

1 **TOWN OF CHESTER**
2 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**
3 **April 20, 2022, Minutes**

4 **Board Members Present:** Arne Jonynas, Ben Whalen, and Lee Gustafson, Heather Chase and
5 Leigh Dakin at Town Hall.

6 **Staff Present:** Julie Hance, Town Manager, at Town Hall; and Susan Bailey, Secretary via Zoom.

7 **Visitors Present:** Bill Lindsay, Leslie Thorsen, and Shawn Cunningham at Town Hall; and Tim
8 Roper, Robert Nied, Ginger's iPad, Joy Slaughter, Barre Pinske, Reisa Alexander, SAPA TV, and
9 Linda Diak via Zoom.

10 **Call to Order**

11 Arne Jonynas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance. He welcomed
12 everyone to the meeting.

13
14 **Agenda Item 1, Approve minutes from the April 6, 2022, Meeting**

15 Ben moved and Lee seconded to approve the April 6th minutes. Heather noted she wasn't at the
16 April 6th meeting but on page 6, line 34 the first part of the sentence didn't make sense and needed
17 editing. Arne asked if it was the sentence relating to Chester being the only one who attended the
18 seminar and Heather said it was. Lee said if you were here for the comment, it made sense. Heather
19 was glad she clarified. Arne asked if she wanted it clarified that Chester was the only town that
20 attended. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved
21 as amended.

22 **Agenda Item 2, Citizens Comments/Answers from Previous Meeting**

23 Leslie Thorsen addressed the board. She wanted a police advisory committee. She stated she had
24 lost count of the number of times that she had asked the Selectboard and Julie Hance, the Town
25 Manager, to begin the process. Last January or February she was told after the town budget was
26 passed, and then she was told after a police study was conducted. This year she is told after the
27 police union contract is finalized. It is time to put it on the Selectboard agenda. Burlington, Barre,
28 Bennington, and Montpelier are some of the towns that already have an oversight or advisory
29 commission. The Montpelier Police Review Committee published a comprehensive and
30 professional report on strategies to improve transparency and accountability which include sharing
31 of data, fair and impartial policing assessment, officer misconduct, and the prevention of the
32 purchase of militarization equipment for use by the police department. They discussed increased
33 investments and community support programs such as police embedded social workers. Last year
34 our town paid a \$50,000 settlement to a man who was pulled over for simply driving while black.
35 She asked if the Chester Police Department was accountable for breaking the fair and impartial
36 policing state law. She said they were not, and said Arne apologized and no internal complaints
37 were filed by the two police officers involved. One of those involved, the Chief, failed to report
38 this use of force stop to the state. It was one example that the public knows about because the
39 Vermont Human Rights Commission found the Chester Police Department had violated the state
40 law. We now have a holding cell in our quaint town and no state law exists for municipal holding
41 cells. She questioned how we know if Chester is following their own holding cell policy. She said
42 she would hate to see a holding cell incident that costs the town another \$50,000 or worse, costing

1 someone their life. A full-time officer is retiring this summer and an advisory committee could be
2 part of the interview process or maybe they could spend the money on a police-embedded social
3 worker. They have a right to know what the police in town are doing. She asked if they were
4 meeting the current needs of the community or if they were following the law. Are we helping or
5 hurting the young people in this town? She asked if we were helping or hurting our folks with
6 substance abuse disorders or mental health conditions. She said it was time to put it on the
7 Selectboard agenda and to tell her what to do to make it happen. She was formally requesting that
8 it be put on the agenda before this summer. If she needed to collect 300 and something signatures
9 to get a vote or whatever she had to do, she asked to let her know. She thanked them for their time.

10 Arne said it had been discussed some in the past and he had a discussion with the town manager
11 in last two weeks and it would be coming up. Leslie asked if there was a time frame and if it would
12 be in the year 2022. Arne said he wasn't going to talk about that right now. Julie said she heard
13 back from Jim Baker and the hold up with the assessment was availability. She wanted someone
14 who was good and didn't want to settle for anyone to do the critical assessment of the police
15 department. Jim Baker has done Springfield's and several others in Vermont. He would be starting
16 probably at the end of May with the assessment. Jim Baker and Julie have had lengthy
17 conversations during the past year regarding the assessment and she had heard back from him at
18 the beginning of the week. She thought it was wise to wait until the assessment was done. That
19 was her opinion, but the board may disagree. Jim felt it would be good to go through the process
20 because it was a community process. When you set up an advisory committee you need to set up
21 the parameters of what the committee should be accomplishing. She said a lot of small towns have
22 them and they are dead and not working anymore because they were not set up well. That was the
23 one thing she had been cautioned about. When they do it, they should make sure they do due
24 diligence about the roles you want the committee to play. It is critical to its success, and she wanted
25 it to be successful and effective. The one way they are starting this, and the public safety chiefs
26 and she had been talking about it for about a couple of months, and they had set a date for May
27 26th at 7 p.m. at the Public Safety Building. They would have a series of community forums where
28 the community can talk with fire, police, and ambulance about what they would like to see from
29 those services in Chester. This was the start of it. That was by recommendation of Jim Baker of a
30 few months ago. They wanted to wait until it was warmer, and they could be outside. They will
31 open the bays and take equipment out, so there could be fresh air. She didn't know what COVID
32 would be doing so they wanted it outside and not at Town Hall. It is coming and was going to be
33 announced under new business. There are things happening and she knew Leslie felt like it was
34 taking forever, and it was. Julie said government moves slowly but she wanted to make sure it was
35 done well. The board could rush and do it now if they chose to.

36 Heather suggested it be put on old business and every meeting have updates. Julie said she would
37 not have anything until Jim started at the end of May. Heather said if it was taking place May 26th,
38 she could report afterwards, and Julie agreed. Heather said maybe it wouldn't be under old business
39 as the police advisory committee but under old business in another frame, so they are updating the
40 public. Julie agreed. Arne said under future agenda items and items for discussion they could have
41 a brief discussion about their role in it and what timeframe they want it to take. Julie had given
42 them some good ideas and if they had other ideas about how quickly or slowly, they wanted it to
43 happen and when it should happen, they could give it a brief review and put it on a future agenda
44 to see if they want to do anything different. They could have a discussion just about how quick
45 they go forward. Arne said he was sure they could figure out.

1 Leslie asked the members of the board to look at the Montpelier Police Review Committee, as it
2 was very professional. She didn't appreciate comments that belittle a police advisory committee
3 and how they are failing in our state. She didn't know if it was true or not but was an inappropriate
4 comment.

5 Julie said where her statement came from was talking to town managers in the state. Leslie said it
6 was to protect the towns. Julie said they are letting her know the ways they failed and encouraging
7 Chester to do it well. It wasn't about belittling anything, as Julie wants the committee, but she
8 wants it done well and effectively and doesn't want to repeat the mistakes of other towns. Leslie
9 said until they took some steps and did it, they wouldn't be moving forward. Talking about it or
10 all the places that have failed wasn't moving it forward. Julie told Arnie she was done. Leslie then
11 said she was done three separate times and immediately left the meeting.

12 Arne said as a board, they all desire what's best for the town and approach things in different ways,
13 with different expediency, and what they all desire is what's right in their hearts and what is good
14 for the town. Julie said she wasn't belittling anything but wanted it effective and well. Leigh said
15 the fact that it was already set up, she guessed sometimes it was misunderstood. Arne said it was
16 all in the works. Ben thought they should move on.

17 Tim Roper asked that the board keep their microphones closer, especially Heather and Arne.
18 There were no other comments.

19 **Agenda Item 3, Old Business**

20 Report given by the Town Manager:

21 Pinnacle

22 Julie and Matt had met with Green Mountain Power and Chester Electric regarding the work at the
23 Pinnacle. The work is scheduled to be completed in late summer or early fall. The project involved
24 burying some power at the Pinnacle. They have also agreed to redo the power to the pool house
25 because it needs to be redone. Steve Mancuso from Chester Electric will pick up what needs to be
26 done on Chester's end and will get Julie a quote on what their cost will be. There was an agreement
27 made a few years ago that Green Mountain Power would install lighting poles at the ice rink and
28 tennis courts. Steve would be getting the costs on what the electric will cost to install the lights.
29 Arne said it was all related to the upgrades in power up Lovers Lane where they would be switching
30 the poles and putting them along the side of the road. The power would be buried in that area
31 because it was safer and easier to deal with. Ben asked if there was an opportunity for additional
32 light poles. Julie said they were getting the cost of lighting one of the Little League fields. She said
33 there was a request for that, and Steve was going to get her the cost. She said it was an option and
34 Green Mountain Power may do more if they were willing to pay for them. Green Mountain is
35 giving them two for free. They were considering some other things and would be coming back to
36 the board with a full proposal of everything that they're looking to light. What they do light they
37 are looking to set on a timer system so when you go to the pool, you set the timer for an hour. That
38 way they will not be on all night.

39 Delinquent Taxes

40 There is a new Vermont Housing and Finance Authority program funded through Federal ARPA
41 funding helping homeowner's pay delinquent water, sewer, and delinquent taxes, and mortgage
42 payments, among other things for primary residences subject to income guidelines. Julie has

1 enrolled Chester as a receiving town. They have several people already participating in the
2 program. They've been trying to get the word out by sending flyers with delinquent water bills and
3 delinquent tax bills. If they knew of anyone in need, it is a great program. For some who are not
4 so computer savvy, they are welcome to come into Town Hall and Debbie, Amie, or Julie will help
5 get them registered.

6 Town Office

7 The zoning listers have officially moved into their new space which looks great. It is a huge benefit
8 of having a facilities director who is also a contractor and an electrician on the water staff. The
9 whole thing was done during work hours at no additional expense and looks amazing. They will
10 now be converting the front room to the downstairs conference room like it was years ago, so Steve
11 and Wayne would be working on it in the next few weeks.

12 Highway Garage

13 The new siding is going up on the garage and looks great. Stop over and tour it, as it really looks
14 nice and professional, and the guys are happy. The project should be completed mid-May.

15 Academy Roof

16 Doxsee Roofing will be there tomorrow to remove the slate on the west slope and return the first
17 week of May to get the slate replaced. It was a grant funded program. While they are here, Steve
18 has spoken with them and there are a couple of slipped slates on Town Hall, the library, and the
19 tomb and on the pool house. While they are here, Steve will be working with them to do minor
20 repairs on the existing buildings. Lee asked if Julie knew what was happening to the old slates.
21 Julie said the ones that have value they keep. The repairs to the pool house will take good slate.
22 They also use them for repairs around town. The other thing that is happening is the cemetery shed
23 needs to be bigger so Steve will be building a small addition onto it and the slates will be used to
24 cover that, as well. Arne said another advantage of having a carpenter/contractor on the payroll is
25 he would be working at the Brookside Trail with the bridge there. Julie said he would be helping
26 John Wright and the two of them together would be building it. Steve drew up a design for the
27 boardwalk and he and John would work together to construct it. Arne thought with all the buildings
28 owned by the town, they could keep someone busy full-time for a long time.

29 Dog Park

30 Arne asked about the dog park. Julie said there was a group of people working on it. They are just
31 waiting for numbers. They had run a split rail fence by her, and she thought it was nice and looked
32 nicer than a chain link fence. They have four locations they are looking at and are all town property:
33 Canal Street, Route 11 West, the property they got after Irene, and she didn't know where the other
34 two were. They will be coming to the board with a presentation. Arne asked Julie if she knew who
35 was on that board and if there was a lead person. Julie said Matt was working with Reisa and then
36 there were a couple other people. Leigh thought Whitney Payne was involved. Julie thought there
37 was a handful of people working on it.

38 **Agenda Item 4, Cannabis Control Commission**

39 A couple meetings ago they decided they would have a local cannabis control commission for the
40 town. There were some details they needed to work out on who the members would be because
41 they had enough interest from citizens of the town, and it didn't need to be strictly a Selectboard
42 group. He thought it was nice to have 1 or 2 Selectboard members on it but at this time, they had

1 four citizens who volunteered to be on the commission. They received some relatively new
2 guidance information from the state Cannabis Control Board, but it really wasn't much different
3 from what they already knew as far as the powers and authority they would have. It still seemed
4 limited, and he thought it was specifically made that way by the state when the law passed and that
5 it would not be treated differently than any retail establishment. Arne told the board members in
6 their packets they had a sample resolution for a local cannabis control commission. It was giving
7 guidance on how they should word theirs to make it legal as far as the makeup goes and the
8 questions that must be answered as far as term lengths. The Selectboard would appoint the
9 members, the size, makeup, and term lengths of the board. The sample resolution was
10 straightforward that they would need to adopt to formalize the board. Some of the questions that
11 came up were what they wanted to do with the board as far as the makeup went. Arne said he
12 would entertain some comments or concerns or people's thoughts on how they should go about it
13 and what the board should be made up of. Leigh said a few people stepped forward and wanted to
14 be part of it and there was an example in something she had read about two Selectboard members
15 and some others from the community that would like to, so it made sense if it was the route they
16 wanted to go. Ben asked if they needed that much definition of who made up the board. A lot of
17 folks were expressing interest now but if they say only 2 Selectboard members can be on it and in
18 5 years they are at a point where they are with other positions in town, are they creating limitations
19 on being able to fill that board. Arne thought if that was an issue in the future, they could return it
20 back to the Selectboard if necessary. He thought if they had the enthusiasm and people were
21 volunteering, they should include them. But to Ben's point, he agreed. He thought the makeup and
22 size of the board could be modified in the future, if called for. He didn't know if there was a
23 minimum amount but wanted an odd number. They were hoping for 5. Julie thought they could
24 easily say be it further resolved, the local commission will be comprised of members of the
25 legislative body and members of the community. You could simply leave it like that. Ben hoped
26 people would continue to want to be involved. Heather thought it would be nice to interview like
27 they do for the other boards before they appoint people to get a gist of points of view and why they
28 want to be on it. Arne asked if they wanted one or two members from the Selectboard on it. Julie
29 said there were four community members who had expressed interest, as another member had
30 reached out. Arne suggested doing one member and, in the future, adding another Selectboard
31 member, if necessary. If they had three Selectboard members, it would change the dynamics of the
32 committee because then it would be a Selectboard meeting.

33 Shawn Cunningham asked if it was a town board that would be subject to meeting laws, warnings,
34 minutes, etc. Julie and Arnie agreed it would. Lee thought there were a variety of opinions about
35 the issue on the board. He suggested a minimum of two members and possibly one from each side
36 of the issue. Not that there was a lot of teeth or decisions the board would make but he thought
37 that fair representation should be considered. Arne thought they could get the resolution fine-tuned
38 so it applied to Chester more specifically. He asked how they wanted to deal with the length of
39 terms of service on the board, two-year, three-year, or just terms that are non-ending until they are
40 removed or resign. Heather thought term limits were a good thing and the longest they should be
41 is 3 years. The Selectboard had some one year and some three years, and she didn't know if they
42 wanted to confuse it like that. Julie said the Planning Commission and DRB are currently all 3
43 years. Julie said of the five members, they would need to alternate their appointment lengths going
44 in. Heather thought 3 years should be the longest. Lee asked if for the Selectboard member
45 appointments would be a yearly appointment. Julie suggested the Selectboard members be one-
46 year appointments since they rotate. Heather thought if it was too much for someone, they could

1 come back to the board and ask for someone else to step in. Lee thought one year for the
2 Selectboard members was appropriate. Julie clarified two one-year terms and the other three three-
3 year terms. Lee thought it made sense. Arne thought those were the big questions as far as the
4 resolution went and the other items were straightforward referencing the state statutes that apply
5 and what gives them the authority to act and how it works.

6 Julie asked if they wanted to interview at the next meeting. Arne said they would get the document
7 tuned up with the details specific to Chester and then they could formally adopt the resolution at
8 the next meeting with the wording. Arne said then the question would be volunteers from the
9 Selectboard. Lee asked who the fourth person was, and Julie said it was Susan Bailey. Lee and
10 Ben volunteered to be on the local commission. Leigh asked if they both had different points of
11 view. Ben thought they both had the same wants for Chester but had different approaches. Ben's
12 opinion going in was it was not by a huge margin, but the town voted to proceed with it, and they
13 needed to figure out a way to do it that works for everyone. Lee's opinion, based on what he is
14 reading from the state cannabis control commission, is this board would have very few
15 responsibilities and zero teeth. Arne thought it was important people be involved in the process
16 and part of what's going on and things may come up that nobody expected. When those issues
17 come up, it's important to have as many people involved from as many different perspectives as
18 you can to look at things. He thought Lee and Ben would be great. Heather said if people wanted
19 to jump in, she would be open to having it be a seven-member board and set it up to have a quorum
20 to vote on. Arne said it could be flexible. Lee thought they should define the specific duties and
21 roles of the commission before they start saying they need more members. Heather asked if they
22 should interview as soon as the next meeting. Lee thought so because the sooner they get the pieces
23 into place, the better. Ben asked if the two members of that board could be involved in the
24 interviewing. Julie said she would get clarification.

25 Susan asked if they would want resumes and Julie said typically, they ask for a letter of interest
26 and she would send out emails to the community members who were interested tomorrow.

27 They will have a draft of the resolution at the following meeting.

28 Tim Roper asked to see the proposed resolution. Arne said it may be on the state Cannabis Control
29 Board website because it was under their guidance document where they provided a sample
30 resolution. Tim was hoping to see the meeting packet and asked for an email once it was uploaded
31 so he could download it.

32 **Agenda Item 5, Public Nuisance Ordinance**

33 Arne questioned what their goal was. He wondered if they were trying to address a problem or a
34 future problem. He couldn't come up with an answer on why they were looking at it. He asked for
35 ideas or thoughts. Leigh said she was thinking public nuisance in the respect of properties that
36 Preston had addressed and had letters written to them, so she was thinking it was great, but her
37 question was who was in charge. She wondered was it the state or strictly the town if they were
38 talking about those properties.

39 Julie said Preston was looking at public nuisance regarding what was allowed under the cannabis
40 laws and should it be regulated under zoning or public nuisance. The properties that Leigh was
41 speaking of are covered under the salvage yard ordinance and they have the authority needed under
42 that ordinance. Leigh has had several calls from residents about the properties. Julie said the state
43 doesn't make it easy. Heather noted that even creating the ordinance took them a couple years.

1 When Heather was reading them, she thought one was created because someone went naked down
2 the street. Another one was completely toward noise. She thought they could have a general one
3 but there were a lot of different aspects to it. Leigh thought they had issues come up at different
4 times regarding loud music at night coming from a house.

5 To address Arne's question about what the point and purpose for any kind of nuisance ordinance
6 was, Lee thought they needed to go back to the master plan and what will be good for Chester and
7 how it presents itself to tourism and people that want to move here, and what they want to see on
8 The Green and downtown area. If they had a nuisance ordinance in place that allows them to
9 discriminate against types of businesses, he didn't think they wanted to see certain industries and
10 businesses that would promote those types of things that wouldn't be suitable for the town of
11 Chester, especially since they have a school, church, and public library right next door to The
12 Green. The point is if they aren't considering how they want to present themselves as the town of
13 Chester to people visiting or considering relocating here, they could end up with the downtown
14 area looking in ways they don't want. Without singling out any type of business or activity, they
15 need to be thoughtful about how to maintain the wholesome character of the downtown and Green
16 for the future. He didn't know how any of the ordinances they had examples of would work. He
17 was wondering how they maintain the quaint character of the town of Chester for the future.

18 Ben understood what Lee was saying but he took it as more of a zoning concept than having
19 anything to do with ordinances. As he read through them, they concerned Ben about what they
20 would implement in town if they were to create all those ordinances. If they enact them, they will
21 have to enforce them. Ben said the ones he read through talked about whistling loudly or singing
22 and in Stowe, it got a little more graphic as to what they were referring to. Heather said there were
23 also laws against that. Ben said in Vermont, they pretty much stated the law besides the ordinance.
24 Ben didn't have a problem creating an ordinance for those things but if they were talking about
25 cannabis and are concerned about locations, he felt that was more of a zoning ordinance. Lee said
26 they couldn't address it through zoning. Ben understood it was because they would be doing it
27 after the establishment. Ben said they should do their homework before creating a lot of
28 ordinances. It would be something he would caution against doing.

29 Julie noted when the Planning Commission sets forth the zoning regulations, they include
30 performance standards that cover odor, noise, and parking for any business that goes through a
31 conditional use. There was a layer of review through zoning if that helped.

32 Arne said they need to be sure that they don't single out cannabis. The state has been clear on that,
33 and they need to make sure they're clear also. The reason for the discussion wasn't because of
34 cannabis but a general type of question they had regarding nuisance ordinances because nuisance
35 ordinances were mentioned so many times in the documents regarding cannabis that were given
36 to them. It was more for an informational thing. Arne said these examples gave them an idea of
37 how they could be used for these specific types of things. Arne thought if they even talked about
38 it in a certain way and something came through the board as an ordinance, it may come back in a
39 lawsuit against them because they are directing an ordinance or a statement specifically toward
40 cannabis. They were past that point. The town voted for it overwhelmingly and anything they did
41 as far as nuisance ordinances needed to be general and apply to all retail, people, and citizens.

42 Leigh said when she was reading about the ordinances, and the information from Woodstock and
43 Burlington, it mentioned nothing about anything other than the way they set up what is considered
44 a nuisance. She couldn't figure out how it applied to them. That's why she asked if they got it

1 based on some properties in town being nuisances. Arne said a lot of the nuisance regulations
2 seemed to be based on public safety and the good of the collective community and seemed like the
3 justification but open to interpretation. Arne stated when you get to ordinances open to
4 interpretation it seemed like you were looking for a court case. Leigh agreed and said you were
5 looking for trouble and something that may not even exist on that kind of level in Chester.

6 Lee wasn't picking a fight but took issue with something Arne said about not being able to have a
7 hint of discussion about cannabis relative to regulations, nuisances, or ordinances. The reason they
8 were talking about it was the whole cannabis issue. If they can't talk about it for fear of a lawsuit
9 down the road, they are kicking the stool out from under them. Lee knew they were aware of his
10 feelings on the issue and that he didn't want it to pass. But it did and he can still voice his opinion.
11 He didn't think the state was being realistic in their handling of the issue with respect to timing
12 and the responsibility that the Selectboard has. He thought they should be careful not to hamstring
13 themselves because they were afraid of a lawsuit. He agreed with Arne and didn't want to go down
14 that road. He's representing the town of Chester and not everyone is feeling the same way some
15 people are. He asked how he represents his constituents if he can't talk about it. He wondered if
16 they could have an honest conversation about what is good for Chester and fits into the master
17 plan and how they present themselves to the outside world in a wholesome manner. He didn't think
18 they should pursue the nuisance ordinance issue because it wouldn't get them anywhere as the
19 state had made it very clear they couldn't regulate anything.

20 Arne said maybe he was too harsh when he said they couldn't speak about it at all. Heather thought
21 the issue was they didn't want to connect the two directly. She wasn't opposed to having a nuisance
22 ordinance but a lot of things like defacing a building, urinating, or defecating already had laws in
23 place against them. She wondered if things were already in place for noise in zoning and how were
24 they enforcing them.

25 There was discussion about what they would include in a nuisance ordinance, including smells.
26 Ben didn't disagree with the smell issue but if it was simply an annoyance, then all the dairy farms
27 in town would be in violation because they smell.

28 Julie said Susan from VLCT was putting together training. Arne said cannabis came up in so many
29 places that the VLCT would now have workshops and discussions and engage the towns and talk
30 about the issue in general to see how it applies and works. Julie would be at Montpelier at a board
31 meeting tomorrow and could see if there was a timeline. Arne thought a lot of the ordinances were
32 reactionary and to him, and for him, he didn't want to try to fix something that wasn't an issue.
33 The others agreed.

34 He asked for comments regarding the public nuisance ordinance discussion.

35 Barre Pinske said he had been represented by the ACLU three times. Once for his giant mailbox
36 in Cape Cod. What he was hearing was, throughout the history of people, sometimes they try to
37 regulate things through a moral compass and that's a difficult thing to do. He understood and
38 respected it, but it was something that doesn't fly in our country. He referenced the Larry Flint
39 movie about free speech arguments they made and had the church on the same side with them
40 being able to practice free speech and religion and all sorts of things. Without getting too
41 philosophical or esoteric, it isn't the government's job to regulate morality. Barre said as a
42 Planning Board member, they discuss a lot of these things, and it often comes down to economics.
43 They aren't going to have an issue with dancing in Chester because nobody is going to go there.
44 He thought it was angle with trying to do something with respect to the cannabis issue. If it was a

1 moral aspect they were trying to regulate, it was going to be an issue. Arne thanked Barre for his
2 comments.

3 Lee said to Barre's point, he appreciated what he brought up. Lee said the only thing they regulate
4 is morality, his or someone else's. You can't have rules or regulations without having some kind
5 of moral basis on which they're made, so Lee took some issue with that. He said it was whether it
6 was Barre's morality or Lee's or someone else's. That was all they regulate. Arne thought he tries
7 to keep morals out of it as much as can. He thought there was a lot to it. Lee said everyone has a
8 set of morals and whether they agree on them is a different story.

