

## Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting  
Tuesday March 15, 2022

**Members Present:** Richard Bouchard, Ed Millette, Stephen MacCleery and Jodi Pinard Town Administrator, Kristy Jobin Administrative Assistant.

**Members of the public:** Doug Hall, Ewen MacKinnon, Lori Littlefield-Bas, John Bas, Donna Chagnon, Josh Wright, Russ Blaney, Tom Houle, Kathy Doult, and other members of the public.

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

Mr. Bouchard congratulated Mr. MacCleery as the new Selectmen.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. MacCleery seconded to appoint Mr. Bouchard as the chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

### **Appointments for March 15, 2022-**

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. MacCleery seconded to appoint the following:

#### **Alternate Library Trustee – 1 Year Term**

Carolee Davison

Barbara Sweet

Marguerite Friary

#### **Planning Board – 3 Year Term**

Thomas Houle

#### **Zoning Board of Adjustment – 3 Year Term**

Doug Hall, full member

Ewen MacKinnon, full member

Tara Blaney, alternate member

#### **Advisory Budget Committee – 3 Year Term**

Don Peterman

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

Mr. Hall stated that he would like to discuss the Advisory Budget Committee and wait until the joint BOS and Budget meeting to decide if he wants to be reappointed to the Budget committee.

#### **Appointments for Ex-Officio-**

Stephen MacCleery- Zoning Board of Adjustments & Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ed Millette- Road Advisory Committee & Heritage Commission.

Richard Bouchard- Planning Board, BCEP & Economic Development Committee.

#### **Thunder Bridge Parking Area-**

Mr. & Mrs. Bas came before the Board to discuss the parking at Thunder Bridge. Mrs. Bas stated that there is a landowner that owns backland on the Town line in both Chichester and Epsom. There is a gentleman (Shawn Fife) that is living in a camper out in the backland. She stated that since the camper moved in, there is now lots of debris such as trash, mattresses, and bottles. She stated that in January she went for a walk and saw a man, who she now knows to be Mr. Fife, parking at the Thunder Bridge parking area. She asked Mr. Fife if he was visiting Thunder Bridge, at which time Mrs. Bas alleges that Mr. Fife became very hostile and yelled profanities at her. She stated that they have spoken to the police department, and they said that they need signage that has teeth at the location, so they can enforce it. Mr. Bas stated that he is concerned that they are having these issues in winter and is worried what the summer will bring. He would like a sign that says subject to towing or ticketing. Mrs. Bas stated that it feels hard to be living in their home and it shouldn't. Mrs. Bas stated that she has been vigilant about checking the area after dark and has recently found a family fishing after dark there as well.

The Bas's stated that other neighbors are also having issues with Mr. Fife and there is currently a no trespass order for the Bartletts.

Mr. Millette stated that there is a lot of town parking areas that encourage people to park and go out and recreate. He wants to be careful with this not to restrict use. He cautioned the Bas's about going down to kick a family off the bridge that is fishing. If people are not creating a problem, he thinks that it's reasonable to let them fish. He urged them to call the police if they feel that something is a problem, and not police the area on their own. Mr. Millette stated that its Town property not personal. He has no problem finding verbiage to tighten up what we are trying to solve.

Mr. Bouchard stated that currently there are no other signs at any other parking areas, and they should all be treated equally.

Mrs. Bas stated that Mr. Reinhardt came to the Board before to get the hours set from dawn to dusk and received Selectmen's approval.

Mrs. Bas stated that she did speak to the Historical Society about this, and they are on board with putting up a sign with stronger language.

Mr. Blaney recommended that a sign could say “for recreational parking only, no overnight parking or actual parking hours”.

Mr. Millette stated that no overnight parking is too ambiguous, but possibly could use no parking after dark.

Mrs. Doult stated that the historic value makes Thunder Bridge different from the conservation parking lots.

Mrs. Bas stated that language doesn’t alleviate someone parking there and leaving for the day.

Mr. Millette stated he is not trying to police that issue.

Mr. MacCleery recommended that they call the police when people do park there during unauthorized times.

Ms. Doult asked if the sign is even enforceable. She stated that in her experience signs need specific language to enforce along with ordinances. She stated that she doesn’t think that the Historical Society should decide for the area and trail parking, it should be the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. MacCleery stated that it seems like up until now, the current sign has been working.

Mr. Blaney stated that Thunder Bridge has been the topic of conversation at BOS meetings at least four times over the past year.

Mr. MacKinnon stated that the trail nearby needs permission from property owners to walk on, it was only a snowmobile trail, but that use has been discontinued.

The Board will come up with some sign proposals and will set a meeting with the historical society and come to an agreement.

The Board asked Mr. Blaney if he and Mr. Weir had every repaired Thunder Bridge. Mr. Blaney stated that he never discussed that with Mr. Weir and was unsure if Mr. Weir had done it.

#### **Road Reconstruction Bid-**

The Board opened the bids at the previous meeting and waited until tonight so to award the bid until the budget was passes at Town Meeting.

Mr. Bouchard made motion and Mr. MacCleery seconded to accept the low bid form Busby in the amount \$261,261.00. for the 2022 road reconstruction project. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. MacCleery, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

#### **Approval of minutes**

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to approve the meeting minutes for March 1, 2022. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. MacCleery, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

### **Discussion on hours**

Mrs. Pinard brought forward a proposal for new hours for the Selectmen's Office. Currently the hours are Monday 8:30am-4:00pm, Tuesday 8:30-2 & 4:00-7:00pm and Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30-2:00pm with a total of 27 hours. After discussing it with Mrs. Jobin, they agreed that opening earlier would be a benefit to the Town as many builders and contractors come in early to submit their permits to start working. Mrs. Pinard stated that often, there will be someone waiting for the office to open to pull a permit. The new proposed hours are 7:30am-3:30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and Tuesday and 7:30am-6:00pm with a total of 34.5 hours.

The Board had concerns about closing earlier on Tuesday evenings. Mrs. Pinard stated that Board meetings start at 6pm and the office staff are in the meeting at that time, which is why that time was chosen.

The Board stated that they would rather keep the hours at seven and have the building inspector or the new staff member man the window.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the Town Clerk is considering changing her hours as well which would be opening at 8:00am with same closing hours as the Selectmen's Office.

The Board is aware they cannot set the Town Clerk's office hours, however they strongly urged that the office stay open until 7pm.

The Board had a discussion on hiring of the new person and duties along with what other supplies such as computer and telephone that will require, as well as desk space.

Mrs. Pinard will bring back the job description to the next meeting to be discussed further.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to approve the new hours of the Selectmen's Office beginning April 3, 2022, as Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 7:30am-3:30pm on and Tuesday and 7:30am-7:00pm, 35.5 hours per week. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. MacCleery, aye. Bouchard, aye.

**Motion passes.**

### **Discussion on combining School and Town meeting-**

Mr. MacKinnon stated that he is going to the school Board to discuss the option of moving School Board meeting and combining it with Town meeting to make it easier for residents to attend.

Mr. Millette was hesitant that it may cause more attendance issues.

Mr. Bouchard stated that he agreed, and people may not want to sit there for four hours and won't go to either.

Mr. MacKinnon stated that he is looking to move Town Meeting to 9am next year for an earlier start.

Mr. Hall recommended that Mr. MacKinnon contact the municipal association to discuss if any other Towns have tried this.

Mr. Hall had posed a question regarding the audit not being completed in time for town report and why it was taking so long. He asked when the contract will go out to bid again and possibly asking for a specific timeline to be completed.

Mrs. Pinard stated that it was the firms first year with us and it was delayed due to the firm being hit with covid as well as resignations.

Mr. MacCleery asked if they could discuss streaming the meeting live as they do in other Towns. The Board will investigate this and discuss it further.

**NON-PUBLIC-**

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant

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Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Stephen MacCleery