

TOWN OF CHESTER

Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals

Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2017

Attendance: BOS-Chairman John Baldasaro, Vice-Chairman Barbara Huntoon, Clerk Rene Senecal, Town Administrator Patricia Carlino, Administrative Assistant Rosanne McClafin, Bob Daly, Wilma Foley, John Foley, Mike Donovan (Country Journal), Lyndsey McGuiness (Trout Unlimited-in place of Colin Lawson)

- I. John Baldasaro called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on August 21, 2017**
- II. Minutes from last meeting date August 7 ,2017 were approved and signed.**
- III. Warrants were approved and signed.**
- IV. Erica Johnson – PVPC -** CDB grant \$800,000.00 awarded to Chester. Approximately \$650,000.00 for water lines and road reclamation of Hampden St.- expected to be completed in 2018. Approximately \$52,000.00 for engineering study for **Prospect** St. and Soisalo Rd. drainage and road reclamation, balance to PVPC for grant administration. Bob Daly asked if any funds could be used toward repaving of Andrews Ave. Clerk Senecal noted need for Main St resurfacing-Andrew Ave. should be done at that time. Town Administrator Carlino asked about progress of Senior Center feasibility study done by PVPC, Erica noted that the contract went out 8/21/2017, the architect will begin review process upon execution of contract. Vice-Chairman Huntoon asked what it will entail: Review of current space, possible expansion in building, possible space in other buildings, including ‘new’ elementary school. Demographic review, estimated future needs, current programs and potential programs and needs. Chairman Baldasaro noted the BoS would like to meet with the architect prior to evaluation. John Foley asked if this study included resolving library space issues-no, this study is related to senior center only.
- V. Trout Unlimited – Lyndsey McGuiness representing Colin Lawson** Trout Unlimited is replacing a culvert on Kinnebrook Rd at the Skunk Brook location to restore full connectivity. Current culvert was damaged by Hurricane Irene. New culvert is a 3-sided box culvert, permits and waivers are in place, work to begin mid-October. Road to be closed for approximately 3 days, Ms. McGuiness to confirm duration of construction.
- VI. Dave Pierce-Friends of Keystone Arches** Chester has the only 2 formally recognized trails- The Keystone Arch Trail and The JJ Kelly Trail. Healthy Hampshire grant available – Mr. Pierce seeking permission to pursue grant funds to create an “urban trail” to connect the train station to the JJ Kelly trail on Hampden St. via Maple Ave. Benches must be installed and 3”x5” ‘blaze’ signs to indicate trail. Healthy Hampshire supports improvements made to encourage healthier living. Admin Asst. McClafin to research installation of crosswalk from end of Maple St. across Rte. 20 to connect sidewalks. BoS in support of trail.
- VII. MIIA Grant Application –** Grant application approved for purchase of trench box-\$6894.00, remaining available funds \$3106.00 to be applied for on behalf of Police Dept. for security cameras.

VIII. Town Administrator-Pat Carlino – regarding question asked by Vice-Chairman Huntoon concerning process to determine date for Annual Town Meeting- Admin Carlino noted the policy had been made by Town vote, prior to meeting moved to 1st Saturday in June, the meeting had been held in May, but it had been agreed that due to the availability of year end accounting information, June would be a better option. Vice-Chairman Huntoon felt Saturday was not the best day to promote town participation and proposed moving future Annual Town Meetings to Monday nights. Article to move ATM to second Monday (evening) in June to be on next Town Meeting warrant. Admin Carlino pursuing additional Healthy Hampshire grant funds to install benches in downtown area, ADA grant for elevator update/replacement and Green Community certification. Bob Daly asked if the ADA grant would be specific to the Town Hall, Admin Carlino clarified, no-applies to any Town owned property to improve or install handicap accessibility. Question regarding when ‘skate park’ was built at ball lot, it appears there are funds left in account. Vice-Chairman Huntoon noted the Recreation Committee had been responsible for the project. Currently there is no Recreation Committee.

Vice Chairman Huntoon asked about removal of boards from Emery St. ball lot pavilion. Admin Carlino to research.

Chairman Baldasaro noted next School Committee meeting is 8/23/2017 at 7:00 p.m., encouraged attendance, feels other Towns BoS should attend meetings as well to continue to pressure GRSD to include input from Towns discussion followed regarding budget and process. John Foley asked what “MARS” stood for regarding school department report, Bob Daly offered “Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools”, and that the report is available at the GRSD website under ‘presentations to school committee’. Chairman Baldasaro stressed importance of the Towns supporting each other and how the Community Collaborative can also help to improve and strengthen inter-town relationships, and the need to be creative looking for solutions, referenced MARS report that recommended GRSD implement trade/tech courses-Chairman Baldasaro also offered suggestion of some type of “entrepreneurial workshops” GRSD could provide. Admin Carlino noted the school committee has one more chance to present and acceptable budget, in the event one is not agreed upon, the State DOR will step in and review and take action. Chairman Baldasaro noted “The State” is not likely to “go easy” on Gateway. Bob Daly commented Superintendent Hobson’s “stipend” of \$7500.00 is more than our Town Clerk and Fire Chief combined are paid annually for their service.

Clerk Senecal noted need for clarification when being quoted, quotes taken out of context cannot be properly interpreted. Also noted complaints received regarding East River Rd. mowing, topic was addressed last meeting but has not been started, overgrowth is hazardous. Admin Asst. McClafin to address.

Bob Daly requested update on Treasurer training, consultant Melissa Zawatsky has met with Treasurer for training. Audit not completed yet.

Vice-Chairman Huntoon question regarding DOR / Zack Blake / Community Collaborative, Andy Myers is arranging meeting, tentatively scheduled for 9/16/2017 regarding shared services, BoS to attend. Chairman Baldasaro noted that the State supports our initiatives and funds may be available to promote workshops with other select boards to promote collaborative endeavors.

There being no further discussion John Baldasaro adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Rosanne McClafin

John Baldasaro – Chairman

Barbara Huntoon – Vice-Chairman

Rene Senecal - Clerk