

## Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting  
Tuesday February 9, 2021

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

School Board Members present: Ben Brown, Heather Chiavaras, and Brianne Stone.

**Members of the public:** Bonnie Potter, Bette Bogdan, Gail Laker-Phelps, Pamela Stiles, Peter Warburton, Tom Jameson, Stan Brehm, Alisa Mullen, Betsy Purvis, Evelyn Pike, Tara Blaney, Brady Jezewski, Russell Blaney, Donna Chagnon, Ewen MacKinnon and other members of the public.

**Call to Order:** Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and the following into the record.

**IN LIGHT OF THE COVID 19 (CORONA VIRUS) SOCIAL DISTANCING ADVICE MADE BY THE GOVERNOR AND CDC, THE TOWN OF CHICHESTER FOLLOWING A DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY BY THE SELECT BOARD CHAIRPERSON, IS PROVIDING A MEETING PARTICIPATION VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE FOR YOUR SAFETY.**

If you would like to participate in the telephone conference, please call this number from home: **+1-312-626-6799** and enter this code: **Meeting ID: 834 2910 1982 & Passcode: 451105** Follow along using a digital copy from our website at: ChichesterNH.org. We will also be streaming the meeting as a webinar which you join by going to this link :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429101982?pwd=aTV2aXNxeEVJRng0UkIaUWlrbmZlQT09> Please reach out to Jodi Pinard with any questions or concerns @ Email: [jpinard@chichesternh.org](mailto:jpinard@chichesternh.org)

### **Joint Meeting with School Board – School and Town Meeting Discussion**

Ms. Stiles, the School District Moderator stated that the school gymnasium can only safely hold 49 people maintaining a six-foot distance. Typically, there is more in attendance and Town Meeting has a even larger attendance.

Ms. Stiles and Mr. MacKinnon have discussed moving both meetings to May. This will give the opportunity for more residents to receive the vaccine if they choose and to also have the option to hold the meeting outdoors pending weather. This will take away some of the challenges we are faced with now.

Mr. MacKinnon stated he is in the same opinion as Ms. Stiles. Putting the meetings off will not hurt the Town or School in any way.

Ms. Stiles stated that they chose May instead of June or further out because they want to be sure they have good attendance and if it is at the end of the year, people may be in vacation mode.

Ms. Laker-Phelps asked the Moderators if this would most likely be an outdoor event?

Mr. MacKinnon stated that depending on what the CDC has for guidelines, that will determine if it would be indoors or out.

Ms. Stone stated that it is her opinion to postpone both meetings until May. If they choose to meet outside and its raining, then they would have the additional month of June to push it to if needed.

Mr. Weir stated that he agrees with most of what has been said, except for pushing the election. He stated that that we were able to have the Presidential Election which went off without a hitch so we should be able to hold the local election. He stated the Town should proceed with the election now. He also asked if we must set a date now and if there has been any guidance from the state on how this will impact our finances.

Mrs. Pinard stated that we would continue to operate as we do now. There would be no new purchases until budget is approved. We would only do our normal expenditures. We could do the road project that we encumbered but everything else would be on hold.

Ms. Stiles stated that the regulations say that as soon as the date is set, we need to notify the public and notice must be given with a minimum of seven days of the meeting.

Mr. Millette asked the moderators once the date is chosen, does the legislature allow for the postponement in the event of bad weather.

Mr. Mackinnon stated that we can continue the meeting or postpone if needed.

Mrs. Pinard stated that since this is an unprecedented year, if we move the meetings then we should move the election as well. She stated it will cause too much confusion for residents. She recommends moving the same March schedule to May.

Mrs. Chiavaras stated that she feels very strongly about postponing the meetings. She is worried about vulnerable residents. She agrees that it should be done collaboratively.

Mr. Brown stated that he agreed with moving the meetings to May.

Mr. Bouchard stated that he is in favor of postponing the meeting since not everyone would be able to fit in the gym, and some residents would have to go to breakout rooms. He does not want people to not be able to fully participate.

Mrs. Pinard stated that it was her opinion that we should pick a date now.

Ms. Stone agreed and would like to pick a date now.

Ms. Stiles stated that she cautioned on choosing May 1<sup>st</sup>, since it is the weekend following school vacation and many people may not be able to attend.

Mr. Millette stated that it leaves too much uncertainty to not choose a date now and he thinks that May 8, 11, and the 15<sup>th</sup> would work for the school and Town.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to recommend moving School Meeting to May 8, 2021, Town Election to May 11, 2021 and Town Meeting to May 15, 2021. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye.

**Motion passes.**

Ms. Stone made a motion and Mrs. Chiavaras seconded to recommend moving the School District Meeting to May 8, 2021. Roll call vote. Stone, aye. Chiavaras, aye. Brown, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. MacKinnon stated that he is officially moving the Town Election to May 11, 2021 from 10:00am-7:00pm and Town Meeting on May 15, 2021 with a starting time of 10:00am.

Ms. Stiles stated that she is officially moving School District Meeting to May 8, 2021 with a starting time of 9:00am.

Mrs. Pinard formally requested the school building for Town Meeting and Election. The School Board agreed.

Mrs. Pinard thanked the School Board for working so collaboratively together.

#### **Abatelements-**

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

Map 4 Lot 156 Sub 50RV in the amount of \$158.00

Map 4 Lot 156 Sub 53RV in the amount of \$294.00

Map 4 Lot 156 Sub 129RV in the amount of \$118.00

Map 4 Lot 156 Sub 74RV in the amount of \$84.00

Map 2 Lot 78 in the amount of \$13.95

Map 3 Lot 39 in the amount of \$671.24

#### **Discussion:**

Mr. Weir would like to consider the option to not charge campers if the Town ends up abating most of them.

Mrs. Pinard stated that it is a State RSA, but she will investigate if there are any other options.

Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

#### **Until Settlement Update-**

Mrs. Pinard stated that DTC Law Firm and Gary Roberge have been working on the Until BTLA settlement case since 2015. She read a letter from Gary Roberge to the board. He gave a recommendation to the Board for a settlement in the amount of \$5.5 Million dollars in assessed value.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to accept the settlement with Until for an assessment of \$ 5.5 million dollars for the tax years of 2019 and 2020. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

#### **Meeting Minutes approval-**

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to approve the following Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes 11/17/20; 12/1/20; 12/7/20; 12/8/20; 12/15/20; 1/5/21; 1/11/21; 1/12/21; 1/19/21; 2/2/21; Mr. Weir seconded. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

#### **Highway-**

Mr. Sykes would like to offer employment to a former employee in the amount of \$20.00 hour.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to hire the recommended employee in the amount of \$20.00 per hour. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

**Other Business-**

Mrs. Pinard stated that next week Great Meadows will be back before the Board to discuss an agreement regarding winter camping.

**Adjournment:**

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Approved on February 16, 2021

Kristy Willey, Administrative Assistant

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Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir