

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

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting  
April 3, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The Chester Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at the Chester Town Hall, Chester, CT. In attendance were First Selectman Tom Marsh, Selectman, Martin Heft, Selectman and Bruce Watrous, Selectman. First Selectman Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Members from the Board of Education and the Board of Finance were in attendance at the meeting.

MINUTES

Bruce Watrous moved to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2007 meeting, with corrections. The motion was seconded. The motion passed. Corrections are as follows:

Page 2 under BOS/BOF budget discussion – paragraph 4 – the figure should read \$5,716.00 not \$570,000.00. Also the last sentence “This is up 14.27% of fund balance” should be deleted.

Paragraph 5 – last sentence – should read \$10,000, not \$30,000.

Paragraph 6 – first sentence – the word expenditures should be changed to quotes.

Page 3 – second bullet – change \$900 to \$200

The last two bullets on page 3 should be removed.

Martin Heft abstained from the vote.

BUSINESS

Historic Preservation Grant Resolution

Bruce Watrous moved:

RESOLVED, that Thomas E. Marsh, First Selectman is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant. Martin Heft seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Tom reported that this is the \$7,000 Grant reported on in the budget. Tom reported that in the past, it was customary to do this resolution afterwards. However, per Deb Calamari, it should be done at this time.

There was some discussion as to whether this needs to go to town meeting or not. Tom Marsh will follow up on this and report back to the BOS.

The motion passed.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Tom reported that the Democratic Town Committee is nominating Daniel Bednarz to go from an alternate on the Board of Appeals to a full member. This is for a term to expire December 31, 2009.

Martin Heft moved to nominate Daniel Bednarz as a full member of the Board of Appeals. This is for a term to expire December 31, 2009. Bruce Watrous seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### Camp Hazen Request

Bruce Watrous reported on a request from the Camp Hazen YMCA for use of the Town Beach parking lot on Sunday, April 29, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is for the Activate America initiative.

Bruce Watrous moved to grant permission to the Camp Hazen YMCA for use of the Town Beach parking lot on Sunday, April 29, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Martin Heft seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### Municipal Energy Consultant Group

Tom Marsh reported on a bill received from the Municipal Energy Consultant Group. This bill was regarding the street light project in the town. This is a bill for 15% of the amount they recovered for the town. Martin Heft reported that this is what was agreed upon and Tom will process the bill.

## AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

A gentleman in the Audience reported that the town is making decisions based on the recent surveys from P&Z. He reported that the data received will be used for the Plan of Economic Development; which, in turn sets the stage for P&Z and BOF plans for the future. To get additional input from citizens, he requests doing a town wide survey for people who did not attend the P&Z meetings.

Martin Heft reported that, over the years, there have been surveys mailed out and on-line. This gentleman reported that he has never, in 25 years, received such a survey.

He felt that P&Z is only getting a narrow representation of the community.

Tom Marsh reported that he attended a P&Z meeting where the information was being consolidated. The synopsis of these meetings is on the website.

Tom reported that the 2005 POCD has been in the works for quite a while. This survey is being incorporated into the discussion and the decision making process of the plan we are currently under. Tom reported that the Planning and Zoning Committee's has been gathering information, these workshops being just one aspect of that process. They feel that it is now time to get the plan complete. Tom reported that they are not just using those two meetings as the driving force for the plans being made. He did encourage this gentleman to attend P&Z workshops or meetings to express his concerns.

#### Budget Presentation by the Chester Board of Education

A Powerpoint Presentation of the Elementary School budget was given by the Board of Education. A hard copy of this presentation was distributed at the meeting. Highlights of the presentation include:

- An explanation of the budget process
- The Mission Statement of the school
- Strategic School Goals
- Budget Priorities
- Budget Summary and Overview
- An overview of the work of the Supervision District
- ADM figures
- Additional 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher
- CMT results/scores

It was reported that the school does not anticipate receiving Title One Grant money in the near future.

It was reported that due to Maintenance cuts the bathrooms will be refurbished in phases. The final phase of the roof replacement was put in the Capital Budget. This will take place within the next two years and will end the roof work. Hank Stockmal reported on future a project including air quality issues in the gym. There was also some discussion regarding the condition of the driveway. Pam Christman reviewed the history of the driveway project. She distributed a driveway plan to the BOS. The cost of this project is \$198,000.00. She reported that the BOE would like to see this project move forward.

Tom Marsh reported that the Roads Budget has \$100,000 for the school in it.

Mr. Caron reported that the region has had a series of meeting discussing math instruction. He reported that the plan is to "piggyback" the Investigations program with

another program to improve instruction. He reported that there is a large increase in all of the elementary school budgets for math.

The cafeteria operations program is currently being studied by the interim business team to determine needs and potential changes to the program.

Tom Marsh and Kim Just commended and thanked the school administration for their work on the budgets.

The Boards took a short break at this time (8:35 p.m.)

#### BOS/BOF Joint Budget Discussion

The meeting resumed at 8:40 p.m.

Tom Marsh distributed information for discussion at the scheduled BOF meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2007.

He reported that, right now, the town is approximately \$859,000 “in the hole”. The June 30, 2008 fund balance is projected at 15.88. The packet distributed also included budget comparison sheets and a bond debt deduction line item history.

The Boards discussed establishing a guideline for the fund balance account.

The proposed general fund budget changes for 4/3 were included in the packet and discussed.

The costs, including Grants, and the WPCA’s project were discussed by the Boards. Virginia Carmany felt it necessary to educate the citizens of Chester on the costs of this project.

The scheduled road work and costs associated with same were discussed briefly.

The funds that have been put aside for the Main Street Project and the project itself were discussed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made and duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski