

TOWN OF CHESTER  
SELECT BOARD  
Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2021

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

VISITORS: SAPATV; Kathryn Murphy; Ben Whalen; Scott Kendall; Robert Nied; Madeline Bodin; Cheryl Joy Lipton; Jeff Hance; Jean Peters; Tim Roper; Ginger Roper; Gene Pategas; Jeanette Haight

***Meeting was held at the Town Hall and via Zoom.***

1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, SELECT BOARD MEETING.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the Minutes of the September 1, 2021, Select Board meeting as written. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS/ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No citizens comment.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Public Safety Building: Police, Fire, and Ambulance are all moved in. The contractors are finishing up the last of the things left to do. An open house will be held September 26, 2021, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. with different demonstrations and a BBQ.

Brookside Trail Bridge: Materials are delayed until October 18, 2021. The bridge should be finished by the end of October.

Act 250 Permit: An appeal is scheduled for September 23, 2021. Julie Hance will attend by WebX from Jim Goss' office. She will be asking school board member Joe Fromberger to attend to testify on behalf of the school.

Secondary Well: More testing and research will be taking place at the Jeffrey Well site and Canal Street site to present to the state.

ARPA Funding: The town has received 50% of the county money with the rest coming the summer of 2022. A public meeting will need to take place before the money can be spent on anything. The guidance on what the money can be spent on will be presented at a meeting in October.

47 Andover Select Board: Julie Hance will email the Select Board Chair to set up a joint  
48 meeting. She would like Matt Wilson, Amanda Silva, and the Chief of the Vermont Fire  
49 Academy to be present to discuss the rules and regulations of the Fire Department. She is  
50 still researching contracts and fee options to present to the Andover board. The meeting  
51 will be set at a time that works for both boards.  
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53 4. GM SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR POSITION; HEAR FROM INTERESTED PERSONS

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55 Jeannie Wade resigned from the GM School Board and the unexpired term needs to be  
56 filled. Ben Whalen and Kathryn Murphy are interested in the position. Kathryn Murphy  
57 spoke about bringing a positive attitude. She stated she would separate personal beliefs  
58 from the needs of the school. Ben Whalen said he has always been interested in joining  
59 the board. He would like to be a voice of reason within a very diverse group, which has  
60 had some difficulty recently. The Select Board will move both candidates forward for  
61 consideration to the school board to make the final decision.  
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63 5. YOSEMITE ENGINE CO. UPDATE ON DONATIONS TO NEW BUILDING; BEN WHALEN

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65 Ben Whalen updated the Select Board on the donations to the Public Safety Building  
66 from the Yosemite Engine Company. The building has been well furnished with \$37,000  
67 worth of items donated. The Yosemite Engine Company is a nonprofit entity raising  
68 money from different fundraisers. They sell Christmas trees, do a calendar raffle, send  
69 out letters for donations, and other things throughout the year to raise money. Tags will  
70 be added to the items for the Open House stating the items were donated. The Rescue  
71 Squad donated items as well.  
72

73 The new building will be used for EMT classes and other related trainings. The facility will  
74 be good for emergency situations and could be used as a command center when needed.  
75 Ben Whalen stated all surrounding town departments work together and train together.  
76 The new building will be used for statewide things as well.  
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78 6. AMBULANCE BILLING RATES

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80 The ambulance billing will be done by Comstar starting in October. Comstar will be paid  
81 5% of what is collected, which is about the same cost for the software being used now.  
82 The Ambulance fees have not increased since 2017. Amanda Silva and Amie O'Brien  
83 researched fees from around the area and found Chester's fees are well below average.  
84 The fees will be increased to an amount between what is charged now and the average  
85 from Comstar's Vermont clients. Chester Ambulance will still have control over payment  
86 arrangements, write-offs, and other decision that need to be made.  
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88 A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to allow Chair Arunas Jonynas to sign the increase in  
89 Ambulance billing rates. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.  
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7. HIGHWAY GARAGE CONTRACT APPROVAL

Kirby Putnam has identified areas in the building that need to be changed within the plan. Julie Hance will find out if ARPA money can be used to fund some of the things needed to be done but she does not think it can.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to authorize Chair Arunas Jonynas to sign the Highway Garage Contract. Seconded by Jeff Holden. The motion passed.

8. THIRD CLASS LIQUOR LICENSE; PIZZA STONE

The Select Board signed the Third Class Liquor License for the Pizza Stone.

9. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA

- Special meeting with Andover to discuss Fire Department.
- Special public meeting to discuss ARPA funds. The department heads are working on lists of what projects need to be completed. The plan is to use the money on older projects so new ones do not need to be created.
- Parking on the Green.
- Pump station for the Information Booth.
- Budget season.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: UPDATE ON POLICE COMPLAINT

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing an update on a police matter. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The Select Board entered Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. Jeff Holden recused himself and Julie Hance was allowed in.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The Select Board exited Executive Session at 7:12p.m.

No action was taken.

11. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adjourn. Seconded by Heather Chase. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Amie O'Brien  
Secretary of the Select Board

Lee Gustafson  
Clerk of the Select Board