THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

SEPTEMBER 13,2023, CHESTER TOWN HALL 7:00pm

1.PRESENT: Tom Englert and Ed Meehan, First Selectman Janecek unable to attend.

2.AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

 MAIN STREET WISHING BOOTH - Caryn Paradis addressed the Selectmen requesting permission to reinstall the “Wishing Booth” on Main Street sidewalk on Town property. Caryn reported that the State Department of Economic Development is planning to do a film production featuring “Chester Frist Friday Nights” on October 6th and asked Selectmen for guidance on what needs to be done to comply with the Town’s requirements to have the booth in place by September 29th. Selectmen briefly reviewed safety, sidewalk public access and insurance requirements previously discussed when the booth was removed from State bridge right of way. The consensus directive agreed upon is Caryn will coordinate all compliance responses through the Building Inspector, Dick Leighton and will be listed on the Board of Selectmen’s September 27th agenda for status update for further discussion and decision.

NORTH MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT - John Schroeder submitted his request for 11 decorative lights spaced along the west side of North Main Street from the Water Street intersection to its intersection at Groose Hill Road, Sidewalk Plan- N. Main Street. SW-2, May 9,2013, Chester Village and Center District Master Plan, adopted at Town Meeting, July23,2013. For the North Main Street phase of sidewalk improvements, the Master Plan shows one (1) decorative light at Great Book Bridge, within STEAP grant project area, and two (2) lights out of the project area in front of the former Cummings and Good building. In addition to the concept map, street view photos of each of the 11 proposed locations were submitted. As discussed at previous Board of Selectmen meetings the Master Plan and STEAP reconstruction grant do not include decorative lighting, but it was agreed to refer Mr. Schroder’s proposal to the project engineers to determine design, construction cost estimate and bidding options for underground placement of conduit, junctions and light base utilities installed in conjunction with the STEAP’s reconstruction project.

3. Appointment to Board and Commissions – No Report

4. AUGUST 23, 2023, MINUTES- Tom Englert moved approval and seconded by Ed Meehan. Discussion, Tom noted the reference to sanitary manhole replacements during the Route 154 paving project should be corrected to Winter Avenue in Deep River, not “street”. The motion was voted and approved as corrected.

5. 59 Winthrop Road RFP (Real Estate Broker) – Tom Englert moved to approve and published the RFP as drafted, seconded by Ed Meehan. The Selectmen stated it is their priority to get this property back on the tax roll and it is now ready for public sale advertisement with environmental assessments reports available to interested buyers. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Fiscal Year 2022-2023 End of Year Transfers – Ed Meehan moved to table discussion and action on transfers until Frist Selectman Janecek was available to participate, seconded by Mr. Englert and approved.

7. Energy Supply Rate Option- Ed Meehan reported the results of CCM’s (CT. Conference of Municipalities) consultant’s Chester’s Eversource accounts for options for lower supply costs. CCM’s consultant, Titan Energy, compared six suppliers’ monthly rates and 14, 26 and 36 term options.

Ed Meehan moved Chester join CCM’s co-opt for a 36 month rate of $0.11494/kWh because future supply rates are expected to increase again in 2024 and this option provides the Town cost stability from the high volatility of energy supply market. The CCM fee for participation is $0.002/kWh which can be added to each monthly Eversource account invoice. There are various options available to municipalities to drop out of the CCM co-opt if they determine the rate and term are no longer beneficial. Tom Englert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Ed will follow up with Titan Energy to complete membership in the CCM co-opt.

8. Selectmen Reports – Route 154 Paving Project: Ed Meehan updated status of Route 154 reporting milling is completed and paving from north to south is underway. Chester and Deep River WPCAs are working together to replace sanitary manhole covers, if necessary. Conn.DOT. will reimburse municipal WPCAs up to $1,600 per manhole for approved replacement work.

9.Executive Session – Tom Englert moved the Selectmen go into executive session for the purpose of a real estate matter affecting a Town property, seconded by Ed Meehan and approved. The executive session began at 7:55PM and ended at 8:18PM.

10.Adjournment Ed Meehan moved adjournment at 8:19PM, seconded by Tom Englert and approved.

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