Minutes of the Chester Board of Selectmen and Water Commissioners

May 12, 2014.

Chairman Ellershaw opened the meeting at 6:00 PM

Minutes and warrants approved and signed.

Attendees: Tom Beck, Faye, Janice, Ed, Barbara Huntoon, Norma McDonald, Valerie Bird, Laura Kittros, and Gail LaScala Selectmen Pero not at the beginning of meeting, but came in shortly after.

Norma McDonald, BOH, introduced Laura Kittros, from Berkshire County Public Health Alliance to speak about what the agency could offer the town of Chester While she did explain their services, such as a registered sanitarian, pool inspections, etc., the Board felt she should appear before the Board of Health, get their approval, and then have them recommend joining, should they wish so. Norma indicated they would do that, and then come back to the Board of Selectmen. John seemed to think we already had an agreement with the Lee Visiting Nurse for some health services. Pat will check out.

Barbara Huntoon was in front of the board again asking for a discount for non profits in town. Currently there is no discounted rate since the increase in the base rates for all. After discussion, Don moved, John 2nd to reduce the base rate of water for all non-profits in town from the current cost of $75.04, to the residential rate of $39.04, effective the next billing period. Unanimous.

Gail LaScala; Library

Gail asked for a correction of the minutes of March 24, 2014. Statement about policies and procedures handbook. Should read that the personal policies and procedures handbook was complete. Pat will correct minutes to reflect this. Gail appeared before the board to alert them to the fact that there was a piece of property available (7 acre) at 455 Victory Lane which she thought would be ideal for a new library. At the same time, she brought up the fact that the COA was in need of more room, and wondered if this might not be an opportunity for the town. The library would need 2-3 acres possibly, not sure what the Board of Library Comissioners would approve, but it might be worth checking into. Selectmen suggested pat check with PVPC to see about grants for such a project and report back. Discussion of other property owned by town, re; land behind church, Middlefield Rd., with a right of way.

Appointment of Jill Moretz as Assistant Water Collector; The Board would like to clarify this appointment as to why its needed. They never remember this in the past. Pat will check it out.

Horn Pond Extension:

Pat reported as per Bernie and Rene that work can be done by Highway Dept., approximately 3 days. Board agreed to allow highway department to make repairs, and concurred that if it should involve overtime they were all right with that because the cost of contracting would be much higher.

CMELD Bucket Truck Disposition

Board was asked if they would be in favor of pursuing the purchase of the CMELD bucket truck in conjunction with the towns of Middlefield, Montgomery and Huntington. CMELD would forgive Chester’s portion of the purchase price of $4,998.00. Board agreed to have Pat look into this venture further and report back.

Finance Committee

John Garvy and Michael Crochiere appeared with final numbers approved by the Finance committee for the FY 2015 budget. Minor changes were discussed and approved. Increase Town counsel to $10,000. Decrease Town Admin salary to 35,525, verifty debt and interest. Discussion of two special articles for highway. Discussion of inclusion on $1,000 for Wired West. Selectmen directed Fin Com to remove, they had already voted that down at the last meeting. Pat will work with Fin com to produce final budget.

**Memorial Day.**  Tina had asked if the Board wanted him to continue installing the cemetery flags, or he had heard the Boy Scouts wanted to do it. Don E. stated that the Boy Scouts had done it for years and to check Dee Armitage about oversight and transportation.

**Citizens comments**

Deb Bean, 30 Williams St., came in to complain about junk at her neighbors yard. Selectmen directed her to the Board of health and Building Inspector. Pat to follow up.

Jason and Colby Wynette came in to appeal to the Board to give their okay to Colby attending Smith Vocational this next school season. They missed both the school and state deadline for application, and needed the Board to approve the extra tuition expenditure. Board was agreeable to adding one more tuition to the budget and Pat will follow up with Dr. Hopson.

**Cemetery Fence Bid**. Received only one bid from Blue Ribbon Fabricating. Cost of $14+ for whole project. It was decided to do only fence facing Rte. 20, and not the side. This can be done for the $12,000 currently appropriated

Discussion of tax levy, revenues, etc. with Finance Committee. Selectboard thanked them for all of their work during the yer.

Board would like highway Supervisor job description advertised ASAP. Pat to check out Springfield Republican, Country journal and Mass live.

Board added “give support to the Water Department” to the add. Advertise as a classified ad, not legal ad.

Don moved, John 2nd to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia D Carlino

Town Administrator

Donald Ellershaw, Chairman

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John Baldasaro

Frank Pero, Jr.