

CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTWOMEN
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2017
7:00PM TOWN HALL
203 MIDDLESEX AVENUE
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. In attendance included: First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Carolyn Linn, and Selectwoman Charlene Janecek.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - None

Lauren Gister made a motion to add an agenda item between 'Approval of Minutes' and 'Discussion of the Street Light Project' entitled 'Discussion of the State Budget Update'. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 9th 2017 MINUTES

Lauren Gister made a motion to accept the minutes from the 8/9/17 BOS meeting as amended. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correction: In the final paragraph on page 2, the sentence that reads '...project will not be complete by the 18-18 school year...' should read '...17-18 school year...'

STATE BUDGET UPDATE

Lauren Gister updated the BOS on the state budget, explaining that on the 18th of August, Governor Malloy released revisions to the Executive Order Resource Allocation Plan. She stated that towns receiving less than 22.24% of their money from the state were brought down to \$0, that towns over 22.24% received some of funding and some urban district's funding would remain the same. State revenue constitutes approximately 8%, for a total of \$732,000. This Executive Order will remain in place until a state budget is passed by the legislature, at which time Chester may or may not regain some of that revenue.

Additional information is expected from the State and Lauren will keep the BOS updated on same. In the meantime, it should be a priority to work toward becoming more self sufficient and less dependent on the uncertainty of state revenue.

Other recent news items which will affect the budget include the newly announced fringe benefit rates for the state police, which have been raised to 107.53%. Additionally, Masonicare, which is a not for profit entity, is expected to purchase Chester Village West in the near future, which could have a large impact on our taxes. Negotiations will occur to determine how the organization is treated for tax purposes,

including payments in lieu of taxes and potential for other benefits for town taxpayers. Lauren will communicate with Wallingford and Stonington regarding their arrangements with Masonicare and also with the Chester Town Attorney for an analysis of options.

DISCUSSION REGARDING STREET LIGHT PROJECT

Lauren Gister informed the board that there is a discrepancy in BOF minutes and the minutes do not specify the vote to borrow the \$100,000 interest loan for the project. The BOS re-read the minutes from the January 19, 2017 BOF meeting and found that the motion and vote printed in the minutes was incomplete and only included part of the approval. The project has already gone to Town Meeting and was approved, the public has given their input, and the E-Team is submitting the designs for the project to TANKO by Friday, August 25, 2017.

Lauren stated that she would review the documentation and consult with John Bennet if necessary, but regardless, whatever action may be needed to clean up the paperwork can be accomplished

Lauren also updated the board on the three streetlights at the top of Main Street. She is currently working with an electrician and the town public works crew to get those lights energized, possibly by connecting them to a commercial building with a separate meter temporarily until the next phase of the Main Street project can be completed.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Alison Abramson, the current director of Tri-Town, has expressed interest in being appointed as the Municipal Agent for Children, but the Board will wait until Lauren can speak with her personally before appointing her.

Lauren Gister received a resignation letter today (August 23, 2017). Aaron Page resigned from Parks and Recreation Board.

SELECTWOMAN'S REPORTS

Lauren Gister stated that she clarified the most current information about the LOTCIP grant with the BOF. Rob Haramut at RiverCOG wrote that LOTCIP is still expected to be funded at current amounts, as it replaced a federal transportation grant for the same purposes. His advice was to continue the work on design and engineering so that Chester can hold its position in line for these funds. Carolyn Linn stated that it was probably not a good idea as the funds would likely be unavailable due to the state financial situation. Lauren explained that the information from RiverCOG indicated that, even if the state discontinued this program, it would need to reinstate the federal monies, although that process would be more complicated. She also stated that, as long as the grant program was available and Chester was on the list, it would be foolish not to continue with the design work so that we maintain our priority status, especially since the work needs to be done and this program will fund almost all of it.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Jo Helchowski
Clerk