

TOWN OF CHESTER
SELECT BOARD
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2021

PRESENT: Arne Jonynas; Lee Gustafson; Leigh Dakin; Jeff Holden; Heather Chase; Julie Hance; Amie O'Brien

VISITORS: SAPATV; Chester Telegraph; Tim Roper; Beverley iPad

Meeting was held at the Town Hall and via Zoom.

1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 20, 2021, SELECT BOARD.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the Minutes of the October 20, 2021, Select Board meeting as written. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS/ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No citizens comment.

3. BYLAW MODERNIZATION GRANT; APPLICATION APPROVAL

The Bylaw Modernization Grant can be used to help the town with housing issues. The grant will be awarded this winter with the planning process going out to bid in the spring. The Planning Commission has already signed the application.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to allow Chair Arunas Jonynas to sign the Resolution to apply for the Bylaw Modernization Grant. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

4. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The department heads are keeping costs down and things are holding steady. The next round of tax sales is being worked up. The transfers to the school and the library will be happening soon. The new security cameras were not put in the budget, but cuts have been made other places to make up for the cost. Heather Chase stated she likes the added comments to the budget. Lee Gustafson suggested putting the date next to the comment as a reminder to when it was added. Arne Jonynas would like a larger font to be used.

The Water and Sewer budgets are looking good even with a few cost overruns. The GIS mapping system has allowed the water lines to be mapped. The tractor purchased a couple years ago has been a valued asset. Some money has been spent at the town

47 garage, which the department will recover. Wayne Wickens has been an asset to the
48 town with his electrical license and knowledge of the department.

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50 The first rough draft of the budget will be available for the next meeting.

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52 5. OLD BUSINESS

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54 Brookside Bridge: The piles hit ledge and were not able to be installed. The company did
55 not test the site first. Kirby Putnam is using waste block instead. The bridge will span
56 about 165 feet and will be ADA requirements. The second half to be added as a
57 boardwalk will be done with grant money and the application is being worked on now.

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59 Popple Dungeon Paving: The paving is finished, and the town crew will finish the
60 shoulders and other maintenance soon.

61
62 Yosemite Firehouse Grant: The grant has been applied for and will be used to finish the
63 restoration to the exterior. The only thing left to the exterior will be painting it. The land
64 around the building has been acquired and plans are being drawn up.

65
66 Academy Building: The slate for the roof is at the building and the repairs will start next
67 spring.

68
69 ARPA Funds: Heather Chase would like to see if some funds can be used to purchase the
70 solar field after the contract is up in 2022. Julie Hance will ask VLCT if this would be
71 possible. They have hired a person to vet the ideas towns have for use of the money. The
72 solar field information will be added to the Agenda in January. Julie Hance will check on
73 the date the contract ends and possibly have an Executive Session to discuss the matter.

74
75 Town Hall Construction: The flooring has been ripped up and a down payment has been
76 put down on the new carpet. The 2022 budget will include more items needed to finish it
77 up.

78
79 6. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA

- 80
- 81 • Arne Jonynas would like details on the parcel of land for sale next to the Pinnacle.
82 The New England Forestry Foundation has it for sale.
 - 83
 - 84 • Update on the cannabis legalization and where it stands pertaining to the town.
 - 85
 - 86 • Tim Roper would like the board to consider the matter of added parking on the
87 Green.
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93 7. EXECUTIVE SESSION: RESPONSE TO PETITION TO FORM A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
94 AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

95
96 A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to enter Executive Session for the purpose of
97 discussing the petition to form a Collective Bargaining submitted by the Police
98 Department. Seconded by Heather Chase. Jeff Holden recused himself and Julie Hance
99 was allowed in. The Select Board entered Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.

100
101 A motion was made by Heather Chase to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Leigh
102 Dakin. The Select Board exited Executive Session at 7:23 p.m.

103
104 A motion was made by Lee Dakin as read, "In response to a letter from the Vermont
105 labor relations board dated October 27, 2021, the Chester select board has determined
106 that we will agree to Option 2, that is agreeing to consent election." Seconded by Leigh
107 Dakin. The motion passed.

108
109 8. ADJOURN

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111 A motion was made by Heather Chase to adjourn. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The meeting
112 adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

113 Amie O'Brien
Secretary of the Select Board

Lee Gustafson
Clerk of the Select Board