$	4,960.56	\$	
10135.07	Audit	\$	15,000.00	(14,900.00)	\$	100.00	\$	100.00	\$	
10135.08	Outsourced Accounting Services	\$	40,800.00		\$	40,800.00	\$	-	\$	
10141.00	Assessors Stipend	\$	1,500.00		\$	1,499.98	\$	0.02	\$	
10141.02	Assessors Clerk Salary	\$	18,000.00		\$	17,999.80	\$	0.20	\$	
10141.11	Assessors Assistant Clerk	\$	7,000.00		\$	7,000.00	\$	-	\$	
10141.05	Consultant/Services	\$	36,500.00		\$	36,500.00	\$	-	\$	
10141.03	Assessor Expense	\$	1,750.00		\$	1,749.60	\$	0.40	\$	
10141.10	Assessors Software	\$	3,899.00		\$	3,894.80	\$	4.20	\$	
10141.04	Assessors Education	\$	500.00		\$	-	\$	500.00	\$	
10141.06	Assessors Maps & GIS	\$	4,100.00		\$	4,100.00	\$	-	\$	
10145.01	Asst Treasurer Salary	\$	100.00		\$	-	\$	100.00	\$	
10145.02	Treasurers Expenses	\$	500.00		\$	-	\$	500.00	\$	
10145.05	Treasurer Services	\$	46,125.00		\$	43,125.00	\$	3,000.00	\$	
10145.03	Land Court Fees	\$	5,000.00		\$	277.80	\$	4,722.20	\$	
10145.04	Bank Charges	\$	100.00		\$	-	\$	100.00	\$	
10145.07	Payroll	\$	2,100.00	1,400.00	\$	3,500.00	\$	387.63	\$	
10146.00	Tax Collector Stipend	\$	22,457.00		\$	22,457.24	\$	(0.24)	\$	
10146.02	Tax Collector Expense	\$	5,000.00		\$	4,999.39	\$	0.61	\$	
10146.06	Software Support	\$	3,150.00		\$	3,150.00	\$	-	\$	
10124.01	Legal Services	\$	10,000.00		\$	4,470.00	\$	5,530.00	\$	
10146.03	Tax Title Expense	\$	2,000.00		\$	-	\$	2,000.00	\$	
10161.00	Town Clerk Stipend	\$	14,700.00		\$	14,699.88	\$	0.12	\$	
10161.02	Town Clerk Expense	\$	3,375.00		\$	2,866.73	\$	508.27	\$	
10162.00	Election Workers Wages	\$	3,500.00		\$	3,480.40	\$	19.60	\$	
10171.00	Conservation Expense	\$	300.00		\$	50.98	\$	249.02	\$	
10175.00	Planning Board Expense	\$	200.00		\$	96.62	\$	103.38	\$	
10176.00	Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses	\$	300.00		\$	95.05	\$	204.95	\$	
90100.00	Town Hall Custodial Wages	\$	6,725.00		\$	6,349.81	\$	375.19	\$	
90192.06	Town Hall Internet & Phone	\$	24,756.00		\$	29,506.65	\$	1,249.35	\$	
90192.07	Website/Permit Eyes/Software Fees	\$	15,300.00	6,000.00	\$	10,102.92	\$	5,197.08	\$	
90192.12	Old School Bldg Maint	\$	15,000.00	(5,270.00)	\$	9,730.00	\$	836.54	\$	
90192.01	Town Hall Repairs/Maintenance	\$	10,000.00		\$	7,287.20	\$	2,712.80	\$	
90192.00	Town Hall Expenses	\$	18,000.00	5,000.00	\$	22,079.44	\$	920.56	\$	
10124.03	Town Reports	\$	800.00		\$	758.00	\$	42.00	\$	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>		\$	<b>440,559.00</b>	<b>(12,309.44)</b>	\$	<b>428,249.56</b>	\$	<b>398,837.59</b>	\$	<b>4,849.35</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>										
60210.00	Police Chief Wages	\$	35,000.00		\$	35,000.00	\$	-	\$	
60210.01	Police Officer Wages	\$	21,775.00		\$	21,775.00	\$	-	\$	
60210.10	Police Admin Assistant	\$	4,680.00		\$	4,680.00	\$	-	\$	
60210.04	Police Expenses	\$	24,866.00		\$	24,866.00	\$	-	\$	

TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Account Number	Description	Balance Forward	Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Closed	Carry Forward
60210.11	Police Officer Training	\$	6,688.00		\$	6,688.00	\$	\$	\$
60110.00	Fire Chief Stipend	\$	5,509.00		\$	5,508.88	0.12	0.12	\$
60110.03	Fire Dept Wages	\$	1,697.00		\$	-	1,697.00	1,697.00	\$
60110.01	Fire Dept. Expenses	\$	35,500.00		\$	30,732.64	4,767.36	2,473.24	2,294.12
60110.13	Fire Dept Turn out Gear	\$	10,000.00		\$	3,527.00	6,473.00	555.39	5,917.61
60231.00	Ambulance Service	\$	33,227.00	2,039.44	\$	35,266.44	0.28	0.28	\$
60231.02	Hilltown Ambulance Replacement Fund	\$	2,825.00		\$	2,825.29	(0.29)	(0.29)	\$
60240.00	Building Inspector Salary	\$	13,400.00		\$	13,399.88	0.12	0.12	\$
60241.00	Building Commissioner Expense	\$	750.00		\$	245.00	505.00	505.00	\$
20430.00	Tree Removal	\$	20,000.00		\$	15,649.00	4,351.00	4,351.00	\$
60110.02	Emergency Management Expenses	\$	1,000.00		\$	1,000.00	-	-	\$
60292.00	Animal Control Officer Salary	\$	2,625.00		\$	2,624.96	0.04	0.04	\$
60292.01	Animal Control Expenses	\$	1,500.00		\$	1,389.00	111.00	111.00	\$
40491.02	Animal Inspector Stipend	\$	966.00		\$	966.16	(0.16)	(0.16)	\$
40491.15	Animal Inspector Expenses	\$	500.00		\$	300.00	200.00	200.00	\$
	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	\$	222,508.00	2,039.44	\$	206,442.97	18,104.47	9,892.74	8,211.73
	<b>EDUCATION</b>	\$			\$				
30001.10	Smith Vocational Tuition	\$	152,000.00		\$	134,503.33	17,496.67	17,496.67	\$
30001.10	Smith Vocational Transportation	\$	41,307.00		\$	41,307.50	(0.50)	(0.50)	\$
30001.00	Gateway Regional	\$	1,572,329.00		\$	1,568,764.00	3,565.00	3,565.00	\$
	<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>	\$	1,765,636.00		\$	1,744,574.83	21,061.17	21,061.17	\$
	<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	\$			\$				
20422.00	Highway Wages	\$	221,760.00	(38,200.00)	\$	183,560.00	41,971.91	41,971.91	\$
20422.03	Contract Services	\$	20,000.00	15,000.00	\$	35,000.00	7,350.67	7,350.67	\$
20422.01	Highway Admin Asst	\$	4,000.00	3,200.00	\$	7,200.00	6,461.45	738.55	\$
20423.01	Highway Uniforms	\$	4,000.00	1,000.00	\$	4,796.39	203.61	(265.68)	469.29
20423.02	Highway Supplies/Repairs	\$	50,000.00	15,000.00	\$	65,000.00	46,518.46	11,798.01	6,683.53
20423.03	Highway Stone, Gravel, Asphalt	\$	88,000.00		\$	74,756.32	13,243.68	11,632.80	1,610.88
20423.04	Highway Gas & Diesel Expense	\$	26,450.00	2,000.00	\$	28,450.00	565.76	(1,057.96)	1,623.72
20423.00	Highway Garage Heat & Lighting	\$	13,500.00	2,000.00	\$	15,500.00	2,142.72	1,527.18	615.54
20422.02	Highway Winter Wages	\$	24,000.00		\$	19,361.74	4,638.26	4,638.26	\$
20423.07	Highway Winter Expenses	\$	50,000.00		\$	149,612.47	(99,612.47)	(100,012.47)	400.00
20427.00	Supt of Cemetery Wages	\$	831.00		\$	831.00	-	-	\$
20427.01	Cemetery Wages	\$	8,576.00		\$	7,938.60	637.40	637.40	\$
20427.02	Cemetery Expenses	\$	1,000.00		\$	54.65	945.35	945.35	\$
20427.03	Parks Maintenance	\$	5,000.00	2,000.00	\$	6,343.50	656.50	656.50	\$
	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	\$	517,117.00	2,000.00	\$	527,153.52	(8,036.52)	(19,439.48)	11,402.96
	<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>	\$			\$				
40491.00	Board of Health Stipend	\$	4,501.00		\$	4,500.96	0.04	0.04	\$
40491.01	Transfer Station Salaries	\$	12,813.00		\$	11,690.99	1,122.01	1,122.01	\$
40491.03	Board of Health Expenses	\$	1,900.00		\$	686.88	1,213.12	1,213.12	\$
40491.04	Transfer Station Expense	\$	48,000.00		\$	37,183.86	10,816.14	9,070.49	1,745.65
90819.00	Wood Landfill Test Costs	\$	4,000.00		\$	3,425.00	575.00	575.00	\$
40494.01	Council on Aging Director Wages	\$	11,236.00		\$	11,236.16	(0.16)	(0.16)	\$
40494.02	Van Services	\$	2,000.00	(300.00)	\$	1,700.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	\$
40494.00	Council on Aging Expenses	\$	10,500.00	300.00	\$	9,603.89	1,196.11	1,196.11	\$
40543.00	Veterans Services District	\$	6,077.00		\$	5,793.00	284.00	284.00	\$
40543.01	Veterans Benefits	\$	27,053.00		\$	16,589.80	10,463.20	10,463.20	\$
	<b>TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES</b>	\$	128,080.00		\$	101,010.54	27,069.46	25,323.81	1,745.65
	<b>CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>	\$			\$				

TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Account Number	Description	Balance Forward	Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Closed	Carry Forward
40500.00	Library Wages	\$	33,229.00		\$	32,151.77	1,077.23	1,077.23	\$
40500.01	Library Expenses	\$	16,387.00		\$	15,650.89	736.11		736.11
40500.07	MassCat Automation	\$	1,200.00		\$	1,200.00			
40492.00	Historical Commission Expenses	\$	2,500.00		\$	419.14	2,080.86	2,080.86	
40543.02	Memorial Day Expenses	\$	500.00		\$	431.02	68.98	68.98	
40544.00	Recreation Commission Expenses	\$	2,500.00		\$	180.62	2,319.38	2,319.38	18.12
	<b>TOTAL CULTURE &amp; RECREATION</b>	\$	56,316.00		\$	50,033.44	6,282.56	5,528.33	754.23
	<b>DEBT</b>								
80721.01	Highway Truck-Interest	\$	1,050.00		\$	1,050.00			
80752.02	Debt Appropriated (Error)	\$	4,000.00		\$		4,000.00	4,000.00	
80752.00	Interest on Short Term Debt	\$	1,000.00		\$		1,000.00	1,000.00	
	<b>TOTAL DEBT</b>	\$	6,050.00		\$	1,050.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
	<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>								
6013.00	Regional Transit Charge	\$	182.00		\$	182.00			
6008.00	Air Pollution Control District	\$	338.00		\$	338.00			
6011.00	RMV Surcharge	\$	1,880.00		\$	720.00	1,160.00	1,160.00	
90830.00	PVPC Annual Assessment	\$	219.00		\$	218.72	0.28	0.28	
	<b>TOTAL ASSESSMENTS</b>	\$	2,619.00		\$	1,458.72	1,160.28	1,160.28	
	<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>								
90917.01	Contributory Retirement	\$	119,544.00		\$	117,921.00	1,623.00	1,623.00	
90917.00	Unemployment Insurance	\$	24,000.00		\$	10,635.67	13,364.33	13,364.33	
90914.00	Health Ins - Town Share	\$	87,900.00		\$	67,477.66	20,422.34	20,422.34	
90912.00	Workmans Comp Insurance	\$	12,029.00	514.00	\$	12,543.00			
90916.00	Medicare Expense - Town share	\$	9,200.00		\$	9,200.00			
	<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	\$	252,673.00	514.00	\$	218,551.31	34,635.69	34,635.69	
	<b>OTHER INSURANCE</b>								
90193.00	General Insurance & Bonds	\$	32,967.00	8,270.00	\$	41,237.00			
90193.03	Police/Fire-Accident & Health Ins	\$	8,000.00		\$	7,541.00	459.00	459.00	
90917.02	Bonds	\$	1,000.00		\$	1,000.00	361.02	361.02	
	<b>TOTAL OTHER INSURANCE</b>	\$	41,967.00	8,270.00	\$	50,237.00	820.02	820.02	
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	\$	3,433,525.00	514.00	\$	3,434,039.00	145,934.72	118,970.80	26,963.92
	<b>FY2023 ARTICLES</b>								
20423.90	Highway Storm Prior Year Bills	\$	18,739.95		\$	18,739.95			
10122.92	Prior Year Bills	\$	8,406.70		\$	8,289.20	117.50	117.50	
10122.93	Prior Year Bills	\$	883.71		\$	883.71			
	<b>TOTAL SPECIAL ARTICLES</b>	\$	28,030.36		\$	27,912.86	117.50	117.50	
	<b>TOTAL ALL FY2023 BUDGET &amp; ARTICLES</b>	\$	3,433,525.00	28,544.36	\$	3,462,069.36	146,052.22	119,088.30	26,963.92
	<b>TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS</b>								
99000.01	Water Treatment Plant	\$	29,479.00		\$	29,479.00			
99000.02	Transfer to Insurance Revolving	\$	43,720.00		\$	43,720.00			
99000.02	Transfer to Road Grant	\$	154.00		\$	154.00			
99000.02	Transfer to Comm Comp Grant	\$	15,000.00		\$	15,000.00			
99000.03	Transfer to Building Insp Fines	\$	20,000.00		\$	20,000.00			
	<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS</b>	\$	29,479.00		\$	108,353.00			
	<b>TOTAL ALL FY2023 BUDGET &amp; ARTICLES &amp; TRANSFERS</b>	\$	3,463,004.00	107,418.36	\$	3,570,422.36	146,052.22	119,088.30	26,963.92
	<b>PRIOR YEAR ARTICLES CARRIED FORWARD</b>								

TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL FUND EXPENSE REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Account Number	Description	Balance Forward	Budget	Budget Revisions	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Closed	Carry Forward
40493.00	Preservation Project Year 2	\$ 4,000.00			\$ 4,000.00	2,857.00	\$ 1,143.00	\$ -	\$ 1,143.00
90192.08	Eng & Surveying	\$ 2,500.00			\$ 2,500.00	-	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
90192.09	Design Services	\$ 9,888.31			\$ 9,888.31	-	\$ 9,888.31	\$ 9,888.31	\$ -
40493.01	Flag Poles	\$ 700.00			\$ 700.00	-	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 700.00
90192.03	Town Hall Doors	\$ 14,805.04			\$ 14,805.04	-	\$ 14,805.04	\$ 14,805.04	\$ -
90192.11	Town Hall Boiler Replacement	\$ 11,000.38			\$ 11,000.38	-	\$ 11,000.38	\$ 11,000.38	\$ -
10122.90	Permit Eyes Program	\$ 11,580.00			\$ 11,580.00	7,860.00	\$ 3,720.00	\$ 3,720.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL PRIOR YEAR SPECIAL ARTICLES</b>		\$ 54,473.73	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,473.73	10,717.00	\$ 43,756.73	\$ 41,913.73	\$ 1,843.00
<b>PRIOR YEAR ENCUMBRANCES</b>									
10124.01	Town Counsel Services	\$ 920.00			\$ 920.00	920.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
10124.81	Selectmens Expenses	\$ 51.55			\$ 51.55	51.55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
10145.81	Treasurers Services	\$ 1,875.00			\$ 1,875.00	1,875.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
90192.83	TH Internet & Telephone	\$ 119.97			\$ 119.97	119.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
90192.82	Website/Permit Eyes	\$ 300.00			\$ 300.00	300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
90192.81	Old School Bldg Maint	\$ 113.93			\$ 113.93	113.93	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
90192.80	Town Hall Expenses	\$ 837.49			\$ 837.49	762.49	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ -
10146.80	Collectors Salary	\$ 82.04			\$ 82.04	82.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20422.80	Highway Contract Services	\$ 15,614.30		\$ 21,176.74	\$ 36,791.04	36,756.86	\$ 34.18	\$ 34.18	\$ -
20423.80	Highway Supplies/Repairs	\$ -		\$ 479.23	\$ 479.23	479.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20428.81	Water Dept Expenses	\$ 8,253.82		\$ 419.95	\$ 8,673.77	8,293.90	\$ 379.87	\$ 379.87	\$ -
40491.80	Transfer Station Salary	\$ 101.36			\$ 101.36	101.36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
40491.81	Transfer Station Expense	\$ 3,550.44			\$ 3,622.63	3,622.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
40492.80	Historical Comm Expenses	\$ 750.00			\$ 750.00	750.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
40494.80	COA Van Services	\$ 82.80			\$ 82.80	82.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
40500.81	Library Expenses	\$ 4,220.62			\$ 4,220.62	4,068.82	\$ 151.80	\$ 151.80	\$ -
40544.80	Recreation Comm Expenses	\$ 991.33			\$ 991.33	991.33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
60110.80	Fire Expenses	\$ 2,692.33			\$ 2,692.33	2,692.34	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.01)	\$ -
60110.81	Fire Turn Out Gear	\$ 2,800.00			\$ 2,800.00	2,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
60241.80	Bldg Inspector Expenses	\$ 16.32			\$ 16.32	16.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
60292.81	Animal Control Expenses	\$ 611.49			\$ 611.49	611.49	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
90914.80	Group Health Ins	\$ 1,500.00			\$ 1,500.00	1,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL PRIOR FISCAL YEAR ENCUMBRANCES</b>		\$ 45,484.79	\$ -	\$ 22,148.11	\$ 67,632.90	66,992.06	\$ 640.84	\$ 640.84	\$ -
<b>TOTAL BUDGET, ARTICLES &amp; ENCUMBRANCES</b>		\$ 99,958.52	\$ 3,463,004.00	\$ 129,566.47	\$ 3,692,528.99	3,502,079.20	\$ 190,449.79	\$ 161,642.87	\$ 28,806.92

**TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL REVENUE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Fund Balances June 30, 2023	Opening Balance	Rev	Exp	Balance
<b>Special Revenue:</b>					
<b>Federal Grants:</b>					
EMPG Grant	(2,379.36)	(2,379.36)	-	-	(2,379.36)
DHCD EDF Grant	57,222.91	-	437,629.62	380,406.71	57,222.91
Summer 21 Storm Damage	343,646.21	474,012.21	-	130,366.00	343,646.21
ARPA	232,210.64	186,451.73	204,601.73	158,842.82	232,210.64
<b>State Grants:</b>					
Elections	276.61	3,105.18	856.68	3,685.25	276.61
Community Compact	-	(15,000.00)	15,000.00	-	-
PVPC MVP Grant	(3,729.44)	20.56	7,500.00	11,250.00	(3,729.44)
PVPC Covid Grant	-	(0.09)	0.09	-	-
Covid Relief Fund	1,414.05	1,414.05	-	-	1,414.05
Shared Police Grant	910.35	910.35	-	-	910.35
Fire Safety	2,555.00	(7,694.00)	10,249.00	-	2,555.00
Police AED Grant	137.00	2,500.00	-	2,363.00	137.00
Police Vests Grant	(900.00)	(1,800.00)	900.00	-	(900.00)
Road Safety	(3,195.00)	(2,079.00)	2,616.00	3,732.00	(3,195.00)
Highway WRAP Grant	20,446.81	-	192,225.11	171,778.30	20,446.81
Council On Aging Formula	10,044.98	10,614.79	6,000.00	6,569.81	10,044.98
Arts Cultural Council	12,945.12	12,235.12	5,500.00	4,790.00	12,945.12
Library FY21 Virtual Cares	3,100.00	3,100.00	-	-	3,100.00
Library State Grant	19,186.07	17,914.27	4,521.80	3,250.00	19,186.07
Green Community Grant	251.35	(539.65)	32,542.00	31,751.00	251.35
Recycling Grant	9,800.00	5,950.00	3,850.00	-	9,800.00
IT Grant	2,530.51	2,530.51	-	-	2,530.51
EDC Redo	198.80	27,000.00	30,000.00	56,801.20	198.80
Economic Development	563.48	563.48	-	-	563.48
<b>Receipts Reserved for Appropriation:</b>					
Transportations Network	0.30	0.20	0.10	-	0.30
Sale of Real Estate	122,500.00	7,500.00	115,000.00	-	122,500.00
Sale of Cemetery Lots	21,770.00	21,770.00	-	-	21,770.00
<b>Revolving Funds:</b>					
Plumbing	265.00	(835.00)	3,825.00	2,725.00	265.00
Wiring	15.00	(810.00)	2,475.00	1,650.00	15.00
BOH	13,876.68	7,686.68	12,830.00	6,640.00	13,876.68
Building Inspection Fines	24,013.14	19,250.00	21,092.00	16,328.86	24,013.14

**TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL REVENUE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Fund Balances June 30, 2023	Opening Balance	Rev	Exp	Balance
Cemetery	\$ 10,752.64	\$ 10,752.64	-	-	\$ 10,752.64
Insurance	\$ 19,819.45	\$ (23,900.55)	\$ 43,720.00	-	\$ 19,819.45
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund	\$ 4,260.70	\$ 2,760.70	\$ 1,500.00	-	\$ 4,260.70
Reimburse Tax Title Legal	-	\$ 1,719.28	-	\$ 1,719.28	-
Tax Title Redemption	-	\$ 75.00	-	\$ 75.00	-
MIIA Elevator	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 2,885.00	-	-	\$ 2,885.00
<b>Other Special Revenue:</b>					
Recreation	\$ 201.92	\$ 201.92	-	-	\$ 201.92
Town Clock	\$ 617.05	\$ 617.05	-	-	\$ 617.05
Library	\$ 11,889.12	\$ 12,609.11	\$ 100.00	\$ 819.99	\$ 11,889.12
Covid 19	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	-	-	\$ 2,500.00
Veterans Memorial	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	-	-	\$ 200.00
Flag	\$ 1,296.80	\$ 736.80	\$ 560.00	-	\$ 1,296.80
Police	\$ 2,081.13	\$ 2,081.13	-	-	\$ 2,081.13
Cemetery	\$ 615.00	\$ 615.00	-	-	\$ 615.00
COA Gifts	\$ 3,029.10	\$ 2,863.10	\$ 166.00	-	\$ 3,029.10
Historical Gifts	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	-	-	\$ 200.00
Composting	\$ 145.00	\$ 145.00	-	-	\$ 145.00
Highway Intern Grant	\$ (1,600.00)	-	\$ 160.00	\$ 1,760.00	\$ (1,600.00)
<b>Total Special Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 948,569.12</b>	<b>\$ 790,453.21</b>	<b>\$ 1,155,420.13</b>	<b>\$ 997,304.22</b>	<b>\$ 948,569.12</b>

**TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
CAPITAL PROJECTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Fund Balances June 30, 2023	Opening Balance	Rev	Exp	Balance
Chapter 90	\$ -	-	16,875.89	\$ (16,875.89)
Highway F550 Truck	\$ (100,000.00)	-	-	\$ (100,000.00)
<b>Total Capital Projects</b>	<b>\$ (100,000.00)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,875.89</b>	<b>\$ (116,875.89)</b>

**TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES -  
CHESTER MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Carry Forward	Actuals	Amounts Carried Forward to Next Year
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Charges for Services	\$ -	\$ 1,354,265.27	\$ -
Liens	\$ -	\$ 3,456.13	\$ -
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest from Investments	\$ -	\$ 4,142.65	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ 28,809.23	\$ -
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,390,673.28</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Current Fiscal Year:			
General Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,328,790.49	
Deposits	\$ -	\$ 2,125.00	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,330,915.49</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 59,757.79</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>			
Operating Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Transfers (Out)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 59,757.79</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Audit Adjustments</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning of Year</b>		<b>\$ 1,398,760.58</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Fund Balances, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,458,518.37</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



**TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES -  
CHESTER WATER ENTERPRISE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Carry Forward	Actuals	Amounts Carried Forward to Next Year
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Charges for Services	\$ -	\$ 122,585.95	\$ -
Liens	\$ -	\$ 594.65	\$ -
Penalties & Interest on Delinquent Bills	\$ -	\$ 0.45	\$ -
Interest from Investments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 123,181.05</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Current Fiscal Year:			
Salaries & Wages	\$ -	\$ 40,316.37	
General Expenses	\$ -	\$ 56,598.62	
Debt	\$ -	\$ 29,479.00	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 126,393.99</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (3,212.94)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>			
Operating Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 29,479.00	\$ -
Operating Transfers (Out)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 29,479.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 26,266.06</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Audit Adjustments</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning of Year</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Fund Balances, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 26,266.06</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

## CHESTER MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT

CMELD is a municipally owned utility that was formed in 1926. It provides electricity to almost 750 active customers. Chester Municipal Electric Light Department operates on a calendar year, rather than a fiscal year like the Town of Chester does; therefore, the financials are not available as of the deadline date that is needed to be included in this report.

One of many cost-saving projects that CMELD worked on this past year was the consolidation of transformers on Lyon Hill, Skyline Trail, and Bromley Road. The sale of unusable/broken transformers was another cost-effective measure.

We also installed new primary services on Bromley Road and Skyline. Old porcelain cutouts were replaced with a new polymer style cutout. This was done town-wide, in order of importance. Streetlights were replaced when needed. We also worked with customers, electricians, engineers, vendors, etc., regarding pending construction projects at Chester Commons and on Bromley Road.

CMELD personnel worked with a local heating contractor to have a new energy efficient propane heating system installed at the CMELD garage. They continue with vehicle, tool, and equipment repairs and maintenance, shop and yard maintenance, and storm clean ups. Preventive maintenance to maintain the integrity of the distribution system has become a weekly necessity – it is not uncommon to see the CMELD crew out on a Friday afternoon checking lines and low-hanging branches to ward off potential power interruptions.

2023 was a big year for trees – CMELD worked with Ridgeline Tree on removal of large hazardous trees. They worked with Northern Tree and local police details to coordinate line trimming on Route 20 from the Becket line all the way down towards Huntington, Bromley Road, and Skyline Trail. Additionally, line trimming, flat cutting and tree removals throughout Chester were done by CMELD.

CMELD Line Foreman, Jeremy Tremblay, spent 2023 training our new apprentice, Cooper Chechile, who was hired in December of 2022. In December of 2023, Don LaPlante, a longtime CMELD employee, retired. He will be missed!

We continue to provide services to the Town, including streetlights, Library & Jail electricity, the Christmas Tree lighting in December, putting up flags, banners and bunting on the poles throughout downtown Chester and on the Town Hall. CMELD continues to assist the Water Department in reading meters, billing, and collecting revenues for the town. Our line crew continues to attend safety and continuing education classes to keep abreast of changes in electrical technology.

Since 1926, our department has strived to provide the best possible service for the residents of Chester, and we have tried, as well, to keep rates as low as possible.

We hope that the residents of the Town of Chester know that, even though we are a “little fish in a big pond”, we appreciate our customers and all the support we receive from them. We hope to continue to serve Chester for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Hall  
Manager, Chester Municipal Electric Light Dept.

## CHESTER COUNCIL ON AGING

The Chester Council On Aging (COA) runs as a support for our town's senior population 60 years old and above. We strive to serve our community and seniors with social programs to gather together for meals like potlucks, lunches, and holiday crafting events. We offer medical and health management presentations, and health services, so our seniors can keep themselves and loved ones strong and healthy. Most often we have the senior center open for drop-ins to just have tea or coffee together.

It does not take only one person to run the Council On Aging department. We are a team of employees and volunteer that pitch in every day to make our town a better place and to improve the lives of our beloved seniors as best we can. With our best effort and caring hearts, we believe we can help and make a change, one day at a time.

Our volunteers put in close to 30 hours a week to help serve lunches and assist with activities. We could not do all we do without you all. So, a special Thank You to all of you who give your time and care to helping our seniors. Our employees and volunteers set out to make the Senior Center a warm and welcoming place to be, full of laughs and kindness. Any one can come any day to lend a helping hand. A little help goes a long way, not only for our seniors but for yourself. The joy you could bring to a senior is priceless. Come stop by the COA and meet us! If you would like to make a difference in someone's life, please contact us. All are welcome!

The Council On Aging's most popular offered medical service is our Foot Clinic, generously provided by Foot Care by Nurses. Currently, we have one Clinic day per month, and have added a second every other month. For an affordable \$20 fee seniors can come in and have their feet and toenails taken care of gently and professionally. Our nurses are certified and show great care for our seniors. Each Foot Clinic day has 13 appointments open. If you or a loved one is having trouble taking care of their feet, please call the COA and make an appointment. Last year alone we served 156 seniors! There is a lift chain in the Foot Clinic room to assist those with problems standing. If you must cancel for any reason, you can reschedule without penalty, and sign up for the next month's session.

The Council On Aging has a supply of medical equipment for seniors to sign out if needed. We have wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, commodes, and incontinence products. All have been graciously donated by the Town of Chester residents. Thank you all for your support.

Every summer and fall the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides Farmer's Market coupons. These coupons help qualified seniors, based on age and income, to purchase fall and winter vegetables. Last season this program included organic honey! These coupons have been a great help in improving seniors' diets, which aren't always affordable. If you would like to apply for the program, contact the COA to fill out an application to start receiving the coupons for a healthier way of eating and to support your local farmers.

On the third Friday of every month the Western Massachusetts Food Bank provides groceries for our “Brown Bag” program. Chester and Middlefield COA work together to bring a full bag of groceries to seniors 60 and older. It is an easy sign-up to start receiving the benefits. It’s not always easy to go out and get groceries let alone afford the cost of them. These bags help to provide meals, sides, and healthy alternatives to our seniors. If you or someone you know and love could use some extra help, please don’t hesitate to sign up. Give you and your loved one peace of mind, knowing they are eating well. Currently between Chester and Middlefield we serve 18 seniors. Each month we receive canned goods such as vegetables, fruits, soups, and broths. We also receive dry goods such as pasta, rice, nuts of different sorts, and cereals. Now they are starting to include frozen and fresh fruits. It has shown to be a huge help for all.

Another COA program, our “main event” is the Meals On Wheels lunch program. Four days a week we have lunches provided through Highland Valley Elder Services. HVES is located in Northampton, where they have a full kitchen with trained chefs to provide nutritious meals to our seniors. Chester currently has the meals on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week, with two meals to choose from on a menu received each month before it begins. The seniors will pick their meals and we will order them, have them bagged for pick-up or sit-in at the Senior Center. If you are homebound we have volunteers who can deliver to those who need the extra help. This lunch program is for all seniors 60 years and older. There is no qualifying application, just a form to fill out for HVES that provides your birthday and name and address. A donation of \$3.00 per meal is asked if possible but not required, You can sign up and immediately start receiving meals 2 days later! It is another food program to provide help for food. Each day we serve 35-40 meals! It has been very helpful to many in our community. Our volunteers that come daily to help ensure our seniors get these lunch meals, we couldn’t make all this work without you! Together we served just over \$6,200 meals last year!

In the Hilltowns, we all know the difficulty transportation or even finding transportation. Quite a few seniors in Chester and surrounding towns need transport for medical appointments, shopping, and various other concerns and appointments. The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) provides that transportation to local seniors from Chester and surrounding towns. For just a call to our driver and a sign up at \$4.00 fee, he can take you where you need to go. The FRTA van picks you up at your desired time, brings you where you need to go and brings you safely home. The FRTA van goes as far as Pittsfield, Northampton, Holyoke or Springfield. It takes just a call to the COA or FRTA to apply and start getting services. This year FRTA transported 33 seniors! What a huge help to the seniors and their families. Thank you FRTA drivers!

For all our veterans here in Chester, we have a wonderful veterans Representative, Steve Connor. Steve provides our veterans and their spouses with information on benefits and services available to them. Steve Connors heads up the Central Hampshire Veterans Services. The past few years the Chester COA has hosted a Veteran’s Day Luncheon provides the veterans and spouses opportunity to meet with other veterans, get the new information from Steve Connor all while enjoying a delicious meal. Each year there are changes to services available and Steve shares and explains them with whoever wants the information. If services aren’t used then those services

may be discontinued for future veterans. If you want know any information of your benefits available call 413-587-1299 or email [vetadmin@northamptonma.gov](mailto:vetadmin@northamptonma.gov)

In May 2023 we welcome Tim Von Egmond to the Historic Chester Railway Station for a musical performance and folklore story telling. He performed Irish tunes that most of our Seniors joined along in. Lunch was brought, provided by HVES. It was an amazing event with around 75 seniors to join in. In December 2022 Gateway Regional School District invited Seniors out to enjoy a Christmas Concert followed by a Brunch. It way a joyous occasion that bought seniors from surrounding towns without Covid restrictions from previous year seniors enjoy each others company and performances by Gateways band and Chorus Classes.

Summer time brought Movie Nights, friends and families came to enjoy a wonderful night out “at the movies”. The event was put together jointly by the COA, Recreation Committee, Fire Department, Library and Police Department. Movies were help June July and August, it was great weather and even better company.

I give my personal thanks and gratitude to call the volunteers that come and put our seniors and community first. We couldn’t do all we do without you. A special thank you to all the seniors who come to events, participate in programs and for your continued support. Thanks to all who made donations to our program so we can continue caring for the seniors and each other. Standing together and helping and each other are the best things we can do to make all of this work. Thank you all for your support, as I will continue to give my best everyday.

Respectfully and Gratefully submitted by,

Keirsen M. Broman

Director

Council on Aging



## BOARD OF HEALTH

The Chester Board of Health worked closely with the Mass DEP and DPH to oversee the Chester Transfer Station. Chester faced challenges this year with wastebin item sin our rubbish compactor. The Board worked on resolving these issues quickly so that fines and forced closure was diverted. Problem properties were addressed and enforced. Health Agents re-hired in 2022 were Charlie Kaniecki and Claudia Lucas which fees are paid through the permitting process. The Board has updated the website to include permit forms online, updated transfer station recycling information and has revised the permit application process for a faster turnaround. RDP grant award this year was for \$1,960.00. The Board of Health continues it's partnership with the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition which gives the Town access to free health services including three public Health Nurses, clinics and free health supplies and services. Chester is the only non-Hampshire County member of HPHPC.

The transfer station continues to pass inspection to DEP standards and has a current Authorization-to-Operate permit. Recycling services has improved even more this year by adding a grant funded Swamp Shed, open year-round. A book bin for recycling books and a textile bin has also been added. Chester receives dividends for goods placed in these bins. Operating hours are Wednesday 3 to 6 pm and Saturday 9 am to 1 pm and is manned by two attendants and several alternates. The more we recycle the more money we save. We are working towards filling the state DEP goal to reduce waste in our landfills.

The Board of Health issued annual Food Permits/Inspections (8), Temporary Food Permits/Inspections (6), Commercial Kitchen Food Permit/Inspections (2), Title V Reviews (26), Septic Plan Reviews (14), Construction Works Permits (14), Certificate of Compliance (14), Percolation Tests (23), Well Permits (3), Housing Inspections (4), Septic Installer Permits (8), Campground Permits (1), Trailer Park Permits (1), Beaver Permits (1), Bed and Breakfast Permits ( 8 ), Temporary Housing Permits (1), Septage Hauler Permits (0), Trash Haulers Permits (2), Septage Hauler Permits (3). The Board also handles Housing code enforcement, infectious disease investigation and reporting, health related public complaints and investigation. This was another record year for permitting.

The Board welcomes all questions, comments and suggestions at [BoardofHealth@TownofChester.net](mailto:BoardofHealth@TownofChester.net) or by phone 413-354-7781 seven days a week. The Board is dedicated to keep Chester Beautiful and Healthy for its residents and businesses.

Respectfully submitted.  
Nicholas J. Chiusano, Chair  
Elizabeth Massa  
Duane Pease

## **CHESTER PLANNING BOARD**

The Chester Planning Board had five active members last year; Richard Holzman, Murial Hall, Nick Chiusano, Robert Daley, and Liz Massa (chair). The planning board meets as needed to sign ANR's (approval Not Required) under the subdivision bylaw, special permits. This year the proposed amendments to the Short Term Rental bylaw and a new Glamping bylaw were voted at town meeting and approved. The Attorney General's office approved the bylaw in December of 2023, putting this bylaw officially in effect.



## CHESTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND SOCIETY

Local historical commissions are the official agents of the municipal government and are responsible for community-wide historical preservation and planning. They are advisors to the Board of Selectmen.

Local historical societies are private organizations, concerned with the preservation of local histories through records, collections, and properties.

The “Old Chester Jail”, across the street from the Chester History Museum is owned by the Town of Chester and is used for our monthly winter meetings and continues to be our research area. It houses countless books and notebooks containing Chester historic pictures and research data. With our yearly Commission money, we maintain the jail, do necessary repairs, and pay for the heat. This year we added Wi-Fi to the building to help with our and our visitors' research.

Work continued on the second floor of the Chester History Museum, owned by the Chester Historical Society, through a matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

We had many visitors this year at both the museum and the jail. We were open during “Chester on Track,” on Sundays during the month of August, and on request. We also had many visitors from the Elementary School field trip, the Hilltown Hikers historical walking tour and the CHS reunion.

We want to thank all who continue to support our efforts to preserve the history of the “Gem of the Valley”

John Hultman

President

## CHESTER WATER DEPT / CWD

Town Report July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Water Commissioner Stewardship, plus one time ARPA funding, has put CWD on the path to renewal. The Town's most valuable asset, Austin Brook filtration plant (re-valued at \$10M) Nationally recognized for its design & construction in 1995, remains strong. Key operating components which allow it to perform semi-automatically with minimal oversight, are planned or have been replaced. Ongoing upgrade of the SCADA system, continued DEP mandated bi-weekly sampling, replacement of many original monitoring components continue. Bi-annual flushing of hydrants began, following many years of neglect. Replacement of hydrants began, as well as planned replacement of piping on Lower Prospect. We continued searching for Grant opportunities as well as hiring Engineers to conduct a mandated water quality improvement Study. We anticipate sampling & Study will provide data to DEP necessary for source water switch from Horn Pond to Austin Brook. Following the October house fire at 80 West Main St, we replaced the fire hydrant near the Vault & dedicated it for Fire Dept use. Because it is on the Horn Pond line, it will provide an inexhaustible water supply for firefighting & eliminate risk of depleting treated drinking water in the plant. While much progress has been made, many challenges remain. Completion of the chemical dosing scheme study & possible recommended modifications, Austin Brook Dam (c1930) inspection, re-sanding of filter beds, dredging Austin Reservoir, inspection & cleaning of the clear well, distribution system piping replacement, (incl 1913 orig) clean/reline piping to remove tuberculation. Commissioners Tom Bean, Nick Chiusano & Bob Daley, Thank Lyle Snide for his 20+ years of servant leadership to his adopted Town. While Lyle remains as Advisor to CWD he will begin to dial back his day to day involvement.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Commissioners

Bob Daley

## REPORT OF WILD AND SCENIC WESTFIELD RIVER COMMITTEE

Wild and Scenic is a designation given to a river based on National Legislation that passed in 1968, when Lyndon B. Johnson was the President in office. The Westfield River is one of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers and the first in MA (See: [rivers.gov](http://rivers.gov)). With 30 years in the System and partnership with the National Park Service, the Committee meets to care for the river and the watershed, riparian life within the water and life in the surrounding environment. Paying attention to the water resources, terrestrial resources, cultural and historic resources as well as recreational integrity.

Our website was extensively updated and revised, and we hope easy to navigate on the internet. (See: [www.westfieldriverwildscenic.org](http://www.westfieldriverwildscenic.org)).

Stream Crossing Upgrade program is continuing their support for replacement of culverts to meet current standards related to increase flood flows. The Committee funded and managed the \$153,000 project plus \$12,000 in technical assistance to complete initial design and engineering for culvert upgrades in nine Wild & Scenic towns. We are pleased to report that two towns have already received additional state grants to continue to advance the design and permitting. Culverts are made from different materials depending on intended use and topographical environment. Common materials used to construct a culvert are concrete, aluminum, PVC or galvanized steel. A culvert is present beneath a roadway which allows water, wildlife and fish to pass freely. Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee engaged Action Research, a behavior change marketing firm, to develop an outreach plan to look into anti-icing on the roadways and invasive species management within the 10 town in the Wild & Scenic portion of the watershed. A river-friendly improvement using a community-based social marketing scheme will be employed soon. There are three major branches of the Westfield River. The Worthington section of the Middle branch is contiguous with that of the Town of Middlefield. Just down the road a piece, or further south from South Worthington, is the Army Corp. of Engineers Knightville Dam, located in the Town of Huntington. This is a structure used to manage flooding. December 2023 saw a grand amount of water, as there was great rain and unseasonably warm weather.

The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee awarded grant funding to many conservation, river protection and stewardship projects. The River Conservation Grants are open to all ten of the Wild & Scenic towns and nonprofits working within these towns to advance the mission of the Wild & Scenic program. The application is available on the website. This year the Committee to supply the following grants:

- Westfield River Watershed Association (\$1,975) for porta-a-potties for the Wild water Race.
- Westfield River Watershed Association (\$1,550) for two puppet making workshops for youth followed by a puppet parade as part of the Watershed Association's Wildwater Race.
- Gateway Regional School District (\$3,600) to support a summer school program to teach students about river life and create murals at the playing fields. Additional support was provided by Wild & Scenic Outreach Coordinator and Committee members.
- Wild & Scenic Westfield River Library Program (\$2000) for a gift of river themed books for the ten Wild & Scenic town libraries.
- Town of Washington (\$16,000) for additional design refinements and permitting for a road-stream crossing replacement at Frost Road.

- Town of Becket (\$20,000) for additional design and permitting for a road-stream crossing upgrade on Benton Hill Road.
- Town of Chester (\$850) to help fund a beaver control structure to reduce flooding and erosion at Lyman Road.
- Massachusetts Audubon Society (\$11,330) for a Conservation Restriction on 175-acre parcel in Windsor.

Ongoing work is being done to improve Visitor Use at the many roadside spots along the Westfield River. The Committee had a visit at a monthly meeting from graduate students at UMASS who are specifically encouraging Women on the Land. (See: <http://masswoods.org/caring-your-land/women-land> ). The libraries in the watershed will see books relating to environmental, ecological, and generally river-friendly literature to boost knowledge once read. The Committee sponsored the purchase of the materials.

Our Outreach Coordinator worked with three Interns and the Watershed community to address the non-native plant population, native pollinator plants, and riverside clean-ups. Informative videos on a wide range of topics were created with experts who provide insights into the wilds of the river. The videos are available through the website. In May the Committee helped sponsored a Wilderness First Aid Training that took place at Notchview Reservation in Windsor. The three interns and our Outreach Coordinator participated in this training.

The town of Chester received technical assistance and funding from the Committee to help address a serious erosion and flooding issue on Abbott Hill Rd. The assistance, which amounted to over \$18,000, included completing a survey, initial technical memo and a recommendation for an upgraded road stream crossing on Abbott Hill Road. The Committee and their consultant also prepared a grant application for state municipal assistance for culvert replacement. The funding request was approved, just one of thirteen state-wide to complete design and permitting on this seriously compromised culvert crossing.

The grant award announcement was held at and hosted by the Chester Railway Station and had great media coverage including all the evening newscasts. Officials from municipalities across the state came to Chester for the event, many for the first time. Members of the Committee then led a field trip to view and learn about the issues with the problem culvert.

The Committee also participated in **Chester On Track** having interns in the parade and hosting a booth offering information and a chance for children to make their own fish prints.

Finally, the town requested and was granted funding to help pay for a beaver control device to reduce the frequency of road flooding due to beaver activity.

Finding ways to care for the river is in part a reciprocity of action that gives humans a chance to be in Nature as an agent for the survival of the planet. If you are interested in more information regarding what this Committee is doing and how you can be involved, contact Chester town representative for the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee- David Pierce at 413 354 7752 or email the Committee directly at [info@westfieldriverwildscenic.org](mailto:info@westfieldriverwildscenic.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
 L. Schaff, Secretary  
 Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee  
 D. Pierce, Chester Rep

## CHESTER-BLANDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

What a big year for the Chester-Blandford Police Department. We saw some new officers join the department and were able to promote an officer to Sergeant. We currently have 8 sworn officers within the department and 3 civilian traffic control officers. This year we introduced Nikko, the department's up and coming comfort care K9, who always draws a crowd.

The department was able to secure funding from numerous grants in 2023 totaling over \$70,000.00. This has allowed the department to continue the Med Project program for unwanted and expired medication disposal in both police stations. We were also able to purchase three new Motorola two-way radios and a new UTV to assist with search and rescue operations. With the awarded funds from the MRS grant officers continue to provide an increased traffic enforcement presence in town.

Officers enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Trunk or Treat event at Emery Park and the annual Toy Drive to benefit It Takes a Village, which provides toys to children for Christmas. The Chester on Track event is always a fun time for the department to interact with the community and provide a safe environment for everyone.

We saw an increase in call volume this year, with 1342 recorded calls for service, of which the CBPD responded to 1240 of those calls resulting in a 92.5% response rate. This increase in call volume is due to officers being on duty more and being proactive in their patrolling efforts.

As the Chief I am always reminded of the great responsibility I have to the community and my officers. This position is not just a full-time job to me, it is who I am 24/7. I want everyone within the Chester community to feel safe, live peacefully and enjoy all that there is to see and do within our town lines. I take great pride in serving this community and look forward to 2024 and meeting new people while continuing to provide a fair, respectful and impartial police department to you all.

Respectfully,

Chief Jen Dubiel

## **Animal Control and Inspector of Animals**

July 1,2022-June 30,2023

42 “barn” inspections were made in the fall of 2022. The purpose is to document ownership of each animal, providing the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources with data for response planning in an emergency.

A total of 4 home kennels were inspected prior to licensure for 2023. All kennels were inspected and approved as meeting all standards of care per the state guidelines.

Calls to the ACO were as follows:

3-miscellaneous information calls

6-dog “at large”

8-wildlife call

2-loose large animal

6- stray pick up

4 – nuisance dogs

2-barking dog complaint

2- Quarantine for dog bite

Respectfully Submitted

Terry Donovan ACO/Animal Inspector

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Fifty five permits were issued by the building department during FY 2023 which is above average from recent years. One new single family dwelling permit was issued, while six more were for major home renovations, additions, or large garage/barn projects. Three permits were issued for new commercial projects as well. The continued advancement towards Chester's inclusion in the West-East rail should only further complement our recent growth.

Fourteen energy conservations permits pulled this year including solar installations, window/replacements, and insulation and air sealing upgrades. Eight permits were also issued for wood or pellet stoves. Please note that the installation of any solid-fuel burning appliance (wood stoves, pellet stoves, etc.) requires a permit, regardless of the installer. The fee for this permit is reasonable, required by all home insurance companies, and important to the safety of the inhabitants of the structure. If you have already installed one of these devices, you can still apply for a permit and have a quick inspection.

Along with the Board of Health, I have started to more strictly enforce our zoning bylaws in an effort to maintain property values and public safety of all residents. Please feel free to reach out any time with any concerns you may have throughout town and I will address accordingly. In the coming years we plan to continue to take numerous actions to clean up several of the blighted properties around town.

A large thank you goes out to all of the other town departments and boards for their assistance and cooperation when requested. The dedication of these numerous, primarily volunteer, individuals is greatly appreciated and a testament to their commitment to the betterment of our town.

Under normal circumstances, office hours are every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday evening of the month from 5:00-6:00, however I am readily available to meet with you in the office, at your home, or at the jobsite as needed. As a Chester resident myself, I am consistently in the area so please feel free to reach out to me anytime at (413) 205-6504. Copies of each type of building permit application are located on the outside of my office door for you to pick up at your convenience if the online permitting system is not a viable option for you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Forgue, Building Commissioner



T O W N   O F  
**CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**

01011

**CHESTER PARKS AND TRAILS**

The Town of Chester continued to be a premiere outdoor recreation destination in Western Massachusetts this year.

The Chester Granite Company Polishing Works has been purchased by Chester based non-profit Hilltown Hikers and is now conserved adding to the historical hub of Factory Village. The Keystone Arch Bridges Trail received National Historic Landmark Designation last year, namely the sixty-five- and seventy-foot stone arch bridges and the Chester Railroad Station.

The Chester Becket Trail on Hampden Street is now connected to the Gobble Mountain section of the Highlands Footpath/Unkamt's Path and the Hampden Street Town Park Trail. This means there is an official continuous trail connection in Chester starting at the Chester Railway Station through downtown, along the trails in Hampden Street Park and then branching to both the Chester Becket Trail; newly blazed section of the Highlands Footpath on Gobble Mountain and onwards to the Keystone Arches and Round Top Hill to the Chester Blandford State Forest. The Round Top Hill Trail has new informational kiosks and parking areas and last summer, a new lookout to the East was created.

The Chester Walks "Gem of the Valley" map originally funded by Healthy Hampshire continues to be the most popular Hilltown walking map and sets the standard as other towns have followed suit. The Cultural Council generously funded reprinting of 500 copies twice of the walking map in the last two years. This year we have added more historical locations and through another grant have printed more.

Hampden Street Park is our hidden gem. Enjoy Walker Brook while sitting on the benches eating take out lunch from Carm's Restaurant. Crosswalks have been completed as well as pedestrian signs and the trail has been officially opened.

Get outdoors, stay healthy hiking or walking and enjoying the natural beauty of the Town of Chester!

Respectfully submitted,  
 Liz Massa



## Veterans Services

The town of Chester honored their community veterans again this year with the 3rd Annual Veterans Day lunch at the Chester Common Table and served over 60 veterans and their guests. It was a wonderful dinner and fortunately for me this year's event was on Wednesday, November 8th which allowed me to be in attendance again this year. I had the opportunity to speak to those in attendance regarding changes and improvements to benefits that Massachusetts and the federal government provide to veterans. I also left behind literature to act both as a reminder and for folks to take and inform others in the community of all that is available. We had an increase in calls very soon after the event and we have filed claims with the VA Benefits Administration for three different veterans that were in attendance.

This year many veterans and some dependents of Chester received VA compensation and pension benefits in the amount of \$55,036.80 on a monthly basis. In addition, the town was able to help several veterans and families by providing financial assistance in accordance with M.G.L. CH 115. In all, the town issued \$16,589.80 in benefits for FY 2024 and received 75% (\$12,442.32) of that money reimbursed from the state

November was a very busy month for our district. We were presenters at an event designed by the leadership of General Dynamics targeting the veteran employees and family members of veterans about all that is out there, including our program. Several in attendance at the facility in Pittsfield were residents of the Hilltown communities that are part of our district.

Our outreach efforts post pandemic have been moving along. We are continuing to produce episodes of our new outreach television show, which is being aired district-wide on both town websites and local access television, and it can be found on YouTube under Central Hampshire Veteran Services. We have also developed two letters, the first which we would like to distribute to selected residents of Chester, who self-identified as veterans in the town census, informing them of our programs and services. Our second letter is targeted to very recently returning veterans informing them of our programs including those specifically designed for recently returning veterans throughout Massachusetts. This is part of an overall effort to conduct outreach to veterans and their family members to connect them to the many benefits and services our office provides.

Through our efforts as a leading member of the Western Massachusetts Veterans Outreach Project, our office has spearheaded an initiative with Cooley Dickinson Hospital (CDH) to provide improve intake and referral services for Veterans accessing the CDH system of care. CDH has identified this initiative as a major strategic priority. We have labeled this mission the "Just Ask Campaign" and we received a grant from the state of Massachusetts late in the year to pilot this program with two other behavioral health agencies. We will be hiring staff to help us with our six month effort to spread the mission throughout Western Massachusetts. Our hope is to have many of the health providers in Western Massachusetts asked the question if they or a family member have a history of military service. This question is now part of the CDH electronic medical records (EMR) system and our desire is to make that happen across the state,

was starting right here. Our WMVOP collaborative that includes CDH, ServiceNet, Smith College and others are seeking to improve referral services for Veterans and their family members when accessing health care outside the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

Western Mass. Veterans Outreach Project and Baystate Medical had originally planned a training conference to improve the lives of military and veteran family members in our western Massachusetts region in November 2023. There were a few stubborn obstacles that were not overcome in time for that was originally date but there is still work at moving the date into May 2024. The goal is to reach health care and behavioral health providers, first responders, law enforcement personnel, veteran organizations, veteran services representatives, school guidance counselors and educators, pastoral care and clergy, and all others who connect with family members or who interact with our broad and diverse military and Veteran community in western Massachusetts to improve their lives and well-being.

Rounding out our month of November was our month-long art exhibit called “A Stones Throw” that took place at the APE gallery on Main Street with veteran’s artwork being presented at several public buildings throughout Northampton, including the mayor’s office, throughout City Hall, and at Forbes library. It was an opportunity to demonstrate through visual art and performance art what the lives of those who serve in our military and the effect it has on both them and their entire family, and in many ways, the community as a whole. It was an incredibly successful event with close to 5000 people from throughout the Valley experiencing the many aspects of this exhibit.



