

Chester Finance Committee Meeting

12/4/2025 COA room

In Attendance: Sr.Judith Dalesandro, Florence Bolduc, Mary Ann Pease, Bob Daley, Nick Chiusano, Joe Ryan and new member John Williams

Guests: Brian Forgue and Andrew Alward

Meeting called to order by Flo at 5:30.

Minutes from the Capital Planning 11/6/25 reviewed. These will be kept separately from Fin Com Meeting Minutes.

#1) Discussion of results of STM in November concerning funds for payment of Fire Truck loan. Now that funds are in place a vote was taken to make the payment, Bob made a motion, Joe 2nd all in favor.

Andrew and Flo now have copy of fire truck loan agreement.

#2) Items handed out, Annual budget cycle policy, Comprehensive Fiscal Management policy and the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Instruction and Guidelines.

All departments have been sent a request for a FY 27 Budget. Department budgets should be based on a zero-based budget. Departments should anticipate a 2.6% inflation rate when doing calculations.

This is going to be a new way for departments to handle the budget process so there may be many questions.

#3) Dates on the Budget instructions have been changed. New date of 2/13/26 for budgets to be submitted to Fin Com Chair and Town Administrator through the hyper link that was emailed to everyone with instructions.

2/26/26 Department Meetings to review budgets to begin.

3/12/26 Preliminary revenue projections and finalizing department budget requests.

#4) Mary Ann made a motion to follow the Gateway School weather cancellation schedule with regards to cancelling Fin Com meetings. All in Favor.

#5) Enterprise Fund budget for Water Department needs to be drawn up.