

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Joe Cohen, LeWitt Josephy, Susan Wright, Jamie Grzybowski, Elizabeth Reinhart, Virginia Carmany, Bettie Perreault, and Leslie Strauss.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Tom Englert made a motion to appoint Kate Hair, D, to the Conservation Commission (full seat) with a term to expire 11/1/23. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COVID VACCINE UPDATE

Lauren reported the following:

- All individuals classified as 1A (First Responders, Nursing Home residents, etc.) have received their first dose of the Covid 19 vaccine.
 - The second dose will be administered within the next 10 days.
- Vaccines for Individuals classified as 1B will open next week.
 - Many individuals are categorized as 1B and include those 65 and older, essential workers, teachers, grocery store clerks, government workers.
 - One million Connecticut residents are classified as 1B and only 44,000 doses of the vaccine are sent to Connecticut each week.
 - It will take several months before all eligible individuals are vaccinated.
- The DPH will release vaccine registration information tomorrow, 1/14. Lauren will distribute information upon receipt; i.e. town wide email, website etc.
 - An appointment will be necessary to receive the vaccine

PRE-BUDGET DISCUSSION

All department budget requests are due to the First Selectwoman's office on Friday, 1/15. Peter and Lauren will review the documents over the next two weeks and budget binders will be available to all appropriate individuals (BOS/BOF members) for pick up in late January (tentatively 1/28). Budget meetings will be held via ZOOM and the budget will be posted on the Town's website.

Lauren reported that she attended the Governor's call this afternoon. One question asked was relative to Executive Orders vis a vis vote on town budgets. Municipal leaders encouraged the Governor's office to allow the public to vote on the budget unlike last year when the BOS and BOF were the only entities to approve the budget. It is anticipated that the Governor's office will respond to the request and provide guidelines as soon as possible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 23, 2020 BOS meeting. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Tom Englert provided an update on the Region 4 budget workshops. Supervision District shows an increase of just under 3.5% or approximately \$265,000. Of that figure, approximately \$110,000 are expenses associated with items moved from the other budgets and consolidated into Supervision District; i.e. teachers for Summer School. Note that most increases are contractual obligations. ADM figures and Chester's "share" of Supervision District will be discussed at the 3rd budget workshop.

Tom reported that there is a request to increase the IT Techs to 12 month positions; they are currently 10 month positions (off in the summer).

Lauren commented that as the schools become more dependent on technology and "tech based", it is important to keep technology reliable and to have adequate redundancies in place in the event system failures.

Charlene reported that she has been working with the Police relative to parking on Main Street. Some signage currently in place is in need of clarification. If unclear, it is often difficult to enforce.

Lauren reported that the town is eligible for FEMA funds (75%) relative to damage as a result of Storm Isaias. She will meet with the Emergency Management Director and Finance to start the application process.

Lauren thanked the generous residents for their offers of space for vaccination clinics. Lauren is speaking with the Health District relative to the vaccine and as of now, it is unsure what the Health District's role will be in the 1B vaccine roll-out. The Health District is awaiting information from the State of Connecticut regarding the roll-out of the 1B vaccine.

Lauren reported that several bids were received for cleaning and repair to the Chester Wall and the Flagpole wall. These bids range from \$3,000 to \$17,000. Work on the walls cannot commence until the spring and additional cost estimates will be pursued.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Jamie Grzybowski reported that the Fire Department will resume training (all CDC guidelines in place; i.e. masks, small groups, social distancing etc.). In addition, vehicles are thoroughly sanitized after each call.

Tom Englert provided clarification on the Supervision District budget at the request of Virginia Carmany, BOF Chairman, as follows:

- A spreadsheet relative to the status of the Supervision District budget will be developed and available.
- Status of Assistant Superintendent position – there is currently a "placeholder" in the budget for this position. No additional administrative positions have been requested.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlene Janecek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk