TOWN OF CHESHIRE

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2022

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held in person at 80 Church St (Town Hall) on Thursday February 17, 2022, at 5:15 PM.

Members Present : Michelle Francesconi - Chair
Jason Levesque, Clerk
Mark Biagini
Shawn McGrath
Members Absent: Ray Killeen

Others Present: Jennifer Morse, Town Administrator

Michelle Francesconi called the emergency meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:17 p.m.

Summary of Votes:

- Vote to accept the resignation of Carole Hilderbrand from her positions as Council on Aging Coordinator, Planning Board Secretary, Conservation Commission Secretary and Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary.
- Vote to accept the resignation of Gene Gebarowski from the Council on Aging, Chair.
- Vote to appoint Brenda Caufield as Interim COA Coordinator at the same rate as the former coordinator in the interim.
- Vote to adjourn the meeting at 6 p.m.

The emergency meeting called to discuss the resignation of Carole Hilderbrand from her positions as Council on Aging Coordinator, Planning Board Secretary, Conservation Commission Secretary and Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary. Also, to discuss the resignation of Gene Gebarowski; as Council on Aging, chair to keep services going for the Cheshire seniors.

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by M. Biagini to accept the resignation of Carole Hilderbrand as Council on Aging Coordinator and as Planning Board -Zoning Board- Conservation Commission Secretary.
Roll Call Vote: M. Biagini – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; J. Levesque- Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by M. Biagini to accept the resignation of Gene Gebarowki as Council on Aging Chair.
Roll Call Vote: M. Biagini – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; J. Levesque- Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

Discussion on the joint meeting from the night before left the board perplexed expecting the conversation to continue at a future meeting. Board members expressed their concern over the large increases being sought by multiple departments with the town facing a Proposition 2 ½ override vote and deficit of more than $270,000.

S. McGrath stated that it is unfortunate for the seniors who rely on the center and felt that the board has always been complimentary and supportive of the center efforts recently working with the COA on the pickle ball court and purchase of the dishwasher.

J. Levesque brought up that the town has not been effectively managing the salary increases promised several years ago at the town meeting.

M. Francesconi shared her concern regarding emergency medical services and the needs of the entire community noting that the ambulance is used predominately for seniors. She found it disheartening that the bulletin board had been erased of all events when she was at the center earlier.

The Town Administrator said that she had contacted Brenda Caufield who is more than willing to help however she can and has agreed to be the Interim COA Coordinator to keep the center running in the transition.
A motion was made by M. Francesconi and seconded by M. Biagini to appoint Brenda Caufield as Interim Council on Aging Coordinator and pay her the rate of the former coordinator.
Roll Call Vote: M. Biagini – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; J. Levesque- Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

J. Morse and M. Francesconi will meet Brenda at the center in the morning to plan on how to move forward in the interim.

A motion was made by M. Biagini and seconded by J. Levesque to adjourn the meeting at 6 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: M. Biagini – Yes; S. McGrath – Yes; J. Levesque- Yes; M. Francesconi – Yes
Motion Carries: 4-0

Document List:

1. Carole Hilderbrand resignation letters
2. Gene Gebarowski resignation letter