

Chester Finance Committee Meeting

4/10/25 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

Meeting called to order by Brian at 5:38

#1) Minutes from the 4/3 meeting were amended with minor corrections done in pen. Brian made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Flo 2nd. Unanimous. Brian to sign and give it to Terry.

#2) Brian handed out updated spread sheets with all numbers he had to date. Still need to cut \$91,473 from the final budget. Need Insurance and Vocational Educational Cost. Group Health and County Retirement are accurate numbers. Unemployment went down slightly.

#3) The number of students attending Voc School is based on 12 students, which was a net gain of 4 from last year. However, Brian explained the process and it may only actually amount to possibly 3. We will keep the 3 and then it may only result in 2 students in the end, and we would have a buffer of 1 in the final number. We can take \$60,203 out of the Education Stabilization Fund for Gateway. Will have final Voc numbers in by beginning of May.

#4) Free Cash has \$157,000 in it presently. A town meeting vote is needed to move funds to pay off \$100,000 on the truck note. An \$85,000 payment needs to be made on the Fire Truck. Possibly using funds from the sale of land for these items.

#5) The Highway Department needs a new truck. Options discussed were possibly leasing, using Chapter 90 or Fair Share funds for a down payment. Chipper to look into possibilities and get back to us. Chipper would like to review with BOS before decisions made. Chipper also mentioned putting in for a Mass Works grant. Also reach out to Sara for financing numbers and check into loan payments on fire truck and highway truck. Brian will review with Sara.

Revolving Fund Language for ATM warrant
Cemetery, Jessica about how to consolidate cemetery accounts
Capital Planning
Finish Budget worksheet

Brian to get next meeting agenda to Town Clerk for posting.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 PM

Next Meeting 4/17/25 5:30 COA room

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Ann Pease