

TOWN OF CHESTER  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

October 17, 2018  
Minutes

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

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Steve Sykes; Royal Greenwell; Ruthanne Batchelder; Scott Blair; Shawn Cunningham; Matt Wade; Dick Jewett; Lillian Willis; Frank Bidwell

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Jonynas.

The Board agreed to remove Item 9 until the full board could be present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2018 Selectboard meeting and Executive Session Record. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

There were no citizen's comments.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

David Pisha stated that he inserted an article into the packet showing the economic impact of a local recreation trail network in the Rutland area.

Water Project: David Pisha stated the water project is almost complete.

Building Committee: Lee Gustafson stated that the requested revisions have been received. There are a couple more changes and they are awaiting costs. The committee will then be discussing a packet for voter approval. Lee Gustafson stated that he is also anticipating receiving 3D renderings for display.

David Pisha stated that he spoke with Nancy Davis regarding the Fall Festival. He stated that they have divided the list of duties and segregated what the town could participate in. He stated that she is also receiving help from community members. As of this time, the Fall Festival will be planned for next year.

4. CHESTER SNOWMOBILE CLUB REQUEST:

The Chester Snowmobile Club requested use of the following roads:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Landowner Permission Form for the indicated roads: Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

5. YOSEMITE PIERS DECISION:

Arne Jonynas stated that some research has been done to answer questions asked at the last meeting. Wright Construction has stated that they will hold the price for next year. They have also indicated that they will accept prepayment this year.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to construct the piers next year and pay the \$15,000 that was budgeted this year as a prepayment. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

Frank Bidwell stated that he has done some research on similar buildings to Yosemite and is having trouble finding like structures. He stated that with a building this unique there may be an opportunity for crowd funding.

6. NEW RECREATION GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

Julie Hance stated that there is a new grant opportunity being offered by the State of Vermont. It will fund recreation projects that combine recreational opportunities with Economic Development opportunities.

Julie Hance explained that she is thinking this would be a good funding source for Brookside Cemetery hiking trail and bridge. She stated that if the Board is in favor, she will get together a small group of individuals to start a planning discussion for the project. It is her intent to gather some ideas and costs and she will present back to the Board in late November. The Board agreed.

7. UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT BYLAW AMENDMENT ADOPTION:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to adopt the Unified Development Bylaws Amendment for Accessory Use. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

8. FINANCIAL UPDATE:

David Pisha stated that General Fund revenues are up \$18,685 over last year. Tax collections are doing well. Fire revenue is showing a decrease because of the onetime hazmat revenue last year. Ambulance is down due to timing.

General Fund expenses are up slightly. Highway is showing an increase because of the overtime and material needed during the winter season in January. Overall, expenses are in good shape. David Pisha stated that he has spoken with Suzanne Swanson regarding insurance. She has indicated that premiums will be up approximately 1.7% this year. David Pisha will be speaking with her soon to evaluate plans. Arne Jonynas clarified that

Suzanne Swanson is paid a fee per employee to assist the town and employees with their insurance needs.

Water revenues are up primarily because of timber sales. Fees are up 10% because of the gradual increase required for the water project. Arne Jonynas questioned what the payment will be. David Pisha will find out.

Sewer revenues are holding steady. Expenses are up slightly. They are operating in the positive.

Solar Farming has not produced the savings that were assumed. However, a gain is showing at this time. Lee Gustafson stated that he is not concerned. There are many things that affect production such as cloudy days, high temperature days, dust, etc. Heather Chase reminded the Board that they are still paying rent and taxes which is more than if they were not present. Frank Bidwell asked if there is a way to monitor individual solar panels for a replacement schedule. Lee Gustafson noted that he is not familiar with the details of this commercial farm, but he assumes that it is not monitored individually because it would be expensive to monitor.

David Pisha stated that the balances of the smaller funds were provided if there are questions.

David Pisha reviewed the project list that was prepared as requested by the Board. He indicated that there are several projects, but they are being managed financially so that there is not a large spike in the budget in the future.

Lee Gustafson questioned the status of the gravel operation. David Pisha indicated that Naomi Johnson and Jim Goss are working on the maps required. It is possible to be extracting gravel summer of 2019. The estimated cost for Jim Goss and Naomi Johnson is \$25,000 for the planning/permitting process.

9. VISION PROCESS:

This agenda item was moved to the next meeting when there will be a full board.

10. SIGN CEMETERY DEED:

The Selectboard signed a Cemetery Deed.

11; NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA:

The next agenda will include the Visioning Process.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION; WAYFINDING

A motion was made by Heather Chase to find that the public disclosure of contract negotiations regarding the wayfinding plan will necessarily involve communications of and relating to the specific terms of said contract, disclosure of which could place the Town of Chester at a substantial disadvantage in any further negotiations. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(A) for the purposes of negotiating and reviewing the terms of the wayfinding plan contracts. I further move that the Selectboard finds that the public disclosure of the negotiations could place the town at a disadvantage. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed. Both Julie Hance and David Pisha were invited into the Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to exit Executive session at 7:48 p.m.. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION; US CELLULAR & SPRINT:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to find that the public disclosure of contract negotiations regarding the addition of Sprint and US Cellular to the cell tower will necessarily involve communications of and relating to the specific terms of said contract, disclosure of which could place the Town of Chester at a substantial disadvantage in any further negotiations. Seconded by Heather Chase. 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 negotiating and reviewing the terms of contracts with Sprint and US Cellular. I further move that the Selectboard finds that the public disclosure of the negotiations could place the town at a disadvantage. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:49 p.m.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to exit Executive session at 7:55 p.m.. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to have David Pisha work with council to execute the final Spring document to include items contained in the October 17 email sent at 2:14 p.m. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: TOWN MANAGER REVIEW

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to enter Executive Session for the purposes of conducting a review of the Town Manager. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:57 p.m.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to exit Executive session at 8:08 p.m. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

15. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to adjourn. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Julie Hance  
Secretary of the Select Board

Ben Whalen  
Clerk of the Selectboard