

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 9, 2022
ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Janecek called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Selectman Meehan, Terri Englert, Virginia Carmany, Rick Nygard, Julianne Divis and Meredith Devanney.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Tom Englert made a motion to appoint Charlene Janecek as Chester’s representative to the Connecticut River Area Health District. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/12/22 BOS meeting, as presented. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ed abstaining from the vote.

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/26/22 BOS meeting, as amended. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ed abstaining from the vote.

Note- the proper spelling is Liz Netsch, Treasurer.

POLICE BODY CAMERAS

Charlene reported that the Legislature passed the Police Accountability Bill. This unfunded mandate calls for body and dash cameras for all police. If this equipment is not in place by 7/1/22, the police will not be permitted to work and the Town will be fined \$100 per day.

Proposals from CT Comp (\$79,965.11) and Telrepco (\$40,750.00) were included in the BOS packet for the purchase of cameras, docking stations and wiring of equipment. Telrepco is the contractor used by the State and use of this same contractor will facilitate potential future storage and retrieval of footage if requested/necessary.

Ed Meehan made a motion to refer to the BOF, the BOS’s recommendation to contract with CT Comp (\$79,965.11 quote 025517dated 2/7/22), the Town’s current IT provider, to provide the Police Dept. with the necessary IT to facilitate body and dash cameras. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Meehan made a motion to refer to the BOF, the BOS’s recommendation to retain the services of Telrepco (Order #0103496 dated 8/19/21) for the purchase of cameras and other equipment as necessary in an amount not to exceed \$40,750.00. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Meehan made a motion to approve the proposals from Telrepc and CT Comp as presented and forward to the BOF for further action. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The BOS briefly discussed the potential use of ARPA funds and other grants to support this project.

Rick Nygard recommended that the BOS review the Town's Bid Policy to ensure all competitive bid protocols are being followed relative to the purchase of the body/dash cameras and other equipment.

Ed Meehan made a motion to request that the BOF consider this an emergency purchase and by-pass the competitive bid process. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LAND TRUST REQUEST

Charlene Janecek reported that the Land Trust is requesting that the BOS consider designating a 9.1 acre Town owned Open Space property (adjacent to the Chester Cemetery and NQP) in honor of Anna Sweeney, Inland Wetland Official.

Ed Meehan made a motion to name a 9.1 acre parcel of Town owned Open Space located on Water Street in memory of Anna Shubik Sweeney (the Anna Shubik Sweeney Preserve) and to coordinate cooperatively with the Chester Land Trust relative to the dedication and placement of a plaque at the property. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FACE MASK MANDATE

Charlene reported that as of 2/28/22, the Governor will no longer require that masks be worn in public buildings; however, the towns may require use of masks in town owned buildings. The BOS discussed same and the consensus of the Board was to continue to require that masks be worn in town owned buildings for the next 4 weeks. The BOS will re-visit this policy. Note that in-person meetings will be permitted beginning 2/14/22 (masks required).

Masks are still available to the public in the Selectman's office.

TOWN COUNSEL

Five proposals were received relative to the RFP for Town Counsel. These proposals were reviewed by the BOS. The appointment of a Town Attorney is for a 2 year term, coinciding with the municipal election.

Ed Meehan made a motion to appoint Halloran and Sage as the Chester Town Attorney for a 2-year term, ending November 2023. He further moved that First Selectwoman Janecek is authorized to negotiate with the firm concerning hourly rates, not to exceed \$200 per hour. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note that a waiver will be provided relative to a potential conflict of interest with a client in Chester.

SELECTMEN REPORTS – None.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Ms. Devanney reported that she is routinely "stuck in the waiting room" at BOS meetings. Charlene reported that the use of waiting rooms discourages individuals posting inappropriate pictures and

commenting during public meetings. She will research to see if there are other options to use in lieu of the waiting room.

Julianne Divis reported that there may be OPM funds for the purchase of the police cameras.

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Englert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk