

TOWN OF CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING

May 29, 2019
Minutes

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

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Shawn Cunningham; Suzy Forlie; Graham Kennedy; Darcy Noble; Fred Greenwell

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

1. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Fred Greenwell stated that he is concerned about the competency of the Listers' office. He stated that they have not answered his questions adequately. He stated that he is concerned about the quality of service that the town residents are receiving. Fred Greenwell stated that he is trying to determine the numbers used to calculate his value but the Listers have not been able to help him figure it out.

2. WILLIAMS RIVER BRIDGE #28 RESPONSE:

David Pisha stated that a letter has been received from the State of Vermont regarding Bridge #28, Palmer Bridge. This letter indicates that the bridge is approaching a required closing. The bridge either needs to be repaired or posted for 3 ton. David Pisha stated that this bridge is part of a larger project in the area which will come before the Selectboard in the next month or two.

Graham Kennedy explained the history of this bridge and the repairs that are needed. At this time, it is not reasonable to repair the bridge since a larger project is on the horizon.

Leigh Dakin asked if the bridge could be tested for weight limits. Graham Kennedy explained how the bridges are tested and that this weight limit is determined by the State using their calculations.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to post Williams River Bridge #28 at 3 ton. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

3. APPROVE NOISE & TRAFFIC STUDY:

Arne Jonynas stated that Jim Goss has provided a summary of the events to date. Should the board wish to discuss the advisory portions of the letter, it should be done in Executive Session.

Leigh Dakin questioned if we are aware of the depth, quality and quantity of the gravel that is on the property. Arne Jonynas stated that there has been engineering work done on the property. The quantity is not exact until you start digging. David Pisha stated that based on test pits, the gravel has been identified down 20 feet over 5 acres. Suzy Forlie stated that she would like to review the reports that show these results.

David Pisha stated that we currently use approximately 9,000 yards of sand, 5,000 of gravel and 1,000 of stone.

Heather Chase stated that she has questions about the amount of money that has been spent to date. She stated that she also emailed David Pisha with questions for the attorney and has not heard back. Heather Chase also questioned that process with local and ACT 250 permitting. David Pisha responded that the local and ACT 250 permit processes will run on parallel tracks.

Heather Chase questioned if the Board can review the ACT 250 application and who signs the application. Arne Jonynas responded that the attorney has been hired to file this permit and represent the town. He feels that the Board should follow the recommendations of the attorney.

Arne Jonynas explained the money that has been spent to date. There is an additional \$14,000 needed for the noise and traffic study. This would put the total at \$49,000 to date. Suzy Forlie questioned the cost of opening the pit. David Pisha stated that there will be a cost of clearing the land, the cost of renting the screening is about \$5,600 for 4 weeks and crushing for stone and/or gravel is approximately \$5.50 per yard.

Graham Kennedy discussed the dire need of these materials for the town. He further explained the rising cost of bringing in material to the town and the need for the taxpayers and the community. He also explained that this is not a year round gravel pit. This is crushing for a month at the most and screening for a month at the most. This will save the town a lot of money every year. If we don't have it, we will be buying larger trucks, hiring trucks to bring it in or having it delivered. Heather Chase noted that she is not arguing against the need for the gravel, she just has questions that need to be answered. She also stated that she wants to review the numbers and the application so that she can answer questions that the voters will have.

Shawn Cunningham requested a copy of the redacted letter from the attorney.

The Board discussed the money that has been spent and will still need to be spent. Arne Jonynas explained the Hurricane Irene Fund which has a balance of \$75,000. He expressed his opinion that the gravel project would be a good fit for this money. The Board discussed the potential 3 year audit window which will expire in 2 years.

The Board discussed the noise & traffic study. The attorney is recommending RSG to perform the study. Arne Jonynas stated his opinion that the Board follow the recommendation of the attorney.

The Board moved into Agenda Item 4 for further discussion relative to the Attorney's letter.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Heather Chase. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

A motion was made by to enter Lee Gustafson. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to exit Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to authorize David Pisha to sign the RSG Noise & Traffic Study. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve using the Hurricane Irene Funds to pay for the gravel project up to \$75,000. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The motion passed.

The Board asked that the bills paid in 2019 be moved to the Hurricane Irene Fund.

Leigh Dakin asked that David Pisha let her know when they will be conducting field work as she would like to tag along.

5. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adjourn. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Ben Whalen
Clerk of the Selectboard