

Town of Chester

Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioner/Zoning Board of Appeals

Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2017

Attendance BOS: Chairman John Baldasaro, Vice-Chairman Barbara Huntoon, Clerk Rene Senecal, Administrative Assistant Rosanne McClafin, Mike Donovan-Country Journal, Annette LaMountain, Bob Daly, John Foley, Wilma Foley, Eugene Watters

- I. Chairman Baldasaro called to order the regular meeting of the at 6:02 p.m. on June 19, 2017.**
- II. Minutes of June 5 and June 12, 2017 were approved and signed as submitted.**
- III. Memorandum of Understanding re: Green Community designation requirements signed by B.O.S.**
- IV. Letter regarding length of Campbell Rd as requested by resident Preston Webb signed by B.O.S.**
- V. BOS reviewed meeting schedule as voted on at 6/12/2017 meeting. (7/10, 7/24, 8/7 & 8/21)**

Administrative Assistant McClafin noted that the Town's "Complete Streets" policy submission scored a 96, ranking in the top ten and tying for 4th place out of 222 nationally submitted policies in 2016. Also, that crack sealing on Bromley Rd and Skyline Trail had begun prior to scheduled start date.

Discussion of appointments to be made, appointment forms due by 6/21/2017. Vice-Chairman Huntoon would like review of appointments/appointment requests to be made at June 26, 2017 BOS to allow for full BOS to be present. Discussion to exclude Veterans Agent appointment pending meeting with current agent. Current Cemetery Commissioner (Jeff Dixon) would like to resign, but will remain as needed until replacement found.

Discussion of condition of accounts, year-end transfers to be made by July 15, 2017. Clerk Senecal advised against account balances reflecting deficits. Vice-Chairman Huntoon asked for information regarding tree trimming, brush cutting and communal area maintenance. Observation by Bob Daly and Annette LaMountain for the need of weed control of invasive poison ivy and bamboo. Highway Department to address.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Bob Daly questioned if a "Green Community Committee" had been formed- not as of this date- voiced school budget concerns, attendees in agreement that GRSD needs to involve Boards from all towns in budget decisions. The Hilltown Collaborative could also be involved. Would like to see Chairman Baldasaro to "take the lead" in these efforts, feels Chairman has knowledge and understanding of MARS report from the Commonwealth noting GRSD should involve the communities more and provide vocational training. GRSD has not followed the MARS report recommendations. Chairman Baldasaro noted that he would like to see Boards of Selectmen from other towns as well as respective finance committees to be involved. Discussion ensued regarding school attendance, fears that Russell and Montgomery could withdraw from the district and the effects of such losses. Clerk Senecal noted GRSD should review administrative positions, if Towns are forced to "level fund" salaries, perhaps time GRSD to consider as well, also noted feedback to property tax reduction "people are amazed". Bob Daly offered kudos and support for the Board's

efforts. John Foley asked for clarification regarding warrant item at Annual Town Meeting, if GRSD accepts the amended arrant item, will we still see an increase? Chairman Baldasaro noted the amended figure equals a level funded budget amount. Vice-Chairman Huntoon noted she was disappointed so many people left the Town meeting as soon as the school budget item was voted on, would like to see more involvement and concern from residents, also noted “top heavy” administrative expenses in education now. Bob Daly noted next school committee meeting is 6/21/17 and contract renewal review 11/15/2017. Chairman Baldasaro urged greater attendance and thanked attendees for their support, Vice-Chairman Huntoon thanked residents for attending.

VI. There being no further business,

Chairman Baldasaro motioned to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. Vice-Chairman Huntoon seconded, unanimous.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING JUNE 26,2017 6:00 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Rosanne McClafin Recording Secretary

John Baldasaro – Chairman

Barbara Huntoon – Vice-Chairman

Rene Senecal - Clerk