Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes March 11, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester held its monthly meeting at the Village of Chester, 45 Main Street, Chester, NY conference room at 7:00 pm, on Monday, March 11, 2024.

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

Also present: Deputy Clerk, Jennifer Cruz, Water Commissioner Gary A. Green Jr., Chief of Police, Timothy McGuire, Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr, Street Superintendent, Charles Bono, Village Attorney Dylan Lockyer and Village Attorney, Brian Nugent. Clerk/Treasurer Angela O'Neill was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING Local Law 3 of 2024-Establish overlay district ridgeline protection. TABLED

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Christopher Battiato called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIT OF THE BILLS: A motion to pay the audited bills of February 2024 was introduced by Trustee, Anthony Laspina and seconded by Trustee, Alan Battiato. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the monthly meeting minutes of February 5, 2024, was introduced by Trustee, Brian J. Boone, and seconded by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly. The motion was unanimously approved.

POLICE REPORT:
Personnel:
Nothing To report.
Citizen Issues:

Speed sign data from the sign placed on Whispering Hills Dr in Apple Terrace shows that from February 10th until March 10th, 2024, there were 11,112 vehicles that passed the sign at an average speed of 24.2 mph. Out of the 11,112 vehicles 2.1% (234) passed the sign at 10+ mph over the speed limit and .03% (4) vehicles passed the sign at 20+ mph over the speed limit.

Public Safety Issues:

Officers have been out enforcing the NYS Vehicle and traffic laws, 462 tickets were issued for the month of February. 798 tickets have been issued as of the end of February.

On February 28th Detective Grosso conducted two operations with the Department of Health for Orange County for the sale of Tobacco products to persons under 21 at the two locations in the Village. The tobacco house did not sell to the DOH underage subject, however they were found to be in violation of selling flavored vapes. The department of Health did issue the Tobacco house a violation. They then went to Native Organics located on the corner of Main St and Academy Ave. where the location did not sell to the underage subject, however they too were found to be in violation of selling flavored vapes. The DOH did issue a violation to the store.

Notable arrests for February:

2/1/24 a subject was arrested for Criminal Possession of a weapon 4th and Menacing 2nd.

2/5/24 a subject was arrested for Criminal Mischief and Harassment.

2/9/24 a subject was arrested for Criminal Possession of a weapon 4th, Menacing 2nd and Disorderly Conduct.

2/13 a subject was arrested for Harassment 2nd.

2/16/24 a subject was arrested for Disorderly Conduct.

2/29/24 a subject was arrested for DWI and DWI BAC >.08%.

Facilities:

Nothing to report.

Equipment:

Nothing to report.

Vehicles:

Nothing to report.

Other:

Village snow ordinance is currently in effect until April 15th, 2024. Parking is prohibited from 3am to 6am on all Village streets.

Department Activity:

Call Type	January 2022	January 2023	January 2024	2022 YTD	2023 YTD	2024 YTD
Calls for Service	123	217	187	299	406	222
Criminal Cases	30	51	44	69	91	87

Arrests	18	32	34	35	62	64
Traffic Accidents	3	17	12	12	24	23
Tickets/Month	337	555	462	690	1,094	798

A motion to accept the police report as submitted by Chief, Timothy McGuire was introduced by Trustee, Alan Battiato and seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

CASH BALANCES ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 2024:

FUND/BANK ACCOUNT ENDING BAL	DEPOSITS	(<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>)	INTEREST
General Fund			
Savings (Webster Bank) 2,925,599.47			5,903.46
Checking (Orange Bank & Trust) 552,588.63	566,334.90	533,328.31	14.14
Savings (Orange Bank & Trust) 3,373,834.71	500,000.00		5,178.76
Savings (NY CLASS) 537,394.73			2,229.41
Water Fund			
Checking (Orange Bank & Trust) 373,795.08	56,698.64	72,592.62	84.55
Sewer Fund			
Checking (Orange Bank & Trust) 50,374.13	9,438.59		1.79
Capital Projects Funds			
H01: Water (Webster Bank) 58,090.93			114.42
H02: General (Orange Bank & Trus 127,003.78	st) 10,959.33	992.50	26.68
H03: Sewer (Orange Bank & Trust) 270,852.74			

Cumulative Fiscal Year Interest 2/28/23	Earned by 1	Fund 06/1/2023 – 2/29/2024	FYE 5/31/23 as of
General Fund	\$	\$ 110,705.20	\$ 53,568.43
Water Fund	\$	843.42	118.97
Sewer Fund	\$	85.77	78.08
Capital Projects	\$	1,637.38	810.76

Treasurer's Discussion:

- 1. STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES: Attached.
- **2. 2023-2024 SEWER**: Sewer bill collection continues. Installment #3 is due by 3/31/2024. Unpaid sewer balances as of 3/31/2024 will be re-levied on to the 6/1/2024 Village property tax bill.
- **3. 2024-2025 VILLAGE BUDGET:** A preliminary budget copy can be found on the Village's website (villageofchesterny.org). If you do not have access to the website, please call the Village Clerk's Office (845-469-2388, ext. 232).

ARPA FUNDS: During the 1/8/2024 Meeting a motion to approve \$4,400 ARPA Funds for water dept. well house repairs were approved. The work is now complete. The final cost of the repairs including materials, water department labor, and withholding taxes totaled \$7,986.26. Requesting Board permission to allocate and additional \$3,586.26 of ARPA Funds to this expense.

A motion to approve the use of ARPA Funds for this water expense was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly, and seconded by Trustee, Alan Battiato. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented by Deputy Clerk, Jennifer Cruz, was made by Trustee, Anthony Laspina and seconded by Trustee, Brian J. Boone. The motion was unanimously approved.

BUILDING REPORT:

Steris – Nucifora Blvd.

1– Site work continues.

78 Brookside Avenue Tractor Supply

- 1- No work has started on site or the installation of 1000 Gallon propane tank.
- 7-9 Greycourt Avenue
- 1- Interior work underway.

34 Meadow Avenue

- 1- Interior work underway.107-109 Brookside Avenue Castle.
- 1- Foundation wall in progress.
- 2- Slab floor.
- 3- Structural steel being installed.
- 73 Brookside Ave McDonalds.
 - 1- Project now complete.
- 1 Moffatt
 - 1- Work is underway.
- 11 North Hudson
 - 1- Roof complete.
 - 2- Interior renovation is underway.
- 48 Leone Lane BYK
 - 1- No work has started yet.

Request permission for Sandy and myself to attend the NY State Planning Federation annual conference April 7-9 in Saratoga Springs.

A motion to approve attendance of the NY State Planning Federation annual conference was made by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee, Alan Battiato.

A motion to accept the building report as presented by Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, John Orr, was introduced by Trustee, Anthony Laspina and seconded by Trustee, Brian J. Boone. The motion was unanimously approved.

STREET REPORT:

We were called out 2 times during the month of February to deice and clear the streets. During the month of February, we used a total of 55 tons of salt. Year to date we have used over 165 tons of salt and 25 tons of sand/salt. After each storm, the equipment was washed and serviced for the next storm.

In addition to the snow, we had a storm that produce an inch of rain with high winds, which required us to spend a couple of days picking up tree limbs and debris that was out on street.

We spent a couple of days filling potholes with cold patches.

We spent a couple of days cleaning up in the back of our garage.

We repaired some of the garbage cans that were on Main Street.

We spent a few days going around fixing lawns that were damaged from the snowplows and snowblower.

D.O.T put the 30mph sign back up that was knocked down by the Chester Cemetery.

I put in a request into the D.O.T. in Maybrook to have the potholes filled by the bridge on High Street by Saint Columba Church.

Our sweeper has been serviced and is ready for another season.

We have been going around picking up garbage throughout the village.

A motion to accept the Street Superintendent's report as presented by Street Superintendent Charles Bono, was made by Trustee, Alan Battiato and seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina. The motion was unanimously approved.

WATER REPORT:

- 1] Daily filter plant and well operations
- 2] Twice per week filter cleaning
- 3] Monthly and quarterly samples were taken to the lab.
- 4] Mark outs for Dig safe NY continues.
- 5] We also completed the Clean in Place procedure for the membranes.
- 6] We painted the floor and the piping at the well.
- 7] Joe Grassi attended a backflow tester recertification class.
- 8] We cleaned up from a snowstorm on February 13. Joe Rosploch did the sidewalks.
- 9] I completed the Water Withdrawal Report and submitted it to DEC.
- 10] H.O. Penn came out on an emergency call to troubleshoot the generator at the plant. We ordered the part for it.
- 11] Backflow preventor testing continues.
- 12] The meter replacement program is on hold. The meters are on backorder until the end of May.
- 13] Walton Lake is 5 inches over pin level.

A motion to accept the Water Department's report presented by the Water Commissioner, Gary Green, was introduced by Trustee Brian J. Boone, and seconded by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly. The motion was unanimously approved.

PARKS & RECREATION:

1. Montreal & Quebec Trip 6/10-6/14/2024 \$939/PP – For information & reservations please call Michele Deshler @ 845-325-7227.

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

HISTORIAN REPORT:

- On February 5th, submitted an article on the history of Yelverton Inn during the Revolutionary War and Federalist era for the Village of Chester Historian's page.
- On February 7th, from 7 to 8:30pm, the Chester Historical Society held their monthly meeting, which the Town Historian also attended.
- On February 16th, the Incorporated Orange County Chapter of the New York Archeological Association confirmed membership to me by email.
- On February 18th, from 12:50 to 2:20pm, attended the Washington Headquarters State Historic Site's Washington Birthday Celebration. I observed the related activities involved for potential utilization for similar Chester events.
- On February 20th, from 2 to 4:45pm, met with the Town Historian to familiarize myself with how to use the Catalog-it Hub site, which Mr. Patrick has been using to transfer the Town and the Chester Historical Society's digital records onto. I was also guided in creating an account as a Municipal Historian for the NYS Library Digital Archive system, which would gain me access to their extensive archives. Toured the Chester Historical Society's new location at 93 Brookside Avenue, there is potential for it to be used for local events. Went to the Chester Historical Society's Erie Station location to see the display cases, which they wish to donate to the Village of Chester.
- On February 21st, the New York State Library Cultural Education Center emailed me back to confirm that my application was accepted. An account number was provided, granting me immediate access to the NYSL's digital archives. A physical account card will be mailed within the coming days.
- On February 22nd, from 1:20 to 2:50pm, met with the Orange County Historian, Johanna Porr at her office in Goshen. Reported the updates to her on the Yelverton Inn as well as the current situation with the Maple Avenue School. She has agreed that a commemoration event for the 250th of Henry Wisner's appointment to the Continental Congress in September at a location to be determined in Chester.
- On February 23rd, from 12 to 1:15, attended the Digital Communications Engagement Best Practices webinar hosted by the Museum Association of New York. The webinar demonstrated the best methods for public relations and professional networking by using digital technology.
- On February 24th, from 3:30 to 4:50pm, attended a presentation, "Fighting Illegal Liquor: Local Raids during Prohibition, presented by OC Historian, Johanna Porr, held at Bar Brava in Newburgh. The event allowed for networking with local historians as well as local figures as District 4 Legislator Kevindaryán Luján. Received my NYS Library digital archives card.

- On February 26th, was informed by the Gardiner Foundation Semi quincentennial (Rev War 250th) Summer Fellowship Program, that I was selected to be granted a student fellow as an assistant for the Summer. This assistant will allow for a significant amount of further work to be done by my Department and the Foundation is providing a 500-dollar payment to my office as well. I consulted with Ms. Porr and Mr. Patrick regarding the best utilization for this fellow.
- On February 29th, from 5:30 to 6:15pm, met online with Professor Michael Oberg, coordinator of the Gardiner Foundation Program, and Kevin Gomez, the student, who will be my assistant. Basic information and protocol were laid out as well as the timetable of the fellowship running from late May to early August. I will be meeting in-person with my assistant in May and will be meeting with Professor Oberg in June.

A motion to enter the Historian's report to the record was made by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly Trustee, and seconded by Trustee, Alan Battiato. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chester Cemetery would like to sponsor a flag for Memorial Day. It is \$5 per flag in memory of someone, in honor of someone or just because. It is a good fund raiser and the only fund raiser that the Chester cemetery has. Flags may be purchased up until the morning of Memorial Day, 5/27/2024.

A motion to sponsor a flag for Memorial Day was made by Trustee, Anthony Laspina, seconded by Trustee, Alan Battiato.

24-9 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE INTERMUNICPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ORANGE ON BEHALF OF THE STOP-DWI TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the County of Orange ("County"), by and through its Department of Emergency Services, administers the County's Special Traffic Options Program for Driving While Intoxicated ("STOP DWI") in accordance with New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law; and

WHEREAS the purpose of this program is to coordinate and fund the County's town, city, and village efforts to reduce alcohol-related traffic injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, the County has made such funds available to the Village of Chester and the Village Board desires to enter an Intermunicipal Agreement with the County for the purposes of ensuring the utilization of such funds to facilitate safe and sober roadways within Village limits.

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 Village Board hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute the Intermunicipal Agreement in the final form approved by Village legal counsel.
- Section 3. The Mayor, and any officer, employee or consultant, as directed by the Mayor is hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The motion was introduced by Trustee, Alan Battiato and seconded by Trustee Anthony Laspina.

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

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
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.

24-10 RESOLUTION DIRECTING PUBLIC HEARING ON 2024-2025 TENTATIVE VILLAGE BUDGET

WHEREAS a tentative budget for the Village has been prepared for the 2024-2025 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NYS Village Law § 5-508, a public hearing is required to be held thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby:

RESOLVED, that the Village Board will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00PM on April 8, 2024, at the Village Hall Meeting Room, 45 Main Street, Chester, New York on the proposed Village Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

And be it further.

RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk/Treasurer give due notice of this public hearing in accordance with the Village Code and the Laws of the State of New York and that such notice state the compensation to be paid to each member of the Board of Trustees and state that a copy of the tentative budget shall available at the office of the Village Clerk where it may be inspected by any interested person during office hours.

The motion was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee Anthony Laspina.

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

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Christopher Battiato	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Deputy Mayor Elizabeth Reilly	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[X]	ĪĪ	ĪĪ	ĪĪ
Trustee Brian Boone	[X]	Ĺĺ	Ĺĺ	ĪĪ
Trustee Anthony Laspina	[X]	ĺĺ	ĨĨ	ĪĪ

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

24-11 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INCREASE IN AIM FUNDING

WHEREAS the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program plays a critical role in funding essential municipal services for cities and villages across New York State; and

WHEREAS city and village officials share the same priorities as our state leaders which is to make New York safer and more affordable; and

WHEREAS, New York's local governments, who are on the frontlines of controlling property tax affordability and ensuring public safety, are integral to achieving those goals; and

WHEREAS, the State has not increased AIM funding in 15 years and according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has increased by nearly 45% during that same period; and

WHEREAS this neglect from the State has led to rising municipal tax burdens and harmful disinvestment in essential municipal services and staff; and

WHEREAS the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the services their residents need; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of rising inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid, only accentuate the need for an increase in AIM funding; and

WHEREAS the Governor's 2024-25 Executive Budget proposes to keep AIM funding flat; and

WHEREAS an increase in AIM funding would reduce the local tax burden and help revitalize communities across New York.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Chester Village Board urges Governor Hochul to work with the leaders of the Senate and Assembly and increase AIM funding in the 2024-25 adopted State Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator James Skoufis, Assemblymember Brian Maher and the New York State Conference of Mayors.

The motion was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee Alan Battiato.

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

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
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.

24-12 RESOLUTION OF COMMITMENT TO FUNDING DASNY/SAM GRANTS

WHEREAS the Village endeavors to improve its Village Hall and Police Department facilities ("Work"); and

WHEREAS, the Village has sought financial assistance in the form of a State and Municipal Facilities Grant ("SAM") through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY") to complete the Work which involved \$325,000 in total grant funding, and

WHEREAS, to obtain such grant funding, DASNY requires that the Village express its commitment to fund the costs that exceed the grant as provided in the grant bank statement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Chester is committed to completing this project in its entirety and will cover all costs more than the grant from the bank account provided in the grant bank statement with respect to DASNY Grant Project #17071 and Project # 23923

The motion was introduced by Trustee Anthony Laspina and seconded by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly.

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

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
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.

24-13 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH TRUGREEN COMMERCIAL

WHEREAS, the Village requires aeration, seeding and lime application services at Larkin's Green; and

WHEREAS, Trugreen Commercial of Upper Saddle River New Jersey has presented a proposed agreement for such services, dated March 6, 2024; and

WHEREAS The Village Board desires to enter into such an agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

Section 1.	The above "WHEREAS" clauses are incorporated herein as if set forth in
	full.
Section 2.	The Village board hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute the agreement
	between the Village and Truegreen Commercial in the form presented to
	the Village Board.
Section 3.	The Mayor and any officer, employee, or consultant as directed by the
	Mayor is hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary to carry
	out the provisions of this resolution.
Section 4.	This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

The motion was introduced by Trustee, Brian J. Boone, and seconded by Trustee Alan Battiato.

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

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
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.

24-14 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RE-ISSUANCE OF BID PROPOSAL FOR THE VILLAGE HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, consistent with the Village Procurement policies and NYS General Municipal Law § 103, the Village of Chester ("Village") desires to obtain proposals for renovations to the Village of Chester Village Hall; and

WHEREAS a Bid Proposal was prepared by the Village's professionals for such purposes; and

WHEREAS the rejected the sole bid received desiring to solicit additional competitive proposals and the Village desires to re-advertise and re-publish the Bid Proposal to seek a responsible bidder to perform such work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

Section 1.	The above "WHEREAS" clauses are incorporated herein as if set forth in
	full.
Section 2.	The Village Board hereby authorizes the re-issuance of the Bid Proposal as
	presented to the Village Board.
Section 3.	The Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to facilitate the issuance
	of the Bid Proposal substantially in the form presented to the Village Board
	and to set appropriate dates for issuance and responses to such Bid Proposal.
Section 4.	Any Village official, employee or consultant, as directed by the Village
	Mayor, is hereby authorized, and directed to take any necessary and
	appropriate actions to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.
Section 5.	This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Introduced by: Trustee, Alan Battiato Seconded by: Trustee, Anthony Laspina

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

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
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.

CALENDAR:

1. Village Hall offices will be closed on Friday 3/29/2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

A motion to close the meeting at 7:31pm and go into executive session was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee, Alan Battiato. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to close the executive session at 9:15pm was introduced by Trustee, Alan Battiato and seconded by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Cruz

Deputy Clerk