

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING
TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 25, 2023
Chester Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Janecek called the meeting to order at 7:00. In attendance included: First Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Selectman Meehan, John O'Hare, BOF Chairman, Jamie Grzybowski, Fire Chief, Peter Zanardi, Rich Tsou, and Terri Englert.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

Ed Meehan made a motion to appoint Cindy Lignar and Rebecca Mead to the EDC. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ed Meehan made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/14/22 and 12/19/22 BOS meetings as presented. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ARPA DISCUSSION

Documentation relative to the Hose Company's request for ARPA funding for the purchase of 20 defibrillators (\$33,376.80) was included in the BOS packet. The defibrillators would be installed at all town buildings. Chief Grzybowki outlined the request and was available to address questions/comments posed by BOS and audience members.

The request was revised to include an additional unit for the Meeting House (21 defibrillators – total \$35,045.64).

Several Fire Department staff are trained on the use of defibrillators and the units are easy to use. Detailed instructions are included. Funding for maintenance/service of the devices is included in the Hose Company budget. The distributor will take the old, deteriorated units and units still serviceable will be used by the Police Department.

Ed Meehan made a motion to approve and forward to the BOF and Town Meeting for further action, the Chester Hose Company's request for ARPA funds in the amount of \$35,043.64 to fund the purchase of 21 defibrillators. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTED VS. ELECTED

Currently, the Tax Collector, Town Clerk and Treasurer positions are elected. As individuals holding these positions must be certified, the BOS briefly discussed the appropriateness of appointing individuals to the positions versus electing them.

The BOS will discuss further when the Governance Committee's report is completed and submitted for discussion/consideration by the BOS.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee has a meeting scheduled on Friday, 1/27/23. It is anticipated that at this meeting, their report will be finalized. The BOS will either schedule a “special” meeting to review the document or review the document at their next regularly scheduled BOS meeting.

SUSTAINABLE CT

Sustainable CT is a free, voluntary certification program that inspires, supports and celebrates thriving and resilient Connecticut communities. The Sustainable CT Committee is requesting the BOS’s approval to apply for the Sustainable CT Silver Certification. Chester currently holds a Bronze Certification.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to support the Sustainable CT Committee’s Silver Certification application as requested. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN HALL HOURS

Currently the Town Hall is open until 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings and closes at noon on Fridays. The Town Clerk and Selectman’s Assistant are the only staff members in the building until 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. Very few residents come to the town hall between 6 and 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and staff has requested that the town hall close at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, with the understanding that if necessary, they will remain open until 7 p.m. (by appointment).

There is no budgetary impact on the proposed change in town hall hours.

Ed Meehan made a motion to adjust the town hall hours as proposed (the town hall to close at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, with the understanding that if necessary, they will remain open until 7 p.m. by appointment). Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

The BOS agreed that the 2023 Regular Meeting schedule will remain the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month @ 7:00 p.m.

Charlene reported:

- A meeting is scheduled with Superintendent White and BOF Chairman O’Hare to review the R4 Budget.

Ed Meehan reported:

- The Town has received, electronically, the STEAP Grant agreement. All paperwork associated with the grant will be done electronically. With receipt of the agreement, Jacobson will begin to develop the proposal for design services (note that engineering is not part of the STEAP grant; local money will fund the engineering for the project)
- The E-Team would like to explore options to combat increasing electricity costs; i.e. CCM co-op, speaking with other towns, etc. It was reported that the Community Fund has been assisting residents with electricity expenses.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Chief Grzybowski reported on the increasing call volume of the Hose Company (including Ambulance). The 2022 call volume has increased by 116 calls over 2021. Revenue projections have also increased as a result of the increased call volume. It is anticipated that this trend will continue.

The Chief provided an update/status report on the engine bids. Three bids were received and reviewed/vetted by the Committee. The Committee recommends that the “middle bid” @ \$855,000 be accepted. The bid price will be “held” until mid-March. Prices will increase by 2.5% after March.

The engine to be replaced is 35 years old. The equipment on the current truck can be relocated to the new engine.

A full presentation on the bid will be provided to the BOS at their 2/8/23 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ed Meehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk