

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday January 7, 2020

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

Advisory Budget Committee Members present: Stephen MacCleery, Tom Houle, Doug Hall, Don Peterman and Tara Blaney

Others Present: Chief Clarke, John Martell, Bob Mann, Jim Plunkett, Stan Brehm, Brian Eldridge, Zach Boyijian, Kathy Hosmer-Doutt, Allison McIntosh, Donna Chagnon, Jeff Eaton, Doug Valley, Kathryn Valley, Sean Matussek and other members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Appointments:

Bob Mann-Conservation Commission Concerns-

Mr. Mann came before the Board to discuss the Conservation Commissions concerns with wetland buffers on a property located on Dover Road owned by Michael Albert where Mikes Affordable Auto previously operated. Mr. Mann gave a brief overview of the history of the property and stated the Commission did a walk through and requested minor changes when they were going through site plan approval which are shown on the plan approved by the Planning Board. He stated that now that the site is empty it looks like more site work was done than approved and the wetland buffers were disturbed.

Ms. Barnouski stated that she did speak with the owner of the property, Mr. Albert and he stated that he did not back fill into any wetland buffers and offered for the Conservation Commission to do another walk through. She also spoke with the new lessee of the property and informed them that they must follow the approved site plan on file with the Town.

Mr. Mann stated that he would like the Board to take some action and suggested that it would be appropriate to send the Town engineer out to review the property.

The Board discussed using the engineer for all projects to confirm completion in the future.

Mr. Weir asked how much encroachment he thought took place on the wetland buffers. Mr. Mann stated he was unable to tell but was confident there was a buffer violation.

Mr. Hall stated that there are many significant zoning violations in Town and unless they are put in writing to the Board of Selectmen, they will not be addressed.

The Board requested that the Conservation Commission put their concerns in writing to the Board of Selectmen.

Douglas Valley – Junkyard License Renewal, Cruiserparts, LLC.

Mr. Valley came before the Board to discuss the fencing requirements for Cruiserparts, LLC. The Board wanted to speak with Mr. Valley regarding this matter before the license renewal for Cruiserparts, LLC was issued.

Mr. Valley requested to have the fencing requirements reduced per the RSA which states they may be reduced if there is enough cover and natural barrier in place.

The Board agreed to reduce the fencing requirements because of the location of the junkyard area. The Board would like an updated Site Plan with the fencing/barrier and gate shown before signing off on the renewal.

Department Heads-

Library-

Ms. Doult reported for the Library. She stated that the Library had multiple programs over the last few months including basket class, Christmas card stitching class, a Fire Department class, Pontine Theatre and the showing of the movie "Elf"

Future Programs include a Contra Dance is to be scheduled, probably in February, in the Grange Hall. The Library have asked people to make reservations because of the limit of people allowed in the Hall. The fiddler will be Christopher Dudley.

Ms. Doult also reported that the budget has been submitted and questions answered and the Library is also working on the Town Report.

Parks and Recreation-

Mr. Boyijian stated that the park has been quiet but wanted to thank Mr. Plunkett for keeping the parking lot plowed out.

Emergency Management-

Mr. Martell stated the Hazard Mitigation Grant was awarded to the Town.

Highway Department-

Mr. Plunkett stated that the quotes for the grader tires came in at \$7,000.

Mr. Plunkett stated the bid was awarded to Busby for road reconstruction.

Mr. Plunkett stated that it was Chichester's year to provide material to the BCEP so he sent some stone up for their use.

Mr. Millette asked Mr. Plunkett why stone was used on the roads during the recent storm.

Mr. Plunkett stated that sometimes it gets mixed in with other materials.

Mr. Weir stated that it was a requirement and not a request that the Board made to him regarding using no more stone to treat the roads.

Mr. Weir asked Mr. Plunkett if it was requested to bring Stone or sand over to BCEP.

Mr. Plunkett stated that Lisa Stevens specifically asked for stone for the BCEP.

Mr. Weir stated to bring all the stone to BCEP and for a written directive to be given to Mr. Plunkett for him not to use stone on the roads any longer.

Mr. Weir also wanted to address that an employee had stopped him and said that he was out of both sand and stone at the shed which he thought was unacceptable.

Mr. Brehm stated that the stone makes the gravel roads much better during storms.

Mr. Weir stated that decision was made that not to use stone anymore.

Mr. Weir was also upset that the Road Agent is taking vacations in the winter and he wants to approve of Mr. Plunkett taking vacations if he does.

Mr. Bouchard stated that he doesn't have an issue with anyone taking vacation as long as there is coverage and a contingency plan in place. He also stated that he did received a lot of complaints that there was no material, and issue with the stone and Mr. Plunkett was on vacation and there was no one in charge.

Mr. Plunkett state that everyone at the Highway Department knows their jobs and there is a pecking order.

Mr. Eldridge stated that he works at the Highway Department for a different municipality and they are not allowed to take vacation in the winter. He stated that he is the only Road Agent in the state that leaves in the winter for vacation. He stated he felt that was unsafe and negligent.

Mr. Weir state that out of four people including the Board of Selectmen and Mrs. Pinard, no one knew Mr. Plunkett was on vacation and that's a huge problem.

Mr. Weir stated that there are also vehicles being parked in the salt shed which is not supposed to be happening.

Ms. Doult stated that this is a personnel issue and its inappropriate to conduct the meeting this way. She stated that things should be handled with more respect and dignity.

Ms. McIntosh asked about Mr. Plunkett's accountability and what will happen if stone goes down again.

The Board stated then it will be dealt with at that time appropriately.

Mr. MacCleery stated that the Town cannot tell the Road Agent when and if he can take vacation.

Mr. Millette stated that the position as it sits not is an elected position. It is on the warrant this year to change it to an appointed position so if you are unhappy wit the way things are run now your authority comes at the ballot box.

Mr. Eldridge stated that the Road Agent could be removed if they neglect the roads.

Ms. Blaney read the Road Agent RSA.

Planning Board-

Mr. Brehm stated that the Planning Board had its first hearing on the proposed zoning amendments and the next hearing is scheduled for January 23, 2020.

The Master Plan public hearing for adoption of the proposed chapters is on February 6, 2020.

DBU is about to begin construction on Dover Road and they will be removing the large hill at the Bobcat site and moving it across Route 4 to their site for use of fill.

Budget-

Mr. Weir handed out a budget overview of trends in rising taxes which the Boards discussed.

Mr. Hall discussed the increase of \$374,000. Due to reduction of revenue and deposits to CIP.

Mr. MacCleery asked about use of fund balance.

The Board stated they have decided not to use any fund balance due to it being below the recommended DRA limit.

The Boards discussed CIP deposits and reducing some of them to help the budget level out. They came to the agreement for the following:

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| a. Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund | \$ 60,000 |
| b. Forestry Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund | \$ 35,000 |
| c. SCBA Capital Reserve Fund | \$ 20,000 |
| d. Town Facilities Capital Reserve Fund | \$ 15,000 |
| e. Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund | \$ 40,000 |
| f. Parks & Recreation Capital Reserve Fund | \$ 10,000 |

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bouchard and seconded by Mr. Millette to adjourn the meeting at 9:07pm. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Pinard, Town Administrator

Not approved until signed

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir