

TOWN OF CHESTER

Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals

Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2017

Attendance: BOS-Chairman John Baldasaro, Vice-Chairman Barbara Huntoon, Clerk Rene Senecal, Town Administrator Patricia Carlino, Administrative Assistant Rosanne McClafin, Highway Superintendent John Murray, Gene Watters, Bob Daly, Adam Simms, Mike Donovan (Country Journal)

- I. **Chairman Baldasaro called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on August 7, 2017**
- II. **Minutes from last meeting date July 24,2017 were approved and signed.**
- III. **Warrants were approved and signed.**

Chairman Baldasaro rearranged agenda schedule due to scheduled time for executive session.

VI-Special Town Meeting 8/12/2017 Warrant items for STM to raise and appropriate the minimum contribution to school budget and raise and appropriate the above minimum contribution to the school budget. Huntington and Russell still have to meet to review, Huntington is meeting Wednesday August 9, 2017. If Huntington votes to approve school budget, Chester's STM will not be necessary as their vote would pass the school budget, if Huntington does not pass the budget, Russell will hold meeting Friday that will determine Chester's need for special town meeting to occur.

** Unidentified topic- Conservation Commission appointment of R. Duane Pease – Vice-Chairman Huntoon abstained from discussion and vote- Clerk Senecal motioned to appoint R. Duane Pease to Conservation Commission, Chairman Baldasaro seconded, motion passed – unanimous.

** Veteran's Agent contract – Chairman Baldasaro motioned to sign contract, Vice-Chairman Huntoon seconded, unanimous -contract signed by Board, one change to contract requiring notice to withdraw to be made by January 1 of any given year to allow time for budget changes.

CDBG Grant award of \$800,000.00 for Hampden St water line and road repairs and Prospect St and Soisalo Rd engineering study. \$665,000.00 for design and construction, \$135,000.00 to PVPC for project management.

VIII – Commission on Disability - 3 names submitted for commission, Susan Kucharski, Patricia Carlino and Arthur Lawler. Vice-Chairman Huntoon motioned to appoint all candidates as read to commission, Clerk Senecal seconded, motion passed-unanimous.

VII – Police-outside detail-Chief Illnicky working on proposal to bring detail rates more in line with other towns/agencies. Clerk Senecal noted need for police to be paid in a timely fashion for outside details, not contingent upon receipt of payment from outside agencies. Vice-Chairman Huntoon brought up road "HOLD-UPS", illegal without special permit – "if not ok for one entity, should not be ok for others." Commonwealth of MA will not issue permit for road hold-ups on state roads.

IX-Town Administrator- Signature required for discharge of real estate lien through PVPC-Southern Hilltowns.

Council on Aging Feasibility Study contract by PVPC signed by BoS.

Bank reconciliation- Melissa Zawadzki (Treasurer from Easthampton) hired to help Treasurer complete cash reconciliation for FY 2017 accounts for audit. Vice-Chairman Huntoon asked if the Treasurer has signed up for training – yes, UMASS Treasurer/Collector School week of August 14.

Erica Johnson from PVPC to attend BOS meeting 8/21/2017 to review CBDG award.

Issue with sidewalk sections in front of Blue Note Café, customer tripped over raised edge, research to be done regarding repair/replacement options. Vice-Chairman Huntoon asked what agency would be responsible for inspections - Clerk Senecal suggested including repairs to Main St bridge raised sections and asking MassDOT District 1 for input, and questioned MIIA insurance coverage.

6:15 p.m. Chairman Baldasaro motioned to go into executive session on a roll call vote for the purpose of litigation strategy - to return to open session following executive session. Vice-Chairman Huntoon seconded-unanimous. Chairman Baldasaro-aye, Vice-Chairman Huntoon-aye, Clerk Senecal-aye. Unanimous.

6:40 p.m. BoS returned to open session.

V- Highway Department-John Murray – grader repaired, air in transmission line. Kinnebrook not graded yet, brakes still need work. Superintendent Murray asked for .50 raise for employees who just received 4G Specialty Mower operator license, Vice-Chairman Huntoon objected, budget already done, put in place for next year, Clerk Senecal also noted Murray should put request in writing. Mowing to be done Johnson Hill first due to Chapter 90 project to repave, then East River Rd, Skyline, Bromley, additional mowing road schedule to be prepared by Murray. Highway Dept. working to fill pot holes on Bromley and Skyline. Vice-Chairman Huntoon asked about tree on wires on Bromley Rd. Murray to review with CMELD. Vice-Chairman Huntoon also asked about tree cutting, Murray noted in process now-working on Johnson in preparation of Chapter 90 project, additional trimming as funding allows. Chairman Baldasaro requested plan of action from Murray regarding mowing so BoS has knowledge and can respond to resident inquiries. Additional discussion regarding mowing, poison ivy control, part time help duties, weed whacking and remaining roads that need to be graded and rolled. Vice-Chairman Huntoon asked about the recycling container at the transfer station, H.D. put plywood on floor to cover holes until new container arrives. Discussion followed regarding container lease vs. ownership. Vice-Chairman Huntoon also asked if we received complaints about water quality Administrator Carlino noted some turbidity due to hydrant flushing. Pat to check with Bernie St. Martin.

Citizen Comments:

Rosanne McClafin presented an email from resident David Orcutt requesting a grant be pursued to repair the lower end of Abbott Hill to connect Sylvester Hamilton back to Prospect. Research provided confirmed that in 1967 the Town voted at Special Town Meeting to discontinue and abandon the portion of Abbott Hill from the Cooper house to Sylvester Hamilton Rd.

Bob Daly asked about account reconciliation and outside assistance coming to aid Treasurer to complete, and asked for clarification of the veteran's agent contract change.

There being no further discussion Chairman Baldasaro adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING AUGUST 21, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Rosanne McClaflin

John Baldasaro – Chairman

Barbara Huntoon – Vice-Chairman

Rene Senecal - Clerk