9 Lee said like Barre said, it's a philosophical issue. Barre said that was his point. That's why the
10 ACLU can get on both sides of issues because they try to protect freedoms. If you just stand on
11 one side and don't let the other people have the other side, we lose our freedoms and that's the
12 nature of it. Lee said that's why they have such a great democratic republic because they can have
13 the debates in a civil manner. Arne said instead of public nuisance ordinance maybe they should
14 have a moral nuisance ordinance. He said it sounds like they will let this slide for a while and see
15 what the VLCT brings forward.

16 They had solicited the examples of the ordinances. One addressed snowblowers and Heather said
17 they shouldn't be regulating how loud your snowblower is but Arne pointed out if it was 2 in the
18 morning, you may want to. Julie added unless you were the poor guy who could only do it at that
19 time. Arne said a lot of morals were being a good neighbor and person. Julie said she would share
20 any information from the VLCT.

21 **Agenda Item 6, Solar Field: Discussion regarding purchase**

22 Heather moved to authorize Julie to sign the Notice of Purchase Option for the solar field and Ben
23 seconded. Arne said it starts the timeframe of 120 days to get an appraisal. Julie said after the
24 appraisal, they have 30 days to get out of it and that just because they're executing the notice
25 doesn't mean they agree to buy it. Arne said they have an out if they want to use it. Julie said once
26 they have all the data, they can work through the details.

27 Lee said it is a much bigger solar field than he originally thought. It is a 500kw system instead of
28 a 150kw system. It is producing quite well and better than he anticipated. It has made a lot of
29 power. He said there is an online portal that displays the power production, and he could share that
30 with the other members. The warranty on the panels is 10 years and a 25-year linear warranty on
31 production. After 25 years, it will still be making 85% the amount of power. Each inverter has a
32 10-year warranty, and they are string invertors that can be replaced for less cost. More information
33 would be coming regarding the appraisal, and it will be presented to the board. Julie would be
34 meeting next week with Kelsey Woods who would explain to Julie the management side if they
35 sold power and what is involved. Julie needed to find out if they are obligated to continue giving
36 power to the two contracts. Arne thought if they could offer to citizens in town or the school and
37 help everyone locally would be good. If everything worked out, they could save a lot of money on
38 utility bills. Heather said 25 years was a long time to reap back the money. Lee tells his customers
39 7 to 10 years to pay for system then it's gravy after that. He saw it as a decent investment for the
40 town. Arne remembered back that it wasn't a unanimous decision, and it was good to look back
41 and know they made the right decision. Leigh would love to see it used with town businesses that
42 would benefit directly.

43 Bill Lindsay thanked the board for going forth with it. Bill said it wasn't easy serving on the board

1 at that time and they all took their licks differently, but they all remained friends even with the
2 tough decisions that had to be made and he was glad they went forward. He used an analogy at the
3 time about television antennas. He commuted to NYC and some of the sections they went through
4 weren't the most prestigious but the antennas on top of the buildings were amazing. Today, the
5 antennas are no longer there. He believed electronics will improve and they all know that energy
6 power will come from solar. He recently built and home and opted for propane, as it was the best
7 deal at the time. The payback at his age is too long for solar and he wouldn't live for the benefit
8 but there are many people who will live. He thought the solar panels may be ugly but was people's
9 concern about having the town hooked into solar. He was glad the board was pursuing it. There
10 are two schools in town and suggested selling the electricity to ourselves rather than someone else.

11 Arne asked if there were any more comments and there were none.

12 **Agenda Item 7, Liquor License Approval, Smitty's Chester Market**

13 Smitty's Chester Market had an application for a second-class license. Arne state there was a little
14 more information than usual in the packets. There were some concerns, but they were addressed
15 by Smitty's and the state is satisfied with the responses regarding this issue and license. The Chief
16 is okay with everything. The education part is up to snuff. And everything that was of a concern
17 to them was okay. Julie spoke with legal counsel today and they were okay.

18 The members signed the above licenses.

19 **Agenda Item 8, Annual Financial Plan and Certificate of Compliance**

20 It was annual paperwork regarding the roads and how much they spend on them and making sure
21 they are spending the bare minimum. Julie said they didn't need a motion and only required a
22 signature. The members signed.

23 **Agenda Item 9, Cemetery Deed**

24 The members signed the deed.

25 **Agenda Item 10, New Business/Next Agenda**

26 Leigh asked if the meeting would be scheduled with the two Selectboard members and three
27 community members for the local cannabis control commission. She asked how they were going
28 to do it and Julie said they asked for it to be on the next agenda where they would interview and
29 do the resolution.

30 Heather proposed they discuss their thoughts on the police advisory committee and Jim Baker's
31 thoughts on the timeline so they can inform people that they haven't forgotten about it. Arne
32 thought it was possible to start the process because it will take a while. Leigh agreed. Heather said
33 they could ask the entire board if that's what they wanted. Arne said they could have it as an agenda
34 item and have a more depth discussion about what direction they want to go and how they want to
35 go forward. Heather thought the last time they discussed it they wanted an advisory committee as
36 opposed to oversight, but they hadn't put it in stone and maybe they could rehash it. Julie said the
37 direction she was given when it was discussed last time was that they were going to wait until the
38 assessment was completed and that's why she had waited. Ben wanted to confirm Jim Baker was
39 retired Colonel Baker and Julie said he was. Ben asked if Julie could find out from him if they
40 should be waiting for the assessment to be completed. Ben said he was new to the topic and wanted
41 to make an informed decision. Julie said he was on vacation next week and was wrapping up two
42 other towns and would be available for Chester at the end of May. She had shared a document way

1 back with the board of what she wanted accomplished through the assessment. He wanted direction
2 of what they want accomplished through the assessment. She had spoken with him as recently as
3 today. He said the advisory committee discussion could be part of the whole assessment. His first
4 question to her she couldn't answer. It was whether most of the community wanted a police
5 advisory committee. She has only heard from one person, so she didn't know. This was one of the
6 pieces the assessment would discuss, getting the community involved and learning what it wants
7 from its police department. Julie said the conversation would be started internally on May 26th
8 with the first session, but the assessment will be doing it too. She thought by saying they want a
9 police advisory committee before the community says they want one would be jumping ahead.
10 She had only heard from one person although was not opposed to it. Julie said there was great
11 value in having an advisory committee, but she wanted it guided.

12 Arne asked to have the discussion at the next meeting so they can talk about it in depth.

13 Lee said it brought up another topic of discussion. He asked how, as a town, they would get
14 information out to the community and how did they receive their input. He thought there was a
15 slow transfer of information but how did they reach the entire community. It was an issue that
16 needed to be addressed. Julie stated they would be hosting some community events. Heather
17 wanted it on the agenda so people knew about it and could come and engage. Lee asked if they
18 were soliciting comments. People may have thoughts but don't know who to tell. Arne said
19 whenever anything is on the agenda, citizen input is welcome. He thought they were open to
20 making sure people helped them with their discussions. Just having it on the agenda welcomes
21 people to come and discuss it. Over the years they have struggled to get people involved. And after
22 a decision is made, people turn around and say they weren't part of it. It is tough. Lee said The
23 Telegraph advertises meetings as soon as they're available. Julie said they would do up a flyer for
24 May 26th and considered asking The Telegraph or Vermont Journal if they would do an article as
25 they get closer. They would ask for questions from people who are unable to attend. This would
26 be about what they would like to see from their police, ambulance, and fire departments. Heather
27 and Leigh thought it was a great idea. Lee suggested they include town highway at some point.
28 Julie said they would, but these were the three services struggling the most in society. Julie said
29 Jim had recommended this a while ago. Heather said it was perfect timing with the new building.
30 Arne mentioned he had seen some training at the new building, and it was nice to be able to take
31 pride in the building where you were hosting an organization.

32 Leigh wondered, regarding the folks they had heard from at the prior Selectboard meeting, if any
33 monitoring of speed had been done. Julie said the Regional Planning had done speed studies. She
34 hadn't heard but would follow up.

35 Leigh said the Chester Snowmobile Club wrote a lovely letter and were thankful to the people who
36 have allowed them on their properties. They would have a BBQ at the gazebo on Lovers Lane on
37 June 18th and she wondered if the town could get the word out. Julie said it was for the landowners.

38 **Agenda Item 11, Adjourn**

39 Lee moved and Ben seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the
40 meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.