

TOWN OF CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 3, 2018
Minutes

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

VISITORS: Shawn Cunningham, Julie Hance; William Lindsay; Marji Graf; Carla Westine; Kelly Arrison; Lyza Gardner

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Jonynas. He then asked every one to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2017 Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Shawn Cunningham reported that there is a bill being discussed in the legislature considering the allowance of web based companies as a town's paper of record. Discussion ensued about the Selectboard's position on this issue. It was agreed to have this as an agenda item at an upcoming meeting.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Master Plan: David Pisha noted that this is an agenda item at this meeting.

Salvage Yard: David Pisha stated that Jim Carroll will be attending the February 3 Selectboard meeting to discuss the adoption of a Salvage Yard Ordinance.

Yosemite: David Pisha stated that Jim Carroll has informed him that the final paperwork will be mailed to the Court within the next week.

Julie Hance stated that the Feasibility Study will be going to print next week.

Ben Whalen questioned the status of the new tank. Julie Hance stated that it is not online yet. There is still some work to do before the project can be closed out.

Ben Whalen questioned the status of the fire hydrant policy. David Pisha state that he will put his thoughts on paper and will present at the next meeting.

The Board discussed the Budget Committee. Julie Hance explained that there is much to this conversation. The history of the Budget Committee is complicated and was set up in a manner that is not valid. She indicated that Jim Carroll will be at the February meeting and could be asked to discuss this as well. The Board agreed.

4. DISBAND STEERING COMMITTEE:

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to disband the Village Center Master Plan Steering Committee. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

The Board thanked all members of the Steering Committee for their work.

5. ESTABLISH AND APPOINT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to establish the Village Center Master Plan Implementation Committee with the following members as presented: Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion failed, pending further discussion.

Julie Hance explained that there will likely be other members seeking appointment but currently, the following individuals are interested in serving: Julie Hance, David Pisha, Carla Westine, Barre Pinske, Claudio Veliz, Rick Paterno, Kelly Arrison, Bob Flint. The Board discussed potential terms. Following discussion, it was agreed to come back with suggestions relative to term appointments at the next meeting.

6. OKEMO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE:

Margi Graf was present to discuss a campaign that the Chamber of Commerce is working on. She explained the purpose of the Chamber which is connecting the community and businesses. They also maintain a website and produce an annual Guidebook. Margi Graf stated that the Guidebook deadlines are due January 10. She is looking for information and new images for Chester. Margi Graf also stated that there is a calendar on the website that is accessible to all towns for free. Any postings also go state wide for free. Margi Graf explained that she attends trade shows annually and does her best to market Chester and the area. She is hopeful that there can be better coordination between events.

Margi Graf stated that on January 10 from noon-1:00 there will be a cyber security presentation at the Newsbank Conference Center. She stated that there are new topics monthly.

Margi Graf explained that there is also a free marketplace service available on the Chamber's website. This service is not heavily used by Chester. There are also quarterly networking events.

David Pisha stated that he will speak with Amie O'Brien about coordinating marketing tasks with the Chamber. The Board discussed the lack of interest on the part of the businesses to take advantage of the free advertising that is available.

Arne Jonynas questioned the longterm desire for the Chamber of Commerce building. He questioned if the Chamber would consider giving the building to the town. Margi Graf indicated that this would be a Board decision. She suggested that the town put their request in writing before the January 23 meeting. The Board discussed the building and the benefits to the town.

7. GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVIEW:

David Pisha stated that the General Fund budget has not changed since the last meeting. The final warrants have been put through. It appears that the surplus numbers have decreased. David Pisha is waiting to hear from Ron Smith tomorrow morning for further discussion about the final numbers.

Discussion ensued regarding the surplus and their impact on the budget. There was further discussion relative to the change from cash to accrual and its impact on this year's budget.

The Board agreed to an additional meeting on Monday, January 8 at 6:30 at town hall, downstairs.

8. WATER & SEWER BUDGET REVIEW:

David Pisha stated that there are no changes in the water and sewer budgets.

9. CAPITAL & BOND PLAN REVIEW:

David Pisha stated that he does have some updates in the capital and bond plan payment schedules. He will have those up to date for the next meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

It was agreed that the next regular meeting on January 17th will be primarily budget and warning.

11. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to adjourn. Seconded by Ben Whalen. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Ben Whalen
Clerk of the Selectboard