

**Annual Public Meeting
Chester Royal Canadian Legion Branch #44
Wednesday, July 7, 2021 – 6:30 pm**

Attendance: Bill Nauss, Commission Chair; Nancy Hatch, Commission Vice Chair; Jo-Ann Grant, Commissioner; Michael Heisler, Commissioner; Martin Hiltz, Commissioner (arrived 6:53 pm) Dennis Egyedy, Clerk Treasurer; Maxine Veinot, Recording Secretary; Lawrence Lake, Auditor; Everett Hiltz, Fire Chief (arrived 7:03 pm)

Public Gallery: John Olsen, Mike Mulrooney, Ron Meagher, Paul Mulrooney, Gail Fraser, Greg Stevens

1.0 Call to Order

Chairman Nauss called the July 7, 2021, Annual Public Meeting of the Village of Chester Commission, at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, to order at 6:34 pm.

2.0 Review/Approval of Agenda

MOTION #21-081: Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:
The approval of the agenda as presented.

Unanimously Carried

3.0 Chair's Report – (attached)

MOTION #21-082: Commissioner Nauss moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:
The approval of the Chair's report as presented.

Unanimously Carried

4.0 Clerk Treasurer's Report – (attached)

MOTION #21-083: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:
The approval of the Clerk Treasurer's report as presented.

Unanimously Carried

CLERK TREASURER'S REPORT

The current budget was approved on June 29th, 2021. The tax rate for the village remained the same for the last four years at \$0.1517/\$100 assessment. Our total residential and commercial assessment for 2021 is \$388,128,000. The tax rate for the outside fire area and fireboat is \$0.0740/\$100 based an assessment of \$414,166,500 and \$13,519,200, respectively.

Projected tax revenues have increased by \$11,927.00 for a total tax of \$895,273. Last year, the village offered a tax exemption for low-income residents which amounted to \$2,026.55. Our total revenue for 2021/22 is \$978,114.45 which includes a transfer of \$45,000.00 from the Lido Pool reserve funds to repair the pool walls.

Each year, the commission spends \$40K to \$45K repairing the pool walls; however, to complete the wall repairs in one year at an estimated cost of \$266,000. This year, we made a great improvement at the pool by replacing the old wharf. Next year, the commission should consider an outdoor pool change shelter.

Overall revenue and expenses are as follows:

	Budget	Actual	Budget
	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
REVENUE	\$958,227	\$928,850	\$978,114
Operating Expenses			
Government Services	274,310	364,538	270,810
Emergency Services	12,000	12,244	10,500
Fire Services	<u>384,950</u>	<u>351,189</u>	<u>382,750</u>
Total Operating	\$671,260	\$727,972	\$664,060
Capital Expenses			
Fire Equipment	85,487	106,342	65,450
Lido Repairs	41,480	0	45,000
Reserve Transfer	<u>160,000</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>200,938</u>
Total Capital	\$286,967	\$266,342	\$311,388
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$958,227	\$994,314	\$975,448

Government services expenses for 2020/21 include consulting costs \$51,807 to search for suitable property for a new firehall. Last fiscal year, the village redeemed some reserve funds from the building, operating, and fire apparatus reserves to purchase the Windjammer property at a price of \$625,000.

A total of \$1,284,986 remains in our reserves for EH Services, Lido pool, Fire apparatus, Utility, and Operating. Interest earned on the reserves if held to maturity will be \$21,775.80. On June 30th, the cost of the firehall property was paid in full and as of July 6th, the village current account stands at \$424,139. Overall, the village has been able to maintain operations and services while planning to construct a new firehall.

According to the Municipal Government Act, borrowing funds for a new firehall requires a six-step approval process as follows:

1. Elector approval – Public vote
2. Commission approval – Temporary Borrowing Resolution
3. Municipality approval – Guarantee of Payment
4. Municipal Affairs approval – Borrowing is Evaluated
5. Lender approval – Municipal Financial Corporation funding

Prior to step 1, a committee of the commission is working on the design and cost of construction. Full plans and details will be available to the public at a meeting. Administration and commissioners will be seeking Federal and Provincial assistance to fund the new firehall.

Although, COVID 19 forced temporary closure of the office, the commission and staff were able to conduct meetings via Zoom. Future meetings will continue to be broadcast on Zoom and posted on Facebook for public viewing. The Lido pool continues to be the highlight for many residents and children with the occasional tourist. Our flower baskets are up; however, some plants are struggling with the extreme heat.

This year, I will be working with the commission on developing a Chester Strategic Plan to identify community needs and priorities. Public input is extremely important to the commission and administration in building a vibrant community.

5.0 Auditor's Report – (Appendix A)

MOTION #21-084: Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:
The approval of the Auditor's report as presented.

Unanimously Carried

6.0 Fire Chief's Report – (attached)

MOTION: #21-085: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:
The approval of the Fire Chief's report as presented.

Unanimously Carried

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Calls, Meetings, and Practices

Since the last Village of Chester Annual Public Meeting only 9 months ago Chester Volunteer Fire Department has responded to 73 emergency dispatches consisting of several structure fires, motor vehicle collisions, investigations, alarms, and of course what would a year be without another fire at Kaizer Meadow. The department held 8 monthly meetings, 9 Officer meetings, 8 regular practices. COVID 19 and the restrictions imposed because of it continued to cause many training events to be re-designed due to social distancing constraints. When the cases in the province began to rise our firefighters moved training to the virtual platform so no opportunities for education were missed. One of these virtual training sessions was focused on pre-planning several structures in the fire district.

Training is a cornerstone of CVFD, one I have personally pushed to fortify for all members during my 22 years in the department. On June 11th that training paid out dividends to the village core. The Playhouse fire, which had the potential to consume several additional structures, was held to its origin thanks to the 14 other fire departments who answered our request for apparatus and personnel. I cannot say enough about the professionalism and adaptability of the firefighters who worked diligently to extinguish the blaze while protecting the surrounding exposures. Thank you all, and thank you to all the other agencies, residents, and businesses who assisted. The Playhouse fire has gutted our community and with any luck will remain the largest disaster this municipality endures for many years to come. The leadership and members of CVFD exhibited tremendous knowledge and skill during the fire suppression efforts. To quote one resident of the village, "It would have been a pleasure to watch the firefighters work so professionally had my building not been beside it".

Members

CVFD has welcomed five new probationary members to the department, Ian Conron from Otter Point who is a second generation CVFD member (Greg Conron), Cameron Stevens from Chester who is a 3rd generation CVFD member (Chad Stevens, Dennis Stevens), Tessa Fudge from the Village of Chester, Kayle Mosher from Simms Settlement, and Brooke Profit also from Simms Settlement. Several members have also achieved service milestones these past few months.

- George Bremner - 30
- Chad Stevens - 30
- Terri Demont - 15
- Morgan Stevens - 15
- Jared MacDonald - 15
- Gregory Conron - 10

Budget & Equipment

The 2020/2021 Budget concluded with CVFD under budget on all accounts. Major purchases for the year included the beginning of a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) replacement program. This replacement program will see failing 20 year old units replaced with new SCBA that meet current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) safety standards. The budget continues to replace firefighters' Personal Protective Equipment which has mandatory 10 year retirement.

This past year has been one of unprecedented partnership between our organizations. We continue to work together in the planning of a new fire station to be located at the Windjammer Motel property and work in partnership with the village and municipality to renew the fire service contract for the fire district. I thank the Village staff and Commissioners for their dedication to these projects and to the Village of Chester as a whole. Commissioners Hatch & Grant, I thank you both for your time served this past term and the work both of you have respectfully given to the positions. You both have my support in the coming election and wish you both the best of luck.

Respectfully,
Everett Hiltz

7.0 Swim Instruction Report

No Report

8.0 Public Members

<> Mike Mulrooney asked where the money came from to buy the property for the construction of the new fire hall.

<> Ron Meagher asked for clarification if the electors were asked approval to buy the property, before the land was purchased. The Commission clarified that a public meeting was not needed as the Municipal Government Act (MGA) stated the Commission was able to use the reserves. Legal confirmation was also received before the purchase was made. The public meeting of the electors will be held when the design and costs are received.


9.0 Adjournment

Next Regular Monthly Meeting – July 21, 2021 – 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Heisler adjourned the July 7, 2021, Annual Public meeting at 7:21 pm.



Bill Nauss
Commission Chair



Dennis Egyedy, BPA, AMCT
Clerk Treasurer