



**Chesterfield Select Board Minutes  
Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.  
Town Office Building - 422 Main Road**

Mr. Fuller called the Select Board meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**Select Board Members Present:** Don Willard III

**Select Board Members Participating Remotely:** Roger Fuller, and Trish Colson-Montgomery

**Town Administrator Present via ZOOM:** Brenda Lessard

**Public Officials Present:** Larry Holmberg, EMD (Emergency Management Director)

**Public Officials Present via ZOOM:**

**General Public Present:**

**General Public Present via ZOOM:**

**Recorder of Minutes:** Brenda Lessard

On March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed into law a supplemental budget bill, which, among other things, extends the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025. Specifically, this further extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. The language does not make any substantive changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from March 31, 2023 to March 31, 2025.

This meeting was conducted with ZOOM access for the public.

**Warrants:**

Don Willard reviewed and signed the W24-14, WP24-14, WPD24-14 and WBB24-14.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Willard made a motion, seconded by Ms Colson-Montgomery to accept the Minutes of 12/18/23 as amended.

### **Additions to the Agenda:**

#### **Mount Road:**

Mr. Fuller reported that Bruce Wood who owns property on Mount Road had installed his own catch basins that were undersized and too tall. The three basins were a cause of a washout on the road. Mr. Fuller and Matt Smith, Highway Superintendent had a ZOOM call with Mr. Wood. Mr. Smith removed the catch basins. Mr. Wood sent Mr. Fuller an email, which Mr. Fuller forwarded to Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith will look at the road and he will try to do the work that needs to be done in the spring. Mr. Fuller opined a discussion may need to happen about possibly discontinuing a portion of Mount Road from Hendricks Road to the house at the bottom of the ledges. The Select Board may bring that discussion up at a later date.

#### **Email from Amy Wickland:**

The Board received an email from Amy Wickland regarding water runoff from a property on Bissell Road that is washing out her driveway in Goshen. Mr. Fuller will speak with Matt Smith and review the Conservation Commission's response to her email.

#### **Septic Betterments:**

The Select Board would like Ms Lessard to reach out to the HCDC (Hilltown Community Development Corporation) to see if they could administer the program, the cost to the Town and whether the fee could come from the account funds. They would also like to know the exact amount of funds in the program.

#### **Grant for Community Center Defibrillator, Larry Holmberg EMD:**

Larry Holmberg attended the meeting to inform the Select Board that he had gotten a grant to buy a defibrillator (AED) and the awarding authority has moved to electronic signatures. The names on the grant are Larry Holmberg and Ms Colson-Montgomery as signatories. Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard, and unanimously voted to accept the grant. The grant will fund a AED for the Community Center. There will be required CPR and Defibrillator training for the COA staff and instructors who teach classes there.

### **Reports:**

#### **Edwards Museum Updates:**

Mr. Willard looked at the work that was done at the Edwards Museum. He stated the siding looks great but there are some issues with the windows. Mr. Fuller noted that Royal Renovations did not do any inside work, only the exterior envelope. Mr. Willard is concerned about some rotting wood and the attic windows. Mr. Willard also noted some screw holes in the shutters that should have been covered. Ms Lessard will set up a meeting with Mr. Willard and Kent Hicks at the Edwards Museum to discuss Mr. Willard's concerns.

#### **Dunham Building:**

Mr. Fuller reported that he has not had the building appraised yet. Letters regarding the Select Board response to Friends of the Library and Dana Dauterman Ricciardi were mailed. Ms Salins would like to be on the agenda for 1/16/23 to discuss her proposal . The previous rental was \$500 a month plus utilities. Warner Brothers were the renters for the road project.

### **WOLA (Wright Ostermier Landscape Architects) 6 North Road:**

Mr. Fuller and Ms Lessard talked with Emily Wright about the concerns of doing a ZOOM meeting that were raised at the last meeting by Ms Colson-Montgomery. WOLA can do an in-person meeting. The plan is to allow ZOOM but no participation by the people who ZOOM in. The meeting will be recorded so it can be shared. This public forum will take place on 2/27 at the Community Center. WOLA will present their final report and recommendations to the Town. It was suggested to have microphones and two screens. Mr. Holmberg and Mr. Willard will come up with a plan to make sure everyone present, either in person or via ZOOM can view and hear the presentation.

### **MIA Revaluations of Town Buildings for Insurance:**

Nothing back yet.

### **MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) Executive Committee Updates:**

Ms Colson-Montgomery reported that there will be a kick-off event on February 24, with an inclement weather date of February 25, at the Community Center. They will be showing the video that has been done regarding the building issues with the Town Offices and the Fire Station. They hope to have sleigh rides, sledding, a bonfire and food. The committee is also working with the State regarding social resilience for the community. There has been discussion about the need for townwide communication and how to reach everyone. It has been suggested to rename CodeRed, which is a misnomer, as some residents consider it an emergency communication only. The service can also set up groups like departments, like the COA or Library, who may want to have people subscribe to get communication on upcoming events. There was also a discussion by the MVP Executive Committee regarding purchasing new software that simulates Code Red. There is concern by the Select Board of the cost to purchase additional software and future ongoing annual support when there is already a system in place that the Town pays for. Mr. Willard suggested the Select Board look at the communication issue and report what they would suggest be done.

### **Recreation Committee Updates:**

Mr. Willard reported that noodle size for the pre-K and K children has started as of 1/2/24. Basketball for grades 1-6 will begin soon. There is usually one team of children in grades 3-6 and another team with the grades 1-2 children. The wrestling program will be starting soon.

### **School Updates:**

Mr. Willard reported he has pushed off the school committee meeting for a week as he has received no budget numbers from the office yet. Mr. Willard reported that Mickey Buhl, the Business Administrator, has told some of the school committee chairs that he was offered a job in Ludlow. Mr. Willard noted there are some issues going on but he is confident that they will be worked out.

### **Additional Reports:**

#### **Fire Chief:**

Mr. Fuller reported that the Fire Chief has some issues with the company he ordered from to supply the lights for the new Fire Chief vehicle. Communication has been difficult and Mr. Fuller called the owner of the business. Mr. Hewes went to the business and found the discounted price he paid for the lights was dependent on that company doing the installation. If

they did not do the installation, the cost will be more for the lights. The Chief asked for the money to be refunded. Mr. Fuller is working with the Chief to resolve the problems.

**Town Administrator Report:**

**Police Department Room:**

The floor was installed this week. The electrician finished on Tuesday, December 26. Waiting on Police Department to move back in their office. Vee Builders will be installing a threshold at the main door only.

**Municipal:**

Nothing new to report. The Town is still waiting on the buyers of the toolbox and one of the generators to pay and pick up. Ms Lessard will reach out to them.

**Center Cemetery Access Road Agreement:**

Ms Lessard has reached out to Holly Gage. Nancy Wyman, Holly's mother and owns the property, returned the call. She asked to see the agreement and it was emailed over to her. Ms Lessard emailed her and was told that Ms Wyman is waiting on a response from her lawyer regarding the agreement.

**Correspondance Received:**

The Select Board had received a letter from the Historical Commission regarding decisions made about signs. The Select Board responded that they acknowledged the letter and any discussion regarding signage can be found in the Select Board minutes and can be accessed on the Town website. A letter stating such will be sent to the Historical Commission.

**Adjourn:**

Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m.