

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 27, 2020
ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Peter Evankow, Finance Manager, audience members included Terry Englert, Tracy Ohouse, Registrar, Ray Guasp, James Grzybowski, Fire Chief, Liz Nettle, Park and Rec Director.

APPOINTMENT OF INCOMING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

A copy of Reinaldo "Ray" Guasp's background information was included in the BOS packet. Mr. Guasp is interested in being appointed as Chester's Emergency Management Director as Mr. Severance retires (he has met with Mr. Severance). Mr. Guasp provided a brief background on his credentials and is well qualified for the position. He was available to respond to BOS questions. Mr. Guasp was confident that he would be able to respond to Chester's needs in addition to fulfilling his role with Veterans Response, a Disaster Relief Team. Several audience members spoke on behalf of Mr. Guasp.

Lauren Gister made a motion to appoint Reinaldo "Ray" Guasp as the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Chester effective 6/1/20. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Guasp will be sworn in by the Region 2 DEHMS Coordinator.

DISCUSSION AND UPDATE FOR REOPEN CHESTER

Lauren reported:

- Staff has been working to facilitate re-opening restaurants
- Park & Rec is considering options for camps and activities
- The EDC team is in the process of developing protocols for the new "way to do business" as a result of the Pandemic and the changes in the retail business.
 - A draft town-wide survey is being developed to ascertain Chester's needs/concerns.
- The State is working on plan for the June 20, Phase II rollout. Additional guidance is anticipated relative to graduations, town parks, state parks, FEMA, etc.
- Signage for stores and restaurants, purchased with the Community Events fund, will be delivered shortly.

Lauren reported that the State of Connecticut has been providing PPE to businesses. We have been stocking up on supplies. The link will be available in the town-wide email and the supplies are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Liz Nettle reported that the Park & Rec Commission met and unanimously decided to NOT hold camp this summer. Refunds have been issued. There is a possibility of short "activity days", arts/crafts, non-contact sports, etc. More information to follow on the "activity days". Cedar Lake will be opened with restrictions, understanding that adjustments will be made as necessary.

ADOPTION OF UPDATED EMERGENCY/CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR CHESTER ELECTIONS

A copy of the Emergency/Contingency Plan for Elections was included in the BOS packet. The document has been updated with information relative to the Pandemic and Election Day Registrations. Tracy Ohouse, Registrar presented an overview of the document (attached) and was available to address the BOS's questions.

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the Emergency Plan for Elections in the Town of Chester as presented. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Charlene, as a Moderator, will discuss the Primary with Tracy at a later date.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May 13, 2020 BOS meeting. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Charlene reported that she is working to schedule a drive-in movie night at the Fair Grounds.

Lauren congratulated James Grzybowski for the Hose Company's town-wide vehicle parade on Memorial Day. The parade was well received and Chester residents appreciated the efforts of the Hose Company.

Lauren reported that the Valley Safe Graduation Committee has been working to facilitate a graduation event. They are proposing a "drive in" graduation ceremony. The Region 4 BOE is holding a special meeting tomorrow night to discuss graduation.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski, Clerk