

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING
TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Chester Meeting House and via TEAMS

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Lignar called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ATTENDEES

First Selectwoman Ligar, Selectwoman Bandzes, Selectman Radicchi, John King, Trooper Warren, John Chillock, Jamie Grzybowski, Ron Amara, Julieanne Divis, Aaron Zain, Pat Woomer, Sandy Prisloe, and Peter Harding.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

John King requested that the Town prioritize and address the condition of Kings Highway. He recommended that the Town have Jacobson develop a design for drainage. In addition, Wig Hill Road needs repairs and the catch basins in the area are deteriorating from salt. He stressed the importance of budgeting for road work. He reported that the Town has not done significant road work in years.

Mr. King also requested that the guiderails on S. Wig Hill Road (near Aaron Manor) be repaired as they have been down for months and marked with a cone. The guiderails on Straights Road are falling apart and he recommended that Atlas Fence be contacted for a quote.

Cindy Lignar responded that work on Kings Highway is scheduled to begin this spring. The bridge will be worked on first followed by paving. The Capital Budget is being developed and road work is included in it. A plan is being developed to address roads, drainage, bridges and culverts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pat Bandzes made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular BOS meeting dated 3/5/24 as amended. Paul Radicchi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: Page 1 – second bullet – should read “8-30g”.

Page 1 – should read “Cindy reported that the BOS members attend R4 BOE meetings and that the BOE will be presenting their budget to the BOS and BOF in the upcoming weeks.”

Page 2 – top – should read: “...with the best chance of receiving funding was the EDC option located near the parking lot at the Fire House”.

Page 2 – bottom – add “and the Chester Affordable Housing Plan” before (POCD).

Page 3 – under Audience of Citizens – second paragraph – add “with an option to renew” to the end of the sentence.

Paul Radicchi made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special BOS meeting dated 3/15/24 as presented. Pat Bandzes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Pat Bandzes made a motion to appoint John Chillock to a full seat on the ZBA. Paul Radicchi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Radicchi made a motion to appoint John King to a full seat on the WPCA. Pat Bandzes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: John King served previously on the WPCA.

Paul Radicchi made a motion to appoint Aaron Zain to an alternate seat on ZBA. Cindy Lignar seconded the motion. The motion passed with Pat Bandzes abstaining from the vote.

ENERGY TEAM REPORT

Sandy Prisloe and members of the E-Team provided a progress report that included a history of the E-Team, E-Team major accomplishments, data on electricity usage, potential for solar in town buildings, and EV charging stations. A copy of their presentation will be placed on the Town's website. E-Team members were available to address questions/comments posed by Board members.

The appropriate location for placement of an EV charging station was discussed. The Town received a DEEP grant to install the charging station at Water Street; however, due to flood concerns, the new recommendation is to install the equipment at the Maple Street parking lot. Eversource also has a program that funds EV charging stations. An RFP must be developed to install a charging station at Maple Street and Sandy Prisloe will forward documentation to Cindy Lignar. In addition, as First Selectwoman, Cindy's name must be included in the DEEP paperwork as the point of contact for the DEEP grant.

Jamie Grzybowski, Fire Dept., reported that FD personnel will need training to address potential EV fires at charging stations and in electric vehicles. These fires can burn for up to several days. DEEP is in the process of determining if the "run off" from extinguishing fires is hazardous and needs to be collected. Trooper Warren reported that an EV station at Maple Street will contribute to parking issues already present downtown. Also, additional lighting in the area will be necessary to enhance safety in the area.

Pat Bandzes reported that a meeting with Eversource's Energy Efficiency Team and Rick Holloway is tentatively scheduled on 5/6 or 5/17. She recommends scheduling a similar meeting with Chester business owners.

Pat Bandzes made a motion to add to the agenda discussion and action on updating the point of contact on the DEEP Grant documents related to an EV Charging Station. Paul Radicchi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Bandzes made a motion to name Cindy Lignar, First Selectwoman, as the point of contact on the DEEP Grant documents related to an EV Charging Station. Paul Radicchi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E-Team members will report back to the BOS for possible appointment to a standing committee not as a sub-committee of the Conservation Commission.

BOS members requested that the E-Team provide statistics on the streetlights (usage, savings, etc.).

RESIDENT STATE TROOPER WARREN - Police Dept. Recommendation for Single Officer Promotion – A copy of Trooper Warren’s memo to the BOS and BOF was included in the BOS packet.

Trooper Warren recommends that Officer DeCrosta be promoted to Sergeant of Administrative Operations. The hourly and financial implications of the promotion were included in Trooper Warren’s memo. If approved, Trooper Warren recommends that the promotion become effective 4/1/24 and the payroll increase begin on 7/1/24.

Trooper Warren was available to address questions/comments posed by Board members.

Paul Radicchi made a motion to approve and forward to the BOF for further action, Trooper Warren’s recommendation as presented. Pat Bandzes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RETIREMENT BOARD DEFINITION OF EMPLOYEE DISCUSSION

A copy of the definition of an “Employee”, as stated in the Town’s Retirement Plan was included in the BOS packet. The Selectmen agreed that clarification is necessary relative to this definition vis a vis part-time employees meeting the 1000 hours per year eligibility requirement. The Town Attorney will review the document and provide clarification to the BOS.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Cindy reported:

- * The Public Hearing on the Draft Charter is scheduled on 3/28 @ 7 p.m. – Attachments on the proposal are included on the town’s website.
- * The Town is working with CT Comp to upgrade the website to allow for links to documents presented at Board meetings.
- * A Town Meeting is scheduled on 4/10/24, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall – agenda items: funding for Parker’s Point boat ramp and Chester Hose Tax Exempt Ordinance.

Pat reported:

- * The Affordable Housing Committee document is almost complete. Individuals were encouraged to forward any comments, etc. on the document to Pat. Pat will follow-up with the Town Clerk and/or Town Attorney relative to the process necessary to form a committee.
- * Cedar Lake Watershed meeting – discussion on the use of “silk curtains” to address hydrilla at the boat launch. The use of the “silk curtains” needs Inland Wetland and DEEP approval. Pat will speak to State Legislators to expediate the DEEP approval process.
- * CT Comp – the Town met with CT Comp yesterday and set the cameras and tables/chairs in the Community Room to facilitate the TEAMS meetings.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - None.

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Bandzes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Paul Radicchi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk