

**Village of Chester**  
**Special Meeting of Village Electors**  
**Oct 27, 2009**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Bill Zinck Jr, Mike Heisler, Brenda Mulrooney, Jo-Ann Grant and Iris Tolliver

**Regrets:** Phil Elwood

The meeting was called to order by Bill Zinck Jr. at 7:00 pm. He announced that the reason for calling the special meeting was to discuss the Lido Pool project. He then led the audience through a power point presentation that addressed the issues and financial concerns involved with the projects. A copy of the presentation is attached.

After the presentation was complete, he opened the floor to questions. The questions involved ownership of the land which is presently leased. An application to purchase necessary lands is in place. Zinck thanked Chester Building Supplies for donating the plans for the project. A question of how far above sea level would the new structure be was asked. It was answered that the new building would be on solid ground, about the pool level. Flooding of the former building had never been an issue but elevating to ensure no future problem was considered. John Carroll asked about the soundness of the pool walls. He was advised that we had the walls inspected and have written confirmation of the future of the pool walls. Councilor Brad Armstrong announced that the Municipality of the District of Chester had approved of providing up to \$60,000 of the gas tax rebate which allows funding the Public Washroom portion of the project. The question of borrowing the balance of the funds was addressed and how the Commission plans to repay any borrowed funds. The tax rate would likely be raised over whatever time frame was decided on repaying the loan. It was noted that while the prime lending rate is 2.14%, in order for the Commission to make a resolution we would need to negotiate the best fixed rate as per the Municipal Government Act. Again the question of the tax rate was raised and Mr. Zinck admitted that it could go up to as much as 3 cents, depending on the amount and amortization of the loan. It was commented that the amount budgeted every year for Lido Reserves would be able to go directly to the loan until it was repaid. There was concern expressed that this project would interfere with future needed fire trucks. The Lido project is separate from any truck purchases and does not affect reserves for future trucks. Mr. Zinck said we were not looking at replacing any trucks for 3 years, and with a yearly truck reserve in the budget, we would be in a very good position to purchase a new truck then. However there is no guarantee that at that time there will not be a tax increase due to the cost of placing fire truck. A question of what portion of children from the Village uses the pool was asked. Mrs. Hiltz said the ratio was 42% from the Village and 58% from the surrounding communities. There was issue that the Village rate payers solely pay for a facility used largely by the residents in the Municipality and it was asked if the Recreation Department has offered any money to assist. Also it was suggested that a "user fee" be considered. However that suggested did not meet with any approval and it was commented that the Lido has been a part of the Village of Chester for over 40 years and that an addition 3 cents to our taxes to guarantee the future of the pool was a good investment since thousands and thousands of children have learned to swim there.

Mr. Zinck advised the audience that various grants are being pursued. Councilor Armstrong applauded the Commission for taking on the Lido Project and encouraged the Commission to continue to approach the Municipality for assistance. When asked about when the project should be completed, Mr. Zinck said we hope to be up and running by June 1, 2010.

The general consensus of the meeting was that the Lido pool needed to be preserved and that there has been a pressing issue over a lack of public washroom facilities. Tying the two projects together is the best deal that could be found. Security at the facility was also discussed and considered a top priority.

Brenda Mulrooney then made a motion to proceed with the proposed building project and to negotiate the best possible fixed rate and term no longer than 5 years of an amount of no more than \$170,000. Jo-Ann Grant seconded the motion. A call for hands showed unanimous support. The motion passed.

There were no further questions so the meeting was adjourned at 7:50

**William Zinck Jr**  
**Chairperson**

**Iris Tolliver**  
**Clerk/Treasurer**