

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING
TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 14, 2022
Chester Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Janecek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Selectman Meehan, Carolyn Kane, Bekah Wright, Bob Lee, Michael Cressman and audience members.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Ms. Kane read the following:

"Dear Selectmen,

I just recently learned that another resident submitted their resume for the position of Town of Chester Tourism Liaison. As an active volunteer and chairman of Chester's Republican Town Committee, I have been declaring for years, the need to encourage more residents of all affiliations, get involved in volunteering, and not make it a competition of party power.

I believe in practicing what I preach, and I'm absolutely thrilled that there's a new volunteer in town. With this new development, I respectfully request the withdrawal of my application for Tourism Liaison and request that this new volunteer be considered for appointment to the position.

I wish them much success in that role and I'll be happy to help get them started by sharing my historical knowledge in this arena.

Thank you, Sincerely, Carolyn Kane"

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Ed Meehan made a motion to appoint Bekah Wright as Chester's Tourism Liaison. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Meehan made a motion to appoint Lisa Hayward to the Conservation Commission (full member). Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Meehan made a motion to appoint James Hays to the Harbor Management Commission (alt). Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ed Meehan made a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/9/22 BOS meeting as presented. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STREETLIGHTS

Charlene reported that Town purchased streetlights several years ago. Unfortunately, no maintenance contract was signed for the town owned lights and the contractor, Red Thread, is no longer offering maintenance contracts. Documentation, developed by Dick Leighton, was included in the BOS packet.

Ed Meehan, in his role on the E-Team, was familiar with the purchase of the streetlights. He provided an overview of the streetlight purchase project and will pursue information from Tanko and/or Eversource relative to a maintenance contract.

This item will be discussed further at a future BOS meeting.

ARPA DISCUSSION

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the BOS's request for ARPA funds in the amount of \$19,283.50 to fund the town hall generator project and to forward the request to the BOF for further action. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the WPCA's request for ARPA funds for an additional \$11,570.00 to fund the completion of work at 43-47 Main Street and to forward the request to the BOF for further action. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed with abstaining with Ed Meehan abstaining from the vote.

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the WPCA's request for ARPA funds in the amount \$43,750.00 to reline the sewer line from Water Street to the pump station and to forward the request to the BOF for further action. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed with abstaining with Ed Meehan abstaining from the vote.

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the request for ARPA funds in the amount of \$240,000 to fund the North Main Street sewer extension project and to forward the request to the BOF for further action. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A Town Meeting will be scheduled in early January to present the ARPA projects for Town approval.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Ed provided:

- A status report on the STEAP grant application and project. Jacobson and & Associates are assisting with the grant.
- He will be contacting surrounding Towns to discuss governance as part of his participation in the recently formed Governance and Continuity Committee

Charlene reported:

- The Town's website will go "live" this week.
- The meeting room at Town Hall is now equipped to host hybrid Board/Commission meetings.
- There will be a joint announcement next week regarding the sale of property owned by St. Joseph's Church to be used for affordable housing units.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Michael Cressman provided an update on the knotweed project at Carini and Scudder locations funded via ARPA funds. In addition to the ARPA funds, the Land Trust received an additional grant to fund their initiative.

ADJOURNMENT

Ed Meehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk

RECEIVED FOR RECORD #
12/16 20 22 AT 9:00 M
Kathryn Ham
TOWN CLERK