

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

Chester Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
January 24, 2018
203 Middlesex Avenue
Community Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Grzybowski, Tom Brelsford, Chief Brainard, and Kim Brainard.

APPROVAL OF 1/10/18 MEETING MINUTES

James Grzybowski made a motion to accept the minutes from the 1/10/18 BOS meeting as amended. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Corrections:

Page 3, 5th paragraph – change “removal” to “relocation”

Page 3, 1st paragraph – change “made” to “available”

Page 3, 1st paragraph – change “\$2,000” to “\$15,000 to \$20,000”

Lauren Gister made a motion to add to the agenda the “Pattaconk Application for Extension of Liquor Permit”. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

The BOS previously interviewed two candidates interested in filling the vacancy on the Valley Shore Emergency Services Board, Mr. Alonzo and Mr. Schaefer. Lauren received clarification from the Town Attorney that as long as the candidate is a member of the Hose Company, they are eligible to represent Chester on the Valley Shore Board although said individual is not a Chester resident.

James Grzybowski made a motion to appoint Alan Alonzo as Chester’s representative to the Valley Shore Emergency Services Board of Directors. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN TRAFFIC CITATIONS

Lauren distributed information/Ordinance regarding Chester’s Traffic Citations.

The Ordinance designates the BOS as the Traffic Authority with the power to authorize traffic citations. For several years, state tickets have been issued instead of town tickets. When state tickets are issued, the majority of the fine is paid to the state. When town tickets are issued, the fine goes to the town. The BOS discussed the fines to be issued for various infractions and possible adjustments to same. Lauren has directed constables to enforce time limit on downtime parking spots.

BOS members will review the documentation provided and discuss further at a future BOS meeting.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPTIONS (CONT.)

Lauren has received information from Killingworth and Essex regarding their Health Departments. Neither Killingworth nor Essex are part of a Health District. Killingworth has a part-time Health Director (\$45,000 per year) and does not meet the 35-hour criteria established by the State. Essex has a full-time Health Director/Sanitarian (\$100,000 per year) and does meet State requirements. Lisa Fasulo, Essex Health Director, has provided information (pros/cons) of a Health District. Lauren will review same. She will also review the draft contract received from the Health District.

To join the Health District would cost substantially more than Chester currently provides for the Chester Health Dept. (approximately \$30,000 per year). Chester also contributes approximately \$15,000 per year to the VNA.

The BOS discussed the costs associated with water testing, lab costs, etc. at various sites in Chester (Cedar Lake, etc.) and costs associated with same if Chester joins the Health District. Note that the Health District does not provide storm water work.

James Grzybowski reiterated his request that records be kept at the Town Hall and also that if Chester joins the Health District, Health District staff will have regularly scheduled hours in the Chester Town Hall.

Lauren reported that at this time, additional information is necessary to compare the Health District vs. Health Department. Lauren encouraged BOS members to forward additional questions for the Health District to her. She will discuss same with the Health District. Lauren will also pursue interim Health Dept. services with the Health District.

The BOS will discuss further at the next BOS meeting.

CEDAR LAKE WEED MAINTENANCE

Tom Brelsford, Chairman Cedar Lake Watershed Commission, provided a comprehensive overview of the evasive species weed issue at Cedar Lake. At this time, the lake is completely saturated with weeds (approximately 16 feet in depth) posing safety concerns. Funding for weed removal has been budgeted in Capital; however, the problem is worse than previously anticipated and must be addressed immediately (this spring, prior to the start of the fiscal year). Mr. Brelsford reported that the weeds cannot be eradicated completely, only managed. The Cedar Lake Watershed Commission studied various options to address the weeds including hydro raking, diver assisted dredging and chemical applications.

The Commission is recommending that Solitude be retained to address the weeds. Solitude recommends an initial chemical application followed by regular hydro raking only. Regular hydro raking will manage the weeds.

Camp Hazen has been included in conversations; however, because of continual use, weeds do not have the opportunity to grow in their beach area.

The BOS discussed the need for the weed removal at the boat launch. The launch is regularly used by the Fire Dept. for emergency services. This area is the responsibility of the State; however, due to the States budget issues, it is unlikely the State will address this issue.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to request that the BOF appropriate \$12,000 from contingency to address the weeds at Cedar Lake. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lauren reported that RiverCOG is working on a draft bill that would allow towns to institute a town conveyance tax (to the buyer of a property) for protection of land and water resources.

PATTACONK – LIQUOR LICENSE

Lauren reported that the Pattaconk has submitted 2 applications for an extension of use of their liquor permit. This request has been reviewed by the Fire Marshal, Police, and Zoning. The Pattaconk is requesting that on 2/17 and on the date of the Duck Race and Music Festival, from 11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m., they be permitted to allow the consumption of alcohol on the sidewalk in front of the establishment to the curb. They are not requesting permission for tables and chairs on the sidewalk.

James Grzybowski made a motion to approve the extension of the liquor license for use of the sidewalk to extend 6 ft. (NOT to the curb). Further the area must be clearly roped off and marked. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

James Grzybowski reported that the recent CCM seminar for newly elected officials was extremely beneficial.

Lauren reported:

- An interim Trooper, Matt Webber, has been appointed to Chester. The closing date for applicants was Friday, 1/19. Lauren will participate in the interview process but the final appointment will be made by the State.
- Budget submissions are due and will be reviewed by the First Selectwoman and Peter Evankow.
- CT Comp will be present at the 2/28 meeting for a briefing on the phone system.

Charlene reported that Kent and Frost and Jacobson made a presentation at the last Main Street Committee meeting. Concerns regarding the narrowing of travel lanes were discussed and will be reviewed further. Public presentations will be scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk