

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 22, 2020
ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, audience members included Terry Englert, Peter Evankow, Finance Manager, Andrew Gardner, BOF, and Richard Strauss, BOF.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None.

COVID 19 UPDATE – Update on Executive Orders 7w & 7s Tax Relief Program

Lauren reported that Chester has realized 33 positive Covid 19 cases; most at Aaron Manor. There have been 5 deaths; all elderly nursing home residents. Social distancing measures are “flattening the curve” and it is expected that cases in Connecticut will decrease within the next 3 weeks.

There has been a huge response to the request for donations to the Food Pantry. Chester residents have been extremely generous.

As previously reported sole proprietors and single member LLCs are having difficulty accessing Covid assistance due to the antiquated IT systems at the State.

TAX RELIEF – EXECUTIVE ORDERS 7W & 7S

Executive Order 7W & 7S outline specific protocols for taxes and the collection of same including penalties for late payments due to the Corona virus. OPM is requiring Boards of Selectmen to vote (by April 25) on offering a forbearance of taxes due on 7/1 for 90 days, without penalty and/or reducing the delinquent tax interest rate from 18% to 3%. Lauren provided an overview of the options and the eligibility requirements for same.

Lauren has discussed the Town’s cash flow with the Treasurer and Tax Collector to determine upcoming expenses. The Town will be able to meet financial obligations through October 1 if a portion of taxes come in later than anticipated. The percentages of property taxes paid by banks is approximately 45 to 50%.

Lauren recommended that the BOS authorize the Deferment option and offer residents more time to pay their taxes. She reported that individuals not struggling financially will pay their taxes as they normally do and banks will forward property taxes as appropriate. BOS members agreed.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to authorize the Town of Chester’s participation in the Deferment Program, (without application) * under Executive Order(s) No. 7S and 7W and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized to carry out all such requirements in the implementation of the program. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

*Note: landlords will have to supply required information as noted in the Executive Order(s).

*Applies to sewer bills too.

As required, this information will be forwarded to OPM by the 4/25/20 due date.

20/21 TOWN BUDGET – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April 8, 2020 BOS meeting. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note: proper spelling “Lol” Feron

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Lauren reported that the contractor has begun the “behind the scenes” work on the Main Street Project; i.e. submittals for materials, surveyor measurements, Call Before you Dig” and securing areas to stage supplies and equipment (Fair Grounds). Information on the project will be communicated via the town-wide email.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26p.m. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski, Clerk