

Town of Chesterfield
Board of Selectmen
Rules of Procedures

Resolved by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Chesterfield that the following be and hereby are adopted as the Rules of the Chesterfield Board of Selectmen.

- I. The Following Rules shall be adopted by a majority of the Chesterfield Board of Selectmen and these rules shall become effective immediately upon their adoption.
 - A. Robert's Rules of Order should be used as a guide when proper procedure is in question except where modified herein.
 - B. Acceptable Procedure is determined by the acting Chair.
- II. Procedures for electing officers are as follows:
 - A. Annually, at the first meeting of the new Board of Selectmen:
 1. The Town Clerk or any Selectman in good standing shall swear in all new Selectmen.
 2. The members thereof shall:
 - a. Choose, from among their members, a Chair and a Vice Chair. In addition to the powers conferred upon the Chair and the Vice Chair they shall continue to have all the rights, privileges, and immunities of a member of the Board of Selectmen.
 - b. Motion that the Board of Selectmen confirms by a roll call vote, that the Town of Chesterfield will adopt RSA 31:104, 31:105 and 31:106 to provide immunity and indemnify all Selectmen, other elected officials, employees, agents as well as appointed officials that serve on committees and boards within the Town of Chesterfield; specifically covering immunity from civil liability for discretionary acts, according to RSA 31:104, indemnification for costs of defense of civil suits, according to RSA 31:105 and indemnification for civil rights claims, according to RSA 31:106.
 - c. Motion to have the Board of Selectmen Chair sign ancillary documents as agent to expend as a result of Board of Selectmen prior approval of the documents.
 - d. Motion to have the Board of Selectmen Chair complete the Board's section of the Annual Report.
 - e. Motion to have the Board of Selectmen Chair complete tax deed waivers.
 - f. Motion to adopt the Board of Selectmen Rules of Procedures.
 - g. Motion to have the Board of Selectmen sign payment plans for deedable properties.
 - B. The above election shall be by majority vote of the Board of Selectmen present at the first meeting.
 - C. Duties of Officers
 1. Chair:
 - a. The Chair and the Town Administrator shall post all meetings and set meeting agenda.
 - b. Lead all meetings in an orderly manner using these procedures, Chesterfield's town charter and Robert's Rules as guides for appropriate protocol.

2. Vice Chair:

- a. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall conduct the Board of Selectmen Meeting until such time as the Chair is present. The Vice Chair shall perform all duties of the Chair in the event the Chair is unable to perform their duties.

III. Board of Selectmen Meetings

- A. The board will meet in regular session every other week on Wednesday at 6:00 pm.
- B. The place of meetings shall be the Selectmen's meeting room at the Town office building unless otherwise designated.
- C. A quorum of the Board is 3 members present.
- D. The Board reserves the right to end meetings at any time the board deems it is in the best interest of the Town and Board. The Board shall motion to cancel public comment session at meetings as follows "motion to cancel public comment session until meeting is adjourned". Uncovered business will be included in the next meeting agenda. Meeting may be closed by a majority vote.
- E. The Board may meet for a special meeting by Board vote or by the Chair calling a meeting, on an as needed basis.
- F. The chair may cancel scheduled meetings when hazardous weather or material on agenda is insufficient to warrant the meeting.
- G. Board members, staff, and members of the public participating in meetings shall address all questions or remarks through the Chair, confine their remarks to the subject at hand, and shall not engage in personalities.
- H. Any member may leave the meeting room while in regular session after notice to the Chair of pressing business providing there is no loss of quorum as determined by the Chair.

IV. Town Employees

- A. The Town Administrator will attend all regular meetings or request representation from a Town Department to attend in their place.
- B. The Town Administrator shall be responsible for providing the Board with necessary background information on all items of business before the Board
- C. The Town Administrator may have the head of any department or division or other employee of the Town in attendance at any meeting when items within their responsibility or knowledge are being discussed. Staff should be made aware of all items on the agenda to be ready to discuss items in respect to their department or area of responsibility.

V. Voting

- A. Every member present, including the Chair, when a question is put forward shall vote either aye (yes) or nay (no) or abstain, in accordance.
- B. A member who abstains shall state their reason for doing so.
- C. Roll call votes shall be in a random order with the Chair voting last.
- D. All votes shall be voice votes, votes involving Town funds will always require roll call vote. Any Board member may call for a roll call vote on any matter.

VI. Debate

- A. Board members must be recognized by the Chair.
- B. Rules of Debate on all motions shall be as follows:
 1. Decorum in debate: In order to assist in the carrying out of debate in an orderly and productive manner, Board members shall:

- a. Address all questions and remarks through the Chair. Do not address the audience.
- b. When commenting on another Board member's statement or question, identify the speaker, statement and when the statement was made.
- c. Confine remarks to the subject at hand.
- d. Not engage in personalities or question the motives of other Board members.

C. Any member who wishes to force an end to debate must first obtain the floor by being duly recognized to speak by the chair and must then move the Previous Question. Such a motion must be seconded, and then adopted by a majority vote, or by unanimous consent. It is not in order to interrupt a speaker with cries of "Question" or "Call the question.", and even if no one is speaking, it is still necessary to seek recognition.

VII. Order of Business

A. Agenda Order of Board of Selectmen Meetings

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Scheduled Appointments
- 3 Suggestion Box
- 4 Correspondence
- 5 Public Comment
- 6 Weekly Review
- 7 Financials
- 8 Old Business
- 9 New Business
- 10 Other Business
- 11 Legal
- 12 Public Comment
- 13 Acceptance of Minutes
- 14 Non-Public Session
- 15 Adjournment

Order may be adjusted by decision of the Board

B. Public Comment

1. Two Public Comment sessions will be allowed during each Board Meeting. Time will be divided equally among those wishing to speak. The Chair reserves the right to end at any time.
2. No one may speak during Public Comment unless acknowledged by the Chair.
3. No person may address the Board more than twice on any issue in any meeting. Comments must be addressed to the Chair and must not be personal or derogatory about any other person.
4. Any questions must be addressed to the Chair only, who after consultation with Board and Town Administrator, will determine if the question can be answered at that time. Questions cannot be directed to an individual Board member and must not be personal in nature. Issues raised during Public Comment, which cannot be resolved or answered at that time, or which require additional discussion or research, will be added to the old business list. The answer may be provided by the Town Administrator during normal work hours or by bringing it to the Board for discussion at a subsequent meeting.
5. Board members may request a comment be added to New Business at a subsequent meeting.

C. Scheduled Appointments

1. A scheduled appointment shall have one person as a speaker when possible and follow the rules for addressing the Board.
2. A scheduled appointment shall not exceed 15 minutes to address the Board unless the Board votes to extend.
3. Board and Committee applicants shall be invited to attend a Board meeting as a scheduled appointment to state their interest.
4. Department Heads shall meet at a minimum semi-annually as a scheduled appointment to provide an overview of their activities.

D. Old Business

1. Business carried over from a previous meeting.

E. New Business

1. New Business from the public should be submitted to the Town Administrator or Board Chair.
2. New Business submitted by noon the Thursday before a regular meeting may be considered for the next meeting by request. The Chair may schedule the topic on the Agenda under New Business as the schedule allows. Any new business brought forward at a Board meeting shall not be acted upon at that meeting except by a consensus of the board

VIII. Non-Public Session

- A. The Board shall motion to exit in non-public, and convene in public session, then motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session as appropriate in the public session.
- B. A Board member not present at the time non-public session minutes are taken shall receive these sealed minutes along with the rest of the Board.
- C. Unsealing of the non-public session minutes for the current calendar year (January 1st to December 31st) should occur by the end of January of the following year when, in the opinion of a majority of members, the circumstances that sealed the minutes no longer apply in accordance with RSA 91-3 II.

IX. Filing Agenda items

- A. Every item of business to come before the Board for action must be filed with the Town Administrator or Board Chair no later than noon the Thursday prior to the regular Board Meeting.
- B. The Agenda should be posted by the close of business on the Monday prior to the regular Board Meeting.
- C. It shall be the duty of the Town Administrator to provide electronically said agenda and any available supporting documents to each Board member by Friday at 12:00 PM prior to the regular Board Meeting.

X. Addressing the Board

- A. Persons other than members of the Board shall not be permitted to address the Board except during the designated agenda Public Comment or by invitation of the Chair.
- B. A time limit for addressing the Board may be established by the Chair.
- C. The speaker shall not enter into a debate with any person, the Chair or Board members.

Adopted April 17, 2024

Chesterfield Board of Selectmen


Gary Winn

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Frances Shippee
Frances Shippee

Judy Idelkope
Judy Idelkope

Mary Ewell
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Barbara Girs
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