

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

**TOWN OF CHESTER  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
March 20, 2024, Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Lee Gustafson, Arne Jonynas, Arianna Knapp, and Peter Hudkins at Town Hall; and Tim Roper via Zoom.

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

**Visitors Present:** Bill Lindsay, Shawn Cunningham, Evan Parks, Hugh Quinn, Lori Quinn, Paul Bidgood, Jeff Holden, Gavin McMorrow of Chester Telegraph, at Town Hall; and Joy Slaughter, Derek, Jerene Slivinsky, Robert Nied, and SAPA TV via Zoom.

**Call to Order**

Chair Arne Jonynas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

**Agenda Item 1, Addition or Deletions**

Arne wanted to add an executive session for deliberation at the end of the meeting after new business as someone else threw their name into the hat for the Planning Commission appointment.

Tim wanted to revisit the discussion about adding an extension of the moratorium for STR registrations because going through the minutes, he was reminded that Cathy Hasbrouck saw about nine STRs that appeared to be operating in Chester and were unregistered. With that in mind, if those people registered before the amended ordinance was approved and enforced, they would not be subject to it for this year. Arne said it wasn't on the agenda, but they could quickly discuss it under old business to see what direction they wanted to go but couldn't act on it until the next meeting. Tim understood and thanked him. Julie said it was slated to be brought up at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and was hopeful Jim would have his review completed by then. Preston had informed Julie there was not a stack of applicants waiting if the moratorium was lifted for 2 days. Tim said it wouldn't take effect until 30 days after it was approved and that was his concern, but he would wait and discuss it under old business.

**Agenda Item 2, Approve Minutes from the Previous Selectboard Meeting**

Arianna moved and Peter seconded a motion to approve the March 6, 2024, Selectboard meeting minutes. Tim said page 5, line 19 should read Preston and not Peter said. Peter said it was he who had said it. Tim stood corrected. A vote was taken. Lee abstained as he was not at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The minutes were approved, as written.

**Agenda Item 3, Citizens Comments/Answers from Previous Meeting**

There were none.

1 **Agenda Item 4, Old Business**

2  
3 Legislative Update

4 Julie said Heather would have been at this meeting but because it was crossover week, she would  
5 be at the second meeting in April to provide legislative update.  
6

7 Solar

8 Julie heard back from Greenbacker today telling her they received her email that was sent 1 ½  
9 months earlier, and that she has a different contact which she thought may help. Arne wondered  
10 what they could do to move it along. Julie thought the new contact would be more responsive.  
11

12 Vermont Community Foundation

13 They have reached out to municipalities most impacted by the flood and want to give Chester  
14 money. They wrote up two pots for money. One is a community event that brings people together  
15 post flood. In working with the Police Department, they decided it would be a great tool for  
16 National Night Out, a nationwide annual event put on by the Department of Public Safety. They  
17 received a little over \$11,000 to be used toward that event. It will help purchase an outdoor PA  
18 system, outdoor projector, and screen, two commercial grade tents, and chairs and tables, all of  
19 which can be used for town events. The other pot of money is \$13,000 that can be used to start up  
20 the CERT program and pay to outfit 20 members with PPE they need and provide the salaries of  
21 Chester people to do the training.  
22

23 Short-Term Rentals

24 Arne said they would make sure it was on the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting agenda. Arne, Julie, and Preston  
25 understood that extending the moratorium would stay in effect as an extension. Arianna questioned  
26 if the moratorium expired April 1<sup>st</sup> would it go back to original ordinance if they didn't extend the  
27 moratorium. Preston said he does not have a stack of applicants. Arianna clarified that the fire  
28 inspection for occupants 8 and less would be retroactive and they would have to provide that  
29 certification. Julie is still waiting to hear from Landon about the fire inspection.  
30

31 **Agenda Item 5, Planning Commission Appointments**

32  
33 Hugh Quinn and Cathy Hasbrouck from the Planning Commission were present. Arne said the  
34 Commission had a remainder of a 3-year term that expired March 2026. There were two  
35 candidates, Jeff Holden and Gavin McMorrow, interested in completing that term.  
36

37 Jeff Holden is a lifelong resident and has worked for the town for 34 years has a lot of experience  
38 with utilities, water, and wastewater, as Superintendent, and was what he could bring to the table  
39 to help grow Chester. He hasn't been to a lot of Planning Commission meetings but could be  
40 brought up to speed quickly given his experience.  
41

42 Peter said the Commission is starting to work on the rural districts and working lands. Peter said  
43 Jeff had experience in forests and lands and Chester is 50% current use so a lot of it was working  
44 lands and wondered how Jeff's experience would help. Jeff has had land in current use for some  
45 time that was a dairy farm and the last 28 years had been a vegetable farm and hayfields. Jeff knew  
46 how farmland helps the community and keeps it rural. Being involved in the village utilities, Jeff

1 knew you could only expand and grow with your capabilities. If they're not ready for that and  
2 overextend, it creates more problems. He knew they had lands that would be great for residential  
3 development and were fairly close to the utilities and thought using them would spread out the tax  
4 pressure on other properties and everyone would benefit. Arne was happy Jeff had shown interest  
5 and appreciated the work he did for the town. A lot of the conversations the Planning Commission  
6 was having involved infrastructure which Jeff had a lot of knowledge about.

7  
8 Gavin MacMorrow who had just submitted his interest said he moved to Chester three years ago  
9 and was from the Peru/Manchester area. He hadn't been a full-time Vermont resident his entire  
10 life but a good portion of it. For three years, he has dealt with a few things in Chester and attended  
11 some meetings. He had dealings with current use because of his property and his neighbors are  
12 too, so he had dealt with the foresters and loggers regarding those changes. Outside of that, he had  
13 no sense of history in town management or related and said Jeff would have better knowledge in  
14 those areas. Gavin said his application was at the last minute and he hadn't had much time to  
15 discuss it or think it through but was happy to answer questions and see what it would involve and  
16 if he would be willing to help and had the time.

17  
18 Arianna thanked him for coming in and asked if he had served on a committee or board or done  
19 volunteer work. He had not but had an engineering background and knowledge with programs in  
20 land management. He had technical background but not specifically with board conversations.

21  
22 Tim apologized for not being there in person but wasn't feeling well. He asked Gavin to expand  
23 on his background. Gavin said he had a degree in mechanical engineering. Prior to moving to  
24 Chester, he was in a managerial position unrelated to anything it would encompass. Gavin is a  
25 contractor and is relatively busy this time of year and wanted an understanding of how much time  
26 was required before committing. Tim said that was helpful and he and Arne thanked him.

27  
28 Hugh Quinn recently completed his first three-year term in the Planning Commission. Over the  
29 past three years, they made incremental and purposeful progress updating the bylaws. Hugh said  
30 the reason they've been able to do that largely is because they have great subject matter experts in  
31 their Town Planner and support from Regional Planning. All the Commission members have a  
32 voice, collaborate, work together well, and respect everyone's point of view and opinions when  
33 making decisions. They get input from different community members who engage to make sure  
34 they're representing all constituents, whether it is the business community or folks interested in  
35 different kinds of housing opportunities for young families or seniors. Although they didn't get a  
36 lot of input, it was enough to help guide their decisions. They've been able to complete starting  
37 from the center and moving out: the Village Green and the Village Center; they've updated all the  
38 core foundational components of the bylaws and remaining is finishing the work in the rural  
39 districts. Hugh wanted to be reappointed to help finish the work.

40  
41 Lee asked who was on the Planning Commission now. Hugh said it was Cathy Hasbrouck, John  
42 Cummings, Barre Pinske, and himself. Arne said John Cummings had been out 3 or 4 months for  
43 fire training and would be back next month. Hugh said they had been operating as a four-member  
44 commission for the past 3 or 4 months. Hugh had reached out to John who is completing training  
45 in April and was eager to come back with the team. Tim thanked Hugh for his service and  
46 leadership and thought he had made a big difference in their effectiveness and was appreciated.

1 Cathy Hasbrouck also had served for three years. She does a lot of digging and gathering  
2 information and tries to link people to bring expertise together. Because she sits outside Preston's  
3 office, she can lob things in on occasion. Cathy said when she and Hugh joined, they planned to  
4 start in the center and work out and it had worked well. They've weathered a lot of controversy,  
5 and they were concerned about the issues that would come up in the rural districts, but they've  
6 forged a working team, so the issues don't look as insurmountable as they had three years ago. She  
7 wanted to see it through and what else may be coming. Arne thanked Cathy.

8  
9 Arne said they appreciated them for their work and what they've done for the town. In addition to  
10 the bylaws, they've helped the town with the short-term rentals. Arne said they were almost to an  
11 ordinance that would satisfy most people and thought the final document would be good. Arne  
12 said Cathy seemed like she attended all the meetings doing a lot of the work and was at Town Hall  
13 frequently and was much appreciated. Tim also thanked Cathy for her work and said she had an  
14 eye for detail and the ability to dig up information. A lot of times she doesn't say much but when  
15 she does, it's useful and Tim appreciated her time and contributions.

16  
17 Hugh said the Commission was down a member because the citizens of Chester elected to put Tim  
18 Roper on the Selectboard. Hugh thanked Tim for his work on the Commission and would figure  
19 out how to fill the gap and keep things moving. Tim thanked Hugh for his kind remarks. Arne  
20 thanked Hugh.

21  
22 Arne said appointments would happen after the executive session later in the meeting.

### 23 24 **Agenda Item 6, DRB Appointments**

25  
26 They were looking at three 3-year terms and the folks who were sitting in those positions wanted  
27 to get reappointed and nobody was opposing them. It was Scott MacDonald for a three-year term  
28 expiring March 2027, Gary Coger a three-year term expiring March 2027, and Larry Semones as  
29 an alternate on a three-year term expiring March 2027. Arianna moved to approve the slate of three  
30 candidates for the DRB and Lee seconded the motion. Arne said the DRB Board was an excellent  
31 board who had been involved in a lot of controversial stuff and a lot of different permits had been  
32 coming forward to them and they did a professional thorough job. It was good they had a team like  
33 them because they are a town of record and some of their proceedings can be used in court because  
34 of the way they were handled and the designation they had. It was great they wanted to continue  
35 for another term. Arne said Scott was relatively new, but Gary and Larry had been on the board  
36 for more than a couple terms. There was a lot of experience, and a learning curve and if you're  
37 willing to learn and want to take the time, it works out well. Lee thanked them for being a part of  
38 the group. The motion carried unanimously.

### 39 40 **Agenda Item 7, Citizen Advisory Committee**

41  
42 There was one position and Mike LeClair was willing to stay on for another three-year term that  
43 expires in March of 2027. It's a relatively new committee so most of the members are new. They  
44 staggered appointments so they had a rotation of members. Mike had completed the appointment  
45 originally filled by Samantha Bailey. Lee moved and Arianna seconded to appoint Mike LeClair  
46 for a three-year term expiring in March of 2027. The motion carried unanimously. Arne thanked

1 Mike LeClair for volunteering and helping the town.  
2

### 3 **Agenda Item 8, Housing Commission Appointments** 4

5 The appointments weren't specific to a person but where they came from. The Regional Planning  
6 Commission has one representative with a 3-year term who has been Jason Rasmussen but could  
7 be anyone. Peter said Jason had been bringing more than one person to meetings. Julie noted that  
8 Chris Eggleton was starting to take over the housing piece so at some point, it would likely just be  
9 Chris. Arne asked if Peter was a member of the Commission, and he said no that he just attends  
10 any meeting he wants. The Regional Planning member was a three-year appointment expiring in  
11 March 2027. Arne asked Hugh, the Chair of the Planning Commission and representative, how the  
12 housing commission was doing. Hugh said so far, it was a huge challenge to solve housing  
13 problems in the community, but the commission team has an attitude of getting things done now  
14 and how to execute and he thought it was working. Lee asked Hugh if he could give an update at  
15 a future meeting and Hugh said he wasn't the chair of that commission, but they could arrange for  
16 an update, which was a great idea. Julie would arrange that. It had only been a few months and  
17 they were a great group and had different state agencies coming to visit. ACCD will be coming to  
18 do the housing tool kit. VLCT's Josh Hanford, who was formerly the Commissioner of Housing  
19 for the state, will be coming in May. Bill Lindsay, who is on the Housing Commission, said the  
20 current attitude is they don't have a lot of information and were working slowly to get the  
21 information out there. Bill said there was room to add another member to the commission and  
22 wanted Peter to be added given his expertise regarding engineering and he knows the land 100  
23 times better than Bill. Bill said sometimes a piece of land seems suitable for housing but then you  
24 learn it's not suitable for water and sewer. Bill didn't think Peter had ever missed a meeting and  
25 recommended the board look at the bylaws to add Peter as a member. Arne and Lee thanked Bill.  
26 Arne entertained a motion to appoint two 3-year terms for the Regional Planning Commission and  
27 the Planning Commission for representation on the Housing Commission. Arianna moved and Lee  
28 seconded a motion to appoint two 3-year terms. Lee asked if they should discuss adding another  
29 member now or wait until another meeting. Julie said their conflict-of-interest policy would not  
30 allow a Selectboard member to serve on another commission and that's why Peter wasn't a  
31 member of the Housing Commission. The motion carried unanimously. Peter noted he enjoys  
32 attending both the Housing and Advisory Commissions and participates as an audience member.  
33

### 34 **Agenda Item 9, Paper of Record** 35

36 Arne said the Vermont Journal and Chester Telegraph both do a good job in the areas they excel  
37 in, and they've been fortunate to have both as their paper of record because they catch a lot of folks  
38 including those online with the Chester Telegraph and those who read the Vermont Journal which  
39 is delivered to every home in the area. Some people still want a physical paper, and, in Arne's  
40 house, they get both papers, one online and a physical paper. There has been a small increase in  
41 rates, like everything else. Arne offered Shawn Cunningham, who was in attendance, the  
42 opportunity to speak and he declined. Arne noted the discussion was much calmer than in recent  
43 years and appreciated that. Arne entertained a motion to appoint the Vermont Journal and the  
44 Chester Telegraph to be their papers of record for the next year. Lee moved and Arianna seconded  
45 the motion. The motion passed unanimously.  
46



1 sure. Arne and Julie said they would have to be the authority behind anything that happened and  
2 not the Conservation Committee. Julie said the Selectboard is also the road commissioners.  
3 Arianna wanted to do a couple miles to figure out the process before turning it over to the  
4 commission. Lee thought Peter's point was if they took too long in the process before identifying  
5 all the roads, it would be a concern later. Peter said as soon as it's identified as a Class IV road,  
6 people think they can run their four-wheelers on it and the Orange Book allows that but in reality,  
7 Vermont state law requires written permission or identification by the town. Arne said when they  
8 saw how the process works, the information would be out there if there was concern and it would  
9 be good to maintain communication about it. Arne didn't want to start the process by butting heads  
10 with people and wanted to do it so it wasn't confrontational and would foster good intentions and  
11 goodwill between property owners and the town. Arne said some of the Class IV roads are gated  
12 and some people think it's their property and he wasn't sure how it got to that point. Lee referenced  
13 the map that was available and asked for links. Peter said it was the state certified mileage map.  
14 Arne said it was the one they certified a couple months ago and online. Peter tested it out and  
15 thought it was pretty accurate. Arne was more than willing to go to the Conservation Committee  
16 and have a conversation. Arianna clarified they should identify Class IV roads and not only trails,  
17 but 3 miles for them to begin the process. Arne said the Ancient Road Program back in 2006 to  
18 2010 took their Class IV roads and turned them all into trails because they lose their maintenance  
19 requirements if it's a trail as opposed to a Class IV road. They wouldn't have to maintain it and  
20 make it passable. Arne didn't see many of the Class IV roads turning into roads again and by being  
21 trails, it would help with maintenance. Tim liked what Arianna was saying regarding identification  
22 but suggested tweaking it to say Class IV roads or the beginning of 3 or 4 roads. Tim didn't think  
23 picking 3 or 4 miles of one road would inform them as much as picking 3 or 4 different roads and  
24 looking at them separately made more sense and asked Arianna if she agreed. Arianna said that's  
25 what she expected the Conservation Committee to come back with. Peter had done a list of roads  
26 classifying which were snowmobile trails, which were not, and which had sole access to properties  
27 and there were quite a lot, and ones that connect with other towns and whether they were Class IV  
28 roads or trails. Arne added there was a wealth of information online by searching Vermont Class  
29 IV roads and ancient roads that will produce guidelines, studies, and reports and legislative  
30 procedures on reclassification. They gave up a road on the Quarry Road 2 or 3 years ago and there  
31 was a process with hearings and meetings and input from citizens. Arne thought it was an important  
32 resource and wanted to make sure to use it and preserve it and it's established for the future as a  
33 road or trail and avoid disputes that sometimes come up. Trails like Butternut and Lost Mine are  
34 extremely popular in town, and this would add more. They connect one part of town with another  
35 and can be used for bicycling and hiking. Lee was looking at the 2023 PDF map and in his  
36 neighborhood of Williams Road and Nudist Camp a description said Nuts and Lee wondered if it  
37 meant you had to be nuts to drive on it because it looked like a dead-end road.

38  
39 Hugh Quinn said, as a citizen, he would support any activity to help identify these Class IV roads  
40 and mark them because, as a community member, he and his wife hike and cycle a lot and  
41 sometimes they're pretty sure it's a Class IV road they can use but if they're unsure, it's  
42 intimidating because they don't know and possible conflict with a landowner. If they were able to  
43 identify them and people felt comfortable using them, he saw a lot of community interest. Arne  
44 thanked him. Peter said, in theory, they are and there were previous board members who had paid  
45 attention to Class IV roads to make sure they were open, but it had fallen by the wayside, and it  
46 was time to bring them back. Tim envisioned signage at the heads of those roads at some point and

1 as Peter pointed out, indicating whether they were open to four-wheelers.

2  
3 Evan Parks of the Chester Conservation Committee supported any efforts to maintain their rights-  
4 of-way and possibly make them into hiking trails. He had the experience of being on a Class IV  
5 road and having a conflict with someone on the road. It was unpleasant and he wanted to avoid  
6 that. The CCC had helped with the tree survey, a long-term project that took time to complete but  
7 they were ready to work if they could help in any way. The board thanked him.

8  
9 Arne said it was the consensus they would do something but a matter of how and he would bring  
10 it up at the April CCC meeting and thought they would be on board with it, as they had loosely  
11 discussed it. They are a committee and not a commission which is a town appointed entity that  
12 must follow more stringent guidelines and a committee is not. They meet at 5 to 6 at the library.  
13 Arne said if board members wanted to attend, they could warn it. Arne thought it may be a good  
14 idea to have a joint meeting. Lee thought it was a good idea and thanked Arne for bringing it up.

### 15 16 **Agenda Item 12, Sign Tax Anticipation Note**

17  
18 Julie said they do a TAN every year. Chester is on a calendar year and doesn't generate revenue  
19 until July when tax bills are issued and operates for 6 months or so in arrears and often, they must  
20 borrow a TAN that bridges them through until they bring in tax revenue and pay off the TAN at  
21 the end of the year when the revenue is received. This year they are looking to borrow \$1 million,  
22 which is standard. The past few years they have borrowed less because of the \$900,000 in ARPA  
23 funds and they had large construction projects and could play with the cash. The TAN would be  
24 paid back by December, but likely sooner to save on interest. Peter asked about a line of credit and  
25 Julie explained the LOC interest is much higher than that for a TAN. She said one of the reasons  
26 they need \$1 million this year is because of the December storm. There was supposed to be an  
27 amazing program and the bond bank was going to save all who had flooded. The IRS and bond  
28 rules came into play which really changed the program. They had \$39 million worth of requests  
29 for \$15 million available, so they did a proration and Chester ended up with \$303,000, which was  
30 not a tremendous help. Then a rule came in that allowed them to use the \$303,000 to pay toward  
31 the current expense note which for Chester, is \$1.9 million. They then added that as FEMA  
32 reimbursement was received, 50% of the reimbursement received must go toward paying off the  
33 bond within 45 days. Julie spoke with Eli Emerson, the town's bond attorney, and told him it would  
34 cause more administrative headache and wasn't worth it and he replied he was nervous that the \$1  
35 million TAN may become difficult at the end of June because there are still construction projects  
36 going on from the storm. They have expenses they don't normally have this time of year. While  
37 they will all get reimbursed, it doesn't help them currently. Eli suggested instead of a \$300,000  
38 refundable bond meaning it is financed over a 7-year period, they take \$300,000 current expense  
39 bond and then they wouldn't have a timeline to pay it back. She still wanted to do it, so it was there  
40 in reserve. There's no interest accumulated until she draws it. Julie liked that rather than requesting  
41 another \$300,000 in June on the TAN because it has a 5% interest rate and the bond's interest rate  
42 is 1.3%. She understood it was more loans, but anything associated with the flood would all be  
43 paid back through FEMA reimbursements, which are now starting to flow. FEMA has had a  
44 changeover with the head of their division, which has helped. FEMA is 8 weeks behind and staffing  
45 they have to pay for so the new person has streamlined and said they're going back to the way it  
46 was done with Irene which means Julie won't need to upload every piece of paper but will retain

1 them in the off chance she is audited. She expected money to flow soon. Lee confirmed there were  
2 no strings attached to the FEMA reimbursement. Arne said if FEMA came in earlier and in larger  
3 amounts, it would help with the cash flow.

4  
5 Arne entertained a motion to approve the Town of Chester Tax/Revenue Anticipation Note dated  
6 March 20<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$1 million and a Town of Chester Certificate Tax/Revenue  
7 Anticipation of Borrowing Note and a Town of Chester Resolution Tax/Revenue Anticipation  
8 Borrowing. Arianna moved and Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The  
9 members signed the necessary documents.

### 10 11 **Agenda Item 13, Sign Bond Documents**

12  
13 Arne entertained a motion to authorize the Chair to sign a loan agreement for the Municipal  
14 Climate Recovery Fund dated March 26, 2024, in the amount of \$303,000. Arianna moved, and  
15 Lee seconded the motion authorizing the Chair to sign the bond note. The motion passed  
16 unanimously.

17  
18 Arne entertained a motion to approve the United States of America, State of Vermont, Town of  
19 Chester general obligation note from the Vermont Bond Bank in the amount of \$303,000. Lee  
20 moved and was seconded by Arianna. The motion passed unanimously. The members signed.

21  
22 Lee moved and Arianna seconded a motion for the Resolution and Certificate for a bond in the  
23 amount of \$303,000. The motion passed unanimously. The members signed.

24  
25 Arianna moved and Lee seconded a motion authorizing Julie Hance as Town Manager as  
26 representative to draw the bonds from the bond bank when needed and giving the Chair  
27 authorization to sign. The motion passed unanimously. The Chair signed the paperwork.

### 28 29 **Agenda Item 14, Sign Cemetery Deed**

30 They signed the deed.

### 31 32 **Agenda Item 15, Town Manager Contract Approval**

33  
34 Julie has been in the position for four years. Their evaluation has ended, and they offered her a  
35 new contract for 3 years. All members of the Selectboard are pleased with her performance and  
36 continue to appreciate her knowledge, her enthusiasm, high energy, and expertise. Her leadership  
37 skills are strong and communicates well with the board, town employees, and citizens. She is well  
38 organized and follows through on her commitments. That was basically the first paragraph of her  
39 evaluation. They appreciate what she has done for the town and will do in the future. Arne stated  
40 from another paragraph of the evaluation, they continue to strive to bring Julie's salary up to par  
41 with her peers across the state. They wanted to increase her salary to \$99,100, which is an 8%  
42 increase and the current calculations for benefits would be on par with 2023. Part of the task of the  
43 Selectboard was to get her up to par with others in her field and they were close to achieving that.  
44 It was a jump but a jump the board agreed on.

45  
46 Lee moved and Peter seconded the motion to approve Julie's contract. The members thanked Julie

1 for her service and Julie thanked the board. The motion passed unanimously.

2  
3 **Agenda Item 16, New Business/Next Agenda**  
4

5 Naomi will review the Wastewater Asset Management Plan which has been approved by the state.  
6 The lead line inventory is complete, and she will brief the board and let them know where they are  
7 with the secondary well source at Jeffrey Field. They are ready to file an application to start  
8 construction for the force main and First Avenue pump station. For the Asset Management Plan,  
9 Naomi did another piece which was enough to skip one phase of engineering and go to the final  
10 design. Currently, there is a program where Chester can receive 50% forgiveness or up to \$250,000  
11 per year and then it tapers down from there. It's a good time and a needed project and Jeff is very  
12 concerned about the stability of the pipe, as is Peter. Julie said they could receive quite a bit of  
13 state aid to help with the project, so it was a good time to do it. Naomi will present that as well.  
14

15 They will discuss updates to the Public Safety Fire Chief position and Community Health Program.  
16

17 Peter asked if Naomi would go through the rest of the bad points of the sewer. Julie said she would  
18 review the Asset Management Plan which included that. Arne clarified that the cost of the force  
19 main would be borne by the water and sewer customers and Julie agreed and that was why they  
20 wanted to receive as much funding as possible. Both the wastewater and water departments have  
21 healthy fund balances, and this was why. They will do an analysis after they figure out what they  
22 can receive from state funds and figure out what they need to borrow.  
23

24 Arne asked to include the Class IV roads on the next agenda.  
25

26 Arianna asked to have Cannabis Commission on one of the meetings in April.  
27

28 Peter asked to have Jeffrey Barn and Julie suggested at the second meeting in April. Arne said it  
29 would be an interesting conversation and a tough thing to decide what to do with.  
30

31 Tim said it has come up tonight and once before and they have two different committees that three  
32 Selectboard members are involved with and wondered if there was a way to streamline warning  
33 them or do a blanket warning. Arne said they mentioned it and would warn the next one and would  
34 take a poll as they got closer to see who would be attending. Julie said she can't do a blanket  
35 warning as it had to be done every time.  
36

37 Lee moved Arianna seconded a motion to enter executive session to discuss Planning Commission  
38 appointments. Arne told Julie she was welcome to stay but didn't need to. The motion passed  
39 unanimously.  
40

41 (Executive session entered at 8:07 p.m.)  
42

43 Lee moved and Arianna seconded a motion to end the executive session. The motion carried.  
44

45 (Executive session exited at 8:16 p.m.)  
46

1 A motion was made by Lee and seconded by Arianna to reappoint Cathy Hasbrouck to a 3-year  
2 term ending March 2027, Hugh Quinn to a 3-year term ending March 2027, and appoint Jeff  
3 Holden to the unexpired 3-year term ending March 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

4  
5  
6

**Agenda Item 17 Adjourn**

7 Lee moved to adjourn, and Peter seconded a motion to adjourn. A vote was taken, and the motion  
8 passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

DRAFT