



TOWN OF CHESTER  
15 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD  
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

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**Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**BOS MEETING MINUTES**

Open meeting – This meeting was held in the Town Hall Auditorium with a virtual option.

Selectboard members present were Brian Forgue, Craig Gauthier and Jill Strong. Town Administrator Andrew Alward, Police Chief Jen Dubiel, Town Clerk Terry Donovan, Finance Committee Chair Florence Bolduc, and members of the public were also present.

Brian Forgue opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Warrants, minutes and correspondence were signed.

**Report from Town Departments:**

- Scholarship Review Sean and Evan Forgue

Brian Forgue stated that there had been confusion about the scholarship application deadline being May 1<sup>st</sup> or May 15th. There were two students who sent in completed applications that were not reviewed at the last Board meeting. The Board agreed to review and include the applications for the scholarships awarded for the next school year.

***Jill Strong made a motion to award Sean Forgue and Evan Forgue funds from the Franklin D Hamilton Scholarship. Craig Gauthier seconded the motion.***

- Appointments to Open Space Plan Committee (Lora Wade, Sean Forgue)

Craig mentioned that he felt it is important for people looking to be appointed to boards and commissions to be present at the Select Board meeting. There was discussion about tabling these appointments to another meeting. Andrew Alward mentioned that he still had not received an email from Sean Forgue expressing interest in joining. He confirmed he did receive a letter of interest from Paul Waite earlier today.



- PVPC's Safe Streets and Regional Water Studies and Water Update (Bob Daley)

Bob Daley discussed the Safe Streets Grant and its potential to improve safety and traffic flow on Main Street and Maple by restricting parking. He discussed possibly expanding short term parking on Riverfront Street.

Bob also discussed the Regional Water Study which allowed the Chester Water Department to meet with Water Departments all around Western Mass to share best practices and shared challenges. Bob mentioned wanting to reclaim an access road to Horn Pond.

#### **Report from Town Administrator:**

- Annual Town Meeting Warrant Discussion

Florance Bolduc gave a brief explanation of the process the Finance committee took in creating the budget. The overall increase to the budget is at 5.98% with all debt payments in the operating budget. This is in line with current policy and saves the town's savings accounts. The increase to the budget without the debt payments factored in is 2.98%.

***Brian Forgue made a motion to recommend the budget for Town Meeting. Jill Strong seconded. Motion passed.***

Andrew brought up some warrant articles that seem redundant and could be removed from the warrant. Brian said he wanted to keep those articles on the warrant for tradition.

- Tax Enforcement Policy review and approval

Andrew explained that this policy was created with the Tax Collector and Treasurer.

***Brian Forgue made a motion to accept the Tax Enforcement Policy. Craig Gauthier seconded. Motion passed.***

- Update on Town activities

Andrew discussed recent events in town. Chester on Track was successful and very well attended. The Memorial Day celebration in Huntington and Chester were to be held next Monday on the 25<sup>th</sup>.



*Brian Forgue made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jill Strong seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.*

CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
and ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
15 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD  
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

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Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Fox, Administrative Assistant

6/15/26

Date Signed

Selectboard:

Brian Forgue

6/15/26

Date Signed

Jill Strong

6/18/26

Date Signed

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Craig Gauthier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed