

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 26, 2022
ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Janecek called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Englert, Terri Englert, Aaron Zain, Kris Pollock, Meredith Devanney, Virginia Carmany, Susan Wright, Debbie Daniels, John Chillock, Kimberley Megrath, Rick Nygard, Ron Amara, Madaline Meyer, Lianne Ruddy, John Pratt, Patricia Bandzes, Cindy Lignar, Aaron Zain, Ed Meehan, and Scott Mills.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to add to the agenda a discussion on downtown WIFI. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Tom Englert made a motion to appoint Linda Carlson to the Park & Rec. Board, to fill a full-term vacancy. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note that Linda was recommended by the DTC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/12/22 BOS meeting, as amended. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note that the email referenced under the Audience of Citizens was dated 12/7/21. Also, the time the Executive Session ended and the time of adjournment will be added to the minutes.

SELECTMAN APPOINTMENT

Six applicants expressed interest in the open Selectman seat. These applications were reviewed by the BOS in Executive Session.

Tom Englert made a motion to appoint Ed Meehan as Selectman. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed will be sworn in ASAP.

The BOS thanked all candidates interested in the position and encouraged them to remain active in town government. There are “seats” open on several boards/commissions.

TREASURER DISCUSSION

A letter of resignation was received from Joe Cohen, Treasurer.

Charlene Janecek made a motion to appoint Liz Nettle as Interim Treasurer. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The BOS will re-visit the interim appointment in 30 days.

CHESTER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Kimberley Megrath, Chester Community Partnership, reported that, for the 2nd year in a row, the Partnership was awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. These funds will be used to provide approximately 20 families with computer/internet access and or cell phones/cell service.

As previously reported, the Partnership identified food, housing, utilities, technology, health, mental health, child care and transportation as priority areas of concern. Ms. Megrath reported that 24% of Chester residents qualify as "ALICE" (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed).

The BOS thanked Ms. Megrath and the Partnership for the excellent services they provide to Chester residents.

DOWNTOWN WIFI

Charlene updated the Board on the status of the Downtown WIFI initiative started by Lauren Gister. The parameters of the project were reviewed. The agreement with the State relative to the STEAP funds (\$83,000) that will facilitate the project was received in the Selectman's office. The project will go out to bid.

Tom Englert made a motion to sign the Agreement by and between the State of Connecticut and Town of Chester relative to the installation of WIFI in downtown Chester and to authorize First Selectwoman Janecek to sign the Agreement. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Charlene reported:

- Atlas has completed the soil testing at 59 Winthrop Road (Town owned Brownfield). A report of findings is expected in approximately one month.
- The new Assessor begins on 2/14/22.
- A Tractor Parade is scheduled on 2/20/22.
- Region 4 held its first Budget Workshop this evening

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Madeline Meyer thanked Joe Cohen for his service to the Town as Treasurer. She congratulated both Ed Meehan and Liz Nettle for their appointments this evening.

Meredith Devanney congratulated Ed Meehan on his appointment as Selectman. She expressed disappointment that the process was done in Executive Session and could not be discussed publically.

Cindy Lignar congratulated Ed Meehan and Linda Carlson for their appointments at this evening's meeting.

Erin Zain suggested that the Board reach out to individuals not chosen as Selectman and encourage those individuals to participate on a Board/Commission. She recommended that Board/Commission openings be posted in a prominent location on the Town's website, in the newsletter, social media, etc.

Charlene reported that she has reached out to Selectman candidates and will continue to do so. The Board again encouraged individuals to serve on town Boards/Commissions as the Town relies on volunteers.

The BOS thanked Joe Cohen for his service as Treasurer. Joe Cohen provided an outline of the extensive duties and skills necessary as the Treasurer.

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Englert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk