

CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016
CHESTER TOWN HALL
203 MIDDLESEX AVENUE
CHESTER, CT

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek and Selectwoman Linn. Included in the Audience included Jim Schaefer and David Cohen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2016 BOS meeting, as amended. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: Jim Schaefer and Chris Darnelle and Karen Graham were members of the Audience.

Page 2 - "Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve Jacob Beaulieu's Eagle Scout project at Cedar Lake as presented. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously."

Note that Carolyn Linn made the motion and Charlene Janecek seconded the motion.

Page 2 - "Charlene Janecek made a motion to appoint Jeremy Zeaman, Christine Jarnel, Andrew Landsman and Ed Meehan to the Main Street Committee. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously."

Note – proper spelling of Darnel

Under Budget, note that Carolyn Linn suggested that Leslie Strauss be nominated for the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award. Leslie has been instrumental on the Nine Town Transit Board. Also, Lauren Gister seconded the motion to nominate Leslie Strauss for the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note - "Deep River intends to raise transfer station costs by \$25,000" – should be \$20,000 for the next budget year.

Note - "Matt Ewing, State Trooper, received a \$10,000 (raise) from the State Police last year. This was not included in our budget. In December, he will receive an additional pay raise placing him in the top tier of salary ranges. He is also up for a promotion."

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - No comments.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments to Boards/Commissions

A request was received from the Harbor Commission and James Barrington for Mr. Barrington's re-appointment to the Commission. However, there is no regular position available. Mr. Severance

clarified that the request to re-appoint Sy Libby should have been to an alternate position, not a regular position.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to appoint Sy Libby to an alternate position on the Harbor Commission (expiring in 2017) and to re-appoint James Barrington to the regular position on the Harbor Commission (expiring in 2017). Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lauren Gister will distribute an updated list of board/commission appointments. Several recent resignations have been received including Sally Murray, P&Z representative to RiverCOG and Martha Wallace resigned as a representative to the Gateway Commission.

Department of Justice Investigation of Voting Practices

A letter from the Dept. of Justice was received regarding an investigation of voting referendum policies and practices under the ADA Act. A complaint has been received. Several towns/cities in Connecticut are being investigated. Attorney Bennet reported that the Connecticut Board of Municipal Attorneys is developing a unified response to the letter as well as individual responses. The response is due at the end of February. Attorney Bennet will work with the Registrars and Town Clerk regarding the response.

Eversource Streetlight Discussion

Ms. Gister intends to discuss Old Saybrook's streetlights further with First Selectman Carl Fortuna. Previously, Mr. Fortuna reported that he has received positive comments regarding their streetlights.

Chester had applied to be a part of Eversource's pilot program but was not selected; however, there is a possibility that they will offer Chester 50 streetlights. Further discussion will take place if/when Eversource gives a demonstration on the streetlights. Ms. Gister has attended the Energy Task Force meetings and is aware of their proposals regarding streetlight purchasing.

John Schroader, resident, encouraged the Board to continue to work with the Energy Task Force on this matter.

Preliminary Budget Issues

A copy of the Budget Worksheet was distributed. Please note that this document is incomplete at this time. Currently, payroll is based on a 3% raise (across the Board). The Union contract calls for a 3% raise.

The budget drivers, at this time, include the police budget, transfer station costs, fire department, and Registrar required training. The BOS budget increased due to regular payroll. The Administrative Assistant is currently paid out of the BOS and P&Z budgets. This item was combined in the BOS's proposed budget and the P&Z budget will show a decrease.

Issues regarding the use of Deep River's transfer station were discussed including Chester residents using facility without a sticker and type of items taken to the transfer station. Household waste is not an acceptable item to be taken to the transfer station. Costs associated with these services are being further investigated.

Voter registration and other Registrar duties vis a vis the DMV were discussed.

An updated version of the proposed budget will be provided.

OSHA Inspection Resolution

In November, OSHA randomly inspected the Town of Chester (Library, Town Garage, Town Hall, Meetinghouse). Many of the items noted in the inspection were addressed by our Public Works Dept. The formal results of the inspection were received in January and included 12 citations and \$1,200 in fines. The report was reviewed with appropriate personnel and proper documentation was provided to OSHA. An informal conference with OSHA last week resulted in the vacating two of the citation and the fine was reduced to \$300. Items cited in the report were corrected. Outstanding items include lighting and noise monitoring at the Town Garage.

Carolyn Linn recommended that, going forward, an OSHA binder be developed to accommodate future OSHA inspections. It was also suggested that the Town's Safety Committee be involved in future OSHA inspections.

SELECTWOMEN'S REPORTS

It was reported that the Main Street Committee met with ConDOT and submitted their "wish list". This list was reviewed with the DOT and appropriate follow-up was discussed including options for the electrical panel box.

Judy Brown provided a list of the Boards/Commissions for whom she takes minutes. Ms. Brown provides minutes for various Boards throughout Town and her workload was discussed.

Ms. Jister has interviewed candidates for an Administrative Assistant. Also, our Tax Clerk and Head Librarian have given notice.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

John Schroader reported that he was tasked with contacting an individual in Pennsylvania regarding light posts. Information on the posts was distributed to BOS members. The BOS discussed same. Information regarding this matter will be relayed to the State.

A list of comments/complaints from residents regarding the Phase I Main Street project was presented to the BOS. The list includes culvert walls and fences, crosswalks, street lamps, cemetery parking, and signage.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Charlene Janecek made a motion to go into Executive Session at to discuss a personnel matter. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular session resumed.

Lauren Jister reported that the Town will hire an Administrative Assistant. Lynne will provide training for the new Administrative Assistant.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk