

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMAN
SPECIAL MEETING
August 24, 2022
Chester Meeting House

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Janecek called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Meehan, and Selectman Englert. Audience members were also in attendance.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Tom Englert made a motion to re-appoint Chris Hayward to the Water Shed Commission for a 2-year term expiring 6/30/24. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Susan Wright has resigned from EDC. The Committee is unable to meet because there are two vacancies on it (lack of quorum). Carly Daily has expressed an interest in serving and has been interviewed by the Chair.

Ed Meehan made a motion to appoint Carly Daily to the EDC with a term to expire 11/1/24. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 10, 2022 MINUTES

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/10/22 BOS meeting as presented. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ARPA DISCUSSION

Status of Approved ARPA Funds and Fund Availability for Requested Projects

Peter Evankow provided an outline of ARPA expenditures approved (including anticipated approval of the items on this evening's Town Meeting agenda and those proposed for the next Town Meeting). The \$100,000 request from the Community Partnership are not included in the total. The balance in the account is approximately \$33,000. The Town received approximately \$200,000 in the second installment of funds (approximately \$600,000 was anticipated).

The BOF did not vote at last evening's meeting relative to the Community Partnership's request for ARPA funds. The BOF recommended that ARPA funds be used to replenish the Community Fund. In addition, the BOF recommended that the Chester Community Partnership provide a new proposal for consideration to include information on how similar services are provided in surrounding towns. It was suggested that perhaps the BOF would provide \$13,000 to the Partnership now and another \$13,000 in February.

The funds would be administered via Rosie in the Social Services Department in the form of vouchers to the Partnership for the purchase of food for the program.

Peter will investigate to determine if ARPA money may be used to fund a donation to the Community Fund.

The BOS requested clarification on the checks and balances in place to determine eligibility; i.e., are there “gaps” between those classified as at the poverty level versus the ALICE classification.

The importance of maintaining adequate funds in the Community Fund to use for emergency needs, electricity, energy, medical, etc. was stressed. These monies are distributed via the Social Services Department.

The BOS recommended that a separate fund (similar to the fund developed for the Land Trust), under the control of the Town, be set up for the food distribution program (Partnership).

Currently, \$100,000 has been authorized for Social Services. These funds are limited to \$1,000 per family. Peter is getting clarification on the status of monies not used; i.e.; can they be re-purposed or do they have to go back to the Federal government.

The importance of communication between the BOS and the BOF was stressed. The BOF will discuss further at their September meeting.

ASSESSOR CONTRACT

Three bids were received in response to the RFP for Reappraisal and Revaluation services. eQuality Valuation Services, LLC was the low bidder.

Ed Meehan made a motion to approve the eQuality Valuation Services, LLC contract in the amount of \$45,000 and further moved to authorize First Selectwoman Janecek to sign the contract. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MUNICIPAL BROWNFIELDS GRANT RESOLUTION

A copy of the Resolution for the former Kenyon Building clean-up was included in the BOS packet.

Ed Meehan made a motion to accept the grant from DECD in the amount of \$104,475.00 and to authorize First Selectwoman Janecek to sign the Resolution as presented. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ENERGY TEAM PROJECTS

Ed Meehan reported that the E-Team has been working on an EV Charging Station project. Three potential locations for the installation of an EV Charger have been identified; Maple Street Parking lot, Water Street parking lot and Laurel Hill. Ed provided details on the parameters of the project (site improvements, equipment, etc.). Earthlight has offered a “turn-key” approach for a project that includes Eversource engineers inspecting the proposed locations for an EV station. A letter of intent (LOI) is necessary to begin the project. Said LOI would not obligate the Town financially or to undertake a project.

If the Town would wish to move forward on a project, the E Team suggests using \$60,000 of ARPA funds to facilitate the project. Other reimbursable grants/monies may also be available via Eversource, DECD and the Volkswagen settlement.

Charlene will pursue clarification on the eligibility of the use of ARPA funds for reimbursable projects. If funds are not fully expended, would they go back to ARPA or into the Town's General Fund.

Ed Meehan made a motion to authorize First Selectwoman Janecek to sign the LOI (3 letters) to begin the process for an EV Charging station. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Ed reported:

- The WPCA project to repair the line behind the Colt House has started. Ed is working with Jacobson and the property owner to determine the best course of action as problems were uncovered when the site was excavated (the original pipe was installed in 1982 and "elbows" were used. These "elbows" are reducing viscosity and causing build-up of grease and debris).

Charlene reported:

- CT Comp was the only bidder on the project to upgrade IT at the Meetinghouse. She will meet with them next week to review the project.
- The Land Trust has requested, and the DOT has agreed, to install Freedom Trail signs at Exit 6 off of Rte. 9 and at Cedar Lake. Charlene will provide a letter to the DOT relative to same.
- Covid – Chester has had no reported cases of Covid 19 in the past 3 weeks. Numbers are down throughout the State.
- Region 4 is requesting a Chester representative on the Grounds and Maintenance Committee. Any interested parties should contact Charlene. Notice will go out in the townwide email.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Ed Meehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk