

**TOWN OF CHESTER**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN/ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS/WATER COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES**

**May 23, 2016**

Chairman Don Ellershaw opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of 5//9/16 were approved and signed. Warrants signed.

1. Library Trustees: Representatives from the Library attended the meeting to discuss with the Selectmen the status of the possible Library Grant from the State. Gail LaScala explained that at this time the trustees have looked at various pieces of land in town, but have not found anything suitable for the State specifications, which are at least 2 acres. There is a new round of grants coming up, but at this time they still have no viable sites available. They have thought of purchasing land through the account they currently have, but they still would need 2 sites for the State guidelines. They have also thought about Modular units, like a trailer project. They could pay for this on their own, without state assistance. Mary Ann Pease informed the board that the Library has about \$240,000 available for this project. Some sites mentioned were of course the Long property across from town hall, the Rte. 20 land near Wheeler Oil, anywhere near the elementary school (in a floodplain). Barbara H. said she could give the group some information regarding the costs of new mobile units. There is still the thought of trying somehow to link a new COA center with or near the Library.
2. John Murray, Highway Dept. John gave overview of past activities. Mostly filling potholes. Reported that the grader broke down again, the cemetery mower broke down, and both are in the shop. Reported that the damage to Skyline Trail was not from negligent work, but more due to weather related damage washing the road out. Don seemed to feel it was because they went too deep when the road was done. Took 2.5 inches instead of 2. That's why we had so many millings. John M. seemed to think we could repair ourselves.

Community service people are going to begin soon. Don asked if they could use weed whackers? John reported some could, some could not. Lyman Rd repairs? Needs 3 to 4 loads of material and needs to be graded. We will do it.

CMELD mower: John M. recommended to the Board that we sign the agreement for the mower. After researching costs, etc. of renting, etc. it would be the most economical way to go. Mike Hickson suggested we try to negotiate the price again, or see about renting it. John B. and Don said they had already looked at that and the cost was prohibitive. In addition, there was discussion about the excavator. John M. recommended we purchase a new "mini" excavator for \$27,000, after the trade in of the old excavator. Barbara made a motion that we put the article on the annual town meeting warrant. John B. seconded. Unanimous. Barbara then made a

motion that we put the article to purchase ½ of the CMELD mower on the Annual town meeting for \$35,000 as well. After more discussion and questions from John B., he seconded the motion. Barbaar and John voted in favor. Don E. abstained. Motion passed.

The Board signed the response to the Keith family regarding some work to be done on their road.

3. Cheryl Provost: Treasurers updates and Open meeting law: Cheryl was questioning how the interim treasurer, Melissa McGovern, was paid. Hourly? Pat said yes, and that she and Missy should work out the number of hours she needs Missy for as the Treasurers Clerk. Missy has said she will stay on while Cheryl gets everything in order, but she is not going to work for nothing. So Cheryl should work it out with her. Cheryl also stated she needs stamps and some supplies. It was suggested she ask the Finance Committee for a transfer from the Reserve Fund.

Open meeting Law: Cheryl reported that it is a problem that some people who are appointed don't come in the get sworn in. Also, she indicated that some boards have not kept up with their agenda notices and meeting minutes. The COA was specifically mentioned. Pat had spoken with Sue Kucharski, who indicated that the COA board had met only a couple of times in the past year and Cheryl was given copies of their agenda and minutes. She also said there are ethics regulations that appointees and employees need to take, and to sign a receipt that they understand certain rules and regulations. We need to work on that.

4. Finance Committee: Michael Crochiere handed out the FinCom's last budget proposal. They suggested that employees be given a 2/5% COL for FY 2017. Don moved that the Board adopt a 2.5% COL for FY 2017. Barbara 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.  
Discussion of tax rate and monies going into Stabilization, and coming out of Free Cash. John B. felt that the town could afford to add a \$20,000 article to reduce the tax rate, based upon the Finance Committee figures. John B. moved the article. Barbara 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous. Discussion was held regarding Chapter 90 funds and the need to save up to finish the work on Skyline Trail. The Selectboard that thanked Michael and the full Finance Committee for their hard work on the budget.
5. Discussion of Memorial Day. Everything is in order. Pat will make whatever changes need to be made in the ATM warrant and have them available for signature on the Selectboard desk for when they come in on Monday for parade.
6. Scholarships: Barbara made a motion to award the five recipients who applied a total of \$1,400 each from the Franklin Hamilton Scholarship, and to Ben Vanheynigen the Steinhart Scholarship award in whatever amount we are notified that is available. John 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous. From Hamilton scholarship the recipients are: Aliisa Cooper, Chelsea Edinger, Jjuston Edinger, Benjamin Jameson, Ben VaHeynigen.
7. Pat announced there were two applicants apiece for the Building Inspector position and the Plumbing Inspector position. She will set up interview appoints for both on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

8. Elm electric generator service contract: After discussion, and upon verification that the second option of \$400.00 was for two visits as explained in the contract, Barbara moved to sign, John seconded. Unanimous.

Town Administrator:

Pat asked for time off June 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 15<sup>th</sup> to attend a conference. Roseanne McLaughlin will cover the meeting on 6/13. Board agreed.

Citizens comments;

Mr. Foley: Lyons Rd. Serious safety issues (off Johnson) John M will address

Tom Beck questioned the S & I deficit and why the Selectboard wasn't aware of it. John B. explained he asked on numerous occasions for monthly revenue/expense reports from Accountant, and that way the Board can keep up with what is being spent. Barb and Don agreed they needed those reports. Pat will let the Accountant know she must be furnishing those reports at the end of each month.

Richard Holtzman: Was positive on the mower agreement

Renee Senecal: Has some concern for the CMELD agreement (costs and maintenance)

John B. moved the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Barbara 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino

Town Administrator

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Donald Ellershaw, Chairman

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John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

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Barbara Huntoon, Clerk