

CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016
CHESTER TOWN HALL
203 MIDDLESEX AVENUE
CHESTER, CT

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek and Selectwoman Linn. Audience members included James Schaefer, Fire Chief.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2016 BOS meeting, as amended. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Corrections: Please note correct spelling of names throughout the document as follows: Ziemann, Darnell, Cy, Schroeder, Gister.

Page 1 – delete “Carolyn Lin Gister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously” from the approval of minutes section of the minutes.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - None.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments to Boards/Commissions

Ms. Gister made a motion to appoint Aaron Page as the Park & Rec representative to the Library Building Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Eversource Streetlight Discussion and vote (continued)

Ms. Gister reported that she spoke with Pat Woome, E-Team and Dave Racke, Eversource, regarding the Streetlight Pilot Program. It was determined that it is not “worth doing” at this time. The LED lights do not serve a purpose except to acclimate residents to the color of the lights. In the next 3 to 5 years, Eversource plans to convert to LED and will not allow us to choose the tone, color or wattage of the light.

Also, assuming we purchase our streetlights and go to the Pilot Program, we apply for the program, hopefully get accepted and it then takes several months to install the lights. At that point, once the pilot lights are in, we would then have to ask Eversource for another quote to purchase the lights. The last quote took approximately 5 months to receive from Eversource. In addition, the price we have now expires on 3/8. If we go to the Pilot Program, the price we have now is based on depreciated light fixtures. A new price will include 50 new fixtures and will be higher than the current quote. To start with the Pilot Program extends the life, makes it more expensive and Eversource will change over to LED anyway.

The E-Team proposes that the Town move forward with researching the cost of maintenance and ask vendors questions regarding fixtures, capabilities and maintenance.

A request for funds to purchase lights at the next Town Meeting followed by an RFP is also proposed by the E-Team.

Ms. Linn suggested Eversource supply the feasibility of purchase vs. rental of the fixtures. Is there a financial benefit to purchase vs. non-purchase, given the maintenance aspect and performance guarantees? It was also suggested that the E-Team contact surrounding towns regarding their experience with the program.

Ms. Gister reported that the new LED fixtures will have a longer life and require less maintenance than the old fixtures. A big concern includes insurance since we would only own the fixture, not the pole. Ms. Gister reported on a portion of the proposal outlining the replacement/repair conditions in an emergency situation.

Ms. Gister reported that there would be a loss of revenue in the personal property tax provided by Eversource for the fixtures. This amount totals approximately \$1,500 per year and is offset by the bill savings between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

No action was taken this evening. Once additional information is received from the E-Team, this item will be placed on a future BOS agenda for further action.

Review of Preliminary Budget

Ms. Gister reported that the State Trooper budget includes 85% of the cost of a Trooper. It is anticipated that trooper costs will increase.

The BOE removed \$30,000 from the Supervision District budget and regional educational costs will go down. The only increases in the CES budget are due to contractual obligations. The continued unfunded state mandates regarding the school were discussed.

Coordination of Town Meeting Agenda – 4/4/16

Ms. Gister reported that a Town Meeting vote is necessary to decide the streetlight issue. She continued that according to Eversource, the longer we wait to purchase streetlights, the more expensive it will be to buy them. Appropriate pricing will not be available for the April meeting and it may be prudent to delay a town meeting discussion on this item until all information is received.

Items for a Town Meeting include: streetlights (TBD), VSAP, release of funds for dump truck and release of funds for Meeting House repairs.

SELECTWOMEN'S REPORTS

Ms. Linn will research options for Chester regarding bulky waste/recycling materials. Currently the Town has an agreement with Deep River to use their transfer station and costs have been increasing.

Ms. Gister reported that the Head Librarian has submitted her resignation. The Library Board would like to advertise the position. They have reviewed the job description and updated it appropriately. They are requesting BOS approval of the revised job description prior to posting.

Ms. Linn made a motion to approve the revised Head Librarian job description as presented. Ms. Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A copy of a letter received from area First Selectmen requesting that the Shoreline Time Newspaper cease distributing newspapers (litter) in driveways. These papers were unsubscribed and we are requesting that they utilize another method for newspaper distribution.

A letter from the Fire Marshal referencing the 6 Main Building was received regarding the recently installed vehicle gate. This gate hinders first responders.

A letter from the Regional 2 Mental Health Board indicated that there is no Town of Chester representative to their Board. They are requesting that we appoint an individual to this Board. Various other vacancies on other boards also exist. The Democratic and Republican Town Committees will be made aware of the openings.

Ms. Gister reported that she is confirming with the State the submittals regarding the Main Bridge Street project and related matters. Two issues are outstanding and they include the electrical box located at Simons. The Main Street Committee does not favor this location or box configuration. They are suggesting that the State place a "hand hole" in the sidewalk instead of the box. Also, the issues/configuration/design regarding the crosswalk were discussed.

It was reported that L&E has changed over and will be combining with the Good Elephant.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk