

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

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting  
April 1, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The Chester Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at the Chester Town Hall, Chester, CT. In attendance were First Selectman Tom Marsh, Selectmen Martin Heft and Bruce Watrous. First Selectman Marsh called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

MINUTES

Martin Heft moved to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2008 meeting, with corrections. Bruce Watrous seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Correction: Page 2 – Conservation Commission – “Earl”, nor “Carl” Horner is the person appointed to the Conservation Commission.

Page 3 – note that Elizabeth Netche was the person speaking during the Audience of Citizens.

Page 2 – Volunteer of the Month – the gentleman’s name is Neilson not Nelson as reported.

BUSINESS

Electricity Purchasing Plans

Ben Grant, a representative from Glacial Energy Inc. was present at the meeting to discuss his business. Tom Marsh reported that Richard Smith, First Selectman of Deep River, forwarded information on Glacial Energy Inc. The Town of Deep River is participating in this plan. The BOS have discussed this opportunity at a previous meeting.

Mr. Grant reported that his organization purchases electricity from the lowest price supplier, allowing his company to remain competitive. He continued that CL&P will be the company that delivers the power, reads the meters and does the repair work. CL&P, by mandate, must service without discrimination, even if you purchase power from another supplier.

A graph illustrating monthly pricing was provided to BOS members; and pricing changes monthly. CL&P as well as Glacial competitors charge a flat rate per kilowatt hour.

Glacial Energy follows the same curve; however, their prices are always less expensive than CL&P.

He reported that this is a month to month arrangement and no contract is needed. The billing process was discussed briefly. Also included in the information provided were the pricing policy, the billing procedures, and a local client list.

Glacial Energy does not participate in the Connecticut Clean Energy Program; however any savings could be applied to renewable energy. The Board thanked Mr. Grant for his presentation.

#### DEP's Plans for State Forest

Emery Gluck, Cockaponset Forester DEP, was present to discuss the DEP's plans for state forest roads.

Tom reported that he, along with Mr. Gluck and Mr. Myers toured the areas in question (Cedar Swamp Road and Pine Ledge Road). The DEP is interested in controlling vehicle access on Cedar Swamp Road and Pine Ledge Road to minimize erosion and subsequent environmental degradation to the wetlands and aquatic environment.

The DEP has approval for 3 gates that will be seasonally closed after hunting season (end of December and re-opening in May). The intent is to limit access during the most erosive times of the year. Mr. Gluck was proposing that DEP blocks Cedar Swamp Road at both sides of the swamp with boulders and felled trees. A trail will be proposed to connect Pine Ledge and Cedar Swamp Roads to provide access for hikers, bikers, horseback riders and a once per year dirt bike endure.

As part of the ten-year forest management plan for Cedar Swamp Block, large timber harvests will occur in this section of the forest. The logger will be required to bring in substantial amount of road material to parts of Pine Ledge and the southern end of Cedar Swamp Road. The road improvement will only occur where the roads are eroding into the wetlands. The harvest is expected to begin in 2009 or 2010.

Tom Marsh reported on access to Pine Ledge concerns. Under this plan, when the gates are open, you would have access to Pine Ledge but you would not have the access from the Chester side of Cedar Swamp Road. Tom continued that gates and parking areas may encourage mis-behavior; however, by making it so you have to come out the same way you went in should discourage this behavior. Mr. Gluck commented that ATVs etc. can still get around gates etc. He continued that ATVs etc. are illegal and Mr. Myers does ticket offenders.

The local fire department would have keys to the gates and access to the area.

Martin Heft reported that he spoke with the Caulder's. This family owns some of the property that would be beyond the proposed gate. He advised them to submit a letter to

the DEP voicing their concerns. Mr. Gluck reported that this family would have a key to the gate and access to their property.

Tom Marsh reported that the town is planning \$130,000 to re-pave Hoop Hill Road. This road would be used during the logging process. He suggested either diverting the trucks or delaying the paving project until after the logging project. He also suggested the possibility of cooperation between the state and the town in maintaining Hoop Hill Road. Mr. Gluck reported that they were recently cited by the Attorney General for illegally diverting funds for road projects.

Tom Marsh reported that he would like to give citizens an opportunity to be at the next meeting to discuss this project.

The gating portion of the project was discussed. Mr. Gluck was hesitant to order the gate without support of the BOS and the town. Tom directed Mr. Gluck to wait until presenting to interested parties. Tom continued that he is comfortable with the gate, provided there are assurances that the times the gates are closed are adhered to. He reported that there is a concern that public access would be limited. Mr. Gluck commented that the intent is not the limit access only illegal vehicles. This topic will be on a future BOS evening agenda.

The BOS thanked Mr. Gluck for his presentation.

### Position Review

Tom Marsh included copies of job descriptions and budget requests in the BOS packet.

Martin Heft suggested using the 1997 pay study matrix for determining the points needed to ascend to the next grade level. He continued that the Assessor, Accounts Manager and Human Services are interested in the grade changes. Martin reported that the 2005 study has a section on hourly vs. salary and this area needs investigation as many town positions could be affected.

A separate special meeting will be scheduled to discuss these positions.

### Boards and Commissions

#### **EDC**

Martin Heft moved to appoint Laurel Johnson to the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire 11/1/11. Bruce Watrous seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **Retirement Board**

Bruce Watrous moved to re- appoint Katherine Marsh to the Retirement Board. Martin Heft seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Grant Assignment Certification – Estuary Transit District

Tom Marsh was in receipt of a request from the Estuary Transit District. They are currently in the process of applying for a State Matching Grant for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation. Part of the process requires two letters from each municipality within the District. One is a “Maintenance of Effort Certification” and the other is “Grant Assignment Certification”.

Bruce Watrous resolved to authorize Tom Marsh to negotiate and execute all necessary agreement/contract documents on behalf of the Town of Chester with the DOT of the State of Connecticut and to affix the corporate seal. Martin Heft seconded the motion. The motion passed.

It was reported that the date needs to be added to these documents.

### Camp Hazen Request

Tom Marsh reported that Camp Hazen is requesting use of the Town Beach parking lot on May 2 through May 4, 2008. They are not requesting the use of Pelletier Park. They are holding their annual Paddle Sports Rally.

Martin Heft moved to allow Camp Hazen use of the Town Beach parking lot on May 2 through May 4, 2008. Bruce Watrous seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### Chester Village West – Fix of Assessments

Tom Marsh reported that he met with David Allen from Chester Village West regarding the fix of assessments.

Tom toured the facility and provided the BOS with a copy of their plans to improve the facility including approximate costs. Tom discussed with Allen the separation between the fix of assessments and the revaluation plan. They also discussed their parent company’s plans to make their communities more in tune with the lifestyles that are expected in the targeted group. There are no additional residential plans in the project; the projects include their arts department, exercise facilities, support offices and a convenience store.

This discussion will be continued at a future BOS meeting and Tom will provide figures as they pertain to the impact on yearly taxes.

## AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None.

## ADJOURNMENT

Martin Heft moved to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Watrous seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski