

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday May 3, 2022

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

Members of the public: Heather Chiavaras, Kathy Doult, Russell Blaney, Donna Chagnon, Dick Pratt, Sgt. Matt Fudala, Sheriff David Croft, Tom Houle, Craig Sykes, Tom Jameson, Lori and Jay Baas, Stan Brehm and other members of the public.

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

Sheriff-

Sheriff Croft came before the Board to introduce himself as he makes his way around the Towns across Merrimack County. Sheriff Croft stated that he has been in law enforcement for over 36 years. He was the Chief of Police in Boscawen before he ran for Sheriff. He stated that the Sheriff's office currently has 70+ staff members, both sworn and unsworn with a 4-million-dollar operating budget. Sheriff Croft went over the responsibilities of the Sheriff's office and different departments.

Department Heads-

Police Department-

Sgt. Fudala stated that Chief Clarke was not able to attend the meeting tonight and he would be reporting for him. Sgt. Fudala reported that they would be holding a PT test for a few new applicants. The PD is in the process of applying for grant money such as DWI, seatbelt, cellphone, and speed. The Chichester Police Department would like to congratulate Officer Kenneson on his new twin baby boys.

The Department attended training regarding meth labs and the one pot method which was beneficial.

Library-

Ms. Doult reported the following Statistics for April:

- Atrium: We had 492 items checked in and 476 items checked out. 91 renewed and 17 in house-use.
- Hoopla: We had 29 total circulations, 2 new patrons, spent \$57.43, average cost per circulation was \$1.98. 13 E-Books were checked out and 12 Audiobooks.
- Overdrive: 111 Audiobooks were checked out, 126 E-Books, 10 Overdrive Magazine, & 247 Kindle books.

Programs:

- The Summer Reading Program (SRP) is "Oceans of Possibilities," and kids and teens are encouraged to participate.

- Our kick-off day is scheduled for June 28th at Carpenter Park as soon as it is confirmed by Parks and Recreation Department.
- We are planning some crafts and movies in July; and,
- A possible program with UNH called “Whales and Seals” sometime in August. More information will be forthcoming.

The Library Director will visit Chichester Central School on June 7th (tentative) from 1-2 pm, to talk about the summer reading program.

We are also partnering with Altitude Trampoline Park for the SRP. Participants will pick up a bookmark on kick-off day, take it home and keep track of their reading with a reading log (we give you when your register). When they complete their reading hours, a parent is to sign the bookmark and then bring it to the Library. The participant will then receive a 1 hour jump pass. This is open to children and teens only.

- “The House History Program,” with Erin Moulton will be presented May 21st at 6 p.m. at the Grange Hall. It is being presented in conjunction with the Heritage Commission. Press release says:

“The best thing about tracking down the history of a house is that your research subject usually stays in one place! And yet, house history projects give us the opportunity to access and explore records we also see in genealogical projects: newspapers, land deeds, city directories and more. Join us to delve into the history that is underfoot each day.”

- Our knitting group is still meeting on Wednesdays at 3:30 and our Book Group met on May 2nd at 7 pm discussing the book: The Dirty Life: On Farming, Food, and Love, written by Kristin Kimball.
- Children’s programming: is going well.
 - At Storytime, the Director read the Mixed up Chameleon by Eric Carle and did a chameleon craft. Today’s Storytime was all about Mothers, with the kids making a butterfly and painting it for their mother and reading Llama Llama Misses Mama by Anna Dewdney and Mother Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins.
 - At Music and Movement this week, they will sing songs about mothers, learn about rhythm sticks and dance to the limbo rock.
- The Book Houses at the Grange and Carpenter Park, respectively, have been uncovered and stocked.
- The Library has only received one bid for landscaping services. The Board will be considering that bid at their next meeting on Monday, May 9th. This will be funded by the proceeds from the book sales, so it will be at no cost to taxpayers.
- The Board is also looking at the CIP and will be submitting the most obvious item—the roof—which has a number of years before replacement is expected. Other items which would have

been under the previous funding level of \$10,000, instead of \$20,000, will need to be considered by Warrant Article and, perhaps, the return of a Library Reserve Fund.

Highway-

Mr. Sykes stated that the grader is currently out of commission, and he is having some issues finding obsolete parts. He is working on obtaining used parts for repair.

Mr. Sykes stated that the Highway Department is sponsoring a class for chainsaw safety at the shed this week which he is teaching.

Mr. Sykes stated that he did check on the availability of the guardrails and confirmed there is plenty in stock. He would like approval tonight to purchase the guardrails so he can get them ordered.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to purchase the guardrail that was approved at Town Meeting for the replacement on Burnt Hill and Higgins Road in the amount of \$32,000.00. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. MacCleery, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Sykes, they have been busy cleaning up trash and items around Town.

Mr. Sykes reported that the new Highway Employee is working out great.

Tepper Contracting will be starting the building work at the Highway Shed to make the necessary repairs.

Chichester Central School-

Mrs. Chiavaras stated that 8th grade graduation will be Friday June 17th at 6:00pm.

She reported that the annual spring play will be on May 20 & 21st.

Grandparents picnic is coming back, and the school is looking for volunteers to adopt a child for the day and participate in the event at school. Please reach out to the office for information.

A community garden will be planted in place of the old kindergarten playground.

Road Advisory Committee-

Mr. Blaney reported that after some discussion, he feels that the RAC has completed its job and questioned the viability of the RAC moving forward. Mr. Blaney stated he feels it may be appropriate to disband the RAC. With a hired road agent, there is no need for the continuity that was once needed.

Mr. Millette suggested that charge be possibly changed to gravel roads instead of paved.

Mr. Brehm stated that the committee was created at Town Meeting so it cannot just be dissolved and suggested it be kept in place to help the road agent moving forward.

As of now the RAC will meet as needed.

Planning Board-

Mr. Brehm discussed the Campground coming in for Site Plan approval. He stated that it was continued and will be heard again at the next meeting. They are gathering more information on septic approvals. He asked for guidance from the Board of Selectmen.

The Board stated that they will be happy to have a record of what exists today in the campground and would like it to be noted that there is no year-round camping and that winter sites be marked.

Mr. Brehm also reported that the other campground lot that is being utilized for storage is scheduled for a public hearing for May's meeting as well.

Public Hearing-Parking/False Alarms/Uniformed Police Requirement

Mr. Bouchard opened the public hearing and stated that he would like Chief Quimby and Chief Clarke to be present for the public hearings, and since they were not able to attend, he would prefer to continue it until the next meeting.

Mr. MacCleery made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to continue the public hearing until May 17, 2022, at the next Board of Selectmen meeting. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. MacCleery, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Other Business-

Mrs. Pinard stated that the financial policies will be reviewed by the auditors this upcoming week.

Mrs. Pinard submitted a business permit for review that was drafted using the Town of Pembroke's document. Mr. Hodge will be in attendance on May 17, 2022, to answer any questions the Board may have during the public hearing.

Fee Schedule has also been updated for review and presented to the Board. The public hearing will be held on May 17, 2022.

Mrs. Pinard presented a barn easement to the Board. A public hearing will need to be scheduled to accept or deny the easement.

Abatements-

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to abate \$38,000 in assessed value for Map 8 Lot 44 for the property tax year of 2021. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. MacCleery, aye. Bouchard, aye.

Motion passes.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to abate \$2,988.94 in taxes for Map 9 Lot 95-T for the property tax year of 2018/2019/2020. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. MacCleery, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to abate \$562.36 in taxes for Map 4 Lot 156-59RV for the property tax year of 2019/2020. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. MacCleery, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Approval of Minutes-

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. MacCleery seconded to approve the minutes of April 19, 2022, with one amendment. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. MacCleery, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. MacCleery to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. MacCleery, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Stephen MacCleery