

Special Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held a Special meeting on September 6, 2024, at 5:15 pm.

Members Present: Mayor James Dahlen, Council Persons, Sonja Dahlen, Scott Decker, Tina Neer, Rachel Ghekiere, Garrett Graff, and Jim Sivils

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests:

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the Special Meeting to order at 5:15 pm
2. Public Comment- None
3. New Business: New Hires: Mayor Dahlen informed the council that the Town has received one application for an operator, Dave Ghekiere, and one application for part-time temporary help, Cameron Davis.
 - Discussion on part-time temporary help. Cameron would be able to help with any fall work that needed done to get caught up. Sonja Dahlen clarified that this would be a temporary seasonal position. No decision was made on this position and the Mayor will discuss this more with Interim PWD, John Kleinsasser to see if the position is necessary.
 - Discussion on full-time operator position. Dave Ghekiere worked for the Town for 6 plus years before going to the County. Jim Sivils asked if Dave still has all of his licenses and voiced his concerns about Dave returning. Mayor Dahlen informed the council that Dave Ghekiere's licenses are no longer valid, however, once he passes the tests again, he will not be an operator in training as his experience will cover that requirement. Discussion about options to get license reinstated without having to retake the tests. Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Wickum has spoken with DEQ and this is not an option. Mayor Dahlen feels comfortable hiring Dave Ghekiere as does Interim PWD John Kleinsasser.
 - Discussion about wages. Dave Ghekiere has 6+ years of experience with the Town's water and sewer systems and has his CDL. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to hire Dave Ghekiere for the full-time operator position, starting at \$23.00/hour, with an evaluation in 3 months. All benefits start over and the standard probationary period will apply. Dave Ghekiere will receive a \$.50 raise with each water and sewer test he passes. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with Rachel Ghekiere abstaining, Jim Sivils voting no, and all other council members voting ayes.
4. Tina Neer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Sivils seconded the motion. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm.