

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
August 23, 2023
Chester Town Hall
and via TEAMS

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Janecek called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectman Janecek, Selectman Meehan, Selectman Englert, Terri Englert, Richard Tsu, Richard Strauss, John Schroader, Madaline Meyer, Erica Udoff, and Pat Bandzes.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Pat Bandzes requested that the EDC be involved with discussions on the 20 Water Street property prior to the BOS making a long-term decision on the use of the property. She was encouraged to speak with Dick Leighton regarding the status of the property.

Pat reported that Public Works will repurpose (clean and re-paint) cast iron cans for downtown recycling. A recycling education campaign will be developed and will include the Merchants.

Richard Strauss, Charter Commission Chairman reported that the recordings of the Charter Commission meetings are posted on the town's website. He recommended that the BOS consider a policy that would provide uniform postings of Board/Commission recordings on the website. Note that the size of the recordings may be a limiting factor vis a vis website posting.

As discussed at the 8/9/23 BOS meeting, John Schroader again requested that the BOS consider the installation of additional lamp posts as part of the North Main Street Project. Cost estimates for these lights could be in excess of \$100,000 and were not funded via the STEAP Grant. The consensus of the BOS was that the return on illumination from the requested "decorative lamps" is not warranted with expense of the additional lamp posts. The BOS will consider placing additional lamp posts as an "add alternate" in the project. They will also consider the potential for including in the project (add alternate) the installation of the conduit and concrete pads that would facilitate lamp posts in the future.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Ed Meehan made a motion to appoint Rebecca Wright to the Central Connecticut Tourism District with a term to expire June 2024. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/9/23 BOS meeting as amended. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: Page 4 – The Town requested that the State mow the weeds and growth at the Rte. 9 exit ramp, and they could not accommodate the request. Therefore, the Public Works Dept. addressed the project.

SELECTMEN JOB DESCRIPTION

Copies of the Selectmen job descriptions were included in the BOS packet. As discussed at previous BOS meetings, Selectmen comments, in particular the fact that the First Selectman position is a full-time job, were forwarded to the Town Attorney and incorporated into the document.

Duties associated with emergency management will be discussed with the Emergency Management Director.

It is anticipated that the job descriptions will be finalized at the next BOS meeting.

CELL TOWER

Ed reported that the Town Attorney reviewed the draft lease option that was developed by Vertical Bridge. The Town Attorney updated the document to include options on the cost, length of the option, length of lease extensions, rents, etc. The BOS will review the updated draft and provide feedback to the Town Attorney. Selectmen were encouraged to provide feedback to Ed. Note that there may be other parties in town interested in installing a cell tower.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

WPCA - Ed reported that the DOT will be milling Rte. 154. This project will impact manholes from Gilbert Hill to Winter Street (Deep River). The WPCA is working with Deep River to replace the manhole tops and rings as part of the DOT project. This project will necessitate the need for police officers/traffic control at considerable expense. Capital funds may be used to facilitate this project and, as a municipality, the DOT has a credit system that may reimburse the Town for this expense.

WPCA ARPA projects (Water Street manhole and 47-55 Main Street) are complete. It is anticipated that there will be an approximate \$23,000 surplus in funds allocated for these projects. The BOS/BOF may wish to discuss the potential reallocation of these ARPA funds.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tom Englert made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. for the purpose of a discussion on a personnel matter. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Invited into the Executive Session: Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector.

Regular Session resumed at: ____ p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk