

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

Meeting Minutes January 23, 2017

Chairman Baldasaro absent

Vice Chairman Huntoon opened meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes from 1/9/2017 meeting approved.

Warrants signed.

Josh Garcia from PVPC and Andy Meyers presented information regarding DLTA (District Local Technical Grant) application. Grant for feasibility study for IT needs for Community Compact/Shared Services and to create a position that would apply to the 6 community compact towns.

Grant option to hire "Economic Development" person for shared town resource – to promote economic development and growth, mutual aid and cooperative services throughout compact communities and to pursue federal and state resources that promote economic growth.

This would be a "model for other small towns" as this is a fledgling program.

John Murray – Highway Department – requested approval for additional spending of \$25,000.00 for Snow & Ice Removal and \$25,000.00 for Snow Removal Payroll expenses. Motion made by Clerk Senecal to allow, 2nd by Vice-Chairman Huntoon. Motion passed. Discussion regarding equipment replacement for 2012 International due to extensive costs and repairs associated with vehicle. Research class action law suit for this vehicle to be done. Chairman Huntoon not in favor of using Chapter funds for equipment purchase-what are option re" truck- possible replacement of engine. "Second opinion" to be sought regarding problems with motor. Clerk Senecal requested Capital Investment Plan from Supt. Murray. Discussion of possible 2017 Chapter 90 projects included resurfacing Soisalo Rd and repairing drainage issues, additional pavement applied to Johnson Hill and Lyon Hill Roads and rebuilding Prospect St retaining wall and resurfacing of road. Inquiries to be made to MASS DOT District 1 State Aid Engineer Kathy Stevens for recommendations.

"Wish Lists" from Department Heads:

Board of Health: additional \$ needed due to increased costs of postage and other supplies (i.e. pre-printed transfer station stickers, etc.) Norma Macdonald taking classes in spring, Susan Bishop may be leaving BOH. Norma to provide septic system criteria and evaluation to BOS.

Library: need front door fixed –possible fire hazard as door sticks and is only means of egress, uncooperative landlord- after discussion, letter to be sent from Building Inspector requesting resolution. Continued research for alternative location for library – possible modular building but land needed.

Animal Control: need updated dog by-laws, increase rates for licenses. Must be approved at Town Meeting, article to be placed on warrant for annual town meeting.

Police Dept.: Plan to replace 2010 cruiser in FY 2019. Would like to install security monitoring system at Town Hall, would be nice to have more police presence but continues to work within budget.

Council on Aging: Serious space issues in COA area, no room for administrative area, constant need to rearrange furniture for all functions, limits implementation of any additional programs to benefit seniors. Suggestion to expand into Police department area and to consult with Building Inspector to option for other expansion within the basement area. Discussion regarding possible "Safety Complex" encompassing fire and police departments. Need research regarding water and waste water disposal.

Town Clerk: Would like caller ID available, and updated website to provide information

BOS: Updated and centralized phone system for town offices.

Land donation from Charles Camp continued to next BOS meeting.

Approval/issue Class II license for Carl Baldasaro dba Legacy Auto Sales.

RE: OLD BUSINESS – sale of CMELD – PVPC does not offer funding to do feasibility study for sale of CMELD. Mr. Hickson requested additional research be done to determine actual process to sell electric company, discussion ensued regarding public desire to sell/petition to sell, feasibility, continued increase in electric costs, distribution rates, net metering, solar panels, and pros and cons of having municipal controls over administration.

Town Administrator: additional steps for Green Community approval have been taken. All reimbursement for FY 2016 Chapter 90 have been received.

Citizen Comments:

Mr. Watters-elevator fixed

Mr. Beck-subcontractors measuring electric light poles, subcontractor informed Mr. Beck that usually once his job is complete, build out begins within 6 months. Will crack sealing continue on Skyline Trail in 2017? Superintendent Murray indicated that yes, crack sealing is part of 2017 maintenance plan. Will additional ditch cleaning be done in 2017? Superintendent Murray indicated that yes, additional sweeping and cleaning will be done, Vice Chairman Huntoon noted possible Chapter 90 funding to be used. Mr. Beck questioned costs associated with hiring outside vendors for snow removal, Superintendent Murray indicated that safety for all residents was ultimate decision making factor, as well as reducing time to clear all roads. Superintendent Murray to provide written snow removal routes as applicable to town employees and outside vendors.

Mr. Hickson-Inquiry to progress for Treasurer audit, should be scheduled for March or April, determined by state auditor availability. Update on town website maintenance, continued research regarding cost and actual need. Inquired to feasibility of uploading audio recording of minutes to website, Town Admin to do additional research in this area.

Mr. Meacham- has now followed BOS directive to call Highway Department directly with questions or issues. Wanted to know why question regarding purchase of sand from Donovan Brothers was not noted in "OLD BUSINESS", due to Superintendent Murray's medical absence, he was not aware of the question but offered insight regarding cost for variety of products used and vendor availability. Superintendent Murray to research costs from additional sources.

8:40 p.m. Clerk Senecal motion to adjourn to move to executive session, to consider the purchase, exchange lease or value of real property that an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body on a roll call vote. Not expected to return to public session. Vice Chairman Huntoon second, regular session BOS meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne McClaflin

Recording Secretary

John Baldasaro, Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, Vice Chairman

Rene Senecal, Clerk

