

Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals

Minutes

January 11, 2016

1. John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Ellershaw absent.

Minutes of December 28th approved and signed. Warrants signed.

2. John Murray was unable to attend, but a list of work for the last two weeks was presented. John B. asked Pat to relay to John M. that this detailed list was not necessary. He feels they only need the highlights. He didn't want to see every little detail. At the bottom of the list John M. had indicated they had started road side work and would continue each day until snow comes. John B. also is concerned with the amount of work that we may have put into the International. Pat will ask Ro to put together a three year history of what we have spent on it.
3. John moved to approve a junk license for John Regan. Barbara seconded. Unanimous.
4. John moved to approve a Class II license for A.J. Delnikas. Barbara seconded. Unanimous.
5. Pioneer Valley Planning commission: Chris Dumprey representing Erica Johnson.

Chris presented to the Board two applications for grant funding.

- A. The single grant just for the FY 2016 community Development Fund I Project/Budget, for Chester alone, consisting of Hampden St. Reconstruction Project, Phase 1, Middlefield Road sidewalk Replacement Project, and Pioneer Valley Planning commission administration services., total budget not to exceed \$900,000, of which application needs to be submitted by February 2, 2016
- B. The joint application for Huntington, Chester, & Middlefield, (Huntington will be lead town) which will include social service projects such as Adult Ed., food pantry, housing development, plus the design for Huntington's project.

After discussion of both applications, and questions by the public, John made the following motion in regards to the single agreement.

John moved to authorize submission of the proposed FY16 Huntington Community Development fund I grant application to the MA Department of Housing and community Development in an amount not to exceed \$900,000 as detailed in the public hearing and to include infrastructure improvements to Hampden Street and Middlefield Rd. Barbara seconded. Unanimously approved.

John then moved to authorize the Chair of the Board of Select or Acting Chair to sign all required forms, documents and authorizations pertaining to the proposed FY16 Chester Community Development fund I grant application. Barbara seconded. Unanimously approved.

Public in attendance for this hearing were: Ed Meecham, Sister Judith, Ann Wellington, Diane Dunn, Gene Watters, and Pat reported that Mr. & Mrs Bolduc has telephoned that they were in agreement with the project.

Ann Wellington asked a few questions regarding how the process would work. Chris explained that during the design phase residents will have an opportunity to weigh in with comments/suggestions.

6. Diane Dunn, Gateway School Committee member, asked the Board if Chetser would be willing to accept a new payment schedule from the School, which would give the town two extra weeks each billing cycle, to pay. The Board saw no problem with this.

7. Hilltown Ambulance: This item was put on the agenda at Don's request. The former Director of the Ambulance service, Steve, and the new director, Angela, as well as Mary Ann Pease, Chester's representative to the Ambulance Board were in attendance. The Selectmen had been contacted by Huntington Selectboard member John McVeigh, regarding the absence of a contract between the Ambulance service and the town. Mr. McVeigh has submitted a "draft" contract he feels should be looked at. Steve explained the history of the Ambulance and how it evolved back from 2001 until now. There has never been a contract, merely a "Memo of Agreement) that has been in existence since then. John B. was not sure why we were being asked to look at a contract at this time. " If it's not broken, why fix it?" Mary Ann reported that the Ambulance Board was meeting on Tuesday evening to go over this and will report back to the board with any findings. Both John and Barbara felt that the Ambulance service is well run and provides good services. Both felt no need to change at this time.

8. Town Administrator
 - a. Tax comparisons of surrounding towns were submitted to board for review.
 - b. Solar project on the hill, tax implications/revenues from project were reviewed. John B asked Pat to speak with Assessors about how the figure from generation was arrived at.
 - c. Pat introduced hand written not by previous Treasurer Lisa Eddinger regarding her note of "buildable" on papers from the Sale of Foreclosed property, re: 6 Hampden St.
 - d. Reminder of STM Wednesday, 1/13/16 at 7:00 p.m.
 - e. Pat presented a draft of a Social media policy for employees of the town, proposed to be added to employee policies. Taken under advisement.
 - f. Ann Wellington asked to be appointed to the Chester Cultural Council. She has had some experience in other towns with such grants and would be interested. John moved Ann Wellington be appointed to the CCC. Barbara seconded. Unanimously approved.

Citizens comments:

Ed Meecham asked about the status of the excavator. Can't the highway put it on the trailer and bring it where needed? John B. said he does not think there is agreement amongst the board as to what should be done. The Board needs to come to a resolution about either using it or trading it in. Is it the right machine, and it's just not being used, or not. Trade in value? Are there major issues with it that will need to be taken care of? Is it the wrong size piece of equipment for Chester? John still feels it needs more hours in it. We just need to resolve the issue. Discussion of roadside mowing using CMELD. Brush is different. Barbara asked why we can't work together with CMELD. Feels we are the same town and should be helping out each other. John explained previous background issues with the mower. Barbara asked if maybe it was time to try again?

The Board voiced their condolences to the family of Harry Phelps.

John moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Barbara seconded. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino

Town Administrator

Donald Ellershaw, Chairman

John Baldasaro, vice Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, Clerk