

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, September 22, 2021  
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, Terri Englert, Ed Meehan, Jamie Grzybowski, Elizabeth Reinhart, Cary Hull, Jen Rice, Marta Daniels, and Bettie Perreault.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS –

Ed Meehan, Historical Society, forwarded to Lauren pictures of the dam located behind the Historical Society. He requested a copy of communications between DEEP and the property owner relative to the status/condition of the dam. Lauren reported that she has requested that DEEP visit the site; inspect the structure and “step up” enforcement measures. As previously reported, Jacobson has inspected the dam and at that time, did not report any “imminent” danger.

Marta Daniels reiterated Mr. Meehan’s concerns.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Charlene Janecek made a motion to re-appoint Denise Learned to the Cedar Lake Watershed Commission (2 year term) with a term to expire 7/1/23. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ARPA DISCUSSION – REGIONAL PROJECT REQUEST

Lauren reported that Chester has received approximately \$600,000 in “county” ARPA Funds. These funds have been given to the town because Connecticut does not have a county government format. RiverCOG has requested that towns consider reserving up to 15% of the county share of the ARPA funds for potential regional project(s). If approved, the funds would remain the municipalities until said municipality agrees to participate in a project. At this time, RiverCOG is requesting that a Town inform them if they are interested in participating in a regional project and if so, that the town put a “placeholder” on those funds.

In addition, the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries has made a request for funding from all of the towns in their service area for the purchase of a refrigerated truck with a hydraulic lift. Several area towns have approved up to \$10,000 for this purchase.

If the BOS supports this purchase, a “package” of potential projects would be forwarded to the BOF and a Town Meeting. Note that funding for the refrigerated truck would not be taken from the County ARPA funds but from the Town’s portion of the ARPA funds.

Lauren Gister made a motion to contribute up to \$10,000 of Chester’s ARPA funds to join with other towns for the purchase of a refrigerated truck, including a hydraulic lift, for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries, contingent upon this purchase being an eligible use of ARPA Funds. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Meehan, WPCA Chairman, requested that the BOS consider using ARPA funds for infrastructure projects related to the sewer system. Costs associated with projects are being developed and will be forwarded to the First Selectman/BOS.

#### CHESTER 2021-22 HOLIDAYS

A copy of the 2022 Town Holidays was included in the BOS packet

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the 2022 Town Holiday Calendar as presented. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC HEARING/TOWN MEETING

As discussed at past BOS meetings, several items need a Public Hearing/Town Meeting approval; i.e. Garbage Ordinance, Use of Cedar Lake, ARPA Funds, possible Outdoor Dining Ordinance, Town Hall Technology Upgrades, etc.

The BOS agreed that a Public Hearing will be scheduled on 10/25/21 and a Town Meeting on 11/17/21 for action on items. All appropriate notices will be published in the newspaper, town hall, etc.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2021 BOS meeting, as presented. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### SELECTMEN REPORTS

Charlene reported:

- She has contacted Atlas relative to scheduling the Phase I Environmental Study at 59 Winthrop Road (Skyview Property).

Tom reported:

- An email was received relative to the condition/overgrowth of vegetation at the bleachers at CES.
  - Lauren reported that these photos have been sent to Liz and John and the condition will be addressed ASAP.

Lauren reported:

- Covid – Notification received from the schools – several positive cases at CES and JW. In addition, the schools are having serious issues with a lack of bus drivers; i.e. buses have been late and routes are being redone.
- The status of the 11/24 BOS meeting was discussed. November 24 is the day before Thanksgiving and the meeting may be canceled. Will be discussed further at a future meeting
- Doodle polls have been sent out to Board members relative to scheduling a joint BOS/BOF meeting.

#### AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Marta Daniels reported that the Connecticut Bar Association hosted a webinar highlighting the work and legacy of Constance Baker Motley. Ms. Motley resided in Chester for 40 years and contributed to the Civil Rights Movement and other important initiatives in the state and country. If available, Lauren will secure a recording of the event for posting on the Historic Society's website.

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Englert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Clerk