

**Town of Chester**  
**Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioner/Zoning Board of Appeals**  
**Minutes Meeting March 27, 2017**

1. Chairman Baldasaro opened meeting at 6:00 p.m. Meeting recorded by Mike Donovan-Country Journal, and Administrative Assistant Rosanne McClafin. Minutes of 3/13/2017 and 3/20/2017 approved and signed. Warrants approved and signed.
2. Tax Collector- foreclosure sale update rescheduled to March 27, 2017.

Town Administrator-Grant available through the office of disability that would include elevator repair/replacement but town needs to have a Commission on Disability, Administrator requested permission to establish said commission, Board approved. Request for warrant article for Annual Town Meeting to appropriate \$2500.00 for survey and design work for proposed William St turnaround, Board approved. Review of email received from MASSTOWNCLERKS@GOOGLEGROUPS.COM requesting town to pass a resolution for single payer health insurance, Board felt email is vague with no specific cost factors or projected savings, Board declined to pass resolution. Request from Andy Myers for Board to approve expenditure of \$100.00 from Recreational Fund for the Towns portion of the expense related to filing 503c status for Highland Footpath Trails Inc.-Board approved. Board signed revised letter regarding PVPC Community Compact Economic Development Coordinator agreement. Town received DLTA IT Grant funds \$9993.00 for IT needs assessment. Board review of corrected Town Hall Expense and Repair accounts. Preliminary "Free Cash" figure of \$213,000.00 to be researched and variances to be clarified and explained as Board feels amount should be closer to \$275,000.00. Audit scheduled some time in April. Administrator Carlino noted error in communication of criteria for release of minutes from meeting 3/20/2017, request for copies of minutes must be made in writing, and the Town RAO (Records Access Officer) has 10 days to comply-per 'new' public record access law.

On June 3, 2016, Governor Baker signed into law "[An Act to Improve Public Records](#)," enhancing public access to information. That law goes into effect January 1, 2017, this law provides standards that will reduce delays and costs that burden accessibility. For additional information about making a request or filing an appeal, see [Chapter 121 of the Acts of 2016](#) and [950 CMR 32](#) .

Review of COA space needs, discussion of Foundation meeting with COA regarding possible option for COA use of Train Station. Multiple concerns regarding handicap access, kitchen, bathroom access etc. Vice-Chairman Huntoon suggested BOS take "field trip" to collectively review basement in Town Hall for possible expansion. Additional discussion of expense accounts and posting errors, acceptable 'roll-overs' and concern for accuracy.

Chairman Baldasaro verified posting deadline of June 3, 2017 for agenda and warrant items for Annual Town Meeting June 10, 2017. Town Clerk to provide information and verbiage for warrant item to eliminate town caucus.

3. Chester Theater – Erin Patrick, theater agreement to be changed "portion of the basement used for dressing rooms, etc." to reflect possible space assignment to COA. Theater to use space at bottom of stairs instead of hallway for wardrobe etc. Theater to sign and return copies of agreement.

**Citizen Comments:**

Bob Johnson – East River Rd looks good and thanks the BOS and Highway Dept. for the attention to the road, but what are future plans for E. River Rd? Administrative Assistant McClafin stated the Town would again be applying for MASSWORKS Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for the rehabilitation of East River Rd. and although last years'

application was denied, positive feedback was received in the review of the application and we are very hopeful that this year's grant will be approved. Clerk Senecal noted that additional information from the citizens that could be submitted with the application may be beneficial, as well as pursuing endorsements from National Park Service, Westfield River Wild and Scenic, Trout Unlimited and The Army Corp of Engineers. Admin McClaflin to research logs left on Mr. Johnson's property after tree removal was done (Eversource) on East River Rd. last fall. Mr. Johnson also asked about Comcast build-out, Chairman Baldasaro shared Comcast's expectation that all build-outs will be completed by July.

John Foley – COA expansion, basement interior walls are not load bearing, used to be wide open in the basement, could all walls be removed and basement fully reconfigured? Vice-Chairman Huntoon noted cost and limited funds for project, there is no easy fix and no ideal situation immediately available. Possible 2018 PVPC Block Grant?

Tom Beck – nothing

R. Duane Pease – worked plowing for Highway Dept. for many years. You will always have complaints in that Superintendent) position. Mr. Pease spoke with a superintendent from a town with 60 miles of road (vs. Chester's 66 miles) who has 7 employees while Chester has only 3 and feels Superintendent Murray doing a pretty good job and has a good crew.

There being no further business, Chairman Baldasaro suggested to "take field trip" to review basement space in relation to COA expansion and Chester Theater. After viewing space and discussion of possible options, Vice-Chairman Huntoon motioned to adjourn 7:42 p.m. Clerk Senecal seconded. Meeting adjourned. Next regularly scheduled meeting April 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m..

Respectfully submitted

Rosanne McClaflin Recording Secretary

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John Baldasaro – Chairman

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Barbara Huntoon – Vice Chairman

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Rene Senecal – Clerk