

TOWN OF CHESTER  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 4, 2020  
Minutes

PRESENT: Arne Jonynas; Heather Chase; Lee Gustafson; Leigh Dakin; Jeff Holden;  
David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Tom Hildreth; Frank Bidwell; Gary Gibbs; Remus Preda;  
Scott Wunderle

There were no additions or deletions to this agenda.

1. REORGANIZATION:

Heather Chase nominated Arne Jonynas as Chair. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The nomination was approved.

Leigh Dakin nominated Heather Chase as Vice Chair. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The nomination was approved.

Leigh Dakin nominated Lee Gustafson as Secretary. Seconded by Jeff Holden. The nomination was approved.

2. APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2020 Selectboard meeting, January 17, 2020 Selectboard meeting, February 21, 2020 Special Selectboard Meeting; February 21, 2020 Special SElectboard meeting with the Manager Search Committee and the February 26, 2020 Special Selectboard Meeting. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

3. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Arne Jonynas thanked David Pisha for his years of service to the Town of Chester.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

EMS Building Committee: David Pisha stated that the committee met with Craig Jennings and Kevin Racyk this past week. They have both indicated that they are finalizing the design and costs are now being applied to the current design. David Pisha indicated that Kevin Racyk notified him this morning about a further design change involving the retaining wall that will save additional money. The next meeting will be March 17 at 3:00. Lee Gustafson thanked David Pisha for his work on this building.

5. PEOPLE'S UNITED BANK ACCOUNT UPDATE:

Gary Gibbs and Remus Preda were both present from People's United Bank to update the Board on the status of the investments with People's Bank.

Gary Gibbs thanked David Pisha for his work with these investment accounts. Gary Gibbs explained that the investment works off an investment policy that was agreed upon several years ago. He discussed the investments and explained that this investment strategy shaves off the extreme highs and lows. The average growth has been roughly 7%. This strategy maintains liquidity and offers a competitive rate of return.

Gary Gibbs discussed the volatility of the market and its record highs. They explained the effects of the political system and how it affects the market. Heather Chase questioned the effect from the CoronaVirus. Gary Gibbs explained that the biggest affect will be travel and tourism. He does not feel that it will be a long term impact to the market and will not push towards recessionary territory.

Gary Gibbs and Remus Preda summed up that they feel that the town's investment strategy has worked very well.

David Pisha stated that the EMS committee will be speaking on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the Board will review on the 18<sup>th</sup>, a landscaping plan that would be paid for through the Economic Development Fund temporarily. The amount is approximately \$15,000.

6. SIGN CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE:

There has been no change to the mileage certificate. The Board signed the Certificate of Highway Mileage.

7. SIGN CERTIFICATE OF NO SUITS PENDING:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to sign the Certificate of No Suits Pending. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

8. SIGN TAX MAP MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to sign the Tax Map Maintenance Proposal. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

9. SIGN LIQUOR LICENSES – FIRST CLASS:

The Selectboard signed the First Class liquor licenses for American Legion Post #67 and MacLaomainn's.

Jeff Holden recused himself from signing the American Legion license.

10. SIGN LIQUOR LICENSES – SECOND CLASS:

The Selectboard signed the Second Class liquor licenses for Jiffy Mart, Lisai's Market and Sandri.

11. SIGN LIQUOR LICENSES – THIRD CLASS:

The Selectboard signed the Third Class liquor licenses for American Legion Post #67 and MacLaomainn's.

Jeff Holden recused himself from signing the license for the American Legion.

12. SIGN OUTSIDE CONSUMPTION PERMIT:

The Selectboard signed the Outside Consumption Permits for American Legion Post #67 and MacLaomainn's.

Jeff Holden recused himself from signing the Outside Consumption Permit for the American Legion.

13. SIGN ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT:

The Selectboard signed the Entertainment Permits for American Legion Post #67 and MacLaomainn's.

Jeff Holden recused himself from signing the Entertainment Permit for the American Legion.

14. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA:

The Board agreed that the next agenda will include appointments, Academy Building discussion and the Landscaping Plan for EMS.

Lee Gustafson reminded that the Board wanted to discuss moving ambulance and fire department payrolls to a quarterly system instead of once a year. David Pisha stated the expense for fire and ambulance can be maintained quarterly, but the actual payments can still be made in December, which is when those employees prefer to be paid. This is allowed because of the accrual system.

Leigh Dakin mentioned that a suggestion was made at Town Meeting to start doing quarterly billing for taxes. Julie Hance explained that the town's fiscal year would need to change in order to accomplish quarterly billing. In addition, an 18 month municipal billing would need to be collected. Lee Gustafson questioned the amount of TAN interest that is paid each year. David noted that it is approximately \$4,000.00.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to establish the Selectboard meetings for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

15. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adjourn. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Julie Hance  
Secretary of the Select Board

Lee Gustafson  
Clerk of the Selectboard