

1. Call to Order

The Chester Main Street Project Committee held its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Joplin called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Seating of Members

Members in attendance were Michael Joplin, Chuck Mueller, Steven Tiezzi and Charlene Janecek. First Selectman Ed Meehan was also present.

3. Review Contractor Selection for Phase 1

Chairman Joplin noted he and First Selectman Meehan met with the 3 low bidders – CenterPlan, Quality Associates, Inc. and Pazz Construction LLC. CenterPlan was low bidder and very impressive. Pazz was equally impressive, but not the depth of equipment or expertise. Quality, second low bidder, was also very good.

First Selectman Meehan noted there was some confusion about CenterPlan's bid. That was resolved and a low bid of \$813,576.50 was arrived at. He noted CenterPlan's bid presentation was a little unusual. They provided two copies of the bid, one with one number and the other with another number. Both numbers were the apparent low bidder. Quality was second and Pazz was third. The project engineer verified the numbers and came up with a third number (which was the \$813,576.50). The engineer noted the total could be used applying the unit prices to the quantities. He verified that CenterPlan was still the low bidder.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Town is required to send the bids to ConnDOT. ConnDOT said CenterPlan didn't use the addendum and the correct quantities. The bids were issued to all bidders that they would use the addendum. Meehan asked ConnDOT if the unit numbers could be used and the reply was no. CenterPlan would have to be disqualified.

Meehan noted the options were to either award the bid to the second low bidder or rebid the project. He indicated the problem with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bidder was that there wasn't enough money. He next reviewed the funds available and what the deficit would be. A request would have to be made to the Board of Finance to release additional funds and this would have to go back to Town Meeting.

Meehan noted he would call Quality and ask if they were still interested in the project. If so, it would be May to get more money and the project would start in June. If Quality says no, this can go back out to bid again or go with the 3<sup>rd</sup> bidder, Pazz.

There was some discussion as to whether items could be eliminated from the project or possible negotiation with the contractor. There was discussion regarding catch basins. Chairman Joplin noted he would be reluctant to cut back on the project.

First Selectman Meehan noted the Board of Selectmen authorized him to sign the contract with CenterPlan as presented. Then the Town got the letter from ConnDOT this afternoon. Meehan noted he will contact Selectmen Sypher and Englert and then ask the Board of Finance Chair if the BOF meeting could be moved up so this could go to Town Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Joplin noted he would like to go back and get more money and do the project right. The project has already been scaled back. Chuck Mueller noted there should be discussion at the Committee level to see if there are items that can be deferred to the next phase. Meehan noted we have a hard number now and we can go back to the Board of Finance to ask for an additional \$150,000. Meehan noted he wants to keep the Committee involved in the loop. If the choice is to get more money, he will contact the BOF Chair and request the \$150,000.

There was discussion as to whether or not a Town Meeting could be held earlier. Meehan noted the problem would be getting the BOF to meet before their regular meeting.

There was also discussion about taking some money from the road fund, but there are several road projects already planned.

There was discussion as to whether Laurel Hill Cemetery, exclusive of the lighting, could be deferred.

First Selectman Meehan noted he contact Messrs. Sypher and Englert and BOF Chair Virginia Carmany to see if a Special BOF Meeting could be held to move the process along.

In summary, it was agreed that if Quality can't do the project, the Committee should get together and go out to bid again.

#### 4. Report from First Selectman Meehan on Progress of Bridge Replacement and Time Schedule

First Selectman Meehan noted the Bridge Replacement is pretty much on schedule. They are still collecting all utility sign offs. Going out to bid beginning of May. They have talked with the Chester Fairgrounds Association to make arrangements for the laydown area.

5. Set Summer Meeting Schedule from May 1 to Sept./Oct.  
Meetings will be posted on the town website.

6. Other Business, if any – none.

#### 7. Bills for Payment

Chairman Joplin noted for the record he signed off on an invoice from J. Brown Associates for

secretarial services for meetings from September 2014 thru March 2015 in the amount of \$1,275.00, as a quorum was not present.

8. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2015  
Tabled until the next meeting.

9. Audience of Citizens

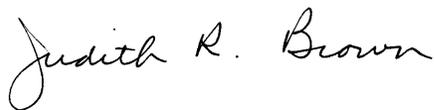
Ivy Ginnetti, 91 Main Street, was present. She noted she has a business in the Stark building, Ivy Massage. She just wanted to find out when this project would start, where it will start, hours of construction and how this will effect her business.

First Selectman Meehan noted the project should start in June. The hours would be 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, five days a week. Access to properties and driveways will be kept open, except for when pouring concrete. There will be some interruptions, but few and far between. There will be equipment on the street, such as a vibrating roller. There will be some vibrating noise. Meehan briefly explained the sidewalk and drainage work noting the road will be closed for a number of days for the culvert work. The Connecticut Water Company has to finish their work once the culvert work is done. The whole project from Laurel Hill Cemetery to the top of School Lane should take about 4 months.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary