

TOWN OF CHESTER
SELECTBOARD MEETING

April 5, 2017
Minutes

PRESENT: Arne Jonynas, Heather Chase, Ben Whalen; Dan Cote; Lee Gustafson;
David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Mike Leonard; William Lindsay; Shawn Cunningham; Tom
Hildreth; Neil Allen; Steven Davis; Michael Normyle; Julia Purdy; Lillian
Willis; Frank Bidwell; Barre Pinske; Bill Dakin; Brian Mosher; Tim
Roper; Sean Riordan; Cathy Hasbrouck; Henry; Andrew LaValley

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Arne Jonynas.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

March 13, 2017:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2017
Special Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed.

March 15, 2017:

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2017
Selectboard Meeting as amended. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed.

Heather Chase is no longer the Clerk.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Mike Leonard expressed his concerns regarding the Bond debt incurred by the Town and
the amount of debt. He has requested that the town seek an opinion from the Auditors as
to the amount of debt that the town can incur. He has concerns with a vote that is
anticipated for the new fire house and feels that this could provide the taxpayers with
some security before voting.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Economic Development: David Pisha stated that this is on the agenda for this meeting.

Water: David Pisha stated that the contractors for the transmission line and the water
tank are moving into position to begin work. He further stated that because of savings
earned, the town has been able to also install the new pipe on Coach Road which is
underway at this time.

Yosemite Fire House: David Pisha stated that Jim Carroll is optimistic that the claimant who stepped forward several months ago, may be ready to sign a Quit Claim Deed to the Town as well. We will still be required to advertise for any remaining heirs but this could wrap up within a couple of months.

Ben Whalen requested that the EMS building be revisited soon.

Arne Jonynas questioned the status of the Verizon Lease. David Pisha stated that Katherine Boe sees no issues with the contract. However, the technician that the town uses has identified a couple of issues which are being discussed and resolved. One of these issues is the type of fuel that is being used. This will be on an agenda soon.

Arne Jonynas stated that Frank Bidwell asked about the Budget Committee. Arne Jonynas stated that although there is only 1 member, he would still like for Frank Bidwell to be involved in the process.

4. PAPER OF RECORD:

Arne Jonynas stated that the Message has also requested to be considered for the paper of record as well. Neil Allen from the Message stated that there are 19,000 papers delivered weekly which includes all of Chester. The website gets approximately 6,300 visitors as well. There is also the option of advertising in the Eagle Times if daily advertising is needed. Neil Allen clarified that the \$9.50 fee includes both the Message and online.

Bob Miller from the Vermont Journal asked the Board a few questions. He stated that there is still not clarity regarding newspaper and that online only cannot be used as a newspaper of record. Bob Miller also mentioned that the town attorney indicated last year that online presence only is not recognized as a newspaper. Bob Miller stated that they are anticipating 400,000 users by July. The online presence is included in the price of the advertisement. Bob Miller questioned the statements made at previous meetings and asked for verification of the numbers presented. Arne Jonynas stated that these numbers will be verified. Bob Miller stated that he is willing to lower his price to \$11.00 per column inch for both the Journal and The Shopper. The cost would be \$9.00 per column inch for just the Vermont Journal with no Shopper and no website.

David Pisha stated that Jim Carroll indicated that there has to be 1 paper of record. However, there is nothing that says you can't have two. If you use two papers of record, there has to be consistency that all legal notices are posted in both publications.

Lee Gustafson stated that the legal requirement is that advertisements reach Chester residents. Julie Hance stated that she often advertises in multiple papers and media forms so that the word gets out. Discussion ensued regarding the various options available.

Ron Patch stated that this has been a discussion for many years. He also stated that the expenses of the town are increasing. If there is a newspaper that is also advertising on line, extra expense should not be incurred.

Bob Miller stated that legally, a paper cannot charge for legal ads to be put on the website. He stated that the \$9.00 would include both the Journal only and the website.

Ben Whalen made the motion to accept the Vermont Journal's bid of \$9.00 for the Vermont Journal only and the website and advertise in other papers as needed. There was no second to the motion. Therefore the motion failed.

Lee Gustafson stated that he was not pleased with the presentation of the Vermont Journal and does not wish to use them to represent the town. Heather Chase stated that she would prefer to use the two sources, newspaper and online. Dan Cote stated that he is in favor of an online only newspaper. Dan Cote stated that the job of the attorney is to present the lowest risk, but this issue has not been tested. Ben Whalen stated that there are too many people that are not digital to go only online.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to appoint The Message as the newspaper of record. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed with Heather Chase voting in the negative.

5. PRESENT SUMMARY OF VLCT'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

David Pisha and Julie Hance gave a presentation regarding Economic Development for the town. Copies of these presentations are attached.

The Selectboard thanked David and Julie for their presentation.

6. REVIEW INTERVIEW QUESTIONS & SET DATES:

The Board was provided with a list of questions which were an accumulation of all members' ideas.

Heather Chase stated that questions 1-5 would be good opening questions. These questions focus on level of interest and skills. The remaining questions could be asked by specific board members as they find necessary.

Ben Whalen stated that questions could also be to "tell us about yourself" and "what makes you the best candidate for the position". A final question could be "is there anything you would like to add". Question 4, he changed to "how did you use these skill sets in the past". Question 8, he changed to "What goals would you like to see the Planning Commission achieve." Question 9, he would like to add "the townspeople of Chester" also. The Board agreed to make these few changes and use these questions as a guideline.

The board set the interview dates as April 14th at 6:00 p.m. and April 19th following the meeting. They agreed to schedule each interview for 45 minutes.

7. SIGN APPROVED UDDBS:

Arne Jonynas stated that there were no appeals of the Unified Development Bylaws. The Selectboard signed the Unified Development Bylaws.

8. LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL:

The Selectboard discussed the First Class Liquor License for Pizza Stone. It appears that the training expires in 4 days. Discussion ensued. The Selectboard agreed to hold off on these licenses until the next meeting.

The Selectboard signed the First Class Liquor License for Heritage Deli and Bakery.

The Selectboard signed the Second Class Liquor License for Dollar General.

9. OUTSIDE CONSUMPTION PERMIT:

The Selectboard agreed to hold off on signing the Outside Consumption Permit for Pizza Stone until the training has been updated.

10. ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE:

The Selectboard discussed the Entertainment Permit for Pizza Stone. The Selectboard agreed to hold off on this license until the next meeting.

11. NEW BUSINESS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Lee Gustafson asked for an update on the ACT 250 decision. David Pisha stated that we are still awaiting the position of the Natural Resources Board and their involvement in the appeal.

The Board agreed that they would like to have a discussion with the Fire Chief and Graham Kennedy regarding the building and potential new fire station at a future meeting.

The Board asked David Pisha to get an answer to the debt question raised by Mike Leonard for a future meeting.

Barre Pinske stated that the Steering Committee has discussed the need for the new fire station. A suggestion had been made to align both the old and new fire houses.

Frank Bidwell stated that he would like to see the Selectboard either have copies of agenda item materials available or make it available on the screen.

12. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to adjourn. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Lee Gustafson
Clerk of the Select Board