

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
Community Room
Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Janecek called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Meehan, Selectman Englert, Terri Englert, and John Chillcock.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Ed Meehan made a motion to appoint Paul Radichi to the Board of Assessment Appeals with a term to expire 11/21/23. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Meehan made a motion to appoint Josh Dean to the Harbor Management Commission as an alternate with a term to expire 10/2025. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ed Meehan made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2022 meeting, as amended. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed with Tom Englert abstaining from the vote.

Note – correct spelling “Karin”, not “Karen” as reported.

MEETING HOUSE ROOF

Charlene reported that 2 bids were received in response to the Meeting House Roof RFP. She recommended that the bid from R.A. Parady & Sons, Inc. be accepted. Note that this contractor is the low bidder, has done work for the town in the past and provided references.

Ed Meehan reported that additional issues may be uncovered in sections of the roof as the project proceeds.

Ed Meehan made a motion to award the Meeting House Roof project to R.A. Parady & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$95,170.00. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

WEBSITE PROPOSALS

John Chillcock has reviewed the bids received (5) for website design. A meeting is scheduled next week with Civic Plus relative to their proposal. Civic Plus has provided references and is used in surrounding towns. The need for a website that is user friendly and able to be updated by staff was stressed.

A survey will be developed to determine what residents’ desire in a website; i.e. “why do you go to the town’s site”, “is there some feature you would like to see on the town’s website?”, etc. This survey will

be distributed via "Survey Monkey" and is due back on 5/6/22. This item will be discussed further at the next BOS meeting.

The Board thanked Mr. Chillock for his assistance with this project.

RATIFY UNION CONTRACT

A copy of the proposal was included in the BOS packet as follows:

"Tentative agreement between the Town of Chester and Local 1303-286 for a successor agreement for the collective bargaining agreement dated 7/1/17-6/30/22. The Town and the Union agree to a new 4 year contract from 7/1/22-6/30/26.

Wages are as follows:

7/1/22 – 4.75%

7/1/23 – 4.25%

7/1/24 – 3.75%

7/1/25 – 3.25%"

Note that the Union requested a 5 year contract and Covid payments; both requests were denied. The BOF is aware of this proposal.

Ed Meehan made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACCEPT JUNETEENTH AS A HOLIDAY

Charlene reported that the Juneteenth Holiday was discussed during the union negotiations but not included in the final contract. Juneteenth is a Federal holiday but not yet a State holiday.

The BOS took no action on this item and will discuss as part of next year's calendar.

POTENTIAL SALE OF SOLAR PANELS

The Town is interested in selling the solar panels and inverter that were originally installed on the roof of the elementary school. These items have been stored at the Town Garage since 2013. The E-Team had recommended that they be repurposed; however, no appropriate site was identified for reuse of the panels. The estimated value of the system is \$5,000.

Ed Meehan made a motion to list the solar panels and system for sale as presented. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Ed Meehan reported on the next steps relative to the STEAP Grant project for WIFI in the Town Center. The Town has two years to complete the project, from January 2022 to January 2024. The STEAP grant award was \$85,000 and the Town's portion is \$10,000. On-going operational costs associated with WIFI (Comcast, maintenance of equipment, etc.) are being developed. Ed recommended that a small Committee be formed to facilitate the project.

Charlene reported that the Brownfield Assessment grant application for 59 Winthrop Road (Skyview) in the amount of \$70,555 was received today. As previously reported, the Phase I and Phase II Environmental studies on the property were completed by Atlas.

Charlene is working with Angus McDonald, Deep River First Selectman, and John Guskowski, regarding on-line Building Department permits.

As previously reported, the Town of Chester is interested in an Extra Mile/Micro Transit service program to potentially provide transportation from the marinas to the Town Center and Deep River. The costs associated with this program would be \$20,000 (\$10,000 from the Town and \$10,000 provided by 9TT).

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Englert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk