

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTWOMEN
REGULAR MEETING
November 8, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Community Meeting Room
Chester, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectwoman Linn, Chief Brainard, Lonnie Wilson and one audience member.

APPROVAL OF THE 10/25/17 MEETING MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the BOS minutes from the 10/25/17 BOS meeting as amended. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amendments:

Note proper spelling "Brainard", "Greeney"

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Lauren Gister made a motion to move the "Audience of Citizens" agenda item to item #3. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lonnie Wilson a Chester resident for over 30 years suggested that the BOS consider installing a removable boat ramp in the Parker's Point area. Mr. Wilson reported that many Chester residents would benefit from such a ramp. In addition, he suggested that moorings may also be beneficial to the area and a possible source of revenue for the Town.

Lauren Gister reported that she will pursue the suggestion and possible fees for out of town users, passes for Chester residents, etc. Lauren thanked Mr. Wilson for his input and encouraged residents to forward ideas to the BOS for consideration.

Carolyn Linn offered additional items to consider if a ramp were to be installed including an awareness of the influence of the tides in the river as well as the length of any ramp. An audience member commented that a ramp would also be beneficial to the Fire Department.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Lauren Gister commented that Town Clerk has reported no issues regarding minority representation on any Board/Commission as a result of the recent election. Ms. Calamari will provide an updated list of all elected/appointed officials.

Lauren encouraged Carolyn Linn, as Chairman of Republican Town Committee, to update their list of expirations, re-appointments etc.

Lauren distributed a letter/background information from Mr. Alan Alonzo expressing his interest in serving on the Valley Shore Emergency Communications Board of Directors. Currently, there is one opening on the Board and two individuals interested in being appointed to the seat. Mr. Jim Schaefer is the other interested individual. Mr. Schaefer will be asked to provide a letter of interest/background information to the BOS for consideration. Both gentlemen will be invited to a BOS meeting for an “interview” for the position.

Chief Brainard reported that Mr. Alonzo is very knowledgeable on radios/communications, etc.

20 WATER STREET RENTAL

Lauren reported that an individual had expressed interest in long term lease and possible build out of the 20 Water Street property. However, no firm commitment has been received and there are a number of other individuals, including a seasonal restaurant, carpenter, finance advisor, and therapist, interested in the space.

The BOS must determine the highest and best use of the space, length of lease, amount of rent, etc. Lauren reported that the location does not have potable water and the space is heated by electricity. In the past the amount received in rent for the property (\$500) has not covered maintenance costs of the property.

This item will be discussed at a future BOS meeting.

CLEANING CONTRACT

Lauren Gister reported that the Town currently uses Frazier for cleaning services throughout town buildings (Library, Town Hall, Meeting House).

Lauren has received a proposal for cleaning services from the individual who currently works for Frazier but is interested in leaving to clean Chester’s facilities. The Town does not have a contract with Frazier and any “non-compete” would not be applicable. The quote received is less expensive than Frazier but also less hours of service.

The BOS will analyze the proposal received and the current services provided by Frazier vis a vis quality of work, current cleaning schedule, etc. This item will be discussed at a future BOS meeting.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Lauren Gister reported that Lee Vito, Sanitarian/Health Director plans to retire on January 1st. Dr. Kotrady also plans to retire on January 1st but will be available until July 1, 2018 and he will continue to provide services to the Fire Department.

Lauren continued that this is an opportunity for the Town to review options for Health Department services including a partnership with Deep River (possible satellite office), joining the Health District, continuing with a town health department.

Currently, Chester does not meet the standards established in a 1998 law that require all towns to have a Health Department working at least 35 hours per week and various other parameters of that law.

Costs of joining the Health District were briefly discussed. A representative from CRAHD (Health District) will be invited to provide a presentation of their services at a BOS meeting.

The BOS discussed services of the Health District vs. a Town Health Department. It was reported that if Chester joined the Health District, permit fees would go to the District not the Town. Services that would be provided by the District would include: health education (required by state statute and currently not provided), restaurant inspections, and sanitarian inspections. Chester's Health Department does currently provide restaurant inspections and sanitarian inspections. It was reported that the local health departments typically provide a better response time to residents.

SELECTWOMAN'S REPORTS

Winter Festival – a meeting with the Police Department regarding coverage is scheduled Monday, 11/13 @ 10:30 a.m. The Winter Festival is scheduled in February.

State Budget – The State's budget shows a loss of \$38,000 in revenue to Chester however; Chester budgeted for a \$130,000 loss. The State did not fund the Renter's Rebate program and if this is not addressed, Chester would have to provide Renter Rebate reimbursements to qualified residents (several thousands of dollars). This program is run through the Assessor's office. Assessors and State Legislators are working to resolve the matter. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

LOCIP Funds – LOCIP funds were “unfrozen” and the Town has approximately \$72,000 “banked” and now accessible. These funds will be allocated in March.

Lauren reported that Chester can no longer rely on the State and must continue to be self-sufficient.

The Region 4 and CES Budget calendar was included in the BOS packet. Lauren stressed the importance of BOS and BOF attendance at these meetings since the vast majority of state budget cuts are in education (2/3 of the Chester budget).

Lauren suggested cancelling the 11/22 BOS meeting (day before Thanksgiving) and scheduling a special meeting on 11/20 to address Board/Commission appointments. Lauren will follow-up with James Grzybowski.

Lauren Gister thanked Carolyn Linn for her teamwork and service on the BOS over the past two years. Her contribution has been appreciated and she will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk