

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Elizabeth Reinhart, Joe Cohen, James Grzybowski, Fire Chief, Virginia Carmany, BOF Chairman, and Karena Garrity.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to add to the agenda (after the 2nd Audience of Citizens) an Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter and personnel matters. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

COVID/VACCINE UPDATE

Lauren reported:

- Infection rate, while still low at approx. 3%, in recent weeks was at approx. 1%.
 - Stressed the importance of continuing to follow CDC guidelines
 - Rate of vaccination
 - 75 and over – 80% vaccinated
 - 65 and over – 70% vaccinated
 - 55 and over – 30% vaccinated (first dose)
 - Vaccination site now open in Bridgeport (run by FEMA)
- State moving forward with re-opening plans, as of 3/19/21(for most businesses)
 - Eliminating capacity requirements
 - Travel mandates will become a travel advisories
 - Venues – indoor capacity 100 people, outdoor capacity 200 people
- State re-opening continued
 - 4/2/21 – amusement parks to open, stadiums to open at 50% capacity or 10,000 persons, in-door stadiums at 10% capacity
- Summer camps to resume as normal as possible and capacity for fairs is to be determined
- Bars to remain closed unless they serve food, if they serve food, they may remain open until 11 p.m.
- Performance venues, movie theaters – remain at 50% capacity
- Status of Chester Memorial Day Parade – to be determined – last year the Town held a “drive through” parade.

Chester volunteers commended for their continued efforts contacting residents relative to the vaccine.

DREDGING OF CHESTER CREEK OPTIONS

As previously discussed, an additional \$25,000 was requested and approved for dredging. Due to a variety of reasons, i.e. Port Authority staffing, lack of bonding and State's "debt diet", the grant relative to dredging has not yet been awarded. In addition, the potential grant is now a reimbursement grant as opposed to a 20% grant. The permitted dredging period is October through April.

Lauren and Virginia Carmany, BOF Chair, have been requesting from the Port Authority clarification on a number of issues relative a dredging project including potential financial contributions from slip owners, protocol for bid process, location for placement of dredged materials and appropriate use of the permit. When clarification is received, the BOS will discuss this topic further.

BUDGET ITEMS to be discussed later this event (budget workshop with the BOF).

EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND TOWN MEETINGS

Lauren reported that due to the Pandemic, in-person Town Meetings have not taken place for approximately one year. Executive Orders have allowed the BOS to "act" as a Town Meeting for items considered an emergency. After 4/19, the Governor's EO expires and the BOS will no longer have the ability to act on behalf of a Town Meeting. There are several outstanding non-emergency items (Garbage Ordinance, Building Dept. Fees) that need approval by the Town's legislative body; i.e. Town Meeting.

In addition, the Budget is normally passed via a Town Meeting. Due to CDC guidelines it may not be possible to have a Town Meeting at the Town Hall (lack of space for social distancing). Options for Town Meeting space will be discussed further (Parish Hall, Synagogue, CES).

To limit the number of Town Meeting's necessary; it was recommended that all outstanding items be placed on the same Town Meeting Agenda/Call.

Lauren reported that area Legislators have requested that First Selectmen forward to them topics of importance; i.e. hybrid meetings, posting requirements, etc. Lauren encouraged individuals to forward to her their recommendations for the Legislators.

RESOLUTION – EMPG

Charlene Janecek made the following motion:

Resolved, that the BOS may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

Further Resolved, that Lauren S. Gister, as First Selectwoman of the Town of Chester is authorized and directed to executive and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the BOS and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Charlene reported that she continues to discuss the necessary work to the "walls" with masons/contractors. One of the contractors is revising his bid and she is meeting with another

contractor in the near future. A mason has inspected the wall at Little House Brewery. He noted that it needs repair but is “sound”.

Lauren reported that the Federal Covid Rescue Bill was passed today. The Bill includes funding to the state and local governments for recovery. It is anticipated that details of the Bill will be forwarded to the municipalities within the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Lauren is currently working with Masonicare relative to a celebration for a resident’s 100th birthday.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tom Englert made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss a real estate matter and personnel matters. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular session resumed ___ p.m.

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

___ made a motion to adjourn the meeting at ___ p.m. ___ seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk