

Chichester Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting  
Tuesday March 23, 2021

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

**Members of the public:** Bob Mann, Zach Boyjijan, Stan Brehm, Bonnie Potter, Bette Bogdan, Evelyn Pike, Donna Chagnon, and other members of the public.

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

Mr. Bouchard

I will open the meeting in the light of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, social distancing advice made by the government. providing a meeting participation via telephone conference for your safety. If you would like to participate in this telephone conference, please call this number from home and enter this code meeting ID 817-298-5927 passcode 263005 following along with a digital copy from my web site at ChichesterNH.org. We will also be streaming this meeting as a webinar, which you join by going to this link for the meeting. please reach out to Jodi Pinard with any questions or concerns at email JPinard@ChichesterNH.org .

**Conservation-**

first on the agenda is Conservation with the two grants so the first grant is for the CCS drinking water supply. And the second one is for the conservation easement.

Mrs. Pinard

I just want to say, on the New Hampshire drinking water groundwater trust fund that grant, Exhibit A needs to be corrected. The second sentence is it has approximately 27 acres of land in Rochester, that needs to say, Chichester, that Evelyn caught.

Mr. Boyjijan

There are two grants, the drinking water which helps protect the drinking water at the Chichester Central School. The moose plate grant is just some additional funding and helps us minimize how much of the Conservation Fund needs to be used to make this project work.

Mrs. Pinard

You can also authorize me to sign them unless you guys are going to come in and sign them.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to accept the grant from NHDES in the amount of \$64,347 to purchase the conservation easement to protect the CCS drinking water supply. Mr. Weir seconded. Roll call. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion Passes.**

Chairman Bouchard

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to accept the New Hampshire moose plate grant/New Hampshire state conservation committee in the amount of \$23,156 to purchase the Valley View conservation easement area project. Mr. Weir seconded. Roll call vote. Roll call. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion Passes.**

Chairman Bouchard

Mr. Bouchard made a motion that the Board of Selectmen give Mrs. Pinard authorization to sign for the Moose Plate Grant and the Valley View easement documents. Mr. Weir seconded. Roll call vote. Roll call. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion Passes.**

#### **Planning Board Appointments-**

Chairman Bouchard

Moving on to appointments for the Planning Board.

Selectmen Weir

Mr. Weir made a motion to reappoint Tom Jameson and Dan Humphrey as regular members and Kevin Mara as an alternate. Mr. Millette seconded. Roll call vote. Roll call. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion Passes.**

#### **LUCT-**

Chairman Bouchard

Coleman Concrete & BMT Construction

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to approve the Land Use Change Tax for Coleman Concrete in the amount of \$10,000 and for BMT Construction in the amount of \$500.00. Mr. Millette seconded. Roll call. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion Passes.**

#### **Meeting Minutes-**

Chairman Bouchard

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 03/02/2021 with minor changes. Mr. Weir seconded. Roll call. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion Passes.**

#### **Other Business-**

Mrs. Pinard

I would like to approach the board to discuss reopening Town Hall and doing our meetings in person. I would like to reopen Town Hall as of April 5, 2021 and go back to normal hours, masks being required in the office. And have our meetings upstairs, with masks being required. I think that we are ready.

Selectmen Weir

Absolutely.

Chairman Bouchard

I'm good with it as long as long as we can mandate and monitor the masks, so we just don't run into issues. As for meetings, I like the interaction of being in person, it is a lot easier to communicate.

Selectmen Millette

I would still like to find a way to be able to stream our meetings. As we move forward, though, I do think it is a good medium for just in general, not even just for COVID time, I think we should be doing it all the time. It allows people if they are out of town to be involved. We have had better attendance virtually than we have had, as far as I can remember almost ever in person. I would love to be able to continue that theme and find out what we need to do technology wise to be able to make that happen. But I am completely. I am 100% on board with the in person.

Selectmen Weir

I agree. There are some people that still are not comfortable being in person. And there is a lot of people that it's just more convenient to participate in this format. The only concern that I have is public comment. That is the portion that I think we need, we need very badly, and it's not as easy in this medium. So, if we can get past that. It is not a deal breaker, I just want to make sure that for the people that are not in person, if they want to comment and they want to be part of the discussion, that we have a technology solution that is adequate to allow that.

Mrs. Pinard

When we meet in person, and people are on zoom, comments should be submitted by about five o'clock the day of the meeting, so that you can read those public comments into the record, they can then choose to comment after. Watching both of those situations, the zoom screen and in person is too difficult.

Selectmen Weir

So putting that was one of my concerns, what we can't have two different ways of the public being able to comment if we're going to allow the public that's in person to be part of the discussion. But we are going to limit how the remote people do it. We cannot do that. And what I do not want to do is how the school's handling You know, there's five minutes at the beginning in this very limited and then there's no more discussion that's allowed. So how we have been luckily able to do it, whether it all remotely or even in person is everybody gets to have their say and as long as nobody's excessively using up more time than they should. We need to find a technology solution for that. We just cannot have two separate ways. It's got to be the same for the people that are in person as it is for people that are remote.

Chairman Bouchard

Agreed, I think they should be able to have their input and we should be able to meet.

Selectmen Weir

We tried this before, having an in-person meeting and having zoom on the side and the technology that we are using at that point didn't work, there was echo there was everybody had a hard time here, and we need to have a better technology solution. If that means spending some money, then let's spend some money and make sure that our technology works. So, like the people that are remote are sitting there, they can hear us, we can hear them. No Echo, we still have to have some kind of gatekeeper. You know, we cannot have people talking over each other. But let's look at the technology solution. And, and even if maybe we do not, you know, we do not have that it's not perfect day one. But let's work towards that.

Selectmen Weir

There should be one caveat. I want to say that we as the board of Selectmen may want to put a drop-dead date on this meeting in public. If in six months down the road, the Conservation Commission is still saying that we do not want to meet in person, we may want to decide for them. I am not sure we're not there yet. But we may want to just keep that in mind. At some point, we may decide that this is the guidance coming from the Board of selectmen.

Selectmen Weir

Mr. Weir made a motion as of April 5, the town hall will revert to normally scheduled business hours, and board and committee meetings may resume in person at the discretion of the chairman. Mr. Bouchard seconded. Roll call. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion Passes.**

Chairman Bouchard

Right. I do not know if you guys noticed, but I noticed today that the minutes were very well detailed. And it is the tool I think Kristy is using now that records everything. So, there is a lot of detail and the minutes. So, when you guys are reading them and reviewing them and stuff, everything's in there, that goes from sentence to sentence. They are a little longer and a little more explained than in the past.

Mrs. Pinard

So you are aware at our next meeting April 6, you guys will be receiving tax deeds from the tax collector. I do have two residents that have requested to speak to the board in a nonpublic, so I don't know if you want to hold those non public's prior to the tax collector handing the deed or if you want to hold that at the end of the meeting.

Selectmen Millette

I would say we probably need to be presented with the tax deeds first and then have a discussion with the property owners subsequent after that.

Chairman Bouchard

Do they want to be in person, or they didn't want to zoom in?

Mrs. Pinard

I believe they'll be in person. It is inability to pay.

Chairman Bouchard

I just want to give them the option. They can zoom also, that is fine.

Mrs. Pinard

I spoke to both property owners and let them know that I would be approaching the board with this this evening. And I would get back to them tomorrow to let them know how the board would like to speak and how we would move forward with the meeting with the board.

Selectmen Millette

I would welcome them to come the same evening, I would just schedule them for the end of the meeting. Okay.

Mr. Moore

The only thing I want to throw out is the coordination I've been doing between the Town and the Regional Planning Commission. I just want to sync up on some of those loose ends. So one of the things we had going, though I think we're we don't need to deal with at the moment was getting some tap funding from the New Hampshire DOT, for a trail between the Chichester library and the Chichester school. But it looks like we missed a deadline for getting something in there was 100 pounds of work and 10 pounds of time. So as far as I can see, that has fallen off, and I don't see it coming back on the board or anybody's radar screen, in the near term. Second, kind of related to that. And again, I'm just sinking up, make sure that my understanding is the same as everybody else's. we brainstormed very briefly, at a very general

level of also a trail from the Chichester school to Carpenter Park, possibly using tap funds again. Again, I think that is one that has fallen off the radar screen for using that thing, unless somebody tells me differently, and part of the issue is ours. We have got to track down easements, first, and then there's that little issue of 20% funding from the town. So, I just don't think we're quite there yet. So unless somebody tells me otherwise, I'm not going to initiate or pursue that area. So, it's like to click related item. Is Chester Main Street. Is that me? Oh, hold on one second.

So, another thing that we have been coordinating with the Regional Planning Commission was Main Street. And there is at least two areas, two different things on Main Street. One was to try to do something about reducing truck traffic. So that has gone through on an informal basis that's made it into the New Hampshire DOT, safety program thing. And there, they have got it on the radar screen. I'd say it's probably a long way from the center of their radar screen, but it is on the screen somewhere. So, I want to make sure we do want to pursue that. Is that correct? Yes. Kind of what I thought I want to make sure no, another mainstream thing that we have never really talked through in much detail is the issue of the sharp corner up by the town hall, the church, Center Street and all that stuff. When I look at the aerial photo, like using an aerial photo from the charrette, for example. You know, those streets really do line up for a four way stop. So, I have not done anything official on that. But on an informal basis, I mentioned to others that you know, if we are concerned about Main Street traffic, that might be something to look at. That helps with a truck Traffic issue because you are forcing trucks to stop when they'd rather not. And it also helps to some extent, at least in my mind was pedestrians trying to cross in vehicles know that they either came out of a stop sign a minute ago, or they are going into one, you know, in a couple of seconds. So, I do not see that it can hurt the pedestrian issue is how do we want to proceed with that? Do we want to think about that for a little bit? Or you want me to stop pounding a drone? Possible four-way intersection? Think about it.

Chairman Bouchard

I would like whatever we can do for safety, but I do not want to impede traffic. Like we said, the section by Granny Howe at the corner is so sharp that trucks now have a hard time getting around, we could fix that somehow. From the neighbor on opposite corner of the church, they get people just flying right through the intersection. It is hard getting out of the driveway, I think if a stop sign was there, it is going to make a lot of people miserable. But it is probably going to make a lot of people happy too.

Mr. Moore

Well, the thing about a four-way stop is it does not cost an awful lot of money to implement. And if you do not like it, it is not that hard to take the signs down and go back to where you were before, you haven't wasted a lot of money on that one. So that is one of the things I like about it is it kind of gets the ball rolling. If it looks like it is the right path, that may not be the right ultimate solution. But if it looks like that is the right path, you know, you are finding that out without spending a lot of money. And if it looks like it is the wrong path, where you found that out without spending a lot of money. That is part of the reason I like investigating that four way stop. Okay, so if you want, I will continue with that we have got a meeting coming up in another week or so. So that is why I want to get these going.

Mrs. Pinard

It was just a letter stating that they are going to do a safety audit and they will be reaching out to us when they were ready. Okay,

Mr. Moore

did they say if they are going to try to use money from this year's? Because that was my understanding was it was going to come at us quickly. Because their fiscal year ends at the end of June. And they wanted they had the money to do it in this fiscal year. So that return Okay, I will check on that as well done. And, and go. So those are the things we got going

on with between Chester and Regional Planning Commission. You know, there is always a bunch of other stuff, corridor studies and all that. But as far as stuff that is, you know, closer to the middle of our radar screen, that is it. Is there anything else I should be thinking about or doing? Or we are okay.

Chairman Bouchard

I think we are okay.

Mr. Moore

Okay, good. Thanks for jumping in without being on the agenda.

Chairman Bouchard

Thanks for doing this.

Mr. Boyjijian

I am following up with Richard. We are will still kind of pursuing additional easements for trails between the school and the library and Carpenter Park. I tried contacting landowners between the school and Carpenter Park. Kristy got me the tax cards. I could not track down a phone number for them. I sent a letter, of course, you are not guaranteed to know that they actually got it. Presumably, they got it and did not respond. Anyway, I will continue to try to figure that out.

Mrs. Pike

I'd like the Board to consider strongly what I'm about to say. As of January 1, there has been changes to the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector's office. Bonnie is no longer deputy Town Clerk, but as serving as acting Town Clerk. I am no longer Town Clerk but serving the public as the tax collector. Bonnie is my deputy Tax Collector, and everyday I want the tax office to be open to the public. We want accessibility. We want accountability and be responsive to the needs of the public.

Mrs. Pinard

We need to stop because it's nonpublic.

Mrs. Pike

Now I'm not talking about the positions.

Ms. Willey muted the meeting and asked:

Do you guys want to continue this conversation, or do you want to schedule a nonpublic?

Chairman Bouchard

I would like to do it in nonpublic because it is a position but if the person is in the position, it was like in the old days if we talked about the Road Agent.

Ms. Willey

She is deputy Town Clerk she's not elected.

Chairman Bouchard

That is the other issue too Is she is not she's not the Town Clerk. She might be acting but she is still the deputy.

Mrs. Pinard

She assumed the duties, but she is an employee of the town of Chichester. And whenever referencing the deputy Tax Collector, Deputy town clerk you're talking about an employee which is covered under the art 91 A RSA that is a nonpublic issue that needs to be discussed in nonpublic, which

Selectmen Weir

it depends on what it is Evelyn asking for here? is she saying We don't have enough man hours to do the job. What are what is she asking for?

Selectmen Weir

No, it's not. If this if the sheer fact of the questions and I honestly have no idea what is going on. If we if we are not. If we do not have enough staff, or are we not providing enough man hours. That is not a 91-A issue. Correct.

Chairman Bouchard

But if we are talking about giving someone a raise, or paid period, if you are talking about pay and paying that person for anything, then it is.

Mrs. Pinard

The conversation that Evelyn would like to bring up as a nonpublic issue, I am telling you that as the Town Administrator, take my advice or not, but you can be in court if she continues her conversation.

Chairman Bouchard

So, like I said, I don't have a problem with going to the nonpublic, even if it's tonight and talking about this. It's going to be about salary, somehow, or about payments, and that ends up being nonpublic

Selectmen Millette-

well, what before we go to nonpublic, if I could just say publicly, so this is one of the things that we need to figure out as a board. So, this has always been kind of a mixed pot. We have had the same person hold two completely different offices for a long time. But we forget that these are two completely different offices, they share space, but they have completely different responsibilities. They are two completely separate jobs, we continue to mix the pot, even though we have two different people that are that are doing two separate jobs. I think it is alright, I think it's a poor idea to continue to have. And maybe I am alone on this, but that having each other to be the deputy of each other and still be in the same office and hold separate positions is a bad idea, in my opinion, going forward, there should be separation of the two offices, and each office should be required to hold hours. So, if they want to be available to the public, then they need to have posted hours for the Tax Collector, and then there needs to be posted hours for the Town Clerk. They are not one to cover the other. They are two separate entities and for a long time, and it is worked out great. And this has nothing as to Evelyn, she did a great job doing both jobs, but they are two separate jobs. And Evelyn chose to not do one of those jobs. So, I and I don't have the answer all by myself. But this board needs to take up this as a discussion and come up with a solution for this. And in my opinion, at least at the beginning of the conversation is there needs to be a separation of the two departments. If we need to go into nonpublic because we are going to discuss somebody's pay or performance, then I'm all for it. If we do not need to go into nonpublic and it does not go into those avenues. I am all for having a public meeting as well, there is nothing here that should not be transparent. I think the whole structure of that two responsibilities needs to be evaluated and changed. Then so you got this deputy thing going on back and forth, which I guess is okay. Except when. And I am not saying it is happening. But if somebody decides they want to leave on an 85-degree afternoon and the other person's left to hold the bag, they are doing both jobs for somebody just not holding their hours, for instance. The two people that are doing those jobs are the two people that this board needs to

talk to you to get feedback on this probably. And they can tell us what is working and not and not working. And that would be nonpublic, in my opinion.

Selectmen Weir

I tend to agree with that part. Then if there is something broken, let us fix it. And I don't disagree with your Ed with your sentiment that, like a clean cut between the two departments would be nice. I am not sure that it's completely necessary the way you said it, but there needs to be clear lines of accountability and responsibility. And then if there is crossover, that is not necessarily a bad thing, but if there's clear lines of accountability and responsibility, then those issues will they'll work themselves out unless we're being negligent in our duties.

Chairman Bouchard

All right, do we need to set up a nonpublic?

Mr. Millette

I am going to go with Jodi's recommendation, not knowing specifically what the discussion is going to entail. I suggest we allow Evelyn to continue with her discussion and we offer Bonnie to be involved and we have Evelyn and Bonnie both in a nonpublic and if it if the topic gets to what does not need to be nonpublic then we will come back out of nonpublic and we'll go from there.

Mrs. Pinard

Do you want to hold that tonight? Or do you want to do it in person on the sixth?

Mr. Millette

I would much rather do it in person.

Selectmen Weir

Absolutely.

Chairman Bouchard

I do not mind. We can wait two weeks.

Mrs. Pinard

I personally believe it can wait. But I think that would be a question for Bonnie and Evelyn.

Mrs. Pinard

Bonnie, do you want to go now or wait?

Mrs. Potter

I am fine with waiting.

Chairman Bouchard

All right, thank you.

Mrs. Pike

I will go with what the majority says. I would rather do it tonight, but I will go with the majority.



Chairman Bouchard

Thank you. We will put it on the schedule.

Mrs. Pike

Thank you.

Chairman Bouchard

You're welcome. Can we schedule it a quarter past six or six?

Mrs. Pinard

I will schedule it at six.

Selectmen Millette

That would be great.

Mr. Weir

I prefer that.

Chairman Bouchard

Let's do it right off the bat.

#### **BCEP Update-**

Chairman Bouchard

We just had interviews last Thursday. We have three candidates, and we will be deciding or talking about it more and deciding, hopefully, on Thursday for the admin position. As far as everything else working, everything is cranking along and the trash was coming in and trash is going out. Richard Moore's doing a ton. He is the one that ended up getting us to take an evaluation of every piece of equipment. Hopefully, we can get someone in there because it's tough for the Selectmen to deal with it because he's got other stuff going on. He is just there filling the seat making sure that there's someone there so the place just doesn't run wild.

Mr. Millette

Has Craig posted the roads? Is he going to post the roads? Horse corner roads not posted.

Mrs. Pinard

I'll find out why he didn't post Horse Corner.

Mr. Millette

I thought it was strange that was corner was not posted, especially considering how much traffic it gets. Thank you.

Mr. Boyjian

I was hoping to talk with you guys about potential land acquisition out by Lynxfield Pond. I would request it'd be nonpublic session. I don't think it'll take very long because it's just an update to get some feedback from you but work out a bit at a crossroads at this point. We are either going to move forward or not. And we need some input. All right. We will have information about actual costs and no landowner's name and that kind of stuff.

Chairman Bouchard

All right. Well, two weeks work to put you on a schedule, or do you need it sooner?

Mr. Millette

It sounds like he was looking for tonight.

Chairman Bouchard

All right.

Mr. Boyajian

It would be good to get it done tonight. That way, if we need to take action in the next Conservation Commission meeting, we can do that.

Chairman Bouchard

Okay.

Mrs. Pinard

Yeah, it's on the bottom of the agenda. **91- A:3 II (d)** - Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

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

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

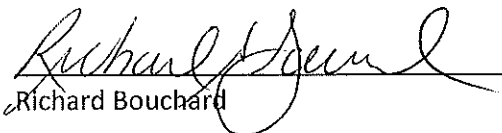
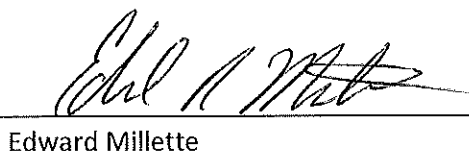
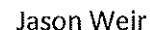
A motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Weir to seal the non-public meeting minutes until the deal is completed or abandoned. Bouchard, Aye, Millette Aye, Weir, Aye. **Motion Passes.**

**Adjournment:**

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 7:33pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Willey, Administrative Assistant

  
Richard Bouchard  
Edward Millette  
Jason Weir