

TOWN OF CHESTER
SELECT BOARD
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2021

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

VISITORS: SAPATV; Chester Telegraph; Matt Wilson; Madeline Bodin; Cindy Ingersoll;
Cheryl Joy Lipton; Amber Wilson

Meeting was held at the Town Hall and via Zoom.

1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2021, SELECT BOARD MEETING AND SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2021, Select Board meeting as written. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to approve the Minutes of the September 24, 2021, Special Select Board meeting as written. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS/ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No citizens comment.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Act 250 Appeal: The judge granted all of the town's requests. The signed permit should be returned after about 30 days or so.

Public Safety Building: The Open House on September 26, 2021, was a success. There was a lot of positive feedback from the community. All three departments have expressed gratitude towards the community's support. Chester people are taking the EMT class in Londonderry. There is a good number of people that will be attending the in-house class starting in January. The three departments have been discussing the best uses for the new building. Lee Gustafson stated everyone he spoke with at the open house was excited about the outcome of the building and expressed their support for the departments.

Skate Park: The grant for the skate park renovation was approved for \$10,000. With the budgeted \$10,000, the renovation will start next year with a total of \$20,000.

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Bylaw Grant: This grant will help the Planning Commission with the new bylaws by allowing them to bring in Regional Planning.

ARPA Funding: The town received \$450,000 in ARPA money so far. The money can be invested to earn interest, which can then be used for whatever the town chooses. Investment options will be discussed at a future meeting keeping investments conservative. The town has until 2024 to obligate where the money will be spent and until 2026 to spend it. Public meetings will be held soon to get community feedback.

Library: Control Technologies has completed the heating system. The system will need to be reworked at some point. ARPA money can be used for ventilation systems.

Highway Garage: The demo has started at the Highway Garage.

Fall Festival: This year's festival was a huge success and brought a lot of people to town. Julie Hance thanked all involved with the efforts. Some people donated money without expecting anything in return.

Wheels in the Field: This event went well with some events selling out. Jeff Holden stated the group is trying to build the event up for next year and will be holding monthly meetings at the American Legion. Arne Jonynas stated they should try to not schedule events on the same weekends.

Volleyball Tournament: The tournament was held the same weekend as the Fall Festival. Volleyball is becoming more prominent in Chester because of these tournaments.

4. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN ADOPTION

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan dated September 17, 2021, for the years 2021-2026. Seconded by Jeff Holden. The motion passed.

5. ERRORS & OMISSIONS

The Select Board signed the Errors and Omissions submitted by the Lister.

6. CEMETERY DEED

The Select Board signed cemetery deeds.

7. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA

None.

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The order of Executive Sessions was changed from the agenda.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: ANDOVER FIRE/AMBULANCE CONTRACT

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Andover fire and ambulance contract. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The Select Board entered Executive Session at 6:22 p.m. Julie Hance and Matt Wilson were allowed in.

A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Jeff Holden. The Select Board exited Executive Session at 7:04 p.m.

No action taken.

Statement by Arne Jonynas regarding Andover Emergency Services Contract:

“At this time, the town of Chester is not interested in providing or offering a contract to the Town of Andover for fire and ambulance services after December 31, 2021. Had we offered a contract, the cost for 2022 would have been \$55,754.67 based on a new cost formula, which is available for review. We wish Andover the best in their search for coverage.”

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: T-MOBILE LEASE

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the T-Mobile lease. Seconded by Jeff Holden. The Select Board entered Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. Julie Hance was allowed in.

A motion was made by Jeff Holden to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The Select Board exited Executive Session at 7:22 p.m.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to allow Chair Arunas Jonynas to sign the T-Mobile Contract (Side Lease Agreement) with modifications to W-9 payee on page 5, item 15. Seconded by Jeff Holden. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Jeff Holden to allow Chair Arunas Jonynas to sign the T-Mobile Memorandum of Lease (Exhibit C). Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

10. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Jeff Holden to adjourn. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Amie O’Brien
Secretary of the Select Board

Lee Gustafson
Clerk of the Select Board