

**Village of Chester
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2020**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester held its monthly meeting in the Village Office Meeting Room on Monday, January 13, 2020.

Members present: Mayor John Thomas Bell, Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato, Trustee Alan Battiato, Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly and Trustee Brian J. Boone.

Also, present: Village Clerk Rebecca Rivera, Treasurer Angela O’Neill, Attorney for the Village Henry Christensen Jr., Village Police Chief Peter J. Graziano Jr., Water Commissioner Gary A. Green Jr and Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr. Village Street Superintendent Charles Bono was absent.

Mayor John Thomas Bell welcomed everyone to the January 13, 2020 Village monthly meeting.

Mayor John Thomas Bell opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, Mayor asked the Boy Scouts to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIT OF BILLS: Mayor John Thomas Bell noted that the audit of the December 2019 Village’s monthly bills for approval was complete.

A motion to pay the audited bills of December 2019, was made by Trustee Alan Battiato, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly. Motion unanimously passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Monthly Meeting on December 9, 2019.

A motion to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on December 9, 2019, was made by Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly. Motion unanimously passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Angela O’Neill read Treasurer’s report as follows:

CASH BALANCES ENDING December 31, 2019

<u>Fund/Bank Account</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>(Disbursements)</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
<u>General Fund</u>				
Savings (Sterling National Bank)	--	--	1,625.46	3,207,924.79
Checking (Orange County Trust)	869,664.92	970,261.87	8.45	91,969.76
Savings (Orange County Trust)	--	--	980.59	1,947,197.75
<u>Water Fund</u>				
Capital Checking	--	--	13.33	103,217.61
Checking	50,034.54	77,615.05	24.93	468,943.26
<u>Sewer Fund</u>				
Checking	86,648.01	319,438.12	37.99	520,839.85

Cumulative Fiscal Year Interest Earned by Fund 06/1/19 – 05/31/2020

General Fund	\$	17,231.96
Water Fund	\$	233.71
Sewer Fund	\$	211.62

Treasurer’s Discussion:

1. STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES: Please see attached.

2. 2019-2020 SEWER COLLECTION: Collection of Village Sewer bills continues. Sewer Installment #4 is due by 3/31/2020. Unpaid Sewer Balance notices will be mailed in early February. Unpaid sewer balances as of 4/1/2020 will be re-levied on to the Village Property Tax Bill issued on 6/1/2020.

2020-2021 VILLAGE BUDGET: Preparation of the 2020-2021 Village Wide Budget is underway. A Tentative Budget will be filed at the Village Clerk’s Office on or about 3/23/2020.

A motion to accept Treasurer’s report as read by Treasurer Angela O’Neill was made by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

BUILDING REPORT: Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr read Building report as follows:

22 Maple Ave

1- Project now complete.

40 Greycourt Ave.

1- House progressing.

38 Greycourt Ave

1- Foundation in.

Whispering Hills

1- Interior work underway.

Steris – 2 Nucifora Blvd.

1- Work has just started on roof top solar. New building.

Trustee Brian J. Boone asked about the house on Academy Ave, that was struck by a vehicle and damaged the front of the house. The Building Inspector stated that it’s an issue between homeowner and the driver’s car insurance.

A motion to accept Building report as read by Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr was made by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee Brian J. Boone. Motion unanimously passed.

POLICE REPORT: Police Chief Peter Graziano, read his report as follows:

1. Personnel:

- No issues

2. Citizen Issues:

- Received a card from Ms. Otlowski and Ms. Budofsky, thanking Sgt. McGuire and Officer Guarneiri for freeing their dog, who was stuck partially in/out of a metal cage.

3. Public Safety Issues:

- Traffic Details: Continuing

4. Facilities:

- No issues.

5. Equipment:

- No issues.

6. Vehicles:

- No issues.

7. Other:

- No issues.

8. Department Activity YTD:

Call Type	2020	2019
Calls for Service	073	2383
Criminal Cases	010	333
Arrests	009	164
Traffic Accidents	004	326

A motion to accept Police report as read by Chief Peter J. Graziano Jr was made by Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato, seconded by Trustee Brian J. Boone. Motion unanimously passed.

STREET REPORT: Street Superintendent Charles Bono was absent.

Mayor mentioned the following:

- *X-Mas Trees, the Street Department will be picking up Christmas trees until the end of the month.
- *Placing garbage receptacles to be collected, the garbage receptacles should be on the property not out on the road or on sidewalks in order to help aid the Street Department with the snow removal process.
- *Furniture and bulk items, Bulk pick up has ended as of November 30, 2019. This service will resume April 1, 2020.

WATER REPORT: Water Commissioner Gary Green, Jr., read his report as follows:

- 1) Daily filter plant & well operations.
- 2) Twice per week filter cleaning.
- 3) Filled ice rink at Community Park, also known as Carpenter Field.

- 4) Replaced service line at 6 Maple Ave.
- 5) Repaired service line at 2 Walnut.
- 6) Joe Rosploch assisted Street Department with snow blowing of sidewalks
- 7) Monthly samples were taken to the lab for testing.
- 8) Marking out water lines for Dig Safe N.Y.
- 9) We had our generator at the plant serviced and they replaced 2 relays on the transfer switch.
- 10) Cleared snow that was blocking access to fire hydrants.
- 11) Water meters at Whispering Hills are complete minus the building that burned down and both club house buildings.
- 12) We are in the process of changing the meters at Knollcrest Apartment.

A motion to accept the Water Department's report as read by Village Water Commissioner Gary A. Green Jr. was made by Trustee Brian J. Boone, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly. Motion unanimously passed.

PARK & RECREATION: Park & Rec employee Michele Deshler was present and read report as follows:

This year is off and running and so are we in the Parks and Recreation Departments.

At the Senior/Rec Center our program attendance numbers are growing...

People are taking advantage of these great programs; we are always looking to add more so stay tuned.

Our trips to Mohegan Sun in February and Washington DC in March/April are completely full!!

Thank you to everyone who responded and sent in deposits so quickly. I guess we are doing something right and there is more to come. This isn't possible without all of you that travel with us... THANK YOU!

I HAVE A SAVE THE DATE FOR YOU...

OUR SENIOR SPRING FLING

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2020 from 5 pm to 9 pm

SUGAR LOAF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

I know if you missed the Snowball you won't be missing the Spring Fling, and if you were at the Snowball you know it was a great time.

Kristin Palmer and I always conjure up something special, remember seating is limited so once we announce it's open don't delay.

Walter Popailo Recreation Director at the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center has things popping over there.

Look at the great line up of events:

February 14th: Under the Streetlamp

Everyone's favorite retro rock band, Under the Streetlamp delivers an electrifying evening of classic hits from the American Radio Songbook, bringing their unique blend of tight harmonies and slick dance moves to your favorite old time Rock 'n' Roll, Doo-Wop and Motown hits.

February 22nd: West Point Band

This event is sold out, if you have tickets you are not using please contact us or return them, we have people waiting.

February 29th: Don McLean

Legendary singer-songwriter Don McLean, with a musical career spanning over 50 years, is coming to the SLPAC Main Stage!

Known for hits like “American Pie,” “Vincent (Starry Starry Night)”, “Crying”, “And I Love You So”, and “Castles in the Air”.

March 5th: The Irish Comedy Tour

The Irish Comedy Tour takes the party atmosphere of a Dublin pub and combines it with a boisterous, belly-laugh band of hooligans. The clover — make that clever — comedians, whose ancestors hail from the Emerald Isle.

March 6th: Rhythm of the Dance

Combining traditional dance and music with the most up to date stage technology, this two-hour dance and music extravaganza takes the audiences on an exhilarating and exciting, energy-packed time trip through the ages.

