

Chichester Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday March 2, 2021

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

Members of the public: Chief Clarke, Chief Quimby, Kathy Doult, Craig Sykes, Zach Boyijian, Stan Brehm, Bonnie Potter, Bette Bogdan, Tom Houle, Evelyn Pike, Tara Blaney, Russell Blaney, Donna Chagnon, 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.

Chairman Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Department Heads-

Police Department-

Chief Clarke stated that a cruiser is in the shop right now in Concord getting repaired. He stated that the damage wasn't major but there is a pretty good size gouge on the driver side bed. The bumper was pushed up into the tailgate the and the taillight was broken. The whole taillight assembly area was pretty gouged up being aluminum.

Chief Clarke reported that there have been a lot of catalytic converter thefts recently. Unfortunately, with catalytic converters, there is no serial numbers on them so it is hard to prove where they came from unless you can really match them up as far as the cut marks. He stated they got lucky Yesterday and saw a truck off in the woods below Atlantic traders walked out in the woods and basically caught the kid just after he after he had gone up and cut one off. So, we ended up seizing the vehicle and did a search on his vehicle yesterday and recovered one catalytic converter. He had a book on all different exhaust systems, what cats are worth more money. We were able to grab some good stuff, I just must go up and match that one catalytic converter to the vehicle I believe it came from at Atlantic traders, and then I will be able to go after him with some criminal charges.

Chief Clarke stated that he got a list from a place in Manchester that buys cats from them. And it just so corresponds where we would have a capstone one on one day, and that same day he would be selling cats. Unfortunately, there is just no way to prove it was the cats that were stolen from Chichester are the ones he brought, but at least we are going to have something I think that is going to come out of it. Hopefully within the next couple weeks, we will have a little bit more on that.

Chief Clarke stated that he submitted a grant to highway safety for another radar sign. They had some extra money, and they were doing 50% grants. He stated that he is hopeful that it will get approved.

Fire Department-

Chief Quimby stated that 2021 has been busy so far for the fire department, he pulled a report yesterday and we had 77 calls. He stated they added five more today with the wind and had a couple chimney fires. The department has had 82 runs so far, right up until the second of March.

The department assisted Webster with their building fire, where they pulled three people trapped on the third floor. Our ambulance transported one of the kids to the hospital who then was flown to Shriners burn center in Boston.

Chief Quimby stated that he would like to publicly thank our mutual aid partners Epsom and Pittsfield and for their persistence today at the chimney fires. It takes a lot of manpower and labor for fire and mutual aid is working perfectly.

90% of our members have been vaccinated for COVID-19. The department is slowly moving back towards group events, meetings, and trainings. The spring force fire training will be conducted by remote training this year. We have not had any major issues with apparatus or equipment. Fortunately, we have had a few electrical issues with engine three that we are working through, and as we find issues, we are trying to repair them in house, so we're trying to keep our costs down as much as possible. We are still one investigating the cost of undercoating all the apparatus which was requested at a previous meeting.

Highway-

Mr. Sykes reported that so far this year, we have seen a good fistful of storms. We had a major storm with 30 inches and an eight-inch storm plus some other taking care of roads. In January we had three and February's been a bunch of different types of snow, rain, sleet, so on and so forth. But all temperature changes, and there has been eight of those. So far, the department is doing okay on salt with what I had originally purchased. However, we have been using sand at a greater rate just due to the ice build on all the dirt roads because there's still a sufficient amount of frost in the ground. The rain is causing the ground to freeze right away. As the board was made aware, I ended up using some stone after our trucks ended up in the ditch, and that process has been working out well for us with the last two.

Today was a busy day. Working with the Chief, we had a tree come down onto another tree and was ready to take out a whole bunch of power equipment, but he was able to determine which electric service it was and contacted them. I sent one of my guys up there to check on him at four o'clock and the road was still not open. However, they were waiting for a 100-foot truck to come from Massachusetts to take care of the tree. Once all that has taken care of, the road can be reopened. We also had some other limbs that were taken care of. This last storm there were a lot of problems with the equipment. Truck one we lost on spots, a lot of that had to do with corrosion and everything just fell apart. Truck three, the wing bolt that holds it onto the truck broke, and the wing ended up underneath the truck. I also like to thank Rockingham County towing they got me out of that. Plus, there was some plow issues. One the pickup, the plow just ceased to work unless the connection was played with, so we have since replaced one of the harnesses.

Mr. Sykes stated that he is currently working on the paving bid, between everything that we are fixing here and trying to keep going.

Mr. Sykes stated that we are trying to fix the loader in house. We finally had the opportunity to hook up the grader with all the plow equipment. One of the curveballs that were thrown at us is the plow that was apparently supposed to be for the grader does not fit on it. However, he spoke with Scott Dakota and we think that we can bore the hole bigger for the pins and do a little hydraulic work to make the plow work for the grader. The wing is already on the machine so should we have God forbid, have another 30-inch storm, we'll have something that we can use.

A new employee has started two weeks ago and is working out well.

Selectmen Millette asked if the loader even made it back to the shed to even use it all.

Mr. Sykes stated that believe it or not, yes. He has been working with Scott Decota who has been great.

Library-

Ms. Doult reported that they have engaged an electrician to install a light on the side of the building to illuminate the flag. He is also addressing concerns we have had with the lighting in the back of the building and a switch in the basement.

The library lift has passed its annual inspection.

Today's winds have apparently knocked the mailbox out of its moorings.

We are having the furnace looked at, since we have been experiencing huge fluctuations in temperatures at the Library.

The Library is trying to have two "take and make" projects per month, usually aligning them with the theme of the book for Story Time. For Valentine's Day, there was a valentine heart chain. For upcoming St. Patrick's Day, there will be a leprechaun.

Through a library grant I told you about at an earlier meeting, the Library has been able to acquire a ZOOM business license, which we will be using for programs and trustee meetings, as necessary.

The Down Cellar Used Book area was open for a two-hour sale this past Saturday.

Parks and Recreation-

Mr. Boyijian stated they did try to have a coordination meeting with the school back in February, but there was miscommunication about time and format. So it wasn't able to happen. Although the people who did attend got something out of it from Parks and Rec and conservation. We are going to try to reschedule that in March.

We still did also have some communication with David Testerman who is a scout that is worked in the Eagle Scout project to work trail signs at Carpenter park. Believe it or not both summer league softball adult summer leaf softball and our request for a dog training competition. He stated that he thinks it is a good addition to the type of activity that could happen at the park that that people could go participate by watching dogs do their training exercises. Otherwise, things are quiet down there.

Mr. Boyijian wanted to thank the Road Agent for helping keep it flat out so people can use the park for sledding and such.

Conservation Commission-

Mr. Boyijian stated that we got a request to provide some input for the master plan.

We did update the NRI, with a portion of the NRI maps. We continue to work on some text to go along with the maps so that when we post them on the website, there is some context to them.

We are still working on negotiations for land purchase out by Lynxfield Pond. It has been somewhat problematic. We talked to the Board about it back in the fall. We are closer but not there yet. He would like to request that at a future meeting, or the first one in April, we have an opportunity to do a nonpublic session regarding this.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the Conservation Commission is scheduled in two weeks for the public hearing to receive funds for the grants. She asked if they would be prepared to do it that evening? Mr. Boyajian agreed.

Planning Board-

Mr. Brehm stated that We had a Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting this past Monday. He stated that it was a big success. Mr. Bouchard was able to participate this time. This Thursday we have friend Jonathan Halle coming back in for his continued public hearing for the Chichester Commons Housing and there is also a scheduled Public Hearing for a new attraction at Chuckster's for an addition of bumper boats.

The Board may be having a second meeting this coming month to continue working on the master plan.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Approval-

Mrs. Pinard stated that the that the hazard mitigation committee met during the COVID season in 2020, which is something we must update every five years. She stated that the Board has seen the the rough draft. The state has now sent it back with their stamp of approval, so the board has to formally accept our 2020 hazard mitigation plan which will be good for five years.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to approve the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan for Chichester. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mrs. Pinard asked the Board to stop at the office for signatures.

105 Dover Road, Mitigation Plan (former Mike's Auto)

Mr. Bouchard stated that the Board has seen the drawings and they have been sent to the Town Engineer for comment. The Town Engineer was signed off on the plan.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the last time the Board had met, they had had a couple of questions on it because it was a draft plan. The engineer has reviewed it and come back with his stamp of approval. He is in agreeance this meets what the original site plan was supposed to be and they are going to restore it to the original plan. She stated that she is looking for the Board to agree to what the engineer has reviewed, which we pay him to do, and say we're ready to move forward and put this zoning/site plan violation to bed once it's completed. He will do the final walkthrough when they complete it.

Selectmen Millette asked if the board set a timeline on that, so it's in a reasonable amount of time instead of leaving this whole project open ended.

Mr. Mann asked the Board if they would be submitting this to the DES wetlands Bureau for review.

Mrs. Pinard stated that DES is a higher power than the Town so we can approve the plan and then DES can tell them to do additional things if needed.

Mr. Mann was also concerned about them doing the work a certain level of supervision.

Chairman Bouchard stated that the engineer is going to do the final sign off, which is great but is there something is something else that we need in between?

Unknown Speaker

Mrs. Pinard stated that is up to you as a Board to request the engineer to observe if you so choose.

Mrs. Pinard stated that he could be observing compaction or checking to see if the right stone is there but that's all additional costs.

Mrs. Pinard stated if the board is going to continue to shoulder these additional costs, that's your choice. She stated that we have an engineer who reviewed the plan, and the same contractors will not be doing the work. They have an engineer.

The Board asked Mrs. Pinard to check with the Town Engineer regarding if any oversight is necessary or if a final check is sufficient and to also get a timeline of completion.

Chairman Bouchard

Do we do we need a motion to approve the plan? And then we can go on with your questions with him? And check with the engineer. All right.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to approve the mitigation plans as they have been presented and reviewed by the town engineer for 105 Dover Road. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Approval of minutes-

Mr. Bouchard had a correction. The meeting time stated it began at 6:00pm but it started at 6:30pm.

Mrs. Pinard stated that change will be made.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to approve the minutes with the time correction revision. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

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

Map 4 Lot 156 sub 132RV in the amount of \$21.00

Map 4 Lot 156 sub 073RV in the amount of \$176.00

Map 4 Lot 156 sub 041RV in the amount of \$5.00

Map 4 Lot 156 sub 048RV in the amount of \$197.00

Map 4 Lot 156 sub 083RV in the amount of \$111.00

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

Chairman Bouchard stated that the last one is regarding Map 7 Lot 7 in the amount of 57,100 in assessed value per the BLTA decision on January 26 2021 for the above property for tax years of 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Mr. Weir stated that this is his mom and dad so he will not be voting on this. He also stated that he didn't feel it was correct and there should be an amount of refund and interest on the abatement.

Mrs. Pinard stated that it is correct. The check is being cut tomorrow; this is just simply to hand to the Tax Collector.

Mr. Weir stated he was talking about the document that we would sign, which has zeros.

Mrs. Pinard stated that they always do.

Mr. Weir asked why the reason is they all say zero?

Mrs. Pinard stated that they have always been that way and she goes in and does the calculation on a separate sheet. She stated that the Board is approving the abatement and not the monetary factor. The Board is approving the reduction in assessed value on the camper/property, not the amount.

Mr. Weir asked that going forward if that there is a refund and interest that it be put on the sheet so that way the board is aware when we approve it.

Mrs. Pinard stated that she will do that moving forward.

Mr. Weir stated that he was under the impression that every time we saw zero there, that meant there was no refund and no interest and if there is, we need to be aware of it.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to approve the abatement for Map 7 Lot 7 for the assessed value of \$57,000.00 per the BLTA decision on January 26 2021 for the above property for tax years of 2018, 2019 and 2020. Roll call vote. Mr. Weir, abstain. Mr. Millette, aye. Mr. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mrs. Pinard stated that a few months back we put in a safety audit request for Kelly's corner and Webster mills and route 28. The Town had requested that they come out and look at it. Our job has been selected to move forward to the 2021 Road Safety Audit program. So, according to RSA practice, this audit will be conducted by an interdisciplinary team comprised of the DOT, our engineering consultant, the central New Hampshire Planning Commission, and the Town. Mrs. Pinard stated she would like to thank Richard Moore, because he really did a lot of the work and Chief Clarke for getting all the accident stuff together.

Chairman Bouchard stated that BCEP is still on the hunt for an administrator. He will be attending a meeting to review applicants. The BCEP is still looking for a budget committee member.

Mrs. Pinard stated that we have begun the audit process for 2020.

Yesterday was the deadline for tax abatements to be filed.

Chief Clarke has resigned as health officer for the Town he no longer wants to be appointed so the Town needs to appoint a new health officer. She stated that she will be bringing a nomination in two weeks.

We are still working on the Town report.

Food Pantry Donation-

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

Pursuant to RSA 31:19, the Board of Selectmen shall accept and authorize the expenditure of unanticipated funds in the amount of:

\$200.00 received from Terrance & Margery Houle

\$300.00 received from St. Stephens Episcopal Church

\$100.00 received from Kent & Toni Brown in memory of Donna Chagnon's aunt Phyllis

\$500.00 received from First Congregational Church Dorcas Guild

\$200.00 received from First Congregational Church of Pittsfield

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

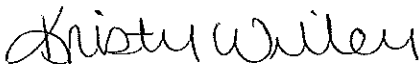
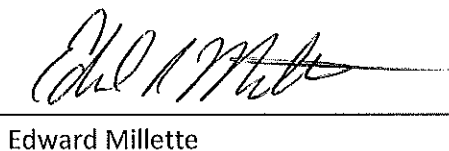
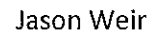
Mr. Sykes stated that the Town is 3rd in line to get the well drilled so they should be coming any day now.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Willey, Administrative Assistant


Richard Bouchard
Edward Millette
Jason Weir