

Town of Chester

Board of Selectmen/Water commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals

Minutes

August 1, 2016

Ch. Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of July 25<sup>th</sup> were approved and signed.

1. Bev Cooper: Accountant

John B. stated that he had some questions about some of the accounts and the balances/deficits that were showing up. He also stated that going forward the Board is adamant that they need to see monthly reports, and would like those reports on the first of each month. Bev explained that while you see deficits on the report, they are cleared up by year's end, due to transfers of monies paid to the town by CMELD for various accounts like the insurances. In addition, he felt that had the Board known of the balances left in some of the accounts, we could have avoided transferring from free cash, etc. He would also like a complete printout out of Snow Removal Expenses by vendor, and Rene suggested Snow Removal Salaries also. In addition, Rene suggested that all departments should be getting the monthly printouts so that they can check their balances and head off any mistakes. Bev said she would like back up of payroll, that currently she doesn't have it. Cheryl Provost said she has all the back up in her office. From now on she will attach back up in the form of a spreadsheet she uses to send to the payroll company.

2. John Murray: Highway

John gave his report of work that has been going on. There is some problem with the F150 that is now being looked at. He would like a blower to attach to the mower so that the debris can be blown off. Discussion around what kind of blower, etc. John got approval to look for one. The Highway also was dealing with a major water leak all day and believe they have located it. Will go back to it tomorrow.

Chapter 90 request. Waiting for approval for ERR work. In addition, John was advised to speak with an engineer, or Kathy Stevens, regarding the CIPR work to be done on ERR before submitting to DOT for approval.

Discussion was then held concerning appointment of an MPO representative as well as a TAC representative. After discussion, Barbara moved appointment of Rene Senecal as the MPO representative. John seconded. Unanimous. We will look for someone for the TAC representative before next week.

Discussion of park maintenance. Rosanne is scheduling the community service workers to come to Chester to help with park work as soon as they can.

3. Town Administrator

Pat reported that Mr. Ivey Long would be available to come to a meeting in September. Waiting to hear back with a date.

The traffic count request will be mailed in tomorrow, Pat just wanted to make sure of placement of counters.

Mass Works Grant: Working on it and will be ready to apply by August 22.

Complete Streets: done, scored

10 Middlefield Rd. One window is complete out of downstairs front. Permission received to have the highway department board it up.

Library project: Pat will be visiting a site in Northampton just completed to get an idea of what it looks like.

Citizens comments;

Ed Meecham commented that we should remember that ERR is a wetland on both sides of road. Also mentioned that Chester's work on Bromley Rd is holding up better than Huntington's.

John Foley asked about the procedure at Selectboard meetings of "speaking up" during a meeting rather than waiting until the end of the meeting. He felt that many times the public could have information that would help the Selectboard make informed decisions, especially if it is a "safety" issue. All three members agreed that if something should come up during the meeting that could be helpful in the discussion, that the public could be recognized, with the understanding that if it gets out of hand they can also put an end to it. John M. will look at the problem Mr. Foley was speaking of tomorrow and assured him to call if he has an issue.

John B. then moved to entertain a motion to vote to allow remote participation in accordance with M.G.L., c.4, sec. 7, for all subsequent meetings of the Board of Selectmen in the Town of Chester. Barbara moved. Rene seconded. Unanimous.

John B. moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Barbara seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Carlino  
Town Administrator

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John Baldasaro, Ch.

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Barbara Huntoon, V. Ch.

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Rene Senecal, Clerk