

**Village of Chester  
Public Hearing  
April 13, 2020**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester held a Public Hearing via web conferencing on Monday, April 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 Brian Nugent, 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 and Attorney for the Village Henry Christensen Jr were absent.

Mayor John Thomas Bell open the public hearing at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor John Thomas Bell made mention that Attorney Brian Nugent is sitting in for Village Henry Christensen Jr.

Mayor John Thomas Bell read the public hearing notice as published in the official newspaper, Times Herald Record.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester will hold a Public Hearing on April 13, 2020, commencing at 7:00 PM to consider a tentative budget. The Public Hearing shall be conducted via video/tele-conference and so there will be no physical meeting location in order to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the Village residents.

The Village of Chester is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

**Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

**<https://zoom.us/j/860039776?pwd=RVcxVjhxV0I3d3ZiRXNNTDl6Nlppdz09>**

**Password: 398313**

**Or Telephone:**

**Dial-in +1 929 205 6099**

**Webinar ID: 860 039 776**

This meeting is being held in accordance with the New York State Public Officers Law and Executive Order 202.1("EO 202.1") issued on March 12, 2020 by the New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, which suspended Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed, etc. For any person unable to participate at the time of the meeting, email comments may be submitted in advance to [clerk@villageofchesterny.com](mailto:clerk@villageofchesterny.com).

Accordingly, NO IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE IS PERMITTED FOR THE MEETING, Public comment shall be permitted and all persons participating shall be entitled to be heard.

BY ORDER OF THE VILLAGE OF THE VILLAGE OF CHESTER, NEW YORK

Rebecca Rivera  
Village Clerk

Dated: March 30, 2020

As there were no questions regarding the proposed Village Budget 2020/2021, Mayor John Thomas Bell asked for a motion to close.

A motion to close the public hearing at 7:14 pm was made by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by, Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

**Roll Call**

	<b><u>For</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain/Absent</u></b>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

**Village of Chester  
Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting  
April 13, 2020**

Mayor John Thomas Bell opened the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:14 pm.

Mayor John Thomas Bell thanked everyone attending the meeting via web conferencing.

Mayor John Thomas Bell read resolution 20-11 Resolution Adopting the 20/2021 Village Budget.

**20-11 Resolution Adopting the 2020/2021 Village Budget.**

WHEREAS, a proposed budget (the “Proposed Village Budget”) for the Village of Chester was prepared and introduced for the 2020/2021 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held and closed on April 13, 2020, on the Proposed Village Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester hereby adopts the proposed Village Budget of the 2020/2021 fiscal year, which, upon adoption, becomes the Village Budget for the 2020/2021 fiscal year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk and Village Treasurer are authorized and directed to take such actions and perform such other and further acts that are reasonably necessary, proper or convenient to fulfill the purposes of these Resolutions.

Introduced By: Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato

Seconded By: Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly

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

**Roll Call**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain/Absent</u>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

**AUDIT OF BILLS:** Mayor John Thomas Bell noted that the audit of April 2020 Village’s monthly bills for approval was complete.

A motion to pay the audited bills of April 2020, was made by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee Alan Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

**Roll Call**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain/Absent</u>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Monthly Meeting minutes of March 9,2020.

Mayor John Thomas Bell noted that the monthly meeting minutes of March 9, 2020 were completed and distributed to all Board members.

A motion to accept 9, March 2020 minutes as presented, was made by Trustee Brian J. Boone, seconded, by Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

**Roll Call**

	<b><u>For</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain/Absent</u></b>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

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

**Treasurer’s Discussion:**

**CASH BALANCES ENDING MARCH 31, 2020**

<b><u>Fund/Bank Account</u></b>	<b><u>Deposits</u></b>	<b><u>(Disbursements)</u></b>	<b><u>Interest</u></b>	<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
Savings (Sterling National Bank)			972.25	3,212,105.75
Checking (Orange County Trust)	604,834.57	444,666.39	23.41	441,196.37
Savings (Orange County Trust)			397.15	1,048 ,924.87
<b>Water Fund</b>				
Capital Checking			17.92	138,765.49
Checking	10,056.43	43,888.30	21.82	411,935.97
<b>Sewer Fund</b>				
Checking	110,216.89	319 ,835.20	16.82	362,598.72

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

General Fund	\$ 23,417.75
Water Fund	\$ 345.86
Sewer Fund	\$ 281.84

**Treasurer’s Discussion:**

- 1. STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES:** Was emailed to you. Hard Copies will be placed in your mailbox on Monday 4/13/2020.
- 2. 2019-2020 SEWER COLLECTION:** Collection of Village Sewer continues. Due to COVID- 19 matter, the Village Board has authorized the extension of the collection period to on or about 4/17/2020. Additionally, the Village Board has instructed the Clerk’s office not to calculate additional penalties to past due accounts. Unpaid sewer balances as of +/- 4/20/2020 will be re- levied on to the 6/1/2020 Village Property Tax Bill. Total re-levy amount will be included in May 2020 Treasurer' s Report.
- 3. WATER BILLING:** At this time, May 2020 Water Billing is scheduled to go be mailed on time, 5/1/2020. Total re-levy amount, if any will be included in May 2020 Treasurer's Report.
- 4. 2020-2021 BUDGET:** The 2020-2021 Village Budget presented this evening includes a 2.96% increase in Village Property Tax Rate. The Village of Chester did not exceed the property tax cap (1.05%). The tax rate for 2020-2021 is \$14.3913/thousands of assessed values, an increase of \$.41 cents per thousand of assessed value. The Village of Chester's levy has not exceeded the current tax cap of 1.0053.

- 5. **2020-2021 SEWER BUDGET:** Sewer rate for 2020-2021 remains unchanged over last year. The rate is \$36.40 per unit or \$364.00 annual charge for a single-family residence.
- 6. **2020-2021 WATER BUDGET:** Water rates for 2020-2021 remain unchanged over last year. For detail rates, please contact the Village Clerk' s Office or visit the Village's website.

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

**Roll Call**

	<b><u>For</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain/Absent</u></b>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

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

40 Greycourt Ave.

1- House progressing.

38 Greycourt Ave

1- Framing started.

Whispering Hills

1- Interior work continues.

Steris – 2 Nucifora Blvd.

1- Work just about complete.

Walgreen’s 89 Brookside Ave.

1- No work has started.

Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr mentioned that he denied a few permits due to non-essential construction.

Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr asked Attorney Brian Nugent if the Village Planning and Zoning meetings can be conducted via zoom conferencing.

Attorney Brian Nugent stated that the meeting can be conducted via zoom.

Mayor and Village Board are in favor of proceeding with Planning and Zoning Meetings conducted via zoom conferencing.

A motion to accept Building report as read by Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr was made by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

**Roll Call**

	<b><u>For</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain/Absent</u></b>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

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

**1. Personnel:**

- We haven’t had any officer affected by COVID-19.

**2. Citizen Issues:**

- On 8th of April we were asked to do a drive-by birthday party on Kerner Drive. It was well received, and it was fun.

**3. Public Safety Issues:**

- Officers were requested by the Shoprite Manager to standby from 6 am to 7 am while seniors did their shopping. There have been no incidents. Average amount of shoppers during this time is about 30 shoppers.
- Traffic Details: Continuing

**4. Facilities:**

- We would like to thank Orange County Emergency Services for their donations of gallon sanitizers that were sent from the NYS Corrections.
- Lowes, donated bottles of disinfectant, gloves and paper towels
- JP Packing donated surgical mask.
- Leslie Wenger donated 195 masks and 1000 vinyl gloves.

**5. Equipment:**

- No issues.

**6. Vehicles:**

- No issues.

**7. Other:**

- No issues. **8. Department Activity YTD:**

Call Type	2020
Calls for Service	559
Criminal Cases	076
Arrests	045
Traffic Accidents	029

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

**Roll Call**

	<b><u>For</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain/Absent</u></b>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

**STREET REPORT:** Mayor John Thomas Bell read the Street Department report as follows:

As of April 1st, our Green Waste Removal Program has begun: Green Waste Materials must be curbside by 6:00am on Fridays. Branches must be no longer than 4 ft. and tied. Grass clippings and leaves must be in biodegradable bags. (Bags can be purchased at Lowe’s and Shoprite.)

We continue with normal weekly sweeping.

We spent a couple of days sweeping the sidewalks, islands and driveway aprons throughout the village. I would like to remind the village residents and everyone parking on village streets that the snow ordinance for parking on the street will end on April 15. However, the Street Sweeping Ordinance will go into effect on all Fridays in which there is No Parking on Main St. (ALL) and Winkler PL. from the hours of 3:00am-6:00am.

Bulk collection has started again. Bulk collection will occur from April 1st to November 30th. However, you must schedule an appointment to have it picked up. Please contact Inter Waste Systems at 845-572-3300.

A motion to accept the Street Department’s report as read by Mayor John Thomas Bell, was made by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee Alan Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

**Roll Call**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain/Absent</u>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

**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) Monthly samples taken to the lab.
- 4) Mark outs for Dig Safe NY.
- 5) Painting inside the well house.
- 6) Fixed 3 broken meters in Whispering Hills.
- 7) Installed yard hydrant for amphitheater.
- 8) Fire extinguishers were inspected at all water facilities.
- 9) Dug with contractor to locate main for work being done at BYK on Leone lane.
- 10) Removed hydrant markers.
- 11) Divers inspected and cleaned the Princeton Street and Nancy Lane tanks. An engineer report to follow.

A motion to authorize an emergency purchase for a Chorine Analyzer in the amount of \$3800.39 was made by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee Alan Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

**Roll Call**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain/Absent</u>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

A motion to accept the Water Department’s report as read by Village Water Commissioner Gary A. Green Jr. was made by Trustee Alan Battiato, seconded by Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

**Roll Call**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain/Absent</u>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

**PARK& RECREATION:** There was no one present from the Park & Recreational Department.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

~~**20-12 Resolution Certifying Delinquent Sewer and Water Charges, Authorizing Levy of Same against Real Property in Default. (Tabled)**~~

**20-13 Resolution Assigning Cell Tower Revenue to the Water Fund & General Fund.**

RESOLVED, that, for the 2020-2021 Village Budget, any and all rent revenue generated from cellular leases for cellular towers located in the Village, one-fourth to the Village's Water Fund and three-fourths to the Village's General Fund.

Introduced By: Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato

Seconded By: Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly

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

**Roll Call**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain/Absent</u>
Trustee Brian J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

**20-14 Resolution of proclamation prevention of Animal Cruelty Month**

WHEREAS, the COUNTY OF ORANGE NY, the citizens of ORANGE COUNTY and the Warwick Valley Humane Society recognize that animals are living, sentient beings and therefore, deserve due consideration and respect, and

WHEREAS, the welfare of animals consists of the Five Freedoms (freedom from hunger, thirst, and malnutrition; freedom from fear and distress; freedom from physical and thermal discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and disease; and freedom to express normal patterns of behavior; and

WHEREAS, the welfare of animals shall be a common objective and all appropriate steps shall be taken to prevent cruelty to animals and reduce their suffering with effective legal protection, and

WHEREAS, the vigorous enforcement of existing animal cruelty laws will hold those accountable for the neglect and abuse of any animal, wild or tame, and,

WHEREAS, there is a proven direct correlation between acts of animal cruelty and violent and criminal acts on people, and

WHEREAS, the kind and humane treatment of animals has a strong correlation to the kind and humane treatment of people, and

WHEREAS, the month of April has been established as "Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month"

NOW, THEREFORE,

**PREVENTION OF ANIMAL CRUELTY MONTH**

And calls upon all residents to treat any and all animals with kindness, consideration and respect, and to report the abuse, neglect and cruelty of any animal, local law enforcement agencies or to the Warwick Valley Humane Society.

Introduced By: Trustee Brian J. Boone

Seconded By: Trustee Alan Battiato

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

**Roll Call**

	<b><u>For</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain/Absent</u></b>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

**Mr. Dog LLC – NYS Liquor Authority, 30-day waiver.**

A motion to authorize a “NYS Liquor Authority 30-day Waiver” for Mr. Dog LLC, locate at 69 Brookside Ave., Chester NY, was made by Deputy Christopher Battiato, second by Trustee Brian J. Boone. Motion unanimously passed.

**Roll Call**

	<b><u>For</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain/Absent</u></b>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

**Calendar:**

~~Proposed Comprehensive Plan, Public Hearing April 16, 2020 (Cancelled)~~

Snow Ordinance is in effect November 1, 2019 thru April 15, 2020. No parking from 3am to 6am.

There will be no regular business on Friday, April 10, 2020 due to the Holiday.

The Chester Cemetery Association will hold their Annual “Sponsor a Flag” fundraiser during May (Memorial Day). Sponsor a flag for five dollars to support the upkeep of the Chester Cemetery. Joan Ribando is part of the committee who will oversee the selling of the flags. She can be reached at 845-469-4208 or contact Elizabeth A. Reilly at 845-742-4077

\*See our calendar for more upcoming meetings and events\*: <https://www.villageofchesterny.org>

**Public Comments:**

Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly stated to the rest of the members of the board that she would like to be a part of the group that will be representing the village at the school board meeting related to the future of the former high school located on Maple Ave.

David Stevenson requested names and address of owners of the vacant store fronts in downtown Chester. Village of Chester Arts are starting the outreach for a possible opening of “Gallery Day”, in August of this year and would like to reach out to the owners.

Leslie Smith mentioned reversed 911 and its use. Reverse 9-1-1 is a public safety communications technology used by public safety organizations in Canada and the United States to communicate with groups of people in a defined geographic area.

Chief Graziano stated that he will investigate this further.

On behalf of Richard (Rick) Ramsdell, Clif Patrick made mention that Orange County Traffic Communication sent an email requesting a traffic study for the traffic on 17m.

Tracey Schuh asked if the Comprehensive committed is going to proceed with the Public Hearing for the Proposed Comprehensive Plan.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to close the monthly meeting at 8:13 pm was made by Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly. Motion unanimously passed.



**Roll Call**

	<b><u>For</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain/Absent</u></b>
Trustee Brain J. Boone	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mayor John Thomas Bell	[ x ]	[ ]	[ ]

Respectfully,

Rebecca Rivera  
Village Clerk