



**Chesterfield Select Board Minutes
Monday, December 5, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.
Town Office Building - 422 Main Road**

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Mr. Fuller.

Select Board Members Present: Trish Colson-Montgomery and Don Willard

Select Board Members Participating Remotely: Roger Fuller

Select Board Members Absent:

Town Administrator Present:

Public Officials Present: CJ Lammers, Planning Board

Public Officials Present Via ZOOM:

General Public Present: Emily Wright and Allyson Fairweather from WOLA (Wright Ostermier Landscape Architects)

General Public Present Via ZOOM: Kester Warlow-Harry

Recorder of Minutes: Brenda Lessard

On July 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations, which, among other things, extends the expiration of the provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2023. Specifically, this 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 Act does not make any new changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from July 15, 2022, to March 31, 2023

This meeting was conducted with ZOOM access for the public.

Minutes:

Ms. Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard to approve the Minutes of 11/21/22 as amended. The motion was unanimously voted.

5:00 PM: Emily Wright and Allyson Fairweather from WOLA:

Ms. Wright and Ms. Fairweather attended the meeting to discuss the design option plans that incorporated the changes from the Select Board discussed at the last meeting on 11/21/22. Ms. Wright went over the design changes and then the Select Board asked questions. Ms. Wright noted the following:

Design A0, A1 and A2: Shows a parking area near Main Road added to the design.

Design A3: Shows the new parking area near Main Road and a longer building.

Design B0: Shows a building lot that could be sold with frontage along Main Road. This design can be overlaid with B1, B2 and B3.

Design B3: Switches the location of a possible public safety building with a possible town office building.

The Select Board noted that WOLA took the board's feedback and made all the changes they had suggested at the previous meeting. It was noted that the existing fire station building is structurally sound and could be used as an overflow for storage of equipment. The board would like the results of the public survey on the town website. Another public meeting will be scheduled, possibly in January.

Cannabis Host Agreement Changes:

Kester Warlow-Harry attended to voice her concern over the new changes in the cannabis host agreements that are being made by the state. She had viewed the Massachusetts Municipal Association's (MMA) presentation on the new changes and she has concerns with Chesterfield being a small town with volunteers running the town. She noted that any fees must have substance. Mr. Fuller opined that any fees the town may impose to a cannabis applicant would be substantiated with back up as to why the fee is being imposed. The town would provide support documentation. Ms. Warlow-Harry asked who would be doing the assessment for the fees regarding public safety, roads, etc. and who would be updating that information? Mr. Fuller stated it would be up to the Select Board to look into that information and do research on the costs. He noted the Select Board would look at any application individually to determine any fees that may need to be assessed. Ms. Warlow-Harry noted a suggestion in the presentation that said if a town currently does not have a bylaw, they should wait a year before writing one. The Select Board are not in favor of that as a bylaw is currently being worked on to take to town meeting. Ms. Warlow-Harry asked the Select Board to watch the question and answer section at the end of the presentation. Ms. Warlow-Harry also noted this should be discussed more by the Select Board and she would like to be notified when it is on their agenda in the future.

Additions to Agenda:

Fire Alarm at Town Office:

The fire alarm triggered at the town office on Tuesday, November 30th. The fire department responded. Hackworth was notified of the false alarm. Hackworth came on Thursday and stated it was a moisture problem after cleaning the detectors. The dehumidifier was plugged into an outlet that appeared to not be working. The dehumidifier was plugged into another outlet and the bulk of the water was vacuumed up. The alarm went off again on Friday morning and Hackworth came back and put in a new sensor. The alarm went off again on Friday night. Hackworth put the alarm into a test mode until a technician could come again on Tuesday, December 6th and see if they could pinpoint the problem. The technician discovered the problem was a leakage of an unidentified source inside a crawl space beneath the Police Station. The crawl space was compared to an "Amazon rainforest" and the insulation was very wet. A sensor inside the crawl space was getting wet and triggering. Hackworth removed the sensor because there was one above it in the Police Station making this one unnecessary. It was suggested to have the custodian make it part of their cleaning routine to check each week to ensure the dehumidifier is running. Mr. Fuller will reach out to the custodian. An electrician will need to be called to check the outlet that is not working. Ron Loven will be contacted to see if he can determine the source of the leakage.

Jesse McMillan's Resignation:

The board noted that the principal at NHRES (New Hingham Regional Elementary School) has submitted a letter of resignation and that his last day would be December 16th. The Select Board were disappointed that he would not be staying until the end of the school year.

Reports:

Holiday Parade:

Mr. Willard reported that Kelli Wainscott did not come to the Recreation meeting but he had some more information regarding events. The Recreation Committee would be involved but not monetarily. The Recreation Committee would be working with the group who is spearheading the holiday activities. There will be a home decorating contest and a list of addresses of the homes who are participating will be put out to the public for viewing. The group is looking into prizes for the best decorated homes. There will be a motor parade of decorated vehicles through town on Sunday, December 18.

Governor's Last Mile Celebratory Event:

The event was held on December 1st in Ashfield. Mr. Willard and Ms. Colson-Montgomery attended the event. They both noted it was well attended and was a very good event. They also reported that the Governor announced the launch of two new programs to strengthen digital equity in the State. \$350 million has been earmarked for these programs.

Action Items:

Appointment to HRHS (Hampshire Regional School Committee) Negotiations Committee:

Mr. Willard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fuller to appoint Ms. Colson-Montgomery to be a member of the HRHS Negotiations Committee for Chesterfield. Ms. Colson-Montgomery abstained. The motion was so voted.

Planning Board:

CJ Lammers came into the Select Board's office to inform them that she had been verbally assaulted by a resident in the parking lot and entrance to town office. She inquired if she could ask any member of the public attending the Planning Board meeting to leave and attend the meeting via ZOOM only. The Select Board advised her that she could not but that she should see if a Police Officer could sit in at the beginning of the meeting or be available if there were any disruptions at the Planning Board meeting. Ms. Lammers stated she would speak to the Chief, who was in the town office. Ms. Lammers also noted that the Planning Board would like the Select Board to call a Special Town Meeting to vote on a proposed cannabis bylaw in late February or March. The Select Board thinks March would be better. A date will be set at another time.

Correspondence:

An email was received by Max McDermott, an aide to Lindsay Sabadosa, the town's new State Representative regarding setting up a meeting with the board so she can introduce herself, learn more about Chesterfield and see how the state can help Chesterfield meet its goals. Ms. Lessard will set up a date for her to come into a Select Board meeting in January or February.

Tax Rate:

The Select Board noted that the town has their new tax rate set and approved by Department of Revenue (DOR). The new rate is \$15.92/thousand. The board looked at the recapitulation sheet and had a question of the inclusion of enterprise funds.

Meeting Adjourned:

Ms. Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. The vote was unanimous.