



THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING  
TOWN OF CHESTER  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023  
CHESTER TOWN HALL

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Janecek called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. In attendance were Selectman Meehan, Selectman Englert and Selectwoman Janecek.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Jon Joslow addressed the board indicating that the Governance Study Committee has their final report prepared and has requested a special BOS meeting Weds., Feb. 15 at 7:00pm to formally present their findings. The Selectmen agreed to schedule the meeting. Mr. Joslow will be providing information to be posted on the town website prior to the meeting. Selectmen Meehan, who was a member of the Governance Study Committee, spoke up to commend the committee for the hard work that they had done, and stated that it is a very comprehensive report.

Nick Gorra asked to address the BOS regarding the Parish Center located at 47 Middlesex Ave. He questioned why the town never approached the church about purchasing this property and why the town hadn't been informed that it had been sold for development. Selectwoman Janecek replied that it is private property and the Dioceses of Norwich can do what they wish for the property. The town had nothing to do with their decision. Selectwoman Janecek added that it had been indicated that several years ago the town did approach the church about possibly buying the Parish Center property but at the time the church said they were not interested in selling. Mr. Gorra thanked the board and left.

RECORD OF VOTE

The board took a vote to move Agenda item #8 (Fire Truck Budget) to the 3<sup>rd</sup> position. Selectman Englert made a motion and Selectman Meehan seconded it, and it was unanimously approved.

Fire Chief James Grzybowski was called upon to address the BOS with regard to the new fire truck, which needs to be ordered. An extensive presentation was given by him and the fire truck committee. Three bids were received. The low bidder did not comply with the RFP. The second lowest bidder was the one chosen. The bid accepted was for \$850,000 and that price will only be held through the end of March. There is money in capital in the amount of \$446,913, but an additional \$410,000 will be needed. A request was made for the BOS to send this to the BOF to approve this additional \$410,000. Selectman Englert moved that BOS support the Hose



Company request for release of capital funds \$466,913, and an additional appropriation of \$410,000, and forward its favorable support for the truck purchase to the Board of Finance for their approval, and eventual town meeting approval. The BOS thanked the fire department for their excellent presentation.

#### APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

On a motion by Selectman Englert seconded by Selectman Meehan, and unanimously so voted, the BOS appointed Keith Lundgren to the Park and Rec. Commission.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Selectman Meehan and seconded by Selectman Englert, the Minutes of the Jan 25<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting were approved unanimously.

#### ARPA DISCUSSION

Chester Public Works has put in a request for \$61,250 in ARPA funds to purchase equipment and to do maintenance and repairs that were brought to light by an OSHA walk- through. Upon review, the BOS felt that one of the requests in the amount of \$4,750 did not qualify as ARPA and should come out of the road maintenance fund. On a motion by Tom Englert and seconded by Ed Meehan, and with a unanimous vote it was recommended that the BOS send the BOF a request to release \$56,500 for the Department of Public Works safety equipment and loader maintenance service. Pending BOF decision, this ARPA expenditure will be scheduled for town meeting.

#### BUDGET PRESENTATION

Selectwoman Janeczek reported that the preliminary expense budget is up over a million dollars. If the revenue should stay the same as it has been this would represent a 2 mill increase in taxes. It was emphasized that this was a preliminary budget. The Selectmen discussed areas of concern. It was pointed out that Chester Elementary School proposed a budget indicating an increase of 7.81%. The town will be working on the revenue side of the budget beginning next week.

#### UPDATE ON ORDINANCE OF ELDERLY OR DISABLED TAX RELIEF

It was brought to our attention that the current ordinance had an expiration date of October 1, 2018. We have still been providing this assistance to our qualified residents, but we need to update the ordinance. After discussion by the board, it was agreed to renew the ordinance but with the elimination of an expiration date. On a motion by Ed Meehan, seconded by Tom Englert, and unanimously so voted, it was recommended that we send this to the Town Attorney

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for review and rewrite as needed. This ordinance amendment will need to be scheduled for town meeting approval.

### SELECTMEN REPORTS

Ed Meehan reported that he has been working with Tanko (the company we purchased our street lights from) on a maintenance plan. Tanko has submitted their proposal contract, which details scope of services for coordinating repair requests and purchasing replacement materials. Ed will prepare information for the next BOS meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The contract will be presented at a future Selectman's meeting.

Charlene Janecek reported that she has spoken with Jason Mead about cell towers and he suggested that the town petition the Connecticut Siting Council and ask them to provide coverage maps for the town of Chester. He also suggested possibly contacting CT Water Co. to see if they would be willing to put a tower on their Goose Hill Road property. Selectwoman Janecek will pursue this. Selectwoman Janecek reported that after 32 years, Elizabeth Netsch has submitted her resignation letter as Park & Rec. Director. Her decision to retire will be effective May 13<sup>th</sup>. First Selectwoman Janecek summarized the projects moving forward to the Board of Finance for its review and recommendation for town meeting to be scheduled in March: ARPA funding for purchase of 21 defibrillators; ARPA funding for Public Works Department for safety equipment and repairs per recent OSHA inspection; Chester Hose Company pumper truck purchase using capital fund account and additional funds as recommended by the Board of Finance; and amendment of Ordinance Providing Property Tax Relief for Elderly or Disabled Homeowners.

### AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Joe Cohen asked to address the fire department inquiring about the new fire truck and its ability to access various properties in town. The fire team addressed this issue.

### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ed Meehan, seconded by Tom Englert, and unanimously so voted, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.