

Chester Finance Committee Meeting

4/23/2026 at the Fire Department

In Attendance: Sr. Judith Dalesandro, Florence Bolduc, Mary Ann Pease, Joe Ryan, Nick Chisvano, Bob Daley and Jon Williams

Guests: Brian Fogue, Andrew Alward and Jill Strong

Meeting called to order by Flo at 5:30.

4/16/26 meeting minutes were reviewed, Bob made a motion to accept as written. Sr. Judith 2nd. All in favor. Flo signed minutes and gave to Andrew to forward to Town Clerk.

Recreation Committee: Flo presented what the Rec Committee had just submitted for budget purposes. No one from committee was able to attend. Large increase requested over last few years. Discussion regarding increase ensued. Some monies requested are supplemented by others who donate time, talent and funding. Sr. Judith made a motion to level fund. Nick 2nd. Unanimous.

COA budget was discussed and it was decided to give the director a 3% cola and to level fund the budget from last year. Flo made a motion to level fund and Nick 2nd. Unanimous. They have state account and donation account to supplement what the town gives.

Vocational Education was discussed. The number for Smith is \$22,559 per student. Don't have the count for Westfield Voc. The student count comes in at the end of April beginning of May. Should get a better handle on this at next meeting.

Bob inquired about the transportation contract. There are many buses that run with only a few students on them. He asked about combining routes, what was the plan for transportation. Bryan stated that the transportation contract was negotiated and this is the final year of that 3-year contract. It will be looked into at contract renewal.

Sr. Judith asked why the Building Inspector gets a salary and the plumbing inspector doesn't. It was explained that several years ago he chose a salary and to give all fees associated with the Building Inspector back to the town.

A vote was taken to give all employees a 3 % cola and 2% performance increase except the custodian, coa and any new hires.

Bob asked what the difference between 3 % and 2 % was. He asked Andrew to look into it.

Next meeting will be an entire review of the budget, where cuts may need to be made and final review of fire and highway budgets and perhaps vocational numbers will be available.

Metting was adjourned at 7:10

Next meeting will be held 4/30/26 at 5:30 at fire station.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Pease

Flora A. Balder 4/30/26