



Chester Water Commission  
Town of Chester  
15 Middlefield Road  
Chester, MA 01011

Water Commission Minutes for March 11, 2026

The meeting was opened at 6pm with Bob Daley, Jim Zimmerman, Craig Gauthier, Andy Meyers, Marianne Pease, Sister Judith, Lynn & Joe Messier and several other unidentified people. We started by reading the minutes of the last meeting. They were accepted and signed. Bob Daley then spoke about the drought situation status in the state. He also went over the proposed budget for FY27 and spoke briefly about the various grants expended for the Water System. A question was asked about having a discount for water users that paid their bills early. We discussed it a bit and explained that it would impact the funding needed to run the system as we try to keep the costs as low as possible. It was also noted that part of the increase was for a potential intern salary for an individual who might want to become a water operator. We spoke about the possibility of having a new hire commit to a period of time working for the Water Department if we reimbursed for schooling and licenses. Bob Daley was going to speak with the Town council about the legality of that. We spoke about the 1.2 million dollars in repairs and upgrades needed that were highlighted in the Asset Management Plan. Bob mentioned we have started addressing lower cost projects that can be done with local resources. . We discussed the need for the rate increase due to a number of factors including rising costs and the lack of rate hikes in the past 20 years. The meeting closed at 6:50pm

James M Zimmerman  
Chairman

3/17/2026