

Town of Chester

Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioner/Zoning Board of Appeals

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2017

Attendance BOS: Chairman John Baldasaro, Vice-Chairman Barbara Huntoon, Clerk Rene Senecal, Town Administrator Patricia Carlino, Highway Superintendent John Murray, Administrative Assistant Rosanne McClafin, Mike Donovan-Country Journal, Bob Daly, John Foley, Wilma Foley, Eugene Watters, Arthur Geary, Craig Boyer, Terry Murphy, Melvyn Hook, Cedar Millet, Gary Dickson, Guest: VA Agent Steve Connor.

- I. **Chairman John Baldasaro called to order the regular meeting of the at 6:00 p.m. on June 26, 2017.**
- II. **Minutes of June 19, 2017 were approved and signed as submitted.**
- III. **Warrants were approved and signed.**
- IV. **Highway Department-John Murray:** Highway Dept. employees Steve Cooper and Doug Noel taking 4G over guard rail mower licensing test 6/27/2017. Clerk Senecal offered info that test results are available on-line within 24 hours. Cross drains replaced on Johnson Hill in preparation for reclamation and paving. Tree trimming and removal to start with "best" roads to aid in road preservation, Johnson Hill, Lyon Hill, Skyline Trail to start, additional roads to be determined if funding allows. Chapter 90 project request submissions: reclamation and paving of last dirt section of Johnson Hill, asphalt overlay of Lyon Hill and reclamation and paving of Eastern View. Questions posed regarding Chapter 90 project schedule and funds, mowing, pothole repair: schedule to be clarified upon MassDOT approval and scheduling with vendors, mowing to begin once licensing in effect, potholes to be addressed within 2 weeks.
- V. **Chairman Baldasaro-move to item VI- Guest VA Agent Steve Connor:** extensive discussion regarding services provided by agent. Chairman Baldasaro requested additional out-reach services, agent to provide pamphlets and brochures for mailing to veterans. Mr. Connor noted the current VA agent also attends local fairs and events to provide information, is willing to have an "event" locally to provide additional information, and currently works with many social service and outreach agencies to provide additional training to COA, Elder Services, etc. representatives to assist veterans in applying for benefits from the VA as well as Social Security, Food Stamps, disability etc. Mr. Connor also explained complexity of benefit determination. The BOS agreed their biggest concern is getting information and assistance to Chester Veterans and to continue receiving proper reimbursements to the Town. Chester resident Arthur Geary expressed interest in appointment as VA Agent, noted he is currently the Commander of Chapter 41 of the DAV in Holyoke, is willing to train as needed and would provide local contact and be available 4 days a week. Additional discussion of cost associated with current agent, reimbursements, agent availability and training. Chairman Baldasaro offered thanks to Mr. Connor for attending the meeting and the information provided, noted there is a lot to consider.
- VI. **Item V on agenda: Cedar Millet-North Chester Rd:** Complaint made, resident at 402 North Chester Rd filled drainage ditch which may cause water erosion to road, Highway Superintendent Murray had reviewed and felt there would be no adverse effects. Ms. Millet disagreed. Discussion followed regarding drainage, road repair options, and R.O.W. Clerk Senecal stated he did not recall a ditch where noted but Superintendent

Murray should monitor area. Ms. Millet also questioned if driveway permits are required-yes driveway permits are required. Chairman Baldasaro requested moving on to next item.

VII. 2018 APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Baldasaro motioned to appoint/reappoint:

Richard Small -Fire Chief, Forest Fire Warden, Emergency Management Director

Beverly Cooper -Town Accountant

Rosanne McClafin - Administrative Assistant

Susan Kucharski - COA Director

David Pierce - Director of Parks and Trails

Robert Thompson, David Pierce - Wild and Scenic Advisory

Faye Piergiovanni, Annette LaMountain - Historical Commission – (corrected from ‘Historical Society)

Pamela Anderson - Principal Assessor

John VanHeynigen - Electrical Inspector

Arthur Lawler - Building Commissioner/Inspector

John VanHeynigen, Patricia Carlino - Conservation Commissioners

Melvyn Hook - Cemetery Commissioner

Ann Daley, Rosanne McClafin - Election Wardens

Jerry Zebrowski - Board of Registrars

Andy Myers - Budget Representative to GRSD

Richard Holtzman - PVPC Delegate

Margaret Graveline, Marguerite Laurie, Jean McCaul, Ann Daley, Elaine Gilmore,
Barbara Shippee, Wilma Foley, John Foley - COA Advisory Committee

Patricia Carlino, Mary Ann Pease, Ann Daley, Rosanne McClafin - Green Community

Clerk Senecal noted reservations regarding appointment of Town Accountant, Chairman Baldasaro agreed there are some questions and concerns regarding performance, but as such a key position, it cannot be left unfilled. Clerk Senecal seconded motion with noted objection, unanimous.

Chairman Baldasaro noted additional appointment request submission for Town Administrator position received from Town Treasurer Cheryl Provost-discussion followed regarding qualifications, Vice Chairman Huntoon motioned to re-appoint Patricia Carlino as Town Administrator, Clerk Senecal seconded, unanimous.

Vice-Chairman Huntoon motioned to appoint/reappoint:

Todd Allman, John Baldasaro, James Grzelak, Gary O’Brien, Stephen Griffin, Brandon Labrie – Police Officers

Clerk Senecal seconded, (Chairman Baldasaro abstained) motion passed.

Additional appointments to be reviewed at July 24, 2017 meeting will include Planning Board, FRTA representative, Plumbing/Gas Inspector, Jacob’s Pillow Trail Scenic By-Law Committee and Veteran’s Agent.

Additional discussion of Veteran’s Agent requirements, current agent’s level of knowledge, performance and future expectations and DAV services. Bob Daly commended the Board for facilitating meeting with agent to provide information regarding services.

VIII. Town Administrator-Patricia Carlino - Town Treasurer Provost requested carry over of \$800.00 budget allowance for training purposes- Board approved. Selectmen’s Office to absorb cost for VA services information packet to veterans.

IX. Citizen Comments:

Bob Daly asked if there was any new information regarding School Committee meeting/budget. Clerk Senecal had attended meeting, noted it was “enlightening” meeting appeared to be a “formality” questioned adherence to Open Meeting Laws, and that answers to questions posed were “very vague” and that there was not enough in attendance to vote, that a special meeting will be held Wednesday June 28 at 7:00p.m. at GRSD Middle School room 112/114. Additional discussion of concern for additional towns to leave district. Bob Daly also encouraged the BOS to consider meeting with Chester’s school committee members. Vice-Chairman Huntoon asked what state mandates are regarding need for principal, vice-principal, assistant principal tec. for each facility, possible use of share services collaborative to cut administration costs.

Gene Watters suggested security cameras at Emery St. ball lot due to additional vandalism.

Joan Stalcup – over grown intersections blocking sight lines, Highway Department to address.

Vice-Chairman Huntoon noted graffiti and damage to Emery St ball lot pavilion, suggested removal of wall boards, BOS agreed to allow removal of wall boards.

Town Administrator Carlino asked about reorganization of Board for July 10, 2017 meeting, determination made to proceed, Vice-Chairman Huntoon motioned to nominate John Baldasaro as Chairman, Clerk Senecal seconded. Chairman Baldasaro motioned to nominate Barbara Huntoon as Vice-Chairman, Clerk Senecal seconded. Chairman Baldasaro motioned to nominate Rene Senecal as Clerk, Vice-Chairman Huntoon seconded.

There being no further business,

Chairman John Baldasaro motioned to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Vice-Chairman Huntoon seconded, unanimous.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING JULY 10, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted - Rosanne McClaflin Recording Secretary

John Baldasaro – Chairman

Barbara Huntoon – Vice-Chairman

Rene Senecal - Clerk