

TOWN OF CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

August 21, 2019
Minutes

PRESENT: Heather Chase; Lee Gustafson; Leigh Dakin; Ben Whalen; David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Shawn Cunningham; Bill Lindsay; Lillian Willis; Jeff Holden; Sharon Huntley

1. TOUR THE ACADEMY BUILDING:

The Selectboard toured the Academy Building with Harry Goodell from the Chester Historical Society.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION; DISCUSSION WITH JIM GOSS:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to find that the public disclosure of attorney/client communication regarding the draft ACT 250 application for the municipal gravel project will necessarily involve communications of and relating to the specific terms of said application, disclosure of which could place the Town of Chester at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(A) for the purposes of discussions with the town's attorney relating to the draft ACT 250 application for the municipal gravel project. I further move that the Selectboard finds that the public disclosure of the discussions could place the town at a disadvantage. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to exit Executive Session at 7:31 pm. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

The Board gave approval for submittal of the ACT 250 and Development Review Board applications for the town's gravel extraction pit.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Arne Jonynas. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

3. APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by BenWhalen to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2019 Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Bill Lindsay thanked the Board for visiting the Academy Building. The Board confirmed that the Academy Building and assessment will be discussed at a future meeting. Mr. Lindsay stated that the curtains need to be reinstalled on the windows because the photographs and films are light sensitive. They were removed when the windows were repaired.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

EMS Building: David Pisha stated that he is hopeful that the drawings will be completed very soon and passed on to Russell Construction. Craig Russell confirmed that pricing should be received by September 9. A mailing is also being prepared to mail to Chester residents. David Pisha also stated that the mailer will include information meeting dates. He confirmed that a bond vote is still on schedule for late fall, as of this date. Pricing could change that deadline if there are adjustments needed.

Arne Jonynas questioned the status of addressing the traffic on Church Street. David Pisha stated that the Chief has assigned an officer on each shift to spend 1 hour on Church Street. He has provided data to David Pisha that the speeding is not as bad as indicated. However, the location of the sign may not be picking up the primary speeders. Arne Jonynas stated that a suggestion was given to him to make Meadow and Church Street intersection a 3-way stop. There were some concerns that a stop sign at that location could cause accidents. David Pisha will look into this with the Police Chief.

6. INFORMATION BOOTH UPDATE:

A new proposal was provided by Dufresne Group for a single pump and tank. The cost of this proposal is \$18,000. Jeff Holden stated that the only change is the removal of one pump. Arne Jonynas stated that regardless of which direction the sewer line heads, there will be digging near the Oak Tree. He suggested that if the Oak Tree is going to need to be removed, it would be best to do the least expensive method. Leigh Dakin questioned the hours of the information booth. Julie Hance responded that it is open May through October from 8:00 a.m. until dark.

Heather Chase expressed her concern that the Board only approved pumping a couple of times per year and now we are pumping it 9-10 times per year. Discussion ensued regarding the usage of the building. The Board also discussed the potential future use of the Academy Building for restrooms.

Jeff Holden indicated that he does not have time this year for this project. There have been issues arise this year that were unanticipated. Jeff Holden stated that he has also received his report on the WW plant visit. He indicated that it was a good visit with a few recommendations. The Board asked David Pisha to provide this to the Board for their information. It does not need to go on the next agenda.

The Board asked that Julie Hance not put the restroom sign out advertising the bathrooms. The Board will also look into the potential of the Academy Building bathrooms for next year.

7. FEASIBILITY STUDY; YOSEMITE FIREHOUSE:

Arne Jonynas recapped the discussion to date. He confirmed that the Historical Society does have \$2,900 to be used for Yosemite, but they would prefer that it goes toward construction not planning. Leigh Dakin questioned why the Historical Society would not give the money. Arne Jonynas stated that the \$2,900 is money raised by the Historical Society, not the town.

Heather Chase questioned if there are other funds in the budget. David Pisha stated that there is \$12,000 in the revitalization line item.

David Pisha stated that Mark Wesner has indicated that the cost of straightening the building is estimated at \$20-\$25,000.

Ben Whalen questioned the purpose of the grant. Lillian Willis explained that the purpose of the grant is for structural work to the building. The Board discussed the particulars of the grant. Lillian Willis and Julie Hance explained the project and the steps that need to be taken.

Arne Jonynas expressed his concern that there are many buildings in town that need money allocated to them. He is not comfortable with applying this money toward Yosemite. Lee Gustafson stated that he understands that the Feasibility Study is needed but he is not sure of the vision for the building. He would like a business plan for the museum before a feasibility study is done. Lee Gustafson also stated that Tom Keefe noted in his Conditions Assessment that the building should be moved to ensure preservation of the building. Heather Chase stated that moving the building was determined not to be feasible for the town. Lillian Willis stated that a vision statement was provided to the Board in 2018. She also stated that the building itself is the main attraction for the museum.

Ben Whalen questioned if the roof at the Academy Building could be considered for the Historic Preservation Grant. He also questioned how the broken window at the Academy Building will be repaired. David Pisha noted that it will be paid for through the budget.

Heather Chase stated that there are things to do at the Academy Building but the Board has not yet determined a vision for the Academy Building. She also stated that the Feasibility Study is needed in order to do the fundraising. Arne Jonynas expressed his concern about spending this \$12,000 at the expense of doing work at the Academy building that needs repairs. He also expressed his concerns regarding future expenses of the museum. Heather Chase reminded the Board that there will be a 501c3 established that will be used to maintain the operating of the building. Lee Gustafson stated that he needs an understanding of how the future of this building is going to function. If the

Board agrees to move forward with the feasibility study, he would like to see a vision statement with all of these questions answered.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to finance the feasibility study out of the historic facility maintenance line item in the budget. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed with Arne Jonynas and Lee Gustafson voting in the negative.

Ben Whalen questioned if there were other plans for the \$12,000 at this time. David Pisha stated that he is not aware of any at this time. He also questioned if there is a chance to fix the roof this year. Julie Hance noted that fixing the Academy roof is very unlikely this year. It was also noted that the Historic Preservation grant can only be applied for every 2 years.

Discussion ensued regarding who manages the project. It was clarified that the town manages the project since it is town property. However, the Historic Preservation Committee will contribute greatly to the project.

Arne Jonynas thanked Lillian Willis for her work on this project.

8. REVIEW HIGHWAY SAFETY AUDIT:

Arne Jonynas stated that the State of Vermont has agreed to perform a speed study at the High School. The State has performed new lettering and installed new signage at the High School location. Vtrans will inform the town when the meetings are held.

9. ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT OF TOWN MANAGER:

Arne Jonynas stated that David Pisha will be retiring on March 6, 2020. He thanked David Pisha for his years of service to the town.

Arne Jonynas stated that a representative from the League will be present at the next meeting to guide the town on the search for a new Town Manager.

10. NEXT AGENDA/NEW BUSINESS:

Board members indicated that future items should include the Health Officer role, budget committee, Palmer Bridge and accounting system.

Julie Hance will touch base with Abigail Friedman from VLCT about information that she is sending to the Board for the Town Manager Search discussion.

The next meeting will have the energy chapter and solar farm for discussion as well as the Town Manager search.

Leigh Dakin expressed concerns about tractor trailer trucks at the corner near the Jiffy Mart. There are also trucks parking on Route 11 at the intersection of 103 near Jiffy Mart. The Board asked David Pisha to talk with the Police Chief and Vtrans.

David Pisha stated that a citizen has commented to him that they are concerned about the speed limit on High Street. This discussion will be at a future meeting.

The Board signed a Cemetery Deed.

Lillian Willis stated that there is also a request to change the speed limit on Route 103 as it enters the Stone Village.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION; TOWN MANAGER REVIEW:

A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to enter Executive Session at 9:08 p.m. for the purpose of performing a review of the Town Manager. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to exit Executive Session at 9:46 pm. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

12. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to adjourn. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Ben Whalen
Clerk of the Selectboard