

Chester Finance Committee Meeting

4/3/25 COA room

In Attendance: Sr.Judith Dalesandro, Florence Bolduc, Brian Forgue, Mary Ann Pease, Don Humason, BOS Rep, Bob Daley, and Nick Chiusano

Absent: Joe Ryan

Guests: Graig Gauthier, Jane & Andy Sutton, Terry Donovan and Chipper Dazelle

Meeting called to order by Brian at 5:30

#1) Minutes from the 3/ 27 meeting were reviewed. Bob D. made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Sr.Judith 2nd. Unanimous. Brian to sign and give it to Terry.

#2) Chipper Dazelle, Highway Dept discussion.

Chipper explained about his P/T worker and what work they do. During the summer months mostly mowing and cleaning culverts, etc. CMELD owns the mower, but employees do not have the necessary licenses. The p/t worker can work up to 40 hours a week on occasion, however, does not want benefits.

Once again it was noted that the current employee manual states p/t work is 20 hours and under. Employee manual needs to be addressed to represent what actually constitutes a p/t worker.

Still under discussion how to compensate the highway department for work done for other departments.

Bob D. stated what a great job the highway department does on behalf of the town. After the numbers were reviewed it was decided that P/T highway dept. worker would be \$16,000 for the year. The spread sheet was updated to reflect this. This is a reduction in what was originally asked for.

Mary Ann & Bob mentioned using a 2 ½ override for specific departments and let the people decide.

#4) Brian stated that the numbers for Insurance and Tuition on the work sheet are not in yet. One additional voc student. Vocational transportation goes up the same rate as voc tuition. Brian will hopefully have hard numbers for next meeting

#5) Reviewing of individual Accounts on spreadsheet.

A) \$1,000 was cut from the cemetery account. A meeting is going to be held with the cemetery commissioner to review all the assorted accounts and perhaps start using the funds to support ongoing work at the cemetery.

- BOH Transfer Station Expenses*
- B) BOH, \$57,000 will come out of ~~cometary~~ *cometary* account and go into *Revolving* Account. Nick stated Wickles came through with a hauling contract for the upcoming year. Tonnage reports are not coming in from waste haulers in town, BOH looking into this, he also stated less people are recycling who use outside services.
- C) COA expense account has been cut to \$7,500. This will be reflected on work sheet. There is money in their state aid account that can be used. Jane explained about attendance and programming. (COA Board Chair)
- D) REC Com, expense cut \$1,250 this will be on work sheet. Presently no members to organize events. Mowing contract for Ball field is being bid.
- E) Library, discussed at great length. Vote taken to keep budget as presented to FIN COM 3-2 1 abstention 1 absent
- F) Fire Dept, Much discussion about this. Bob reminded everyone we are voting on the budget not the person. The salary line for chief will be set at \$10,140.00 for FY 26 and gradually increase in the upcoming years. The work sheet will be updated. Vote 5 in favor 1 no.
Fire Dept. Administrative Ast. Will be removed from this year's budget but need to put back in next year. Work Sheet will be adjusted.
- G) Police, Blandford wants to give the Chief a raise, we are only looking at COLA for FY2026. No decision made on Police Records Clerk. Brian will be speaking with Blandford and will update the spreadsheet as needed.

Next meeting will include further review of Police, Insurance and Education.

Capital Planning and Revolving Accounts possible finalization of FY 26 budget.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 PM

Next Meeting 4/10/25 COA room

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ann Pease

