

**Board of Trustees**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**May 8, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester held its monthly meeting at the Chester Senior Center 81 Laroe Road, Chester, NY conference room at 7:00 pm, on Monday, May 8, 2023.

Members present: Mayor Christopher Battiato, Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly, Trustee Brian J. Boone, and Trustee Anthony Laspina. Trustee Alan Battiato was absent.

Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Angela O'Neill, Deputy Clerk Jennifer Cruz, Water Commissioner Gary A. Green Jr., Chief Timothy McGuire, Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr, Building, Planning and Zoning Board Secretary Sandra VanRiper, Village Street Superintendent Charles Bono and Village Attorney, Brian Nugent.

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

Mayor Christopher Battiato called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. We will revisit the Public Hearing.

A motion to keep the Public Hearing open was made by Trustee Anthony Laspina, seconded by Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly. The motion unanimously passed.

**AUDIT OF BILLS:** Mayor Christopher Battiato noted that the audit of April 2023, Village's monthly bills for approval was complete.

A motion to pay the audited bills of April 2023 was made by Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee Brian J. Boone. The motion unanimously passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes April 10, 2023, meeting.

A motion to accept the approval of the monthly meeting minutes for April 10, 2023, was made by Trustee Brian J. Boone, seconded by Trustee Anthony Laspina. The motion unanimously passed.

**1. Personnel:**

- Nothing to report.

**2. Citizen Issues:**

- Nothing to report.

**3. Public Safety Issues:**

- Officers have been out enforcing the NYS Vehicle and traffic laws, 369 tickets were issued for the month. 1,797 tickets have been issued year to date.

**4. Facilities:**

- Nothing to report.

**5. Equipment:**

- A new Solar powered Radar Sign was purchased and installed with the help of the Village DPW On Main St in front of 145 Main St (Vero building). I would like to take this opportunity to thank DPW Supervisor Charlie Bono and Joe Deangelis for helping with the installation. The sign will remain there as it helps to dramatically slow people down around the corner of Main St and Academy Ave.

**6. Vehicles:**

- The new computer for 724 has been received by the Orange County Sheriff's Office. We are waiting for an installation date with Long Island Tech. They advised they were waiting for one more part to come in.

**7. Other:**

- Chief McGuire presenting Life Saving Awards to Sgt. Jason Jackler, Officer Jason Andino, Officer Amanda Hulse and Officer Spencer Sutherland.
- Promotion of Officer Anthony Grosso to Detective.

**8. Department Activity:**

<b>Call Type</b>	<b><u>April</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>		
Calls for Service	<b>207</b>	<b>827</b>		
Criminal Cases	<b>38</b>	<b>175</b>		
Arrests	<b>23</b>	<b>116</b>		
Traffic Accidents	<b>16</b>	<b>47</b>		

A motion to accept the Police report as read submitted by Chief Timothy McGuire was made by Trustee Anthony Laspina, seconded by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly Trustee. The motion unanimously passed.

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

**CASH BALANCES ENDING APRIL 30, 2023:**

**FUND/BANK ACCOUNT    DEPOSITS    (DISBURSEMENTS)    INTEREST    ENDING BAL**

**General Fund**

Savings (Sterling National Bank) 2,864,104.34	--	--	5,344.29
Checking (Orange Bank & Trust) 392,725.86	N/A	N/A	16.18
Savings (Orange Bank & Trust) 2,475,963.92	--	--	2,656.26
Savings (NY CLASS) 514,754.75	--	--	1,950.72

**Water Fund**

Checking (Orange Bank & Trust) 447,874.77	N/A	N/A	17.40
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**Sewer Fund**

Checking (Orange Bank & Trust) 157,247.44	N/A	N/A	5.92
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**Capital Projects Funds**

H01: Water (Sterling Natl Bank) 83,997.42	--	--	152.55
H02: General (Orange Bank & Trust) 379,332.71	N/A	N/A	14.92
H03: Sewer (Orange Bank & Trust) 393,352.74	--	--	--

Cumulative Fiscal Year Interest Earned by Fund 06/1/2022 – 6/30/2022    FYE 5/31/22 as of <u>6/30/21</u>
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General Fund	\$	73,605.09	\$ 510.00
Water Fund	\$	156.95	14.19
Sewer Fund	\$	97.30	2.46
Capital Projects	\$	1,153.58	N/A

**Treasurer’s Discussion:**

1. **STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES:** Attached.
2. **2022-2023 INTERFUND TRANSFERS:** Interfund Revenue Transfers for the water fund will be made and recorded the week of 5/8/2023. The transfers to the capital projects fund are for water meter purchases and water filtration plant equipment (membranes).
3. **2023-2024 TAX COLLECTION NOTICE:** A Tax Collection Notice (attached) has been prepared and will be published in the Times Herald Record for (2) consecutive Sundays beginning 5/10/2022.
4. **2023-2024 VILLAGE PROPERTY TAX:** 6/1/2023 Village Property Tax Bills will be mailed on 5/31/2023. Village Property Tax is due by 6/30/2023, payments received after 6/30/2023 will accrue penalties.
5. **2023-2024 SEWER:** 6/1/2023 Sewer Bills will be mailed on 5/31/2023. Quarterly installments are due by 6/30/2023, 9/30/2023, 12/31/2023 and 3/31/2024. Any installment received after their due date will incur penalties. Please review the back of your sewer bill for additional information.
6. **2022-2023 FINAL SEWER RE-LEVY:** Total Unpaid sewer as of 3/31/2023 = \$133,395.30 per attached list

**2022-2023 FINAL WATER RE-LEVY:** Total Unpaid water as of 4/15/2023 = \$31,803.51 per attached list.

A motion to accept Clerk/Treasurer’s report as read by Clerk/Treasurer Angela O’Neill was made by Trustee Brian J. Boone, seconded by Trustee Anthony Laspina. The motion unanimously passed.

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

Steris – Nucifora Blvd.  
1– Site work continues.

92 Main Street  
1- Pending ZBA.

12 Greycourt Ave Chester Ag  
1- Project progressing.

9 Railroad Avenue  
1- Repairs and renovations under way.

1 Howland  
1- Site work underway.

15 Sanford Avenue  
1- Work is progressing.

29 Hudson Street  
1- Work just started.

Request approval to attend a NYSBOC meeting June 2, 2023, in Farmington NY. I would like to take the Village vehicle.

A motion to allow Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr to attend NYSBOC meeting with village vehicle was made by Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee Brian J. Boone. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to accept Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr's report as read by Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr was made by Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina. The motion unanimously passed.

**STREET REPORT:** Street Superintendent, Charles Bono read the report as follows:

Tires can be brought to The Town of Chester Highway Dept. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May during the hours of 7:30 am-3:30 pm, however they must be off the rims. Just a reminder for bulk items, you do have to schedule an appointment to have them picked up. IWS telephone number is 845-572-3300.

Just a reminder with our Green Waste Removal Program. We have a few people that are putting their leaves and grass clippings out by the curb. We do not do bulk collection of leaves and grass clippings during the spring and summer months. Leaves and grass clippings must be in biodegradable bags to be picked up.

Our new Holland Tractor is just about ready for delivery. I would like to ask the board for permission to put the old New Holland tractor out to bid.

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

A motion to put the tractor out to bid was made by Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Anthony Laspina. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to accept the Street Superintendent's report was made by Trustee Anthony Laspina and seconded by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly. The motion was 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 were taken to the lab.
- 4) Mark outs for dig safe NY.
- 5) Meter replacement continues.
- 6) Backflow preventer testing continues.
- 7) The annual Water Quality report was completed, approved by the Health Department, and distributed. The information is also posted on the Village website.
- 8) We turned on our seasonal accounts. Whispering hills pool 2, the Castle mini golf side, Carpenter field, and 10 Greycourt shop.
- 9) Quarterly testing was completed.
- 10) Meter reading completed.
- 11) We removed hydrant markers.
- 12) We attended training in Wallkill.
- 13) We verified 2 service line leaks. Suburban propane and 67 High street. Both customers were given written notice of the code regarding fixing a leak and time requirements. As of today, both services are still leaking and are going into the third week.
- 14) We replaced LC 1 smart positioner valve on skid A. As of now the plant is still off because of a strainer issue. We have been running on the wells since May 6.
- 15) Weekly mowing of our facilities continues.

16) Went over damage to the lawn and fence at Princeton Street Tank with John Orr. There were 2 Carriers with numerous sub-contractors working on site which will make it difficult to pinpoint responsibility.

17) Walton Lake is 6 inches above pin level.

18) Walton lake cleanup day May 20<sup>th</sup>. All residents are encouraged to help keep this precious resource clean.

19) Flushing in the Village has been pushed back until we can get the Plant back online. We did flush from the Plant to Mountain bridge.

A motion to accept the Water Commissioner's report was made by Trustee Brian J. Boone, seconded by Trustee Anthony Laspina. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **PARK & RECREATION REPORT:**

- a. Cape Cod, MA Trip June 12 – June 16, 2023: Please call Michele @ 845-469-7000, Ext. 332.
- b. Summer Camp 6/26-7/31/2023, outdoors only. Text 845-325-7227 or email [mdeshler@townofchester.org](mailto:mdeshler@townofchester.org).

Saturday, 5/20/2023 is Community Volunteer Day at Chester Commons to improve conditions of the field. All volunteers are welcome, please bring your own rake to move the dirt. Signups are available on Facebook or call Kristen at Parks Department 845-469-7000 extension 102. Chester Commons field will be closed for four to six weeks after the event. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the Parks Department. Little League closing ceremonies are being planned for 6/24/2023. Annual Police Department versus Fire Department's softball game is slotted for 10am with closing ceremonies to follow at 12 o'clock. All are welcome.

A motion to accept the Parks & Recreation Report was made by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee Anthony Laspina.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

We'd like to announce Aaron Lefkowitz as being appointed as our new Village Historian.

Ralph Penna lives near Walton Lake. He is a member of the Friends of Walton Lake. "I've been living there for two years, and this is going to be our fifth cleanup attempt. The first time, we pulled out about 57 car tires, laptop computers, numerous bottles/cans from anyone driving by on Lakes Road who toss McDonald's cups, Dunkin Donuts cups, etc. It's gotten a lot better as we've gone along, but obviously it's not perfect. We know that we live in Monroe, but this is in our backyard. We want to keep it as pristine as possible. We know that it's your drinking water. We

do have a Facebook page that's administered by Tom Lawrence, it's called The Friends of Walton Lake. We want to know if the Village can attach that to your website so that people might be able to see it. Then they'll know when we're planning the next clean up in the Fall. We also have a clean-up unfortunately on the same day that Chester is having their clean-up Day, May 20, 2023. Perhaps some people would prefer being on the water instead of the park. We've had an average of about 20-25 people help us out. The Town of Monroe has been gracious enough to give us a dumpster. Gary Green has been great with us along the way with every opportunity providing trash bags or whatever support we need, and we appreciate that very, very much. Together we're just trying to make our community cleaner and better for everybody so thank you very much.”

My name is John Lawrence, a member of Friends of Walton Lake which was started by my brother Andrew. He's got various credits to his name, including helping the Sterling forest develop preservation years ago. He sent me a text and he asked me to deliver it to the board. He said that Orange County is now redesigning its open space laws. The Friends of Walton Lake would be willing to help Chester with the open space developmental plan. We'll be very happy to help because we consider it our lake too, it's your drinking water. Thank you.

**23-17 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN 6/1/2022-5/31/2024  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE PBA**

RESOLVED, that the mayor is authorized to sign the final June 1, 2022, to May 2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Chester Police Benevolent Association in a final form approved by Village Council.

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

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ X ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor Elizabeth Reilly	[ X ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ X ]
Trustee Brian Boone	[ X ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Anthony LaSpina	[ X ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

**23-18 RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE BOARD FOR THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE  
AGREEMENT FOR TRUGREEN COMMERCIAL FOR SERVICE AT  
LARKIN'S GREEN, 12 BANK STREET, CHESTER**



**WHEREAS** the Village Board of the Village of Chester (“Village Board”) wishes to enter an agreement with TRUGREEN Commercial for service at the property located in the Village at Larkin’s Green, 12 Bank Street, in the Village of Chester; and

**WHEREAS**, the final TRUGREEN Commercial agreement has been presented to the Village and is now ready for execution; and

**WHEREAS** the Village Board hereby desires to approve the agreement and authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to complete this transaction.

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

Section 1. All “Whereas” clauses are hereby incorporated by reference as though set forth in full herein.

Section 2. The Mayor is authorized to execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction relating to TRUGREEN Commercial agreement as presented to the Village Board in an amount not to exceed \$1,200.

Section 3. The Mayor or any other officer, employee or consultant as directed by the Mayor are authorized to take any and all necessary actions to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.

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:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Christopher Battiato	[ X ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A Reilly	[ X ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee, Alan Battiato	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ X ]
Trustee Brian J. Boone	[ X ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Trustee Anthony LaSpina	[ X ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

A motion to schedule a Public Hearing for 6/12/2023 at 7pm or soon thereafter to discuss Chapter 95 Water Fees Update was made by Trustee Anthony Laspina, seconded by Trustee Brian J. Boone.

**CALENDAR:**

1. Chester Kiwanis’ Hambletonian 28<sup>TH</sup> Annual 5K race 5/27/2023.

2. Village of Chester Clean Up Event 5/13/2023 9AM-12PM (rain dates 5/20 & 5/21/2023).
3. Chester Cemetery Assoc: Sponsor A Flag event \$/flag: contact Betty Ann @ 845-742-4077 or Fred @ 845-469-4374 or Tom @ 845-551-3226 or Michelle @ 845-401-0476 if you wish to Venmo.
4. Village Hall will be closed on Monday 5/29/2023 in observance of Memorial Day.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Gordon Shehab of 68 High Street:** Is the Village going to work on a local law for Ridge Protection? The potential can happen where the ridge could be in danger. For example, BT holdings, it's sort of on a hill. Depending on what happens with the Talmadge Farms out in the roads, you never know, and you're going to end up in a position where you'll have to protect the ridge. Would it be good to have local law?

Mayor Christopher Battiato stated that we could investigate that as adjustments are being made.

Gordon Shehab- The second thing is I recently attended an open space class on CBA training. One of the things they said which I was surprised was that not only was Chester rejected for the open space by the governor, but also Blooming Grove. One of the things they said that could possibly be done is that communities could combine to try to get legislation passed that allows you to go forward with an open space program initiative, but it was knocked down. It's just something to consider. They said if you have lobbyists, that would be feasible. I just wanted to bring it up. Just recently, Eric Adams, Mayor of New York announced that he's going to be shipping illegal immigrants Upstate, and he's starting with Rockland County. It's possible that they could come to Orange County, and I think they really want to put them in hotels and things like that. It could be an issue with support services. I just want to give you a heads up that it may be coming.

**Heather Curtin of 1 Railroad Avenue-** I'm having some trouble with people speeding on Main Street from Vadala Rd to Village Hall. It's all employees of the village. I walk a very large dog so if there's somebody walking towards me, I'm forced to walk into the street, which is fine, because it's 25 miles an hour there, possibly 30. But there seems to be times when employees are speeding, and I'm talking dangerous speeding 75-80 miles an hour.

Mayor Christopher Battiato said "I'm glad you showed up to show your concern. We'll do what we can to take care of it and hopefully you'll be happy with the results."

**Trustee Brian J. Boone** wanted to thank The Historical Society, they did a heck of a job putting together a really, very nice exhibit about Sugar Loaf. Sugar Loaf is near and dear to my heart, since I grew up there as a kid. I appreciate what everybody did at The Historical Society. I recommend anybody go to take few minutes to check it out. I want to thank Cliff for the roof over there, nice job with that.

**Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly:** I think we need to revisit areas that need stop signs. I did speak to the chief a couple months ago. Charlie, I don't know if I spoke with you. But on Vadala

and Walnut, I think with that new curbing that's there, we should have a three way stop. I think in our code book, it has just the yield signs for Hudson Street and there is a stop sign there. I think that a stop sign does belong. If we consider a local law for the stop signs at various roads, I think we should go back and see if maybe Hudson Street was overlooked at one time where it wasn't listed in the codebook. But I would like the board to think about maybe making a local law for that. The other one I thought about I don't know if it's practical. Maple, North Hudson, and Hudson Extension where it comes out on maple because there are a few young children in that area now that come down North Hudson on bikes. Someone making a right from Maple onto North Hudson; that's something that could be a problem too.

Mayor Christopher Battiato stated that we can investigate that. If you have any other locations, write down the addresses.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44PM to go into executive session for personnel issues was made by Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee Anthony Laspina.

A motion to close the executive session was made by Trustee Brian Boone and seconded by Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly at 9:15PM.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Cruz

Deputy Clerk