April 1st: Artie Lange

For over 30 years Artie Lange has been making people laugh as a stand-up comic, television and film actor, best-selling author and radio host. He is known for being in FOX’s Mad TV, The Howard Stern Show, films Old School, & Elf, hosting his own radio show and writing his own memoir, “Too Fat to Fish.”

April 29th and 30th: Million Dollar Quartet

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET is the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical new smash-hit musical inspired by the true story of the famed recording session that brought together rock ‘n’ roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time.

(If you are looking to get tickets to any performances above and would like to do so in person please stop by the SLPAC on Thursday or Friday 3 pm -6 pm - Box office open)

Can't wait to see what else the SLPAC will be bringing us...

Kristin Palmer is busy in the Parks Department having just finished a very successful Free Throw Challenge and with Town Basketball going on.

If you are interested in a tour of the SLPAC or interested in renting please contact Walter Popailo at 845-469-7000 option 3, wpopailo@thetownofchester.org

If you are interested in field use, pavilion rental at the Chester Commons or Carpenter Field please contact Kristin Palmer at 845-469-7000 option 3, kpalmer@thetownofchester.org

So many amazing things happening in our great Town, let's keep it going.

Please note: When the Town is closed for a legal holiday all programs, meetings, clubs ...etc., are also canceled for the day.

February legal holidays:

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Monday, February 17, 2020

(** Knit/Crochet Club will not meet on Friday, Feb 14th **)

Coming up this week at the Senior/Rec Center:

Monday, 1/27/2020

Chair Yoga 9 am to 10 am

Quilting Club 10:30 am-3:30 pm

Classic Yoga 6 pm to 7pm

Tuesday 1/28 /2020

Wednesday 1/29/2020

Chair Yoga 9-10am

Classic Yoga 6-7pm

Chess Club 730-10pm

Thursday 1/30/2020

Osteo Exercise 9-10am

Cards/Games 11am-3pm

Friday 1/31/2020

Knit/Crochet Club 9-1130am

Classic Yoga 12-1pm

For any questions always available to assist you:

Michele 469-7000 ext. 332 (Senior/Rec Center)

OLD BUSINESS: No old business to address.

NEW BUSINESS:

20-1 Resolution Authorizing 2020 Chester Kiwanis Hambletonian 5K Walk/Run 2020

WHEREAS, the Chester Kiwanis Club (the "Applicant") has requested the use of Main Street in the Village of Chester for the 26th Annual Chester Kiwanis' Hambletonian 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, May 23, 2020 (the "Event") from 8:45 am to 12:00; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has promised to provide the Village with a certificate of liability insurance naming the Village of Chester as an additional named insured (the "Insurance Certificate"),

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the Applicant's request for use of the identified Village of Chester Property for the Event is hereby granted, subject to the Applicant providing the Village with the Insurance Certificate.

Introduced By: Trustee Alan Battiato
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato
On a vote of 5 to 0 the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Richard Robillard was present, and he thanked the Village Board of Trustees, Police Department and Street Department for their effort in making safe and enjoyable to all especially the participants during last year's Chester Kiwanis' Hambletonian 5k Walk/Run.

Mr. Robillard asked for permission to have Chester for the 26th Annual Chester Kiwanis' Hambletonian 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, May 23, 2020 from 8:45 am to 12:00.

20-2 Resolution Authorizing Reimbursement of Medicare Part B Payments 2020.

WHEREAS, in providing The New York State Healthcare Plan as a healthcare plan option, the Village is required to reimburse each retiree's Medicare Part "B" payments; and

WHEREAS, the person identified is on the attached list is entitled to reimbursement from the Village for their Medicare Part "B" payments,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor, Treasurer and/or Clerk of the Village are hereby authorized to reimburse those persons listed as eligible for reimbursement of their Medicare Part "B" payments.

Introduced By: Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato
On a vote of 5 to 0 the resolution was adopted.

20-3 The Village of Chester Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Village of Chester Police Benevolent Association, Inc. ("PBA") represents all full-time and part-time police officers employed by the Village of Chester Police Department except the Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Chester ("Village") and the PBA are parties to a Collective Bargaining Agreement that will expire on May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the bargaining committee for the PBA and the bargaining committee for the Village have engaged in discussions with respect to extending the terms and conditions of the CBA for one-year in accordance with the foregoing; and

WHEREAS, both parties desire to enter into this Agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, subject to the ratification and approval by the PBA and the Village Board of the Village, with the recommendations of the bargaining committees, the parties hereby agree to the following terms:

1. The term of the CBA shall be extended for one-year beginning June 1, 2020 and expiring on May 31, 2021 ("Extension Period").
2. Salary for the PBA during the one-year Extension Period shall be as follows: Effective June 1, 2020, the wage rate will be increased by 2.75%.
3. The parties agree to meet in a labor management meeting to discuss scheduling issues within thirty (30) days after execution of this Agreement.

4. All other terms and conditions of the CBA shall continue in effect.

Introduced By: Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato

Seconded By: Trustee Brian J. Boone

On a vote of 5 to 0 the resolution was adopted.

Village Monthly Meeting Calendar for 2020

A motion to accept the Village monthly meeting calendar for 2020 was made by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

20-4 Resolution Conditionally Accepting Offer of Dedication by Amante and Norris Associates, LLC-(Tabled until February 10, 2020 monthly meeting.)

Mayor asked counsel about the documents that he hasn't had a chance to review.

Village Attorney Henry Christensen explain that he has not reviewed the document because the documents have not been submitted to him. He went on to say that the developer's attorney submits the documents and the engineer usually advises me the amount of the bond.

Trustee Reilly stated that she understands the situation, but I don't want a set a precedence in the future. I think since the attorney has not reviewed the documentation.

Resolution 20-4 was tabled until the Attorney has had an opportunity to review the documents.

***Donation:** NY ONNULI EVANGELICAL CHURCH located at 62 Main Street – Donation to the Village of Chester.

Village of Chester, Board of Trustees thanked the NY ONNULI EVANGELICAL CHURCH located at 62 Main Street, for their donation.

***Presentation:** Regarding former Chester High School located on Maple Ave.

The Mayor introduce Mr. Denis M Petrilak Superintendent of Chester Union Free School District and mentioned to the public that this presentation is informational.

Mr. Denis M. Petrilak presented a proposed plan to build a multipurpose athletics field, including rest rooms, a concession stands, and athletics storage space, on the current site of the Maple Ave. School / Former Chester High School. Presentation attached to minutes.

First slide is a presentation board and you may have seen this around the community. We are in the process of presenting this information to different constituencies in the community. We are appreciating the opportunity to be at the Village board monthly meeting.

Our presentation is addressing a current need both in terms of the Maple Avenue School and in terms of the needs for the students current and future. The way we look at it is we are preparing for our future and we are also preserving. To give a quick overview how is it that we arrived at this place, and what are we talking about. What the district is proposing is to replace the old Chester High School with a multisport athletic facility and I want to emphasize that we are not just talking about a field but there are other amenities associated with the field that will benefit the entire athletic complex. The approximate cost for the proposal is \$7,900,000.00. To give you some background, the Chester High School was built in three sections. The original section was built in 1935-1936. An extension of the classrooms was built in 1965, and, around that time, a gymnasium was added. What is under proposal for demolition is the original 1935 building and the 1965 addition. The gymnasium is currently in use and we anticipate that the use will continue. The gymnasium is used year around not only for school events but

for different community events, youth sports, and most recently Kiwanis Christmas Bizarre. So, the plan is to keep the gymnasium open and in use because we get a lot of great use out of it.

Further background: Chester Academy is a Middle School/High School on Hambletonian Avenue. It was built in 2004, and, when Chester Academy was built in 2004, the District at that point did not need the instructional space in the Chester High School. At that time, BOCES was looking for instructional space, so the District entered into an agreement with BOCES to lease the Chester High School to BOCES. That was a relationship mutually beneficial for a number of years. We had a renewable lease with them, and the way that the lease was structured, the District had the discretion whether to continue the lease or not to continue the lease. It was our intention to keep BOCES in that building, because it was beneficial to the District; we had a source of revenue in terms of rent, and it worked out well for us. Unfortunately, in 2018, following BOCES' acquisition of Arden Hill Hospital and development of it into a school, BOCES informed us that they intended to discontinue their lease with our District. We contested that; we pointed out that the contract gave us the discretion to continue or discontinue the lease and that we wanted them to continue. They disagreed, we took the dispute to the Commissioner of Education, insisting that the contract be enforced, and the Commissioner refused to act on our petition. As a result of that inaction, the matter died at that point. At the end of the last school year on June 30, 2019, BOCES prematurely terminated the lease and vacated the building. Interestingly, one of the reasons they cited for vacating the building was that the building was in a deteriorating condition that was not tolerable for its students.

To give you some background on how school districts evaluate properties: Every five years, school districts are required to conduct a building conditions survey. A building conditions survey is a process whereby the district hires an architect to come in and evaluate each one of its buildings. The reason for that is so that, on a local level, the school district can have an objective analysis of the needs of its building for the short term and long term and, on the State level, since the State is involved in assistance in providing State Aid for building projects, the State can project what their needs will be for short and long term. Back in 2016, the BCS (building conditions survey) was concluded, and the conclusion was that Chester High School needed approximately \$3,300,000.00 of improvements. So, adjusting that figure to 2020 that amount exceeds \$4,000,000.00 of necessary repairs and replacements. The issue with that kind of investment for the District is that we don't need the instructional space. Our schools are at 50% of capacity. Our schools that we presently use are in great shape, and they serve us well. As the District looked into this issue, we understood the importance of Chester High School to the community. We understood what it represented, what its history represented, and we understood the emotional attachment that many of the people who graduated from the High School have. Throughout the process the Board and District were committed to, whatever the outcome is, make sure we are maintaining the history and memory of Chester High School. Because of the era when Chester High School was built, and because of its design, not only was it our intention, but it was also a requirement of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation. In order to get an approval to move forward through this process, we had to get approval from that state office. We had to present to them the different options that we examined, and then they evaluate those options and give us the go ahead or tell us that we couldn't proceed. We did file a report with the State, we got a positive and supportive report back from the Office of Historical Preservation saying that they agreed, that the option that we chose was the best option.

Just to go over the different options leading to the option that we are putting in front of the voters next month (February 2020), there were five different options, and I will take you through them individually.

Option No.1, is to make the \$4,000,000.00 repairs and replacements to Chester High School. The Board reviewed this option and deemed it not to be feasible. Four million dollars is a big commitment, and, when there is no need for the additional instructional space, the Board feels that it is an unnecessary expense for the District. As I said, between the two buildings we are using, we are at about 50% capacity, and, in addition to that, there is a declining enrollment pattern in this District and other districts across the state and in this part of the country. Our declining enrollment are not severe, but, trending forward, our numbers are slightly down. So, Option 1 was deemed not to be feasible.

Option No.2, is do nothing. Mothball the building and put a fence around it; close it off for use. This is a potentially feasible option but not a great option, not a desirable option. There would be ongoing cost with maintaining the building. The building will continue to deteriorate. If any of you have looked closely at the building you will notice that there is protective netting around the corners and around decorative masonry, and the reason that netting is up there is because it is crumbling, and that process will continue. As the process goes on, in addition to it being a safety hazard and an eye sore, it will be a blight to the community. So, this option was deemed not to be a good option.

Option No.3, involves a sale of the property to an interested buyer. Again, this a potentially feasible option but one that's not particularly desirable to the District. As many of you know, the building is on a piece of property that also houses two softball fields and a baseball field, in addition to the gymnasium that gets a lot of use. All of the fields are necessary for the School District. Chester Academy may have three softball teams or three levels of baseball teams in the spring. In the fall season we have soccer going on, we have football going on, and then in the winter we have a number of different sports going on. All the fields are very busy year-round; having access to that complex and not having that access compromised is very important to the district. It's important that we control that particular property. For those reasons, selling is not a good option for the School District because it would compromise our current use and future use of the other facilities at that property.

Option No.4, is leasing to an interested party. This has the same challenges as selling it, particularly because we would lose control over that piece of property to a certain extent, but, in addition, we would also be responsible for maintaining that building, we would be responsible for getting renters and/or lessors and it puts us in the business of building managers, and we are not building managers; we are educators. For those reasons leasing is not seen as being a desirable option.

Option No.5, that we are presenting and proposing to the taxpayers is to replace Chester High School with a multi-sport athletic facility. We feel that this option provides for current needs, both what to do with the Maple Avenue building and the shortage of athletic facilities. As far as future needs, we have a number of our students are involved in extracurricular activities. Routinely we have 67% of students are involved in some form of extracurricular activity. Having access to facilities enables us to keep 2/3 of our kids involved in activities after school. As I said earlier, an important consideration is maintaining the historical significance of the facility and, with that in mind, we engaged LAN Associates, and we asked them to provide us with plans that would provide us with the additional facilities that we need and still recognize and honor the history of Chester High School. So, we feel that this option will allow us to provide an attractive and modern facility, right in the middle of the Village, in a very highly trafficked and a very highly visible location. The other fields we renovated two years ago, so we feel that this field would make attractive statement to the community about what we value in the community and that is our students and healthy activities. It would complement the current athletics complex (as I said, it was renovated in 2018) and preserve the history of the High School. Taken together, the Board determined that option No.5 is the best option available to us in that it addresses current and future needs. In their evaluation of all these options, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation also agreed. These are their words in their approval letter based on their review: "Based upon our review, we concur with the determination that there are no prudent and feasible alternatives to the demolition of this National Register eligible property."

So, I said it a few times, this solution provides for current and future needs and the historical elements that will be incorporated honors the history of the building, what it means to people individually, what it means to the community and the history of Chester.

He then turned it over to Michael McGovern, LAN Associates, who said "We are a multi-disciplined architecture-engineering firm in Goshen. I have had the privilege of working with Chester for five years on capital projects, and we are very excited about being able to present this project not only to you Mr. Mayor and the Board but also to members of the public to give an overview of what the District is planning."

Mr. McGovern went over a few slides and described what they propose. **(The presentation slides are attached.)**

Public Referendum February 25, 2020
Voting at Chester Academy 6:00 am – 9:00 pm

After the presentation there were the following questions and comments:

Mary Altobelli asked how many students who have graduated from Chester schools have gone on to become professional sports players.

Denis Petrilak: I don't have that number

Altobelli: I can name about a dozen who graduated from Chester schools who become professionals in the Arts. I think our money would be better spent in a different direction and we get a bigger bang for our buck in terms of investment.

Denis Petrilak: "I will respond to say, we give equal opportunity and attention to the Arts. We have been growing our arts program over the past few years. We have students who go on to study in arts, and we have students who go on to college because of the opportunity that we provided to them by way of athletics. We don't think that it has to be an either/or. We think that every student has a unique calling. Our philosophy is to provide opportunity for students so they can find what gives them passion and opportunity in life."

David Stevenson: "Do you feel that this is the same size as Faller Field-MHS in Middletown or a slightly smaller version?"

Denis Petrilak: "in what regard?"

David Stevenson: "in terms of the structure. Where are the team's locker rooms?"

Denis Petrilak: "The gymnasium building presently has a boys and girls locker room and the plan is to continue to use those locker rooms."

David Stevenson: "So, the teams leave the field and go in there."

Denis Petrilak: "Yes."

David Stevenson: "I meant Faller Field-MHS, Faller Field-MHS has grandstands on both sides but this would be like a half version."

Resident of Chester Tara: "it's not much as question but in a statement. Just on social media, I see I have an unpopular position on this. I'm more geared towards it because I have kids that are going to play for the next seven years. If you take a ride by the new (not audible) stadium, you'll see what a beautiful field it is, and you will really get an idea what our kids are going to be working with. My son is in 5th grade at the Chester Elementary School, he loves lacrosse, we don't have a lacrosse team, so he has to play for Goshen. It would be really nice for him to play here in his town where he goes to school."

The Mayor thanked Mr. Petrilak and Mr. McGovern for coming and for the presentation.

The Village Clerk mentioned the Village website and added that she would like to encourage everyone to check out the Village website as it has many new features.

Kiwanis Club of Chester, NY, 1st Friday of Lent – February 28, 2020, The Kiwanis Club of Chester is hosting their annual Fish and Chips Dinner at the Chester Academy, 64 Hambletonian Ave., Chester, NY 10918, serving from 4 pm to 7 pm. More information can be obtained from the Village of Chester website.

The Village Clerk mentioned the following events and information can be found on the Village website:

Repair Café, Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm, Warwick Senior Center- Town Hall Complex, January 18th, March 12th, May 16th, July 18th, September 19th and November 21st.

Member of the audience, Susan Bahren made mention that they repair the following: electronics, stain glass repair, knife sharpening and it is done by hand, all they ask is for a small donation.

Public Comment: Mayor John Thomas Bell opened the meeting to members of the audience for public comments.

Leslie Smith mentioned that the Historical Society obtained a \$1,100 grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for the placement of a historic marker at the site of the W.A. Lawrence home. It's going to say something about the cream cheese factory as well. Back in the spring when the Historical Society applied for the grant, the Mayor indicated that the Village would be willing to help to install the marker.

Thomas E. Becker: Representing the Town of Chester, I want to bring the Village Board up to date on the Highway Garage. They are getting pricing on a sprinkler system for that building. They have not gotten final pricing yet, and they haven't gotten approval from an insurance company to do the sprinkler system. That may not happen due to the cost, but in the future, we may be back to you for the extra water at that place. Until I get more information, I will be back another time to make a formal request, that you consider allowing the Town to use extra water for the sprinkler system.

Michele Deshler: Thanked John Orr and the Police Department for all of their help and guidance with the holiday lights parade this past year. "I personally thought it was a great week to have it, and I know a lot of people didn't agree with me. We tried to do our best with the short week with Thanksgiving and Christmas, with Thanksgiving being so late, and it's late again this year. I would like the board for permission do it with us on Saturday 28th and the village-wide yard sale, we are looking at two dates. We will definitely get back to you next meeting with a definite date, June 6 or June 13th. We also have our purchase-a-brick fundraiser going on and our military banners, those can be ordered through the end of the month."

Clifton Patrick: "The Chester Historical Society meeting is this Saturday, January 19, 2020, and the featured speaker is going to be Mary Altobelli. She is going to be discussing Dutchess Quarry Caves, which, if you're not aware of them, are about five miles from here and it's among the oldest known inhabited sites in the northeast. Tremendous history and tremendously important part of Orange County. Please join us on Saturday and we'll see if we can fill up that room at the 1915 Erie Station, Chester's Local History Museum".

The Mayor thanked the Boy Scouts for attending our meeting to see the process of conducting a meeting: Devin Richardson, Colin Murray, Cole Greco, Justin Richardson, Paul Richardson Sr and Bill Murray. David Stevenson explain the context of why the Boy Scouts attended the monthly meeting. "The Boy Scouts are working on two merit badges right now, Communications and Citizenship in the Community. One of the requirements is to attend a public forum type meeting, report on it, and prepare minutes."

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm and go into executive session to discuss personnel matters, with no further business to be conducted afterwards, was made by Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato, seconded by Trustee Alan Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Rivera