

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday April 27, 2021

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

Members of the public: Chief Clarke, Brianne Stone, Heather Chivaras, Dr. Bette Bogdan, Evelyn Pike, Bonnie Potter, Donna Chagnon, Tom Houle, Tara & Russell Blaney, Dick Pratt, David Jobin, and other members of the public.

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

All right Welcome everyone to the April 27, 2021 Board of Selectmen meeting.

In light of the covid 19 Coronavirus virus social distancing advice made by the Governor and the CDC and 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 a cell phone conference, please call this number from home 123126266799 and enter this code meeting ID and passcode. Following along, we are using a digital copy from our website at Chichesternh.org. We will also be streaming this meeting as a webinar which you can join by going to the link provided in this agenda. please reach out to Jodi crowd with any questions or concerns at email JPinard@ChichesterNH.org

Mr. Bouchard stated that he wanted to start the meeting off by acknowledging Evelyn Pike's full retirement and thank her for her many years of service. He thanked her for everything that she has done for the Town.

Appointment-Tara Blaney

Mrs. Blaney stated that she sent an email to the Board of Selectmen as well as the School Board which she wanted to follow up on. She stated that it was discussed at the school board meeting that there is some classrooms at the school that have doors with separate entrances and exits. She wanted to reiterate the importance of offering that non mask area for our residents. She stated that she will wear a mask, knows that there are residents that for whatever reason choose not to, and that currently under New Hampshire state law, and with the guidance that the Attorney General's Office, the Town must provide an alternative for voting. She wanted to urge the school board, the Board of Selectmen, the Moderators to work to find this alternative, so we can accommodate everybody, and we can keep everybody safe.

Chairman Bouchard stated that it was brought up in a school board meeting, and discussed, but they just never decided because Ewen said that he would talk about it tonight at the meeting.

Mr. MacKinnon stated that he is looking to continue doing the same as the election in November. The non-masked voters can use the old main entrance, which is now the Kindergarten entrance. He stated that Ms. Stiles, the School Moderator sent out a letter with her plan. Non-masked voters will proceed to the kindergarten room, which will be fully integrated with a screen as well as being able to hear what is going on in the gym, as well as communicate with the people in the gym.

Ms. Stone stated that Ms. Stiles is going to try to do is get runners so that unmasked participants can enter into the kindergarten room and stay in the kindergarten room. They will bring their driver's licenses or ID to the supervisor of

the checklist, then they can check their ID and then bring back their voting card and vote that way. There is also a bathroom in that classroom and adult size chairs will be brought in.

Organization of Town Clerk and Tax Collector's Office-

Mrs. Pinard stated that Mrs. Pike did turn in her retirement papers. She is looking to the Board to appoint Bonnie Potter, as Tax Collector. She stated that she is trying to come up with a way to run that office more efficiently for the population that we have. In other towns, they have a combined Town Clerk/Tax Collector elected position. She proposed to the Board is to move towards combining that position on the warrant in 2022. Once that is completed the Town would then hire a deputy that is Town Clerk Tax Collector so there are two people in the office that can do everything, which is really what the workload is, two people.

Selectmen Millette cautioned to review the RSA and get clarification regarding the time span to appoint and when an election for that position must be held.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to appoint Bonnie Potter to fill the vacant Tax Collector position. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Historical/Heritage Items-

Mr. Pratt stated that he wanted to share and update on some items in the green space. The Historical Society and the Heritage Commission agree that instead of bringing the wire all the way down from the pole, underneath the ground up to the gazebo, they would like to put a box in at the bottom of the pole. They received two estimates to do that, \$650 & \$795. The only question we have is Until charges a \$16.22 monthly fee which they were hoping the Town would be willing to accept as the Historical and Heritage do not have any source of income.

Selectmen Millette is the ex officio on the Heritage Commission and he stated that they have had a lot of discussions about this, and he thinks personally, for the cost of \$16 a month plus usage, he doesn't see any reason why the Town couldn't encumber that as part of the expense for the Town Hall. That way, Christmas lights can be used and farmers markets, etc.

Another item Mr. Pratt discussed Thunder bridge. He stated he was notified that there are several planks on the bridge that should be replaced. There is roughly \$35,000 in the capital reserve fund, so the funds would be covered.

Selectmen Weir stated he may have a couple volunteers that would be willing to replace the planks and probably provide the lumber as well.

Mr. Pratt also discussed a water problem over at the Historical building. He stated that they have hired a plumber and they are trying to find the leak.

Mr. Houle stated that Pat Heffernan is supposed to take care of pulling a permit for electrical and Bobcat offered to come down and dig and trench.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded that we authorize the installation of the meter for the green space. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Timber Tax- Map 2 lot 40

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. seconded to issue a bill in the amount of \$1,321.07 for Map 2 Lot 40. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Approval of Minutes-

The Board discussed whether they want minutes to be transcribed moving forward. The consensus of the Board was to not use the transcriber and return to the normal format for minutes. Ms. Willey will redo the minutes and have them for approval at the next meeting.

Other Business-

Mrs. Pinard stated that she has been working on the Tax Collector/Town Clerk position. She also stated that Town Reports will be in soon and a notification will be posted as soon as they are ready.

Mr. Houle wanted to discuss adding a School Board member as a department head. He stated that he has spoken extensively with Heather Chavaris about this from the School Board. If she were part of department heads, she could be included as part of that discussion, and she could bring in information about what is going on with the school. This could help bridge the communication between these two entities and make this a lot stronger. He would like the Boards blessing to move forward.

Mrs. Chivaris stated that her and Mr. Houle have been talking a lot about this and she would like to bring this back to the other members of the School Board to get there blessing as well. She stated that she envisions it would be more of an update of what is happening on our end. She would also like to try to really bridge that gap of communication. She also discussed the possibility of doing quarterly meetings between the School Board and Board of Selectmen, which may be something also we could have.

Selectmen Millette stated that he thinks the quarterly idea is fantastic, the more information that is shared, especially with the large organizations in town, the better it is for everybody involved.

Candidates Night-

Mr. Houle proposed him hosting a candidate's night on May 5, at 6:30pm. It will be held at Carpenter Park, weather permitting. The alternative would be via zoom.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kristy Willey, Administrative Assistant

Approved by a roll call vote on 5/4/2021

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir