

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, August 18, 2020
ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Terry Englert, Jamie Grzybowski, Fire Chief, Ray Guasp, Emergency Management, Erica Udoff, Elizabeth Reinhart, Carol LeWitt, Virginia Carmany, BOF Chairman, Susan Wright, Kim Megrath, and several members of the audience.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - None.

LONG TERM RECOVERY COORDINATOR PRESENTATION

Ray Guasp and Jamie Grzybowski thanked the many volunteers for their efforts in developing Long Term Recovery recommendations for BOS consideration. .

The Long Term Recovery committee, formed to address the Covid-19 pandemic, tasked several sub-committees with developing recommendations to assist Chester residents and businesses affected by the Pandemic.

Kim Megrath, facilitated the Social Services, Spirituality, and Emotional Wellness Action Team. The team's report was included in the BOS packet and discussed extensively.

Ms. Megrath provided an overview of the Social Services, Spirituality, and Emotional Wellness Action Team's recommendation. Highlights of the report include:

- Considered the results of the 6/30/20 Chester Survey and the parameters of the POCD when developing recommendations.
- Considered programs currently available to Chester residents.
 - Recommended that the Emergency Fund be renamed to the Chester Cares Fund, expand emergency funding and support the Social Services Director by updating policies and procedures, creating a data system and reporting quarterly in the Newsletter and on the Chester website.
 - Organize Chester into HUBS or ZONES, identify a representative, recruit volunteers and implement a Chester Mutual Aid Collaborative.
 - Create, maintain and regularly update a Resource List.

Ray provided information on Park & Rec's efforts i.e. Yoga, movie night, karate. These activities are well attended and all social distancing protocols are being followed during the events. To enable social distancing, circles are painted at various locations through town (NQP, Meetinghouse lawn, school, etc.).

The Long Term Recovery Coordinators, Jamie and Ray, recommend that the Town purchase an LX-40 Spray Gun, 46"L to facilitate painting of the social distancing circles in appropriate areas. Information on the sprayer was included in the BOS packet. The cost of the spray gun is \$2,550 plus paint. The spray

gun could also be used for other purposes throughout town, i.e. painting lines in parking lots, playing fields, etc.

Jamie reported that restroom facilities in the town center, both short and long term, have been a topic of discussion by the Re-Open Chester committee. Due to the pandemic, businesses/restaurants are reluctant to offer facilities outside of patrons due to safety concerns. As the Main Street Project nears completion, the number of visitors to Chester will increase.

The Long Term Recovery Coordinators are recommending that the BOS consider locating a more aesthetically pleasing, handicap accessible porta potty to be located at the Water Street parking lot. Facility would include a hand wash station, solar lighting, a counter (to provide usage data) and fencing. Cost estimates and protocols for the cleaning of the facility were included in the BOS packet. The documentation provided by the Coordinators includes the purchase of an Electrostatics Spray Gun (\$900). This gun could also be used in other areas of the town. The Coordinators will provide additional information to the BOS; i.e. who will be responsible for cleaning the facility (hoping to get volunteers). Costs associated with the proposed facilities at the Water Street parking lot total approximately \$4,000.

The Long Term Recovery Coordinators are also recommending that the Town assist business owners with trash removal via locating 2 dumpsters at the Maple Street parking lot. Refuse would be picked up 3 times per week and the businesses would pay for the service. An ordinance would also be developed to address trash removal. The BOS will be updated as additional information is available; i.e. pricing and commitments from business owners.

Jamie and Ray provided reports from some of the other Sub Committees; i.e. the Sustainable and Environment Sub Committee. This group has developed documents outlining Land Trust properties, hiking trails, etc. including information from surrounding towns. This information has been forwarded to Mandy and Brianna for website design. They are currently developing a survey to be forwarded to businesses owners to collect data on what if any services businesses received; i.e. financial or mental health due to the pandemic, how will a potential shut down in the Fall affect their business, etc. Costs associated with the survey are currently being researched. The cost to facilitate the Re-Open Chester survey was less than \$1,000.00.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Lauren will follow-up with the Town Attorney relative to Ms. Lewitt's request for clarification on liability for events. Lauren also outlined the parameters for website postings; i.e. the town's official website vs. the Chester website depending on who is sponsoring the event (town or private entity). Appropriate links can be placed on both sites to direct residents and visitors to information on town events, etc.

Jamie and Ray addressed Selectmen questions relative to requests as follows:

- Line painter
 - What uses, outside of Covid, would the sprayer be used for? Response: Park and Rec, lining parking lots. Note that John Divis does not have the staff to line parking lots, etc.(currently done by a contractor) however, an individual could be hired at a reduced cost to line town lots.
 - Who would be responsible for operating the line painter? Response: Have had discussions with Randy Netche also Park & Rec summer staff can be trained to use the

tool. Costs associated with staff should be included in the “ask” as they are not currently budgeted.

- Shipping – the sprayer will be picked up in Old Saybrook and shipping fees are included in the proposal.
- Are different types of paint necessary, depending on the job? Response: the same paint is used and costs approximately \$55 for a 5 gallon container.
- After a brief discussion, it was determined that it would not be beneficial or appropriate to share the line painting equipment with surrounding towns.
- Porta Potty
 - How will vandalism be addressed? Response: the hand sanitizer dispenser will be as “vandalism proof” as possible (stainless steel box, cannot be pried open). It was also suggested that perhaps insurance could be purchased for same.
 - Neighbors must be apprised of the proposed location of the porta potty.
 - Fencing is included in the proposal and can be re-used for a future project.
 - Susan White updated the Board on the availability of appropriate porta potties. She has researched with various vendors.
- Electrostatic Spray Gun
 - Who would be utilizing the equipment? Response: Jamie is speaking to volunteer groups and will provide further information to the BOS at a later date.
- Dumpster
 - Has anyone discussed the location of the dumpster with the neighboring property owners? Neighbors may have concerns about noise, smell, etc. Response: Jamie will have discussions with the neighbors.
 - Will there be an enclosure around the dumpster(s)? Response: an enclosure will be part of the proposal. Also, the dumpster will be equipped with combination locks. The users of the dumpsters will be responsible for keeping the area neat (these items will be spelled out in an Ordinance).

The Board of Selectmen thanked all of the volunteers for their hard work, creative ideas and countless hours spent in the development of the recommendations.

The costs associated with movie night (\$250 for licensing) was discussed. The movies are offered to residents at no charge and to date, donations have paid the licensing fees. Erica Udoff offered to investigate avenues for reduced licensing fees; i.e. Chester Library and Netflix.

A suggestion was made to use the doctor’s office (town owned property) for bathroom facilities/welcome center as was done in the past. Lauren reported that the town dug a new well at the property and water is no longer an issue at the site. The Town does currently have a lease with the tenant.

Virginia Carmany requested that documentation on the proposals be forwarded to her for discussion at the BOF meeting. She suggested that costs for a camera be added to the dumpster proposal. Virginia thanked all of the volunteers for their work on the proposals.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON PROPOSED PROJECTS

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve a request in the amount of \$9,000 for costs associated with a porta potty, business survey, Electrostatic Spray Gun, movie licensing fees and contingencies and

forward the request to the BOF for further discussion and action. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Virginia commented that the items addressed this evening are short term solutions and discussion is needed on a long term set of solutions to the concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Englert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk