

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, April 27, 2022
Community Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER

Selectman Meehan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included: Selectman Meehan, Selectman Englert, Terri Englert, and John Chillock.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the minutes from the 4/13/22 BOS meeting as presented. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Englert made a motion to add to the agenda, under “Selectmen Reports”, a discussion regarding ARPA projects as discussed at the 4/21/22 Committee meeting. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

WEBSITE PROPOSALS

Documentation, developed by John Chillock, was included in the BOS packet. The Board thanked John for his work on the website proposals and his excellent report.

Mr. Chillock reported that he and Jenny Watrous, Administrative Assistant in First Selectman’s office, thoroughly reviewed the proposals (5) received relative to the Town’s website, and recommend that Revize or Civic Plus be awarded the contract.

Note that 82 municipalities in Connecticut, many in the lower CT River Valley (Deep River, Essex, Westbrook) use Civic Plus for Town website services. IT personnel in those towns spoke highly of Civic Plus.

It was recommended that the Town pursue input from residents via the town-wide e-mail. Note that the Town does not have a license with Survey Monkey.

Ed Meehan reported that there are no funds budgeted for the website. He suggested that perhaps this project would be a candidate for ARPA funds. The BOS will discuss further at a future meeting (when all 3 Selectmen are in attendance).

SELECTMEN REPORTS

ARPA Funds

Ed reported that the BOF and ARPA Committee met on 4/21/22 to discuss ARPA requests. Projects endorsed by the Committee and BOF included:

- The proposal presented by Tri-Town for Social Worker positions
- The Library's request for funding to complete a patio project
- The Social Services Dept.'s request for \$100,000 to provide resources to residents affected by the Pandemic

Both Deep River and Essex have endorsed Tri-Town's request for funding. These funds would be used to hire additional staff. BOS members noted that when the ARPA funds are exhausted, the Towns will be responsible for funding these positions and will have to budget accordingly.

Items tabled for additional information include:

- Funds for publicity
- Town Hall generator – The Town received one bid for the generator. The RFP will be re-written and re-posted with input from the Building Official/Fire Marshal and Chief Grzybowski relative to the appropriate specifications to be included in the bid documents. The importance of a generator at the Town Hall being able to “power” the entire building was stressed. If fully “powered”, the Town Hall would be a resource for residents in the event of a town-wide power outage; i.e. charging station, cooling center, warming center, etc. allowing the EOC at the Fire House to focus on the emergency. In addition, Essex Savings Bank, located in the Town Hall would also be able to open allowing individuals to access funds.

Ed Meehan made a motion to move the Library, Tri-Town and Social Services request for ARPA funds to the May 24, 2022 Town Meeting for further consideration. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Solar Panels

As discussed at the 4/13/22 BOS meeting, the Town is interested in selling the solar panels and inverter that were originally installed on the roof of the elementary school. A gentleman has expressed an interest in installing the panels on a Cedar Lake Road property. He requested the name and contact information of the contractor (AEGIS) that installed them at CES. Ed will follow-up with AEGIS. In the meantime, the panels will remain listed for sale.

The Duck Race is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday is “Walk Your Dog Day” in Chester.

The CPace program with Green Bank will be discussed at a future BOS meeting.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Ed Meehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk