

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday December 21, 2021

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

Budget Members Present: Tom Houle, Don Peterman, Doug Hall, Tara Blaney, Stephen McCleery (late arrival)

Members of the public: Chief Clarke, Chief Quimby, Craig Sykes, Tom Jameson, Ewen MacKinnon, Stan Brehm, Paul Sanborn, Brandon and Katrina Guida, Sue and Frank Merrill, Donna and Fred Chagnon and other members of the public.

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

Resident Complaint-

Mr. & Mrs. Guida came before the Board to discuss a zoning complaint they have regarding their immediate neighbors, located at 18 Horse Corner Road. Mr. Guida explained to the Board that this has been going on since 2015, when he made his first initial complaint to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Guida stated that the property located at 18 Horse Corner Road has 2 campers with at least 2 full time occupants living in them which he would like removed. He stated that cars come in and out of the property at all hours of the night, stopping in the driveway where a person meets them, and then they leave. There is also a generator which is hooked up to the campers that run all night long, which is very loud and disruptive. They have also been seen dumping human waste on the property, which was addressed by the police. Mr. Guida also stated that he believes that they have filled in Wetlands and would like the Town to report it to the Department of Environmental Services. Mr. Guida warned the Board that if action was not taken swiftly, that he would have no choice but to sue the Town of Chichester.

Mr. & Mrs. Chagnon, who are also neighbors stated that 2 years ago there was one camper with no septic, and they were using a pale to dump waste. The Police Department went out to talk to them. Now there are two campers. They reported that they have also been running a backhoe doing a lot of work out by the campers.

Mr. Guida stated that the Epsom police were recently out at the property (covering for Chichester PD), who escorted the occupant back to his camper, which proves that there are people living in the campers.

The owner of record is Richard and Diane McCann, who currently live out of state. The residents are renters.

Mr. Weir asked Mr. Guida to put his complaint in writing, as it's a requirement for a zoning complaint.

Mr. Guida stated that was ridiculous considering that he is at a public meeting stating his concerns which will be noted in the minutes. He stated he was not writing a complaint and the Board needed to act, and if the Town doesn't then he will file a lawsuit.

Mrs. Chagnon stated that she asked a question regarding campers at the end of the last meeting and was upset that they were not in the minutes. Mr. Weir explained the RSA for requirements for minutes. Mrs. Jobin, who takes the minutes, that having a sidebar conversation doesn't meet the standards of being in the minutes. Further, the question was at the end of a meeting as everyone was getting up and could not be heard. Mrs. Jobin also reported that Mrs. Chagnon was directed via email to contact the Town Administrator to be put on the agenda if she had a concern that she would like to be addressed.

The Board directed Mrs. Pinard to send a letter to the property owners regarding the complaint.

Road Acceptance-

Mr. Merrill came before the Board to discuss the Town taking over the roads built in his development. He stated that he has completed all things that were outstanding and required.

The board discussed that further research needed to be completed to see if a vote needs to go to Town Meeting.

Mr. Merrill stated that it was on Planning Board approvals, and it was his understanding that when the development was completed, the Board could vote to accept the roads.

Mrs. Pinard stated that according to RSA 764:40-40-A Planning Board approval does not constitute an approval from the Town, which she read from the Book, "A Hard Road to Travel" which is by the NHMA.

Chairman of the Planning Board, Mr. Brehm stated that the Planning Board approved the development plan with the understanding that the Town would be accepting the roads.

Mr. Merrill stated that he believed that this was already approved in the year 2007. He asked what would happen if this went to Town Meeting and failed.

Mr. Merrill stated that he would like all roads approved except for Bradley Way which he would like to keep private and be privately maintained.

Mr. Jameson stated that he recalled accepting a road at a Town Meeting.

Mrs. Pinard will be doing some research to find out exactly what was agreed upon and what the next steps are to move forward.

Joint Budget Meeting-

Highway-

Mr. Sykes presented his budget to the Boards. He stated that a lot of the increases are due to surcharges and increases in supplies such as salt and fuel.

He stated that the funds for overlay in the spring for Bear Hill Road will be encumbered for next year.

Mr. Sykes stated that he has planned for three sections of Horse Corner Road to be completed. He will not have enough funds to cover Ring and Kaime Road with the pricing that he has received. The Board advised Mr. Sykes to work with the number of \$330,000.00 for road reconstruction.

Mr. Sykes stated that a new line for uniforms have been added. He has currently been taking it out of the supplies/tools line but wanted it to have its own line so it can better be tracked.

Mr. Sykes stated that he did not ask for one this year, but the Highway Department desperately needs a backhoe.

The new Highway truck will not be arriving until at least February.

Planning Board-

Mr. Brehm stated that he would like to have a line in the budget for annual updates for zoning in the amount of \$4,000.00 instead of asking for it every year as an warrant article. It is very important to do updates every year and is needed.

Mr. Brehm also stated that since the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds not filing Site Plans anymore, they will be scanned into a database for easier access and reduce storage in the office. The fee will be passed on to the developer, so no additional funds will need to be added to the budget.

Fire-

Chief Quimby presented the budget to the Boards. He stated that all the ambulance lines have been absorbed into the Fire Department lines to make it easier to budget and track.

Chief Quimby stated that there is a payroll increase of \$10,000.00 for a stipend for the Fire Chief. Currently there is none and he is only paid the volunteer rate for hours worked. Chief Quimby listed off surrounding Fire Chiefs pay which was considerably more.

Chief Quimby stated that nitrous gas has gone up in price, so the line has as well. He stated that medical supplies are hard to come by, and the prices have also skyrocketed which has increased those lines.

Chief Quimby stated that there was a recent building fire and Engine 3 wouldn't start. They could also not get Engine 1 out of the bay as it was blocked by Engine 3. The fuel pump failed, and it is currently out of service. He stated that is not the dependability the Town deserves, and the truck needs to be replaced. He is looking for direction from the Board. He stated that new trucks are very high cost, and they are looking at demos to see if they can make one of those work. He is 99% sure that he will be coming with a warrant article for a new truck.

Mr. Sanborn spoke with three different vendors and in 2022 a new truck will be upwards of \$700,000.

Mr. Hall asked if there is a lease purchase option for Fire Trucks.

Chief Quimby stated that was possible and he could get some figures together.

Chief Quimby stated that for the last three years a grant has been denied for new SCBA equipment which needs to be replaced now.

Chief Quimby stated that a grant has been submitted for a Stryker power lift for the ambulance which lifts the cot into the back of the ambulance and saves the medics from lifting manually which reduces injuries.

Chief Quimby stated that they are also requesting a ATV rescue vehicle (side by side) and trailer rescue vehicle to be taken out of the capital reserve fund.

Chief Quimby stated that a grant was submitted for a forestry truck and mini pumper to replace forestry 1.

Selectmen's Office-

Mrs. Pinard presented her budget for the Selectmen. She outlined the increases.

The election lines have gone up due to there being three elections this year to budget for.

Legal costs have gone up to due pending litigations.

Health insurance/Dental insurance and NH Retirement have all gone up as well. Workers Compensation/Property liability have also increased.

She stated that the Board will see increases across the Board for heat and electric.

Solid waste removal has also increased.

The Building Inspectors mileage has increased due to the number of permits issued and inspections. She stated that last year the Town added 6.5 million in assessed value. Sanitation has also increased \$3,600.

Encumber Road Funds-

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to encumber the road funds from 2021 to be used in 2022 in the amount of \$103,000. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Next Budget Meetings-

January 11 & 12, and 18th at 6:00pm. Public Hearing will be held on February 1, 2022.

Rapid Refill Zoning Violation-

Mr. Millette (Ex-Officio of the ZBA) updated the Board that Rapid Refill had a public hearing with the Zoning Board requesting relief for the electronic sign to change more frequently than allowed. They did withdraw their application without prejudice at the end of the meeting, so no approval was granted.

Mrs. Jobin did communicate with the Sign Company that due to the withdrawal and no approval, the sign needed to come into compliance immediately.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to send a letter to Rapid Refill to comply by January 15, 2022, or they would be fined. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Great Meadow Campground-

The Board discussed that they are still waiting for the required Site Plan from the campground. They have had over a year to make application to the Planning Board and have not done so. The most recent correspondence from their attorney indicated that application would be made by the December deadline, which was not done, and Mrs. Jobin has had no further communication from them.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to recommend to the Planning Board that the current site plan on file for Great Meadow Campground located at 78 Dover Road be revoked for not complying and updating their Site Plan within the allotted time frame. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

The Board has received complaints from campers that wanted to remain anonymous that they have been expanding and adding many new sites. The Conservation Commission also reported that they were able to observe from the Conservation area that there may be possible wetlands being filled in. The Board directed Mrs. Jobin to send the Town Engineer out to the property to access and make a note of any recent changes.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir