

Chichester Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday March 1, 2022

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

Members of the public: Donna Chagnon, Cpl. Wright, Chief Clarke, Russ Blaney, Tom Houle, Bob Mann, Chief Quimby, Kathy Doult, Shaun Fife, and other members of the public.

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

Department Heads-

Highway-

Mr. Sykes stated that the department has been busy keeping up with the storms and drastic temperature changes. Many roads have needed extra attention and they have been working hard to keep roads passable.

Mr. Sykes stated that an ad has been placed to fill the empty highway position.

Mr. Sykes reported that he was asked to teach 3 classes by UNH for the road scholar program which he would like to do. In exchange they will be giving the Highway Department free classes. The Board agreed.

Road Reconstruction Bids 2022-

The Board opened the sealed bids for the following:

F.L. Merrill Construction	\$327,990.00
Pike Industries	\$363,868.50
Advanced	\$330,553.35
Busby	\$261,261.00

The Board will award the bid at the March 15, 2022, Board of Selectmen meeting after budget is approved at Town Meeting.

Fire Department-

Chief Quimby was happy to report that all trucks are in service.

Chief Quimby stated that there was a fatal motor vehicle accident on Rt. 4 last week. He stated that when accidents like this happen, it takes a huge toll on the Fire Department members.

There is an open house scheduled at the Fire Department on Monday March 7, 2022, to ask questions on the Fire Department warrant articles. He asked for anyone with questions to please come down.

Chief Quimby requested that the Board of Selectmen, who are the agents of the Fire Radio and Associate Equipment Repair/Replacement Expendable Trust Fund to approve the first phase of 20 portable radios to

replace the current radios. The current radios are not always functional and new ones are required for safety. These are on the CIP schedule for 2022 to be replaced.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to purchase 20 Kenwood portable radios to be purchased out of the Fire Radio and Associate Equipment Repair/Replacement Expendable Trust Fund In the amount of \$27,192.40. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Library-

Ms. Doult reported for the Library. She wanted to publicly thank you to our Road Agent and staff for the work on Meetinghouse Road. The Library does request that the plow returns and clears out the back parking lot to about double the available space. It should accommodate about four cars, and we now only have room for two.

The Board of Trustees called a special meeting to work on policies. This work started back in 2019 and was put on hold because of COVID. The first “policy” to be addressed was the COVID policy, in light of the recent changes in recommendations and guidelines by the CDC and NH DHHS. It was rescinded. We are keeping curbside delivery as an ongoing service. Although there is no masking requirement, masking is still encouraged and permitted. We may reconstitute the policy, or one that is related, based again on CDC guidelines/recommendations, particularly when the levels of transmission are at a high level within Merrimack County. (They currently are at a medium level.) Two other policies, “Code of Conduct” and “Meeting Room Policy and Rules,” were reviewed and accepted, as revised.

The Library Director is working on scheduling a Public Meeting concerning the recently awarded grant. Statistics for February:

141 patrons came into the Library. We added 6 new patrons.

428 items were checked out; 433 items were checked in; 53 items were renewed; and there was an in-house use of 11.

On Overdrive: 118 audiobooks, 121 e-books and 44 Kindle books were checked out.

For HOOPLA: 2 new patrons are participating in HOOPLA, and there were 15 circulations.

This week is school vacation (2/28-3/4) and children have been asked to come to the Library to build a new Lego Fish Aquarium. This activity relates to the Summer Reading Program Theme of “Oceans of Possibilities.” Pictures of the Lego creations will be posted on Facebook.

The Down Under Bookstore is currently open during library business hours. The Book Group is coming back to the library, starting this month. The Knitting group has also started up again.

Police Department-

Chief Clarke reported that last year’s new cruiser is still sitting at 2 Way Communications waiting for parts that have not come in yet.

Chief Clarke reported that Cpl. Wright did prepare a report but had to leave to go to an accident. His report includes that there have been 82 calls in the month of February, for various reasons. All calls involved investigations, so they have been very busy. There were 12 accidents, and 1 fatal motor vehicle accident on Rt. 4.

Conservation-

Mr. Mann reported that the easement paperwork for the conservation easement located on Main St. currently owned by Mr. Humphrey, is being reviewed by Mr. Humphrey's attorney. Mr. Humphrey's attorney has some edits and once the Town's attorney has them back and everything is agreed upon, it will be sent to the Department of Environmental Services (DES) for approval. The newest draft has all the Board of Selectmen's concern addressed.

Mr. Mann reported that the parking lot and loop trail created at the Spaulding Town Forest has been receiving a lot of use over the winter and has received good reviews. Mr. Mann thanked the Highway Department for keeping the parking area clear for residents.

Mr. Mann reported that the Conservation Commission voted to change the name of the Spaulding Town Forest to the Shirly Waters Conservation Area in memory of Shirly Waters who made a substantial monetary donation to various Town groups including the Library and Conservation Commission.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to rename the Spaulding Town Forest to the Shirly Waters Conservation Area while still maintaining its Town Forest status. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Mann reported that there is a limited volunteer core, but the Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation would like to develop footpaths on the Humphrey Easement this year.

Shaun Fife-Map 8 Lot 7

Mr. Fife came before the Board to discuss an issue he is having accessing his land, which is landlocked. Mr. Fife stated that he owns land that spans the border of Chichester and Epsom. He owns approximately 3 acres, .6 of which is in Chichester and the remaining in Epsom. He stated that his only access is the railroad. Mr. Fife stated that he believes that the railroad should be counted as road frontage. He plans to mill lumber out on the property. He stated that he currently resides out on the property and when he has visitors, they park in the Thunder Bridge parking area. He stated that a woman who lives next to Thunder Bridge is accosting his family and friends when they try to park in the public parking area and her husband has built berms with snow to block the parking lot. He stated this is a public area and she should not be blocking access to it. He also believes access should be provided to him, as well as an address, so first responders can find him or other people in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Millette stated that he currently has no legal right of way to his property, which is designated as vacant backland. The Board of Selectmen cannot provide him that access.

Mr. Weir stated he sees this as two different issues. First, no one should be impeding public access, and second, the railroad does not count as road frontage and the Board cannot grant access to the land. He did state that there is a law says that you must be able to gain access to your property. He encouraged Mr. Fife to start there.

Mr. Bouchard stated that the parking area is meant for recreational use of the bridge and trails.

Mr. Millette stated that he was under the impression that it was a daylight parking area. He stated that the parking lot is not intended to be someone's driveway or personal parking.

Chief Clarke will check to see what the parking area signs states for hours to see what is enforceable.

Abatements-

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

Map 4 Lot 156 Sub 50RV in the amount of \$157.00

Map 9 Lot 116 in the amount of \$20.42

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

Other Business-

Mr. Houle stated that he attended the school budget presentation by Doug Hall last week which was extremely informative. He would like to get another presentation set up for the Town. He also encouraged the Town to join the lawsuit against the State with other Towns regarding how schools are funded.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the Selectmen's office needs to delay the start of the new hours until they are fully staffed. She stated that they need those hours to return phone calls, and complete other tasks uninterrupted.

The Board agreed to delay the change of hours pending the addition of staff at Town Meeting. If the position is not approved, the house would not increase.

Mrs. Pinard stated that she is working on bringing some new policies to the Board. The shredding service is coming at the end of March to dispose of all the documents that are not legally required to be retained to make more space in the building. The joint loss Committee will be meeting March 10, 2022. Mrs. Pinard will also be coming to the Board on the March 15th meeting with Board and Committee appointments.

Mrs. Pinard reported that they have received the case structuring for CM Truck & Trailer. She also reported that the Planning Board did not make a decision at the February 17, 2022, meeting to revoke the site plan and it was tabled to the March 3, 2022, Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen would like a letter drafted to the Planning Board stating their position is that they strongly recommend that the site plan be pulled.

Mrs. Jobin stated that she has been subpoenaed to Court to testify on behalf of the Town Zoning for a civil dispute. She has already spoken to the Town Attorney regarding this issue.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to appoint Jodi Pinard and Kristy Jobin as Pro Temp Selectmen Representatives for March 8, 2022, for Election Day. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Health Officer-

The Board will be appointing a health officer after Town Meeting.

Merrill Development Road Acceptance-

Mrs. Pinard stated that she spoke with the Town attorney who confirmed that the roads acceptance does not need a public hearing, as it was already approved by the Attorney Generals office.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to approve the roads in the F.L. Merrill Development as Town Roads as depicted in the approved plans for the development. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Approval of Minutes-

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to approve the minutes of February 15, 2022. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Upcoming Meetings-

March 8, 2022, Elections at Chichester Central School, 10:00am-7:00pm
March 12, 2022, Town Meeting at Chichester Central School, 10:00am start
Next Budget Committee meeting will be in April to follow up and discuss CIP forms

NON-PUBLIC-

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to enter non-public under:
Non-Public Session – **91-A:3 II (a)** – The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee
Edward Millette seconded.
Bouchard Aye, Millette Aye, Weir Aye. **Motion Passes.**

Mr. Millette motioned to exit non-public session. Mr. Weir seconded.
Millette Aye, Bouchard Aye, Weir Aye. **Motion Passes.**

Mr. Millette motioned to seal the minutes until position is filled. Mr. Weir seconded.
Bouchard Aye, Weir Aye, Millette Aye. **Motion Passes**

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Weir to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir