

1 **TOWN OF CHESTER**  
2 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

3 **August 3, 2022, Minutes**

4 **Board Members Present:** Ben Whalen, Lee Gustafson, and Heather Chase at Town Hall; and  
5 Leigh Dakin via Zoom.

6 **Staff Present:** Julie Hance, Town Manager, at Town Hall; and Susan Bailey, Recording Secretary  
7 via Zoom.

8 **Visitors Present:** Bill Lindsay and a reporter from The Vermont Journal at Town Hall; and SAPA  
9 TV, Chester Telegraph, via Zoom.

10  
11 **Call to Order**

12  
13 Chair Arne Jonynas was away, so Heather Chase called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the  
14 pledge of allegiance.

15  
16 **Agenda Item 1, Approve minutes from the July 6, 2022, Selectboard Meeting**

17 Lee moved and Ben seconded a motion to approve the July 6<sup>th</sup> minutes. Heather asked for any  
18 changes, corrections, or omissions. Lee had a question about page 1, line 39, where it said, “they  
19 didn’t stop” and he wondered if it should say “she didn’t stop” or if it was the vehicle that didn’t  
20 stop. Julie said it was the cyclist that didn’t stop. Leigh said it had happened again the past week  
21 where someone on a bicycle came down High Street and never braked and rode into the  
22 intersection. Sue Bailey mentioned she had a similar experience recently. Heather thanked her for  
23 the comment but asked to wait until citizens comments as they were only reviewing the minutes.  
24 There were no other comments or corrections on the minutes. A vote was taken, and the minutes  
25 were approved.

26 **Agenda Item 2, Citizens Comments/Answers from Previous Meeting**

27 Heather asked if there were any answers or outreaches from the previous meeting. Julie said there  
28 were not.

29 Heather asked if there were any comments. Sue Bailey said she was coming from Grafton a couple  
30 of weekends ago and a truck coming from Chester up Grafton Road turned right onto High Street  
31 without stopping or even slowing down. Leigh had also had an incident this week where a cyclist  
32 came down High Street and never put their brakes on or stopped and just flew through. It was  
33 frightening to see. She suggested the board address the issue. She said the sight was good if you  
34 come down High Street as there had been previous mention of the house on the corner being in the  
35 line of sight. She had perfect sight when she came down High Street and stopped. Julie would  
36 check with Kirby to see if it had made it up his list and they would move it up if it hadn’t. Julie  
37 would have an update at the next meeting.

38 **Agenda Item 3, Old Business**

39 Report given by the Town Manager:

40 VLCT Open Meeting Law Training

41 Training will be for all boards on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Julie had emailed the

1 boards to let everyone know.

2 Brookside

3 The piers for the boardwalk are in. Railing design was changed to be less expensive and more  
4 fitting with the area. Construction will start the beginning of next week. Hopefully it will open  
5 soon. Lee asked if that was the bridge or the boardwalk. Julie said it was the boardwalk. The bridge  
6 is in but not the railing. The boardwalk will take them to the stone wall and is the part being done.

7 National Night Out

8 It took place last night and was a great success and was well attended. Julie thanked the Emergency  
9 Services Departments for it.

10 Crosswalks

11 Julie has heard from people about how faint the crosswalks are. They have had difficulty getting  
12 the paint, which is back ordered. It's a special paint that is heavy in petroleum base and is on order  
13 and has been. Once it is received, the guys will get everything painted and that's why everything  
14 is faded. Heather asked if it would be done by Fall and Julie hoped it would be received by then.

15 Heather asked if they had any idea when paint is coming. Julie said they have been told it's coming  
16 and then it continues to be delayed. They are trying to find other vendors, but the State is also  
17 having the same problem.

18 Solar Farm

19 Lee and Julie met with Green Lantern. They have received their modeling. Julie had a few  
20 questions regarding the price. She will have an update at the next meeting, and it will be listed as  
21 an agenda item at that time to present what they are offering.

22 Heather asked if there were any questions and there were none.

23 **Agenda Item 4, Police Chief Retirement**

24 There was a letter in their packets. Julie said Rick Cloud had submitted his notice for retirement  
25 effective January 7<sup>th</sup>, as it is the end of a payroll period and made sense. She thanked him and said  
26 he will be part of the process for the new hire, starting mid-August. Jim Baker will help with the  
27 process. The legal process has changed, and Jim will help. Julie will update them at the next  
28 meeting with more information and details. Rick has worked for Chester for 20 years and in law  
29 enforcement for over 30 and has contributed a lot. Heather agreed. In his letter, he mentioned he  
30 would be willing to assist with the process.

31 **Agenda Item 5, Police Department Assessment Update**

32 Julie said Jim Baker is wrapping things up. There is a survey out now and it is on social media,  
33 there's a link on the website, and it's been emailed to schools asking them to send it to their groups.  
34 They are trying to reach as many as possible. This is the last piece of data collection with Jim. The  
35 report is well under way, and he just wants to gather this last bit of comment from the community.  
36 It will be completed hopefully by mid-August. It times well with Rick giving his retirement notice.  
37 Jim has gotten a good feel from the community about what people like about the police department  
38 and where they would like to see them go and what community policing means to them. Jim has  
39 gotten a lot of good feedback. They are pretty much ready to go to start a search process. The  
40 report will come to the members. Julie thought Jim would likely give a presentation of the report

1 at a future meeting.

2 Heather asked if there were any questions from the board and there were none.

3 **Agenda Item 6, Vehicle Purchase for Facilities Director**

4 Julie said it was great having Steve, the Facilities Director, on staff and he was accomplishing a  
5 lot, but she realized he needed a vehicle. The Water Department budgeted a new truck which is on  
6 order. Their current truck still has good life and Steve only needs a vehicle to go around town from  
7 one building to the other. They decided they could purchase the vehicle from the Water Department  
8 since it's a separate fund and Steve could get several more years out of it. The price they were  
9 going to offer for the truck as a trade-in was \$11,500. Because the water fund is healthy with its  
10 fund balance, instead of borrowing it from themselves and paying interest, she wanted to budget  
11 it for the 2023 budget where they make a payment to the water fund and not borrow and there  
12 would be no interest. It would just be an inhouse exchange. The members agreed it was a great  
13 idea. She didn't need a motion but only wanted to know that they were okay with it.

14 **Agenda Item 7, Park and Ride Grant**

15 Julie is going to apply for the grant for resurfacing the parking area. It cannot be used to create the  
16 path. She needed board approval via a motion to apply for it because it will go on the state website  
17 as a park and ride location. It could potentially be used by people that weren't residents of Chester  
18 or visiting the shops. It could be used by people carpooling. She wanted to make sure they were  
19 okay with doing it. Ben asked if there were requirements for extra lighting. Julie said they felt the  
20 lighting was sufficient. Ben moved to approve applying for the municipal park and ride grant and  
21 Leigh seconded it. Heather asked for further discussion. Having parked his vehicle at other park  
22 and rides in the state, Lee thought it was a great idea and was all for it but wondered if there were  
23 any negative repercussions of having random people parking in town and if there were any issues  
24 at other park and rides in the state that they should be aware of going into this. Julie said she didn't  
25 know but didn't think it would be used as heavily as one along the interstate. Ben said currently it  
26 was a parking area open to the public. He asked if there would be signage and Julie said there  
27 would be, which they were going to have anyway because it's the overflow parking for The Green.  
28 The only real change would be the advertisement on the state's website. It is already on the state's  
29 website for the charging station. She wasn't sure how much more traffic it would produce. It was  
30 a way to get it resurfaced. Heather thought the additional awareness could be positive by bringing  
31 more people to town. Julie agreed. Julie said the only thing left would be getting the path to The  
32 Green. When they did the Wayfinding Plan, a kiosk will be at that location directing people to The  
33 Green. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

34 **Agenda Item 8, New Business/Next Agenda**

35 Julie said when the charging stations were installed, they had to provide for charging for free for  
36 1 to 3 years because they were installed with a grant. They are beyond that time. She pulled  
37 electrical usage of the stations which average between \$100 and \$200 a month. When they installed  
38 the units, they made sure there was the ability to start charging people fees. They are reaching out  
39 to the company to figure out how they go about doing it. The program she was told they could  
40 utilize, the company would collect the payments, withhold their fee, and issue a check to Chester  
41 at the end of the month. That's the process they want to use and currently use with credit cards  
42 here. Lee has an electric car and has used the charging station a couple of times. It is great, easy to  
43 access, and internet is available there. He went to a neighboring community who also has a free

1 electric vehicle charging station with no Wi-Fi or internet so he couldn't use it. He thought it was  
2 a great addition to town and a good opportunity for them to attract people looking for a place to  
3 plug in their car and do some shopping. He didn't think they should give electric away. Lee did a  
4 trip to Maine on July 4<sup>th</sup> and had to charge twice on the trip. Both charges took about 30 minutes  
5 and got him from 40% to 80%, which was enough to get him home. It is a great opportunity for  
6 people to come and charge their car and wander around The Green. Heather suggested discussing  
7 later the cost of continuing it and if they want to charge and how much. And maybe they would  
8 know about their solar farm by then.

9 Heather asked for any other new business or agenda items.

10 Julie said she had put an ad out for the local cannabis commission due to Robert Nied's resignation  
11 and hoped to get some interest.

12 They will be discussing replacement of the water main on Depot Street. It's a big project that needs  
13 to be done and they were hoping to line it up with the sidewalk project since the road will be dug  
14 up.

15 Heather asked if there were any other items or concerns and there were none.

16 **Agenda Item 9, Adjourn**

17 Lee moved and Leigh seconded to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed  
18 unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.