

TOWN OF CHESTER  
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD

February 15, 2017  
Minutes

PRESENT: John DeBenedetti; Dan Cote; Arne Jonynas; David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Shawn Cunningham; Randy Miles; Neil Allen; Lillian Willis; Peter Klepp; David Willis; Phil Perlah; Russell Monier; Justin Savage; Maureen Savage; Amy Mosher; Barre Pinske; Claudio Veliz; Margaret Straub; Roy Spaulding; Roy Spaulding, Jr.; Jan Moot; Nena Nanfeldt; Frank Bidwell; Gail Stewart; Huzon Stewart; Cathy Hasbrouck; Carla Westine; Tom Hildreth; William Lindsay; Marilyn Mahusky; Prescott Warren; Laura Martinez; Joanne Warren; Mike O'Neil; Amy O'Neil; Kelly Arrison; Suzy Forlie; Kathy Pellett; Brian Mosher; Laurie Goodrich

The meeting was called to order at 8:24 p.m. by John DeBenedetti.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

February 1, 2017:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2017 Special Selectboard meeting as amended. Seconded by John DeBenedetti. The motion passed.

Page 4, clarify that the ramp is the handicapped ramp at town hall.

February 1, 2017:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2017 UDB Public Hearing. Seconded by John DeBenedetti. The motion passed.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Shawn Cunningham stated that he has driven by the solar farm where there is snow building up on the panels. He stated that this can cut energy produced. David Pisha stated that he will talk with the developer.

Marilyn Mahusky stated that there are towns that have potlucks and community get togethers prior to town meeting. She questioned the history of this in Chester and suggested that this might be done in the future for Chester.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Steering Committee: David Pisha stated that the master plan is moving along. The next event is scheduled to be held at Newsbank Conference Center on Sunday, March 12 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Water project: David Pisha stated that the Contracts for the transmission line and tank will be signed this week.

Yosemite: David Pisha stated that Jim Carroll has prepared the Quit Claim Deed for the Historical Society to sign. Ron Patch will be bringing this Deed to his Board for signature.

Historic Marker: Julie Hance stated that the proposed alternate language has been sent to the Preservation Trust.

4. POLICE CANINE; CHIEF CLOUD:

Chief Richard Cloud was present with Dutch, the new canine dog for Chester. He stated that Dutch is the 3<sup>rd</sup> dog in the program of this new breed. He will be certified in 7 different drugs by the end of March. Dutch is Chief Cloud's personal dog.

John DeBenedetti questioned the cost to the town. Chief Cloud stated that \$1,500 will come from forfeiture for the equipment needed to outfit the cruiser. He stated that \$600 of this has come back through donations. Chief Cloud stated that the remaining costs will be burdened by him and various programs through the State of Vermont. There is also the potential of money coming back into the town through drug seizures.

Chief Cloud stated that the training will be at no cost because he is the trainer. Arne Jonynas questioned the mutual aid situation. Chief Cloud indicated that it will work similar to the Fire Department. The liability to the town is that of another police officer.

Frank Bidwell questioned if the training that takes place in town could be opened to the public. Chief cloud stated that he can certainly set up a demonstration.

5. REVIEW PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS:

Kathy Pellett stated that there is a vacancy on the Whiting Library Board of Trustees. She stated that Stephanie Whitney Payne has interest in serving as a Trustee and the Board is requesting that she be appointed by the Selectboard. Kathy Pellett stated that history has shown that Trustees have been appointed upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees. She asked that this policy be followed for this appointment as well.

Kathy Pellett stated that she would like for the appointment to be made prior to March 13 due to upcoming events of the Board of Trustees. She stated that there is a defacto policy as there is precedent.

Kathy Pellett stated that she has concerns that holding up appointments will discourage people from volunteering.

The Board agreed that they will discuss the policy at the next meeting when there is a full board.

6. LIQUOR LICENSES:

The Selectboard signed the Second Class Liquor License for the Jiffy Mart.

The Selectboard signed the Second Class Liquor License for Lisai's Market.

7. CERTIFICATE OF NO APPEALS OR SUITS PENDING:

A motion was made by Arne Jonynas to sign the Certificate of No Appeals or Suits Pending. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed.

8. NEW BUSINESS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

The Board agreed that the appointment process will be on the next agenda.

The Board agreed that the majority of the next meeting will be for the public hearing.

John DeBenedetti acknowledged the new Newsletter prepared by the town. David Pisha stated that they are hoping for this to be a useful tool for communicating to the public. It will be published quarterly.

John DeBenedetti shared 2 upcoming training events.

9. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Dan Cote to adjourn. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Julie Hance  
Secretary of the Select Board

Heather Chase  
Clerk of the Select Board