

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

Town of Chester, Connecticut
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 4, 2019
203 Middlesex Avenue
Community Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectman Grzybowski and Selectwoman Janecek. Also, in attendance included: Susan Wright and John O'Hare.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS- None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS- None

As previously reported, Andrew Landsman has been invited to the BOS meeting on 4/24/19 to discuss the P&Z vacancy as a result of the resignation submitted by Sally Murray.

TOWN PERSONNEL

A letter of resignation has been received from a part-time Public Works employee/Tree Warden (Scott Mills). He has been offered a position elsewhere that includes benefits but would prefer to remain in Chester. His hours in Chester have increased over the years due to various unanticipated events (snow storms, September flood, etc.). The status of the trees in Chester has been an on-going topic of discussion vis a vis gypsy moths, ash borer beetle. The tree budget has increased substantially as a result of same.

As reported previously, the quality and quantity of the work performed by the cleaning contractor has not been satisfactory. Also, the Town has been utilizing Mr. Mills to perform tree work (smaller trees). Additionally, contractors have been used for various tasks because of the lack of staff.

Lauren is recommending additional hours for Mr. Mills (under Public Works). He would remain the Tree Warden and be assigned cleaning duties, plowing sidewalks, and other duties as appropriate thus saving "Outside Contractor" costs and remaining budget neutral.

The BOS agreed that Mr. Mills be offered additional hours as discussed above.

2019-2020 BUDGET UPDATE

Lauren reported that OPM has required a report (mandated) regarding the status of the Town's budget. If the Town's budget has increased more than 2.5%, the town will lose its ability to obtain discretionary state funding. Capital and Special Education may be deducted. This year, it is anticipated the Chester's spending budget will be increased and Capital will decrease significantly. Note that the Town does not have control over the school's budget.

Lauren recommended that the large increases (\$40,000) to the tree budget be moved to Capital. Jamie suggested that the school budgets also be removed from the report requested by OPM.

The BOS briefly discussed increased costs for health insurance.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Charlene attended the recent Inland Wetland meeting. Items tabled at the meeting included: Water Street project (extension requested) and Aaron Manor (not properly notice to abutting property owners). The next meeting is 5/6/19.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 27, 2019 MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes of the 3/27/19 BOS meeting. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. James Grzybowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk