

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday March 3, 2020

Members Present: Richard Bouchard, Ed Millette, Jason Weir, and Jodi Pinard Town Administrator, Kristy Barnouski Administrative Assistant

Others Present Chief Clarke, John Martell, Ewen MacKinnon, Allen Mayville, Tom Houle, David Jobin, Donna Chagnon, David Shackford, Kathy Doult, Teresa Paradis, Richard & Sandra Millette, Russell Blaney, Allison McIntosh, Jeff Eaton, and other members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Department Heads-

Police Department-

Chief Clarke stated that the transition between the officer leaving and coming has been very smooth for the department.

Emergency Management-

Mr. Martell has nothing to report.

Library-

February Activities:

Ms. Doult reported that Valentine's Day cards for veterans were made and delivered.

There was a class on making "stitch-picked" Valentine's Day cards led by Elizabeth Marston.

Dr. Rauter's travelogue on his trip to China was held, with about ten people in attendance. When asked if the attendees would like to see additional pictures, they replied in the affirmative.

A contradance was held at the Grange on Saturday night. Approximately 65 were in attendance.

March and Future Activities:

The Summer Reading Program is already being planned. The theme this year is, "Imagine Your Story." The Girl Scouts have already volunteered to participate in the kick-off and do face-painting.

March 2 has been designated as National Read Across America Day, based on the birthday of Theodor Seuss "Ted" Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss. In honor of that, the Library sponsored a Seuss Story Time at Night (last night), where the kids could wear pajamas and listen to Dr. Seuss stories, along with a Dr. Seuss game and prizes.

A program on Live Bees, Saturday, March 14th from 10 am till 11:30, with Randy Harris @ the Library.

Similar to an event the Library has held the past few years, we will be holding a "Souper Night" on Wednesday March 25, 2020, at 6:30 at the Library. Everyone is invited to sign up to bring either soup/stew, rolls/bread or dessert. The Library will provide bowls, spoons, napkins & cups for coffee or tea.

Monday, March 30th at 3:30 p.m., Rafer the Therapy Dog will visit the Library in a new after school program for all ages, and Nox the Therapy Dog will be there at 6 p.m.

Storytime and Toddler Time are back in session now that School vacations are over.

We continue to host a Knitting Circle every Wednesday at 3 pm.

On Mondays, we host a group who play Mahjong at 2:30.

Both Library's flag poles have broken in the last two-three weeks. We will be looking at replacement costs, including installation.

We have met with representatives of the Historical Commission and Parks and Recreation regarding partnering with them in a couple of future events.

Fire-

Mr. Millette stated that the inside of the bays has been painted and look great. They were unable to reset alarms after and Capital Alarms came out to fix it. They also found ten smoke detectors that needed repair in the building. They will all be repaired with an expected cost of \$1,100.

New Rescue Truck-

Mr. Millette stated that it somehow escaped the truck committee that the cascade system from the old to new truck was not on the bid for contract. The cost will be \$5800. Mr. Millette asked the Board to approve this purchase out of the SBCA fund to move the cascade system.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to approve the cost of moving the cascade system from the old fire truck to the new fire truck in the amount of \$5800.00 out of the rescue truck capital reserve fund. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Planning Board-

Mr. Brehm stated that the Planning Board will be meeting for a few months in the Grange Hall due to training going on at the Fire Department.

Mr. Brehm stated that this month there is a full agenda, including a site plan for change of use, a lot line adjustment and an amendment to a site plan. There will also be a conceptual discussion for a new business.

Mr. Brehm will be putting together an explanation for the proposed zoning changes to make it easier for residents to understand.

Highway-

Mrs. Pinard stated that there are currently still full-time employees on the highway crew and they are continuing to do their regular duties.

Abatements

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to abate the following:

Map 4 Lot 156 Sub 40RV in the amount of \$161.61

Map 4 lot 156 Sub 73RV in the amount of \$261.00

Map 4 lot 156 Sub 104RV in the amount of \$82.96

All in favor, Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. Millette seconds to take the recommendation of the assessor and deny the abatement for Map 2 Lot 73, 374 Dover Road. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Road Agent Resignation-

Mrs. Pinard stated that the Road Agent Mr. Plunkett handed in his resignation and his last day was February 29, 2020.

Mrs. Pinard stated that she received legal advice that the Town would be able to appoint a nonresident.

Mrs. Pinard also announced the resignation of another full-time highway department employee, and the other full time employee is running in another Town for Road Agent unopposed and will likely be elected on March 10th which will leave the highway department with only one part timer.

Mr. Weir stated that he spoke with Gordon Ellis, a former Road Agent in another Town who stated he would be willing to fill in.

The Board discussed what kind of experience level they would require for the new Road Agent. Mrs. Pinard recommended at least five years.

The Board also looked at the job description and asked Mrs. Pinard to post the Road Agent Job and also full-time positions.

Mr. Richard Millette asked why the Town is in the position of losing so many of the highway crew.

Mr. Weir stated that he had already built a house in another state and was planning on leaving anyway.

Mr. Bouchard stated that Mr. Plunkett was not happy with how he was being treated and he had enough.

Mr. Millette stated that anyone who attended the meetings can see how he was being treated and he took many nights of abuse. He stated that Mr. Plunkett left like a gentleman and he doesn't blame him for that.

Ms. Doult stated that she was also very displeased with how she saw Mr. Plunkett was being treated and had stated that at a previous meeting. She also stated that she has put in a question to the moderator of the Candidates night about how the candidates for Selectmen plan to treat and discipline employees.

Mr. Shackford asked to view Mr. Plunkett's resignation which he received. The resignation was dated February 24, 2020 and he stated in the letter his last day would be February 29, 2020.

Mr. Richard Millette asked if he gave an exit interview.

The Board stated that he did not.

Mr. Bouchard stated he never had any issues with Mr. Plunkett, or his conduct and he is sad to see him go.

Mr. Richard Millette stated that he feels that the way Mr. Plunkett was treated by a Selectmen is a huge embarrassment and is very low class. He stated that any person who treats another person like that should not be re-elected and hopes towns people do research before the next election.

Mrs. Paradise stated that Mr. Plunkett has done a great job and has done the best she's seen so far.

Mr. Shackford stated that Mr. Plunkett really cared about the Town and didn't hire everything out. He also stated that Chichester is a small Town and he doesn't want it to be appointed, he wants to elect the new Road Agent.

Mr. Millette stated that he used to be in full agreement with keeping the position appointed. Chichester used to elect based on what the person had for personal equipment. In this day in age it only makes sense to have an appointed Road Agent.

Mr. Mayville stated that we need to find someone with construction experience. He also stated that Mr. Plunkett did whatever he wanted to do and that's why it needs to be appointed.

Mr. Bouchard stated that Mr. Plunkett was for the changeover to appointed as well.

37 Martell Road-

Mrs. Pinard stated that the contract was changed for the auction to take place on site and was signed. It will be scheduled as soon as possible.

Zoning Violation-

Mrs. Pinard stated that the Building Inspector Mr. Hodge found a camper in Robinsons Mobile Home Park. A picture was presented to the Board.

A zoning violation letter will be sent to the property owner.

Food Pantry Donations-

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to accept the following donations made in support of the Chichester food pantry:

\$300 received from the First Congregational Church Dorcas G

\$100 received from an anonymous donor in memory of Barbra Frangoine

\$40 received from an anonymous donor in memory of Barbra Frangione

\$200 received from St. Stephens Episcopal Church

Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

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. Bouchard and seconded by Mr. Millette to enter into non-public. Weir, aye. Millette aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion Passes.**

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

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

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Not approved until signed

Kristy Barnouski, Administrative Assistant

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir