

Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
November 21, 2016

Chairman John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of 11/14/16 were moved and approved.

John Murray: Highway Crack sealing had to stop due to weather. We have approximately 950 more gallons to go under Chapter 90 request. Rather than wait until spring, we should finish up paperwork for reimbursement for what we have done. We can put the rest out next year if we need to. Question was asked if the winter "help" ad had gone out. Both ads are ready to go. Make sure we are asking for rate sheets, type of equipment, insurance. John B. asked about mini excavator being left on Johnson Hill Rd. John M. said they were going to pick it up.

Tom Beck had questions about mowing. Are they done? More is still needed. John M. responded that they will continue as the weather will allow. Are culverts all done? No we will do some more in the spring. Rene said it will get easier each year. John M. said the drought conditions came into play as well.

Ed Meecham asked about the ditch on Skyline that was filled in with rocks. Feels they are too high. John M. will check it out.

John M. asked about the day after Thanksgiving. The Selectboard approve giving the day off to employees, but no overtime if staff is called in due to weather.

Ro gave her results for line painting. Approximately \$8,900 was low bid. Rene suggested she call Cathy Stevens in regards to using Hampshire bid. Ro explained that the bid we received was lower than the Hampshire county bid rate.

Ron Ouimette came in with a plan for repairs at the Transfer Station. He will work with CMELD, and the Highway to replace the platform that the shed sits on. Will need to coordinate with CMELD to disconnect electricity and put in telephone poles as base, etc. Est. cost \$3,185. Before any work is to be done Pat will check with CMELD as to availability and ability and will get back to Ron.

Rene stated that he was told we need a couple of new lights at the transfer station. Pat will check with Jill.

Tom Beck asked about using cement blocks instead of poles. After discussion, the Selectboard told Ron to go ahead with his plan, but makes sure he speaks with the Building Inspector.

In addition, Ron will try to dig down near town hall wall to see if water leak can be spotted. John M. has test capsules to see if it is chlorinated water leaking in or surface water.

Complete Streets: Rene thinks that John M. needs to attend meeting, not Ro. She would not get anything out of it. John M said he would attend.

Job Descriptions: The board looked through the job descriptions provided. John B. suggested we approve all but the following, and look at them again next week. (Accountant, Treasurer, Police Chief, Highway Superintendent, new admin position, Water treatment plant operator and assistant.

Website: Pat requested permission to look into vendors for a new website. Ours is not performing well and some functions have stopped working altogether. Selectboard gave their approval.

Plumbing Inspector: Our current inspector, Bill Clark, has asked the Selectboard to approve paying for the ongoing education classes he needs to take on a yearly basis. After discussion, the board asked Pat to find out if the classes were for his personal license, or if they were for his position as inspector. John B. stated that the town in the past has paid for schooling for inspectors, but not for their licenses. Pat will doublecheck.

PVPC technical assistant proposal: John B. asked that we put it on hold until we get more information.

Citizens comments:

Ed Meecham questioned the way the count was done at the STM. Were there one or two votes taken? In addition, he questioned why the Selectboard voted against the 4th Highway person when in the past the board has been in favor of adding a person. Barbara explained she had changed her mind about the position after talking to other towns, etc., and John explained he did not vote at all on it, he wanted the people to vote, and he was not as inclined anyway as we did not have our free cash certified as of the vote.

Tom Beck discussed the confusion between “free cash” and raise and appropriate. Wondered why we didn’t have any free cash. It was explained that the town does have free cash, but you can’t use it until the state “certifies” it. **Rene felt with a 4th man there would be better efficiency.**

Tom Beck asked “how can we cut taxes?”

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino, Town Administrator

John Baldasaro, Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, Vice Chairman

Rene Senecal, Clerk