

Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
November 14, 2016

Chairman John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of 11/7/16 were moved and approved. Warrants were signed.

Highway: There was a short report from Highway Super John Murray. They are continuing mowing efforts. Crack sealing should be completed this week. We got one line painting estimate so far, still waiting for a couple more. Rene suggested we check with the county associations for those that were eliminated due to poor work.

Pat presented a letter from the Town Clerk, asking the Board for their approval to appoint her (Pat) as Assistant Town Clerk for the night, to take the minute of the STM, due to the Moderator being unable to attend the STM, and the Town Clerk taking over as moderator. John moved, Barb 2nd. Unanimous.

Board of Health: Susan Bishop and Norma MacDonald appeared to explain their reasoning for the article to appropriate \$3,500 for professional services in the BOH. The monies are a one time request to help the BOH deal with abandoned and deteriorating housing structures in town. The process of bringing these housing issues to land court is long, tedious, and needs to be done correctly. The board members suggested that they would hope to learn the process by working with a health agent that would be designated to prepare the paperwork necessary, and the process that needs to be followed, so that they could do the work themselves in the future. The BOS recommended that they work with the building inspector as well. The BOH will provide a list in the near future of the properties in question and their status.

Mr. Duane Pease suggested using the town's counsel to help in this process.

Pat asked permission to attend a state meeting on 11/16/16. Will come in Thursday instead. Approved.

Citizens comments:

Ed Meecham. Tree still in road (Skyline Tr.)

Tom: Questions as to how we could estimate the cost to taxpayers in regards to tonight's STM. It was explained that it was a very "rough estimate" as to the impact, to the best of our ability at this time.

Andy Myers asked the Selectboard what their goals were for the FY 2018 budget. "Lower the tax rate"!

Mr. Pease asked about the article for the town clerk's expenses on tonight's warrant. Is there another way it could be done? BOS suggested this was a question that could be raised at the STM tonight.

John B. explained the purpose behind Article 2 that expands upon the position of the Highway Admin. It is something that has been talked about before. In addition, Article 3 deals with adding another

highway employee. Mike Hickson asked why bring it up now? John explained with winter coming, it was a good time to try it, to see if it will work. Same for the Admin position. The STM deals with only the last 6 months of the FY 2017 budget. Discussion as to the hiring of a full time person vs using private contractors for snow plowing. Rene would rather see permanent help instead of contractors. This way the person gets to know the roads, know the town. Private contractors have a tendency to create problems.

John explained to those in attendance that this is the reason for the STM. It's up to the voters. If it doesn't fly, then it won't happen, but at least they will have the final say on these items. Barbara voiced that she was more in favor of the expanded position than in the 4th highway person. Rene is not sure either.

John B. moved to adjourn the meeting, and not to return after the STM. Barb. 2nd. Unanimous.
Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia D Carlino, Town Administrator

John Baldasaro, Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, Vice Chairman

—

Rene Senecal, Clerk