

TOWN OF CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

May 1, 2019
Minutes

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

VISITORS: Shawn Cunningham; Sharon Huntley; Graham Kennedy; Darcy Noble;
Derek Suursoo; Nancy Chute; Tory Spater; Julie Hance; Cathy Hasbrouck

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Arne Jonynas. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2019 Selectboard meeting as amended. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. Motion passed.

Item 4, correct spelling of Lee's name.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Derek Suursoo was present as representative of the Solid Waste District. He informed the Board that there are typically 4 solid waste collection dates throughout the year. However, due to cost increases there have been changes in the number of collection dates and times. They have been scheduled for Springfield on May 15 from 2-6 p.m. as well as June 19 in Woodstock from 2:00-6:00 p.m. He stated that there will likely be two additional dates in the fall. Heather Chase suggested that these dates be added to the town's website.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

The Board reminded everybody about Green Up Day which is this coming weekend.

Chamber Transportation Committee: David Pisha stated that plans are in the works to assess the transportation needs of various subgroups within the region. This will also focus on improved communication of the services that are available.

Chamber Marketing Committee: David Pisha stated the committee is looking towards the creation of a subcommittee that will assist with events in the region. The Chamber is also working towards a market analysis for the region. David Pisha suggested that Chester consider performing its own market analysis.

David Pisha stated that there will be a meeting with VTrans on May 30 at 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall. VTrans will be here to take comments on the speed limit at the High School entrance. He has spoken with the High School who will be letting the teachers and parents know about the meeting date. Ben Whalen suggested that the time be moved if possible due to the Memorial Day Parade. It was discussed that there will be 3 board members present so the meeting will need to be warned.

4. LOADER REPLACEMENT:

Arne Jonynas stated that there was an error this year with the warning. The loader was not listed as an item for approval for purchase. He stated that the purchase payments are scheduled to begin in 2020.

Lee Gustafson suggested that a special town meeting be scheduled to vote the purchase of the Loader. The Board agreed to set a special town meeting as soon as possible.

5. CHESTER TOWNSCAPE FUNDING REQUEST:

Chester Townscape was present to request money from the budget for the purpose of purchasing plantings at the Information Booth and the Gazebo on The Green. They are requesting \$5,000 towards this project. Tory Spater informed the Board that Chester Townscape has spent a lot of their own money on these projects and are asking for the funds to help with this. Tory Spater also stated that all plantings purchased will be perennials.

David Pisha stated that there is \$4,200.00 left in the landscaping line item in the budget. He indicated that he can find an additional \$800.00 in the budget if necessary.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to spend \$5,000 for the Chester Townscape improvements at the Information Booth. Seconded by Heather Chase. Motion passed.

6. TOWN PLAN:

The Board began its review in Chapter 3 of the Town Plan.

Lee Gustafson stated that his comments are primarily formatting. He suggested that items be broken down into subsections for ease of finding things in the document. He also had some editorial comments that he will go over with Cathy Hasbrouck individually.

Arne Jonynas stated that he does not see the new water project land listed in the town lands. In addition, the table does not have headings which should be labeled. Shawn Cunningham noted that the table reflects the "Historical Society Building" which should be renamed to Academy Building/Central School. This should also be changed in the other tables throughout the document.

Lee Gustafson noted that on Page 11 there is reference to the Tomasso Land. It was suggested to change the language to be more aspirational as this is goal, not that it has been offered.

Lee Gustafson noted that on Page 7, U.S. Cellular has now moved to the new tower. The new tower will be removed when the ground is able to handle heavy traffic. In addition, the negotiation between Verizon and the Town is now complete. In addition, Sprint is no longer interested in being on the tower. Page 7 also references the Chester/Springfield Recycling Center which should be changed to Springfield Transfer Station.

Ben Whalen noted that on Page 12, part 6, it suggests that Police Officers are also trained as EMTs. He commented that this is no longer the practice due to the EMT requirements. David Pisha will check with the Police Chief to determine if this is still a practical goal. Shawn Cunningham suggested removing the words “the continued” and leaving the rest of the language. Leigh Dakin questioned the level of training the policers have which Ben Whalen suggested would be life saving measures only. It was agreed to have David Pisha check in with the Police Chief.

The Board agreed that they will review Chapter 5 at the next meeting.

Julie Hance and Cathy Hasbrouck discussed the upcoming Unified Development Bylaws that will come before the Board in a few months. It was suggested to the Board to begin reviewing the Planning Commission minutes to get themselves up to speed on the discussions that have taken place to date.

7. APPROVE EMS CONTRACT:

Lee Gustafson stated that the EMS Building Committee met to review and discuss the latest contract version negotiated between Russell Construction and the Town’s Attorney. At that meeting, the committee voted and agreed to present this Contract to the Selectboard for approval.

Lee Gustafson stated that there were additional GeoTech studies done on the property. Lee Gustafson identified the previous studies and forwarded them to Russell Construction.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to authorize David Pisha to sign the Preliminary Design Build Agreement with Russell Construction. Seconded by Ben Whalen. Motion passed.

David Pisha indicated that they are still hopeful to have a town vote in the fall. Lee Gustafson stated that based on estimates only the new building is \$3-4 million with an additional \$500,000 for the Town Garage. David Pisha stated that this next step of design will help to fine tune the numbers that are presented to the voters.

Lee Gustafson also stated that Knockout Carpet has donated all of the flooring and labor for the Fire Department portion of the new building.

8. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA:

Lee Gustafson asked if anything had taken place regarding the request from the Boy Scout Troop to review historic records at the Academy Building. David Pisha will check in with Ron Patch.

Julie Hance updated the Board on the process for updating policies. She indicated that she will begin reviewing the selected policies and will identify the changes needed. After consultation with the attorney where needed, she will present the amendments to the Board for adoption.

Ben Whalen stated that he will not be present for the June 5 meeting. The Board will discuss at the next meeting to determine if there are other conflicts.

Lee Gustafson stated that he reviewed the Solar Farm contract. He determined that the buyout option would be in approximately 2 years. He further stated that he will do the math to determine the viability of purchasing the farm. Roughly calculated, he feels that it may be worth the investment. Heather Chase stated that she would like this to be on an upcoming agenda. She also suggested that if there is contractual review, this may need to be executive session discussion.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Tomasso Land offer. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. Motion passed. It was noted that Leigh Dakin recused herself from the Executive Session.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to exit Executive Session at 8:53 p.m. Seconded by Heather Chase. Motion passed.

10. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adjourn. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Ben Whalen
Clerk of the Selectboard