

**Town of Chester
Selectboard’s Meeting
Monday, October 30, 2023
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I. Preliminaries

Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call
Pledge of Allegiance
Tax Rate Setting
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Myette called the meeting of the Chester Selectboard to order at 2:00pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectboard Present:

Chuck Myette
Steve Couture
Dick Trask
Dana Theokas
Stephen Landau

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Joanne Smith, Finance Director

and other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Myette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. New Business

3.1 Tax Rate Setting

Chairman Myette stated the preliminary tax rate for 2023 is \$23.60 and the current tax rate (for 2022) is \$21.40. This rate is based on what the taxpayers approved during the Town Meeting and the School Meeting. The only item the Selectboard can control is the municipal portion of the taxes.

	2022 Current	2023 Proposed	Change
Municipal	\$ 6.56	\$ 7.12	8.54%

County	\$ 0.87	\$ 0.89	2.30%
Local Education	\$ 12.59	\$ 13.79	9.53%
State Education	\$1.38	\$ 1.80	30.43%
Totals	\$ 21.40	\$ 23.60	10.28%

The Board discussed using different amounts from the unassigned fund balance (UFB) to help lower the municipal portion of the tax rate, but Finance Director Smith cautioned the Board to think about future years when utilizing the URB to lower the tax rate.

Chairman Myette suggested preserving the UFB to be used to fund future warrant articles.

Selectwoman Theokas agrees that this tax rate represents what the voters approved, and we don’t want to get rid of services.

Vice Chairman Couture is in favor of utilizing a total of \$400K of the UFB, adding that \$200K of the UFB may be needed to cover the Lane Road repairs.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to request \$200K from the unassigned fund balance to offset taxes. Selectwoman Theokas seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – nay, Trask– nay, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – nay. With two in favor, the motion failed.

Selectman Landau felt more of the UFB should be used to offset the taxes.

Selectman Landau motioned to request \$300K from the unassigned fund balance to offset taxes. Selectman Trask seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– nay, Theokas –nay, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed.

The tax rate for 2023 now stands at:

	2022 Current	2023 Tax Rate	Change
Municipal	\$ 6.56	\$ 6.72	2.44%
County	\$ 0.87	\$ 0.89	2.30%
Local Education	\$ 12.59	\$ 13.79	9.53%
State Education	\$1.38	\$ 1.80	30.43%
Totals	\$ 21.40	\$ 23.20	8.41%

VI. Adjournment

Selectman Trask moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectwoman Theokas seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis A. Jalbert
Recording Secretary