

TOWN OF CHESTER  
SELECTBOARD MEETING

June 7, 2017  
Minutes

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

VISITORS: Claudio Veliz; Kelly Arrison; Graham Kennedy; Tory Denis; Shawn  
Cunningham

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:

May 17, 2017:

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2017 Selectboard meeting and May 17, 2017 Executive Session Meeting Record. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

There were no citizen's comments.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Master Plan: David Pisha stated that the next meeting for the Steering Committee will be June 13 at 10:00 a.m. at the Free Range. Claudio Veliz will be presenting some drafts of the new signage.

EMS Building: David Pisha stated that this is an agenda item for this evening.

ACT 250: David Pisha stated that the Judge has signed off on the Stipulation that both the town and Fish & Wildlife agreed to. The next step will be to get together regarding easements. Arne Jonynas questioned the cost for this. David Pisha will get this final number together for the Board.

Heather Chase asked that the list from Frank Bidwell be placed on the Old Business List.

Arne Jonynas stated that there are many projects happening in town at this time. The Potash Culvert is being worked on. The sidewalk project construction has commenced. The Route 35 project is beginning construction. The Academy Building window restoration will be performed this summer. The water tank is being installed.

Arne Jonynas stated that Julie Hance is working on a Bike/Ped Grant that is a \$1.2 million dollar grant. David Pisha stated that there will need to be a public hearing by the end of June.

4. REPORT ON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Graham Kennedy was present from the Public Works Department. Arne Jonynas thanked him for installing a parking area at the entrance of the Butternut Trail.

Graham Kennedy stated that there are several large projects taking place this summer. He explained the Potash Culvert project which continues to flood. The installation of the new box culvert should solve this issue.

Graham Kennedy explained the project on Route 35 that is taking place this summer. This project involves the stabilization of 300 feet of Route 35. He stated that the 300 feet is costing \$290,000. The fix the road permanently would cost approximately \$1 million per mile.

Graham Kennedy stated that the town guys are busy with ACT 64 and the requirement to stone line ditching. A fair amount has been paid for through grant funds so far. He also stated that there are 3 bridge decks that are being replaced. Graham Kennedy explained that he is not sure why this material has not lasted more than 5 years. He is trying to find out if there is any way to go back to the manufacturer of the decking material. Typically this material lasts 25 years.

Lee Gustafson thanked Graham Kennedy and his crew for their work for the town and appreciates their efforts. Graham Kennedy thanked his crew and stated that Chester is very lucky with their road crew. He also thanked the Selectboard for their support by providing the equipment that is needed for the Highway Department.

Lee Gustafson asked Graham Kennedy how the town could accomplish a permanent reworking of Route 35. Graham Kennedy stated that it is simply a matter of money. He stated that the town could look into doing a section of the road each year until the road is completed.

Arne Jonynas questioned the stone lined ditch requirement. Graham Kennedy stated that any road over 5% grade requires stone lined ditching. This is most of the roads in Chester. The Board discussed the burden that this places on the town. Graham Kennedy discussed the issues in maintaining these new stone lined ditches.

5. PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:

Arne Jonynas provided a history of the candidates requesting appointment to the Planning Commission. He also stated that the meetings were productive and informative. He felt that conducting the interviews in Executive Session was appropriate.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to appointment Tim Roper to the Planning commission for a term expiring in March, 2020. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Ben Whalen to appointment Barre Pinske to the Planning commission for a term expiring in March, 2020. Seconded by Dan Cote. The motion passed.

Arne Jonynas explained that the third position will be re-advertised for appointment at a later time. Heather Chase stated that she would like to see the Budget Committee positions advertised.

6. LAFRANCE FIRE ENGINE:

Ben Whalen thanked Kelly Arrison for donating his time and shop for working on the engine and siren to the LaFrance. The LaFrance is now running and is road worthy. The LaFrance is not registered but is insured. Ben Whalen stated that approximately 100 hours were donated to getting the engine and siren running.

Ben Whalen stated that he wanted to address an article that was in the Vermont Journal stating that the LaFrance was stored outside and not being cared for, as well as a suggestion that it was sold. Ben Whalen ensured that the engine was being taken care of and that it was okay for the engine to be stored outside. He further stated that it has not been sold.

Ben Whalen stated that the LaFrance will be in the parade in Conway, Massachusetts for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. He will accompany the LaFrance in the parade.

Arne Jonynas stated that he was upset about the article as well. He stated that he feels that the Vermont Journal has stopped covering Chester and is wondering if this is due to not being appointed as the paper of record. Ben Whalen stated that he is not sure where the information came from for the article since neither he nor the other firemen had received a phone call to gather information. Heather Chase indicated that she is hopeful that the bad press and the lack of covering Chester are not becoming mean-spirited.

7. ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT CARDS:

David Pisha stated that the office would like to offer the services of accepting credit cards. He stated that this company runs the entire program and there are no fees to the town at any time. In addition, if there is a collection issue, the town receives its money and the credit card company goes after the cardholder. David Pisha stated that this is another way for the town to collect its money while offering another service to the residents.

Heather Chase stated that he would like to make sure this company is PCI compliant, which is proper security. She would also like for David Pisha to check with a couple of other companies to see if we can get the interest lower for the card users.

8. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA:

It was agreed that the budget process would be on the first agenda in July.

Heather Chase stated that she will not be available for the meeting on June 21. It was agreed to move the meeting to June 14 at 6:30 p.m.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Heather Chase that premature general public knowledge of the terms and pricing of a proposed feasibility study concerning the location, needs and construction of a municipal building to house the fire department, police department and highway department, would place the Town of Chester and the vendor at a substantial disadvantage in that: (a) the Board will need to consider whether the terms and pricing as proposed warrant that the proposed feasibility study be put out to bid; and (b) the Board will need to consider and discuss negotiation strategies or options in connection with the proposal under consideration. Seconded by Lee Gustafson. The motion passed.

Ben Whalen stated that the town attorney does not feel that there is reason for him to recuse himself. He stated that it is his intention to do what is best for the town. Heather Chase stated that she feels that Ben Whalen's input at this time would be beneficial to this discussion. The rest of the Board agreed.

A motion was made by Lee Gustafson to enter executive session with the Town Manager pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(A) to consider approval of a feasibility study contract to study the feasibility and estimated costs of locating and constructing a municipal building to house the Chester Fire, Police and Highway Departments and to discuss whether such a study should be put out to bid.. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed. The Town Manager and Claudio Veliz were invited into the Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.

A motion was made by \_\_\_ to exit Executive Session at \_\_\_ p.m.

10. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_ to adjourn. Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Julie Hance  
Secretary of the Select Board

Ben Whalen  
Clerk of the Select Board