

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 1, 2021
ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Gister called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Terri Englert, Jon Joslow, Elizabeth Reinhart, Bettie Perreault, Andrew Gardner, Rick Nygard, Kimberley Megrath and additional audience members.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Tom Englert made a motion to appoint Thomas Brelsford to a full position on the Harbor Management Commission with a term expiring 10/3/23 and to appoint John Chillock to an alternate position on the Harbor Management Commission with a term expiring 10/3/23. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to re-appointment Charlie Greeney and Alan Alonzo to the Valley Shore Emergency Communications Board of Directors for 2-year terms expiring 11/21/23. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lauren reported that the Economic Development Commission is unable to function due to lack of membership on the Board. Recently, Susan Wright, Chairman of the EDC resigned.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to appoint Jon Joslow to a vacancy on the EDC (term expiring 11/1/25, 4 years remaining on a 5 year term). Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to appoint Jon Joslow as the temporary Chairman of the EDC. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note that appointing Jon Joslow as temporary Chairman allows him to call a meeting to order to allow the remaining EDC members the ability to elect a Chairman.

REVISION TO ORDINANCE REGARDING BOARD OF FINANCE ALTERNATES

As previously discussed at the Joint BOF/BOS meeting in November, the current Ordinance relative to appointing alternate BOF members is unclear. To provide clarification, Lauren suggested that the Ordinance be revised.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to amend the Ordinance to add “the filling of BOF vacancies shall be in accordance with Section 7-343 of the Connecticut General Statutes”; further moved to forward this amendment to a Town Meeting for further action. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note that BOF members in attendance at this evening's meeting had no objections to the above motion.

APPROVALS – Phase II Funding – Skyview, Transition Funding for new Town Clerk

Due to meeting schedules, the BOF has acted on (approved) funding for the Phase II Environmental Inspection of the Skyview property and Town Clerk transitional funds.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the amount of \$20,000 for the Phase II Environmental Inspection of the Skyview Property, Rte. 145, Chester, CT and to authorize First Selectwoman Gister to sign a contract with Atlas to perform said work. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The newly elected Town Clerk, Kate Hair, takes office in January. While there are formal Town Clerk training seminars, they do not allow an individual to participate until they are sworn into office. In the interim, Deb Calamari has been training her.

Lauren Gister made a motion to approve the amount of \$2,000 in Town Clerk transitioning funds for Kate Hair. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR CHESTER CREEK DREDGING PROJECT

Two bids were received regarding the Chester Creek Dredging Project as follows:

Hays Haven Marina, Inc. (HHM) - \$70,000
Coastline Consulting & Development, LLC - \$191,400

These bids have been reviewed and vetted; i.e. reference checks, insurance, litigation, etc. by Jacobson and Associates.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to award the dredging contract to Hays Haven Marina in the amount of \$70,000.00 and to authorize First Selectwoman Gister to sign the contract. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jacobson and Associates will prepare the Notice of Award letter and insure all necessary documents are provided; i.e. performance bonds, etc. Note that a grant in the amount of \$100,000 with a 25% match from the Town was received to facilitate this project. The project must be completed by April 1, 2022.

2022 BOS MEETING SCHEDULE

Lauren Gister made a motion to schedule Regular BOS meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.; with the exception of the month of November. In November 2022, the BOS will meet on the 2nd and 5th Wednesday (November 9 and November 30). Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 10/27/21 and 11/10/21

Charlene Janecek made a motion to approve the minutes from the 10/27/21 BOS meeting, as amended. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correction – page 4 – delete the second “Tom Englert seconded the motion” from the Tri-Town discussion section.

Charlene made a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/10/21 BOS meeting, as presented. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MEETING CALL – 12/15/21 – 7 p.m.

As previously discussed, agenda items for the 12/15/21 Town Meeting include:

- Garbage Ordinance
- Cedar Lake motor boat/trailer ban (several Public Hearings and informational meetings have been held on this topic).
- Building Permit Fees
- Ordinance regarding BOF appointments
- Allocation of ARPA funds
 - 35% to Public Health
 - 15% potential Regional project
 - 15% WPCA – pump station upgrades
 - 35% for negative Economic Impacts due to the Pandemic
 - Hose Co. fire boat, temporary staff for Social Services
 - Generator for Town Hall

The BOS will hold a Special Meeting on Friday, 12/3 to formally set the Agenda for the Town Meeting. The Town Meeting Agenda will be published and publicized as appropriate.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Charlene reported that Atlas anticipates beginning the Phase II of the Skyview property next week.

Lauren reported that the Selectmen, Town Staff, town-wide email and DTC have been notified that she accepted a Town Manager position in Colorado. She submitted her resignation, with regret, effective 1/5/22. This extremely difficult decision offers a once in a lifetime opportunity and she is confident that the Town is in a good position both fiscally and with regard to the professional staff and volunteers. She thanked the staff and all of the volunteers for their service to Chester.

Kim Megrath congratulated Lauren and wished her every success. She continued that the Chester Community Partnership, including 55 plus volunteers, has made an incredible contribution to the Town and acknowledged and thanked the BOS for their tremendous support of this initiative.

Cindy Lignar thanked Lauren and wished her every happiness in her “new adventure”.

Lauren reported:

- Covid rates are climbing and the State’s positivity rate is now at approximately 6%. Hospitalization rates have also increased and all were encouraged to get vaccinated, boosted, wear masks, etc. Masks are required at the Town Hall.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Kim Megrath reported that the Community Partnership has been assisting residents with vaccinations and booster shots. She encouraged individuals to consider home Covid tests. These tests are available

to purchase on line (approximately \$23/\$24 for two tests). It was reported that the test can also be purchased over the counter at the Old Saybrook CVS.

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Englert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk