

Chichester Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Members Present: Tom Jameson, Ed Millette, Richard Bouchard, Jodi Pinard Town Administrator, Kristy Barnouski Administrative Assistant

Others Present: Doug Hall, Jason Weir, Zach Boyijian, Kathy Doult, Brad Merrill, Paul Sanborn, Lou Barker, Tim Mullen, Torin Barker, Donna Chagnon and other members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Jameson called the meeting to order at 6:47pm.

Road Reconstruction Bid Concern-

Mr. Merrill came before the Board with concerns as to why the Board did not accept the lowest bid for the Road Reconstruction projects and parking lots.

Mr. Weir stated that at one time the Board accepted the lowest bid and asked if there was another reason that the lowest bid wasn't chosen.

Mr. Bouchard stated that Busby the company chosen did a great job on King Road as well as other projects in Town. The Board of Selectmen took the recommendation of the Road Agent as well as the Road Advisory Committee (RAC).

Mr. Jameson agreed that they were going off the recommendation of both the Road Agent and RAC.

Mr. Mullen stated that it seemed like the bid was hand selected. He then asked why Merrill along with other companies would continue to bid if the lowest bid was not accepted.

Mr. Barker stated that the recommendation is not binding and it's the Selectmen's job to pick the best fit.

Mr. Jameson stated that in the past the Road Agent had issues with a job Merrill did on Horse Corner Road.

Mr. Merrill stated that two test pits were done after the project was complete. His father then went back and adjusted several things on the road to be sure it was done to standards. He was upset that it was never brought to the contractor's attention that the Road Agent was not happy with the job.

Mr. Barker stated that the Merrill's are a reputable company and should be dealt with squarely.

The Board of Selectmen stated that they were not the sitting Board when this occurred and could not speak as to why the contractor was not informed but would put a policy in place for future occurrences.

Mr. Hall stated that he used to be on the RAC and doesn't ever recall making recommendations. He also stated that he felt that if the lowest bidder is not accepted then there should be a letter as to why with clear communication.

Mr. Millette stated that the Board was relying on the expertise of the Road Agent and RAC. He stated that even though it was a higher bid, the previous projects done by the awarded contractor were very well rated and especially given the fact that these roads are expected to last 20 plus years.

Mr. Barker stated that it was very disingenuous to have people expend resources to do a bid to just arbitrarily pick someone.

Mr. Boyajian who was at the meeting when the BOS awarded the bid stated that the discussion had at that meeting seemed to him that the justifications and logic were reasonable. He also stated that he goes to the meetings and if people are concerned about an issue they should attend so they can be a part of the discussion. He also stated that the Town reserves the right to accept and reject any and all bids.

Mr. Bouchard stated that he understands the disappointment and someone should have communicated with Merrill.

Mr. Merrill stated that he feels that the Town took the honesty out of the bids and maybe bidders should submit qualifications with bids. He feels the Town is saying his company is not qualified.

Ms. Doult who was also in attendance for the bid awarding stated that it wasn't a slam dunk for Busby to be awarded. The budget committee did challenge the Road Agent and it took quite a while to reach a decision and there was a lot of deliberation and discussion until a selection was made.

Mrs. Pinard stated that Mr. Plunket referred to the purchasing policy which sets clear guidelines on how a bid is awarded.

Mr. Jameson stated that doing final walkthroughs are good but a lot of times it takes time to show real issues.

Mr. Millette stated that it was not the intention of the Board to waste anyone's time.

Mr. Merrill stated that he just wants to know that next year his bid won't be just thrown away and that he still has a good name in the Town.

The Board assured Mr. Merrill that every bid will be looked at equally.

Questions from Public-

Mr. Weir asked what could be said about the Selectmen's visit to Loudon in regards to the ambulance coverage.

Mr. Jameson and Mr. Bouchard stated that the minutes would be available soon.

Mr. Bouchard stated that the biggest conflict is within the minutes. As well as the contract was not terminated by either Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Sanborn stated that it was reasonable for Chief Quimby to assume that the contract was terminated with the funding being approved at Town meeting for full time ambulance coverage.

Mr. Weir asked if it stated anywhere in the minutes a drop dead date of June 30th that they could no longer service the Town.

Mr. Jameson stated that he believes that that the June 30th date comes the end of the fiscal year being June 30th in Loudon and another payment would be due to them.

Mr. Hall stated that the issue is who initiated the change. He recalls that it was Loudon who initiated the change.

Mr. Millette stated that Chief Quimby has made note that the Loudon Chief asked to meet to discuss coverage.

The Board is looking into this matter further.

Discussion Referring to Minutes Online-

Mr. Hall came to discuss the current minutes for committees being put online. He noted that some committees do not have current minutes and have not for the past several years.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the Town is currently switching website companies and a lot of changes will be made. Reminders can also be sent out to committees to send in their minutes to update the website.

Mr. Weir commented that there seemed to be some inconsistency in votes in the minutes.

Mrs. Pinard stated that she believes that he was referring to roll call votes which only need to be made at specific times.

Abatelements-

Mr. Jameson made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to approve the following abatements:

Map 3 Lot28-22 in the amount of \$132.00.

Map 4 Lot 156-104RV in the amount of \$3.00.

Map 4 Lot 156-41RV in the amount of \$3.00.

Map 1 Lot 27 in the amount of \$9.49.

Map 4 Lot156-40RV in the amount of \$159.59.

Map 4 Lot 156-84RV in the amount of \$\$17.17

Motion passes.

Mrs. Pinard stated that Chichester received an equalization ratio of 99.6% and that DRA has approved the USPAP manual. This manual is put together by Avitar which is backup that everything that has been done is in compliance.

Mrs. Pinard put together a draft voters' guide to be reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Millette stated that he likes the idea, but also feels that's what Town Meeting is for.

Non-Public Session 91-A: 3 II. (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

A motion was made by Mr. Jameson and seconded by Mr. Millette to enter into non-public. Jameson Aye, Millette Aye, Bouchard, Aye. **Motion Passes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Jameson and seconded by Mr. Millette to exit non-public session. Jameson Aye, Millette Aye, Bouchard, Aye. **Motion Passes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Jameson to seal the non-public meeting minutes indefinitely. Jameson Aye, Millette Aye, Bouchard, Aye. **Motion Passes.**

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Jameson and seconded by Mr. Millette to adjourn the meeting at 9:31pm. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Not approved until signed

Kristy Barnouski, Administrative Assistant

Tom Jameson

Ed Millette

Richard Bouchard

