

**Village of Chester  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
October 5 , 2020**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester held its monthly meeting at the Chester Senior Center, 81 Laroe Rd, Chester, NY at 7:00 pm, on Monday, October 5, 2020.

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

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

**CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

Mayor John Thomas Bell opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Mayor John Thomas Bell asked everyone to stand for the Pledge.

Mayor John Thomas Bell asked everyone if they would remain standing for a moment of silence for former Zoning Board Chairman Mahlon Colborne.

Mayor John Thomas Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Monthly meeting minutes of September 14, 2020.

Mayor John Thomas Bell noted that the monthly meeting minutes of September 14, 2020, were completed and distributed to all Board members.

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

**CASH BALANCES ENDING September 30, 2020**

<b>Fund Account Balance</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
Savings (Sterling National; Bank)	--	--	473.39	3,215,993.43
Checking (Orange County Trust)	169,868.78	431,482.62	61.38	2,854,883.14
<u>Savings (Orange County Trust)</u>	--	--	301.36	1,050,761.82
<b>Water Fund</b>				
Capital Checking	--	2,131.51	11.52	136,733.99
Checking	22,007.38	50,038.49	8.43	394,465.87
<b>Sewer Fund</b>				
Checking	70,774.44	278.47	9.19	496,065.93

Cumulative Fiscal Year Interest Earned by Fund 06/1/2020 – 05/31/2021

General Fund	\$	4,173.81
Water Fund	\$	148.20
Sewer Fund	\$	85.96

**Treasurer's Discussion:**

**1. STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES:** Attached.

**2. 2020-2021 TAX/SEWER COLLECTION:** Village Property Tax is due by 10/31/2020. Unpaid tax amounts will be forwarded to Orange County Dept. of Taxation and Finance for re-levy. Sewer Installment #3 is due by 12/31/2020.

Treasurer Angela O'Neill made mention that the annual financial report has been filed and a copy has been distributed to the entire board and it was sent via email.

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

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

Steris – Nucifora Blvd.

- 1 - Current work is for the concrete plant relocation.

Shoprite

- 1- Renovation and addition work continue.

Lowe's

- 1- Issued permit for replacement of sprinkler system piping.

I have prepared a response to the comments on the public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2020 for Electrical Inspections.

I have prepared a revised Fee Schedule for the Building Department.

\*Response and fee schedule are attached\*

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

**POLICE REPORT:** Police Village Police Chief Peter J. Graziano Jr., read his report as follows:

**1. Personnel**

- No officers have been infected to date by the COVID-19 or shown any symptoms.

**2. Citizen Issues:**

- No Issues.

**3. Public Safety Issues:**

- Traffic Details: Continuing.

**4. Facilities:**

No Issues.

**5. Equipment:**

- We are stocking up on PPE and cleaners as certain areas continue to spike and we are heading into the Flu season.

**6. Vehicles:**

- 727 replacement has been delivered and two bids have been received for the upfit. The third bid has not been received yet.

**7. Other:**

**8. Department Activity YTD:**

Call Type	2020
Calls for Service	1580
Criminal Cases	175
Arrests	084
Traffic Accidents	087

A motion to accept Police report as read by Village Police Chief Peter J. Graziano Jr. was made by, Trustee Alan Battiato, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly. Motion unanimously passed.

**STREET REPORT:** Village Street Superintendent, Charles Bono read the Street Department report:

We spent a few days clearing catch basins at Whispering Hills and Main Street.

We have completed the drainage project on Walnut Street, in which we had to replace 300 feet of drainage pipe and 18” of galvanized drainage pipe. All that is left is to do is the blacktop.

The leaf vac is ready for another season. At this time, village residents can bring leaves out to the curb to be picked up. We ask that you do not put out leaves in or near storm drains or by catch basins as this will prevent water from getting to storm drains and will cause the water to back up onto the streets. Also please keep sticks, and stones separate from leaves as this will clog or damage the leaf vac. All weekly pick up, including leaf collection will end on December 1st, so we urge village residents to put out their leaves at their earliest convenience.

The village snow ordinance will go into effect on November 1st to April 15th, at which time there is no parking on any village street between the hours of 3:00 am to 6:00 am.

We continue with the normal weekly sweeping, mowing and picking up of bags and brush.

Mayor John Thomas Bell touched on Bulk Items – Mayor John Thomas Bell ask that residents call Interstate Waste Services before putting out bulk items.

### **20-18 Resolution Authorizing Repair of Street Department Garage Roof**

**WHEREAS**, on or about July 12, 2020, a storm that caused damage to the roof on the Street Department Garage, which is located at 3 Vadala Road, Chester, New York 10918, and the roof is now in need of repair; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Street Superintendent has provided to the Village Board three (3) proposals concerning the cost for the repairs, including labor and materials; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board has reviewed the proposals and desires to authorize an expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for the cost of the repairs necessary to fix the damage caused to the roof of the Street Department Garage; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

Section 1. The above “WHEREAS” clauses are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth in full herein.

Section 2. The Village Board hereby authorizes the expenditure of no more than \$25,000.00 from the Village’s A Fund-General Fund to conduct such repairs to the roof of the Street Department Garage.

Section 3. The Village Board hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Street Superintendent to execute any and all contract documents on behalf of the Village in a form to be approved by legal Counsel and to take such actions as may be necessary for the performance and completion of the repairs.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Introduced By: Trustee Alan Battiato

Seconded By: Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly

On a vote of 3 to 0, the resolution was adopted

#### **Roll Call**

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

Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly stated that as a Trustee she needed to disclose that her brother Tom Atkins is being hired as a temporary employee to do some of the work to repair the street garage roof.

Mayor John Thomas Bell added that Mr. Atkins will be doing some masonry work in front of the building.

A motion to accept Street Department as read by Street Superintendent Charles Bono was made by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee Alan Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

**WATER REPORT:** Water Commissioner Gary A. Green Jr. read the Water Department 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) Weekly mowing of facilities.
- 6) Joseph Grassi and I attended a Backflow recertification class for our license renewal.
- 7) Quarterly water meters were read.
- 8) We moved the water service at 11 Maple Ave for drainage work.
- 9) We installed a new water service for a barn at 15 Meadow Ave.
- 10) Pall Corporation installed a new computer at the Water Filtration Plant as part of the new Windows 10 update.
- 11) We repaired a water main break near 39 Greycourt Ave.
- 12) We built panels in the Village Court room for a COVID-19 barrier and installed hand sanitizer stations.
- 13) The 2015 Silverado had new tires and an alignment done on it.

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

**PARK & RECREATION REPORT:** No report.

Mayor John Thomas Bell asked Recreation Aide, Michele Deshler, who was in attendance, if the Town is moving forward with Halloween. Michele Deshler stated that as of right now that is the plan. She added that we will continue to monitor the reports on COVID-19. Michele Deshler made mention that she is getting together with Kristin Palmer at the end of the week or on Monday to get everything together for the Community Day event flyers. Michele Deshler stated that the event will be for Chester residents only. There will be someone in charge of checking to make sure they are Chester residents and in addition to make sure that the residents are practicing social distancing as per the guideline.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion and respond to public's questions at the Public Hearing at Chester's Senior Center, 81 Laroe Road, Chester, New York with respect to the proposed adoption of a Proposed Local Law, being Introductory

Local Law No. 2 of 2020, entitled: A LOCAL LAW ADDING CHAPTER 45, ENTITLED “ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS,” TO THE VILLAGE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF CHESTER was tabled.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

20-19 Resolution Adopting Local Law Adding Chapter 45 Entitled “Electrical Inspection, “ To the Village Code of The Village of Chester was tabled.

## **CALENDAR:**

- **E-Bill service** is available. If you would like to signup go to Village website under forms.
- Village of Chester will be **CLOSED on October 12, 2020, Columbus Day**.
- **Town Wide Shred Event** - The Town of Chester will hold a town-wide shred event on Friday, Oct. 23, 2020 from 10 a.m. to noon, at Chester Town Hall, 1786 Kings Highway, Chester.  
All residents with proper identification are welcome to bring their unwanted paper documents during these hours for secure and proper destruction.

For more information, call 469-7000 ext. 4. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Village of Chester will be **CLOSED on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, Election Day**.
- Village Snow Ordinance in effect November 1, 2020
- **Beginning the first week of November the Water Department will be flushing Hydrants**
- **Water Bills will be mailed on Friday, November 2, 2020, with a due date of Monday, November 30, 2020.**

\*Removal of Bulk Items – residents must call Interstate Waste to schedule pick-up 1-866-342-5497\*

Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr asked that residents call Interstate Waste and schedule a pick-up before putting items on the curb. Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr also added that when scheduling a pickup if Interstate Waste gives you a date of more than two weeks out residents should call him.

Trustees Elizabeth A. Reilly made mention that the last day for Bulk Pick up is November 30, 2020.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mayor John Thomas Bell opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Gordon Shehab 69 High Street mentioned that at the last Village Planning Board meeting a letter was read from the Orange County Water District that the village’s sewer capacity is over 37,000 gallons a day. He asked how this will affect the village and added that the letter stated that the village will not be able to use part of the allotment of the Town of Chester.

Mayor John Thomas Bell gave a brief synopsis of the issue the Village of Chester is currently dealing with, with regards to sewer capacity. Mayor John Thomas Bell stated that the Village has been over for years but not the district. Village of Chester is part of the Moodna District as well as Town of Chester and the Town of Monroe and as a district we are not over capacity. The Village of Chester and the Town of Monroe are over but not the district. We are currently discussing the matter and we have reached out to the Village Attorney Brian Nugent asked him to look into the possibility of the village purchasing more capacity from Town of Woodbury or the Town of Blooming Grove, due to the towns having extra capacity. We are in the process looking into if we can purchase extra capacity. We’ve had projects go before the Orange County Planning Department and the projects

have been approved with no issues. We are working with the Orange County to see how we can resolve the village of Chester's capacity issue.

Gordon Shehab 69 High Street asked if the Greens of Chester are allowed to tap into the sewer line. Mayor John Thomas Bell responded that the Greens of Chester are in the Town of Chester and he believes that they were allowed to tap into sewer on the Town side.

Gordon Shehab 69 High Street stated that he asked because he recalls that they asked for Village water and they were turned down, but did they ask for sewer.

Mayor John Thomas Bell stated that since they are in the Town of Chester, they would tap into the Town of Chester sewer lines, and that he doesn't know the town's sewer capacity and whether or not they will have enough capacity to accommodate the Greens of Chester.

Patti Salerno of 11 Hambletonian – asked if the investigation as far as the sewer and water capacity goes is your investigation on how to handle 37,000 gallons per day that the Village is over or to expand that for future building.

Mayor John Thomas Bell responded that it would be to handle the overage and for future building.

Patti Salerno asked how much capacity the Village is seeking.

Mayor John Thomas Bell responded, at least 50,000 gallons.

Patti Salerno asked if the owners of 25 Oakland Ave have stated what they are going to do with the building.

Mayor John Thomas Bell responded, no, and that no one has reached out to him. The also added that he has tried several times calling the owners located in Canada and only gets a recording.

Patti Salerno – asked if Nexans, located on 25 Oakland Ave, are slowing down operations?

Mayor John Thomas Bell responded, as far as he knows they were supposed to close October 3, 2020. He mentioned that they have items that need to be removed so he believes that the doors won't be closed until that is finalized. Mayor John Thomas Bell made mention that Nexans submitted a letter informing the Village as to the date that the last employee would let go and it indicated October 3, 2020.

Patti Salerno asked if there's a set amount on how much you can take to the Town of Chester to be shredded?

Mary Altobelli of 3 Garden Street - The Chester Arts group hung up banners at the train station they received a lot of good reception and a lot of positive feedback. Chester Arts are planning some other events but, in the meantime, they have created bags to sell for donations to support the Chester Arts group. The Chester Arts group received a small grant to create a mural in downtown Chester, which they are planning to do by next June.

Mayor John Thomas Bell asked Mary Altobelli, if they would inform the Village Board before creating the mural.

Mary Altobelli stated that at the moment they are talking to business, and building owners, to see who will give us them some space. She also stated that before creating the mural they will inform the Village. When they create the mural, they are going to create a theme and the mural will go up for a vote. They are going ask people to submit their ideas and their drawings and the Chester Arts group would choose the best three and ask everyone to vote on it.

Mayor John Thomas Bell mentioned that they have a chalk drawing event coming up at the train station. They are looking to have the event October 17, 2020 if possible.

Tom Becker 11 Sanford Ave – Mr. Becker made a formal request to the Village Board regarding possible purchasing water from the Village of Chester on emergency basis for Walton Lake Estates. They are having well issues at Walton Lake Estates. He stated that he has been in contact with a trucking company, which stated that they will charge the Town of Chester \$500 for the first load and then \$200 per hour to transport water to that district on emergency basis. He wanted to know if the Village would be receptive to selling the Town of Chester water for that district. Mr. Becker mentioned that the Town is going to have more work on the existing well and will resume drilling. Hopefully it will buy us some time until we find another source.

Tom Becker stated that purchasing water for Walton Lake Estates, it's an emergency and its very costly to bring in and they are still looking for a water source. Mr. Becker asked if the Village Board if they are willing to set up an agreement. 2 or 3 loads to fill up the holding tanks and 30 to 40-thousand-gallon tank (reserve).

Water Commissioner Gary A. Green stated they can tap into Fieldcrest and meter the water taken.

After some discussion the Village Board will discuss and get back to Mr. Becker.

Patti Salerno – asked if there is any training planned for the Police Department with regards to deal with civil arrest.

Mayor John Thomas Bell responded that an independent committee is to be set up to come up with a plan before the deadline which is 4/1/2021.

Michele Deshler made mentioned that the Holiday parade is cancelled for this year.

As there were no additional public comments Mayor John Thomas Bell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to close the monthly meeting at 7:38 pm was made by Trustee Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee Alan Battiato. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Rivera  
Village Clerk