

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 10, 2022
Community Room
Chester Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Janecek called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectwoman Janecek, Selectman Meehan, Selectman Englert, Mike Sanders, Terri Englert, Allison Abramson and Kimberley Megrath.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Englert made a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/27/22 BOS meeting as presented. Ed Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN GOVERNANCE AND CONTINUITY

As previously discussed, the BOS is considering the formation of a Short-Term Study Committee relative to Town Governance and Continuity. Mike Sanders provided a draft charge to the Committee as follows: “Identify and analyze alternative governance structures for the purpose of improving the Town’s ability to proactively plan and manage its affairs”.

Ed Meehan made a motion to create a Chester Town Governance Study Committee for a 60 day “study period”, beginning on the date of the said Committee’s first meeting. The Committee will provide a report to the BOS at the end of the 60-day period (the 60-day timeline may be extended if necessary). Ed further moved to accept the charge of the Committee as presented. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ARPA DISCUSSION

Chester Community Partnership - \$100,000 (\$25,000 per year – FY23, 24, 25 and 26) – to support the Chester Food program

Kimberley Megrath, Chair, Chester Community Partnership provided a detailed overview of the Food Program and the request for ARPA Funds. Documentation regarding the ARPA request for funds, developed by Ms. Megrath, was included in the BOS packet and discussed. If funded, the money would be used to provide food to households experiencing food insecurity; in particular, those households impacted or disproportionately impacted by the Pandemic. Ms. Megrath and Ms. Abramson were available to address comments, questions and concerns posed by BOS members.

Ms. Megrath reported that many families coming for food may also be eligible for other services. The Charity Tracker software program, in addition to the Intake Form, will be used to connect families to other appropriate social service programs. When the “in-take” form is complete, information is forwarded to the Social Services Department for further action.

Note that previously approved ARPA funds, in the amount of \$100,000, are being distributed via the Social Services Department.

Ed Meehan made a motion to approve the Chester Community Partnership's request for ARPA funds in the amount of \$100,000 to support the Chester Food program as presented and to forward the request to the BOF for further action. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STEAP GRANT DISCUSSION

As discussed at the 7/27/22 BOS meeting, Ed, with the assistance of Jacobson, has developed a STEAP Grant application, (in the amount of \$500,000), to facilitate sidewalks, road work and drainage from Rte. 148 to the Great Brook Bridge as included in the Master Plan of the Main Street Project. Estimated project costs total \$643,200 (the Town's match would total \$143,200.00).

Ed Meehan made a motion to authorize First Selectwoman Janecek to apply for and accept, on behalf of the Town of Chester, a 2022 STEAP Grant in the amount of \$500,000 for the Phase 4 North Main Street Reconstruction Project; he further moved that the First Selectwoman is authorized to enter into and execute any and all documents necessary to obtain the STEAP Grant from the State of Connecticut. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Ed reported:

- All solar panels and equipment, as purchased, have been removed from the Town Garage.
- As discussed at the 7/13/22 BOS meeting, the State has approved the Town's submission to the Community Connectivity Program (Road Safety Audit developed by Cindy Lignar).

Tom reported:

- JW Security Project – State approvals have been received
 - Due to the delay costs have increased
 - Reimbursements have also increased and will off-set increased costs
- Project scheduled to begin in June 2023 to be completed prior to the start of school in August/September 2023.

Charlene reported:

- She has received documentation from a contractor regarding the potential for a cell tower (distributed to BOS members). This documentation will be forwarded to the Town Attorney for review and comment.
- The Inland Wetland Commission has filed a lawsuit against the property owner at 213 Middlesex Avenue. The property owner installed a new driveway, culvert and removed plantings without an IW permit. All IW attempts to contact the property owner to discuss have been ignored. The C&D Order was also ignored.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - None.

ADJOURNMENT

Ed Meehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk