

TOWN OF CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 1, 2016
Minutes

PRESENT: John DeBenedetti; Heather Chase; Arne Jonynas; Ben Whalen; Dan Cote David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Graham Kennedy; Ron Patch; William Lindsay; Derek Suursoo; Tom Hildreth; Matt Wilson; Cathy McWilliam; Cindy Collins; Frank Bidwell; Russell Farrar; Carlo Kapp; Donna Allen; Nena Nanfeldt; David Nanfeldt; Michael Alon; Suzy Forlie; Lillian Willis; David Willis

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by John DeBenedetti.

There were no deletions or additions to this agenda.

Dan Cote stated that he feels that the agenda item for the Historical Society Lease should be removed. Arne Jonynas, Ben Whalen and John DeBenedetti requested to keep it on the agenda. Heather Chase stated that she doesn't care if it's now or later.

Russell Farrar stated that he needs help removing dogs which are chasing his cattle. Mark Phelps stated that the Police Department is ready to issue tickets. However, they are having trouble finding the owners so that they can serve the tickets. The Town of Chester does not have the capacity to restrain the dogs. Mark Phelps stated that this situation could potentially fall under the vicious dog portion of the ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding how to proceed with the dogs running at large. The Selectboard reviewed the Dog Ordinance and discussed options. The Selectboard agreed to have Chief Cloud do what is necessary to catch the dogs.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

May 13, 2016:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to approve the May 13, 2016 minutes of the Chester Selectboard Special meeting as amended. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

Item 2, Paragraph 3, should be corrected to say that Ben Whalen stated that he would be on the committee if no other Board members were.

Item 2, Paragraph 2, meeting should have been June 1 not June 3.

May 18, 2016:

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to approve the May 18, 2016 minutes of the Chester Selectboard meeting as amended. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

Page 2, Old Business, add "date set by the next meeting".

Page 4, Item 6, 4th Paragraph, "he" refers to Ben Whalen.

May 19, 2016:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to approve the May 19, 2016 minutes of the Chester Selectboard Special meeting as amended. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

Add Dan Cote as those present

Citizen's comments should be at the end

Spelling correct of major to majority

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Frank Bidwell stated that he brought up the website at the next meeting. He feels that the issues are not being addressed. He would like to see the website updated with the basic information such as the members of boards and the calendar. Frank Bidwell stated that he has questions with the Rules of Procedure and was directed to speak with the Development Review Board. Dan Cote questioned what is being done different this time around since this request has been made before.

Tom Hildreth was present on behalf of the 250th celebration. He stated that he has spoken with Herb Russell regarding where to locate the commemorative plaque. Mr. Russell further confirmed that there will be \$10.00 train rides available all day during the celebration. John DeBenedetti questioned if Herb Russell has the authority to designate the area. Tom Hildreth stated that he will find out.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Parking Spaces on The Green: David Pisha reported that the spaces on The Green will be painted on June 11. In addition, the town can stripe the spacing along Route 103 on the Academy Building side of the road. David Pisha stated that it will take approximately 4 hours. Michael Alon questioned if spaces could be added along the main street in front of the library. He suggested that there should also be definition of parking and sidewalk across from Lisai's Market.

Historical Marker: David Pisha stated that Leigh Dakin has dropped off the application for a historical marker at the Academy Building

Trees on The Green: David Pisha stated that the two trees on The Green have been removed. They stumps will be ground down soon.

Jack's Diner: David Pisha stated that Leslie Thorsen has viewed the property and is trying to contact the owner.

Cemetery Update: David Pisha stated that Jeff Sheldon has indicated that there are typically _____ burials per year. There are currently 8 spaces remaining at Brookside Cemetery. He also indicated that most burials are cremations. He further stated that Deb Daniels has met with Michael Normyle.

Yosemite Insurance: David Pisha informed the Board that the insurance for the Yosemite Fire House is approximately \$300 _____ per year through VLCT. This is a rate based on assessed value, not replacement value. Ron Patch stated that the Historical Society was paying \$1,200 per year which is for replacement value.

Yosemite Fire House: David Pisha stated that Wanda from Jim Carroll's office has been down to review the title to the Yosemite Fire House. He further stated that they are trying to locate the grant documents.

EMS Building: David Pisha stated that members of the Selectboard went to the Castleton Fire Department to review the design of their EMS building. Ben Whalen disclosed that he is a member of the Fire Department. No members felt that there is a conflict at this time since there is no voting. John DeBenedetti stated that he would like to take a ride up to Castleton to see the building for himself. Matt Wilson stated that he was pleased with the building. He stated that they put a lot of thought into their design. He further stated that he would like to move forward with the Bond Vote and get the project going. Arne Jonynas stated that he felt the building had no excess and was just what was needed. Heather Chase stated that she feels that there needs to be more discussion prior to a vote. John DeBenedetti stated that this needs to be a warned agenda item at a future meeting.

Library: David Pisha stated that the elevator will need to be updated at the library. Arne Jonynas would like somebody to come in and discuss the recommendations that were made in the report.

Town Hall: David Pisha stated that the town has received the Conditions Assessment of Town Hall. These numbers reflect the exterior of the building only.

Master Plan: David Pisha stated that the consultant will be chosen soon. References are being checked.

Water/Stormwater: David Pisha stated that he is working with Fish and Wildlife. He stated that work on the main line should be starting soon. Ben Whalen suggested that residents be notified of the upcoming work. Tom Hildreth requested the completion date. David Pisha stated that final completion is 120 days after commencement. Cindy Collins questioned if the pavement is being dug up. It was noted that it shouldn't be.

Pool: David Pisha stated that the work on the pool liner should start next week. The pool should be done within a couple of weeks.

Newsbank Crosswalk: Dan Cote questioned the sidewalk near the Newsbank. Graham Kennedy stated that this should be done very soon.

Audit: David Pisha stated that Ron Smith was here last week finishing up the Audit. The final document should be arriving very soon.

Old Business List: Frank Bidwell stated that there is a lot of information that could be eliminated from the list. David Pisha stated this method was the process requested by the Board.

Solar Farm: John DeBenedetti stated that he would like the solar farm finances reviewed at the next meeting.

4. REQUEST TO THROW UP A PORTION OF QUARRY ROAD:

Graham Kennedy stated that he has been speaking with the caretaker of the property at 1738 Quarry Road. The last 400 feet are difficult to maintain as it is windy and ends at the house. He indicated that giving up this portion of the road is an advantage for the highway department. Graham Kennedy further stated that there is an existing turn around that would need to be improved. David Pisha clarified that there is no Class IV road off of Quarry Road.

Arne Jonynas stated that he has a difficult time giving up town land. He would like to have a site visit. Ben Whalen stated that if it is a win for the town, then he is in favor. Graham Kennedy stated that this is only the 2nd time he has agreed with giving up town land. He feels that a site visit would show the reasoning. It was agreed to have Graham Kennedy bring the Selectboard members to see the site on an individual basis. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

5. MOUNTAIN VIEW/FLAMSTEAD PAVING:

Graham Kennedy stated that he has left over money in his budget due to the light winter and light mud season. He stated that when the water lines were put in in 1990, the final paving was never completed. Graham Kennedy stated that the price is better if a 1" overlay is done over the entire roadway. This would get the town through for several years. He stated that the snow cannot be removed with the plow so the snow is being chemically removed. It is anticipated to be \$48,000 to pave both developments. Julie Hance noted that the storm drain system will not come to completion for approximately 4 years. These estimates are from Springfield Paving who is willing to come do a small job.

Graham Kennedy explained his supply of salt and sand and stated that there are funds available to complete his stockpile. Discussion ensued regarding the RFP process. The Board agreed that Graham should move forward with what is necessary to complete the paving and that an RFP is not necessary for this project.

Cindy Collins stated that Mountain View does need paving. She stated that there are at least 3 drains that are very wide and deep and cars are hitting it. She stated that the town needs to get working on the drainage issue.

6. SIDEWALK PROJECT BID UPDATE:

David Pisha explained that due to the sidewalk project being four years old, bids have come in \$40,000 over the estimated amount. Julie Hance explained that it is the opinion that the town proceed with the sidewalk project but eliminate Grafton Street from the scope.

A motion was made by Dan Cote to remove the Grafton Street portion from the Sidewalk Project. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

7. SIGN LOAN DOCUMENTS FOR EXCAVATOR:

David Pisha stated that the town went out to bid to Caterpillar and John Deere for the purchase of the new excavator. In addition, the bids and interest rate came in \$9,000 per year under budget. The Note is in the amount of \$136,500.00 with an interest rate of 2% and term ending June 6, 2019.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to sign the Capital Equipment Note, Resolution and Non Arbitrage Certificate. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

Dan Cote questioned if the insurance costs will increase. David Pisha stated that the cost is minimal as the old excavator is traded in and is replaced.

8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DRAFT POLICY REVIEW:

The Selectboard has been provided with a draft Conflict of Interest Policy. Ben Whalen noted that there is a typo on page 2, article 8, the spelling of “member” need to be corrected. The Selectboard discussed the draft. Heather Chase stated that she would like to have this apply to the Planning Commission and the employees. Ben Whalen and Dan Cote agreed. Heather Chase stated that she would like to see employees sign that they acknowledge this policy. John DeBenedetti stated that he would like to know how many towns in Vermont have adopted these. David Pisha stated that he will get the number from VLCT.

John DeBenedetti would like to see the definition of “Conflict of interest” taken from the handout. He also requested a definition of Perceived Conflict of Interest. Discussion ensued regarding whether this should apply to employees. The Board agreed to look at the Employee Policy of other towns for their conflict of interest portions. Julie Hance stated that she will redraft the Policy to include public bodies and public officials.

9. HISTORICAL SOCIETY LEASE:

Ben Whalen stated that if there are issues with the lease, they should be handled at the time of the lease renewal.

Heather Chase stated that she has paid a membership fee to the Historical Society but feels no conflict. She stated that she has read the Lease. She feels that the Board should be reviewing the next Lease in advance so that preparation could be made. Arne Jonynas stated that he feels that the maintenance of the building is the responsibility of the town. He does not feel that anything needs to be done at this time.

John DeBenedetti stated that if the Board is going to make decisions on this Lease, he would need to recuse himself.

Frank Bidwell questioned if the Lease is being followed. Is there proof of insurance, are maintenance updates being supplied annually? Ron Patch stated that every year he talks with the Town Manager regarding things that need to be done. He stated that he does not bring in proof of insurance, but it is insured. Discussion ensued.

Upon Ben Whalen's request, Ron Patch agreed that he will provide proof of insurance and a maintenance update at the end of the year.

10. YOSEMITE FIRE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

David Pisha stated that Wanda from Jim Carroll's office came to the town office yesterday to perform the title search on the Yosemite Fire House. He is still working on obtaining the past grant agreements.

Dan Cote presented a packet of information that creates a mission for the committee and a list of potential members, Heather Chase asked for her name to be removed from the list and Hugh Henry added.

Scott Newman was present from Preservation Trust of Vermont. He stated that he will work with the town if needed. He stated that they could play an advisory role to the committee and help with obtaining grant funding. Scott identified that the Historic Preservation Grant is available for this as well as the Cultural Communities grant. Community Development Block Grants are also available.

Arne Jonynas stated that he would like to make sure that the title is clear prior to taking it over. David Pisha will call Jim Carroll to follow up on his time line.

Lillian Willis stated that there was disappointment that there was not more excitement about the acceptance of the Yosemite Fire House. She presented a petition that was signed by several members of the town. The suggestion would be that there would be a 501c3 that would combine with the town to apply for grants and fundraise.

Arne Jonynas stated that he would like to proceed with setting up the committee, but does not want to take ownership until the legal piece has been answered. Ben Whalen appreciated the efforts of the petition but stated that he wants the legal opinions first. Michael Alon stated that the petition is not just signatures, but represent people. He urged the Board to take over ownership of the building.

The Selectboard discussed the makeup of the committee. William Lindsay stated there are also problems that exist with the building that need to be addressed. He further addressed that the Board needs to think about the money that needs to be put into buildings of greater importance.

John DeBenedetti expressed concerns regarding potential conflicts for grants. Discussion ensued. The Board discussed that at the next meeting, the Board will vote on whether or not to take over the building and appoint the committee.

Barre Pinsky stated that he would like the Board to recognize the historic value of the Yosemite Fire House. He feels that the money could be raised easily.

Ron Patch agreed to give the town until mid-July to make its decision.

11. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA:

The Board agreed that on a water update in July.

Dan Cote stated that the Vermont Futures Project was presented in Chester recently. He urged the Board members to review this presentation. He would like Bob Flint to make a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

The Board discussed that the following items should be on upcoming agendas: Cemetery Update; Quarry Road set hearing; Master Plan bid appointment; Yosemite committee; Conflict of Interest; Town Hall Report; EMS Building; Potential elevator discussion if time allows.

Ben Whalen stated that the Alumni Day Parade is this coming Saturday. In addition, the Hearse House has been painted which looks great.

12. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to adjourn. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Heather Chase
Clerk of the Select Board

The SAPA-TV recording of this meeting is hereby made a part of the permanent minute record of this meeting.