

TOWN OF CHESTER

Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals

Meeting Minutes

September 25, 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, Mike Donovan (Country Journal), John Foley, Wilma Foley, Steve Cooper

- I. Chairman Baldasaro called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on September 25, 2017**
- II. Minutes from last Regular meeting and Executive session dated September 18, 2017 were not approved, Clerk Senecal felt they were inaccurate and needed more detail, Vice-Chairman Huntoon and Chairman Baldasaro in agreement. Vice-Chairman Huntoon questioned when minutes of executive session can be released. Clerk Senecal noted that Superintendent Murray has the right to dispute the minutes, Town Administrator Carlino to verify, Clerk Senecal stated "content is critical". Bob Daly asked if executive sessions were also recorded, Chairman Baldasaro said yes, but no release of minutes until approved. Aforementioned minutes to be reviewed and resubmitted for approval.**
- III. Warrants were approved and signed.**
- IV. Highway Department-John Murray:** presented "2-month plan" as requested by BoS. East River Rd mowing complete, culvert replacement on Town Rd done to comply with request for release of right of way given by Aldo Bizzazero to Town. Water leak near Charlie's Garage repaired, additional water leak at Pine Hill Cemetery to be repaired. Discussion of needed repairs to F-350 and grader. Superintendent Murray proposed rental of grader until complete assessment of feasibility of repair of grader in order to complete work as needed at this time. Board felt this was a good suggestion, Superintendent Murray to complete additional research. Discussion of "2-month plan"- Board wants more generalized plan. Vice-Chairman Huntoon questioned Superintendent Murray's use of Town truck as it was seen at the Huntington Health Center at 4:00 p.m., Administrator Carlino noted that when John was hired, he was given the option to use Town vehicle when off duty. Superintendent Murray noted Old State Rd culvert replacement needs repair or replacement asap, additional discussion followed, Superintendent Murray to develop plan to proceed. Murray asked if resolution to payroll deductions for voluntary retirement had been determined. Administrator Carlino noted corrections should be made by next pay period. Chairman Baldasaro wants information regarding coding errors that caused issue.
- V. Planning Board-Lyle Snyder:** Provided background information regarding recreational marijuana bill and deadlines for towns to develop by-laws. Recently revised state law allows very short time frame between when the state commission is required to have all necessary regulations in place (3/15/2018) and when approval for recreational facilities will occur (6/1/2018), there is very little time to develop and approve a town by-law. Recommendation for a temporary moratorium until 12/2018 so we will have time to review state regulations, develop and approve our own by-law without being "rushed. Chairman Baldasaro also

noted need for clarification of verbiage regarding “establishment” due to possible effect on proposed medical marijuana facility on Baystate Dr. Mr. Snyder also noted need for separate by-law in relation to public consumption. Town Administrator Carlino noted additional planning board item regarding clarification of solar by-law, and proposed new member to Planning Board-Colleen O’Connor. Vice-Chairman Huntoon motioned to appoint Colleen O’Connor to the Planning Board, Clerk Senecal seconded, Chairman Baldasaro-aye, unanimous.

VI. Town Administrator-Patricia Carlino: MIIA grant for security cameras for Town Hall-signed by Board. I.T. needs evaluations done by PVPC and Northeast IT mirror same results, the Town is in desperate need of updated technology, cost could exceed \$40,000.00 for all updates needed. Chairman Baldasaro suggested researching PVPC program income funds to offset cost. Discussion followed regarding use of MA Broadband which is currently only used by the state computer associated with the Town Clerk functions. Item to be on warrant for Town Meeting to use funds for IT overhaul. Hilltown Collaborative conference with Zak Blake from DOR regarding shared services, Administrator Carlino feels information presented via email was too vague to warrant commitment, wants to verify measure of commitment and bring back to Board for review. Administrator Carlino requested dates 9/27 and 10/3 to attend seminars-Board approved. No updates from Treasurer, Board wants Treasurer to attend next meeting, also requested scheduling of Department Head meeting for October. Bob Daly offered research indicating many towns share same issues related to elected positions and lack of oversight and authority. Chairman Baldasaro noted that these problems are part of what the shared services may resolve, need to present again at Town meeting to change policy from elected to appointed position.

VII. Citizen Comments: Bob Daly noted there is a School Department meeting 9/27/2017 with executive session for the purpose of negotiations. Chester will wait until Huntington and Russell budget meeting dates announced to schedule special Town meeting for purpose of school budget. If budget remains unpassed by 12/2018, COMM of MA will step in. Facilitated Discussion/ Planning Committee meeting 10/5/2017. Discussion of possible dates for Chester Special Town meeting followed, no determination made until Huntington and Russel hold budget meetings.

Vice-Chairman Huntoon asked why the auditorium was prepared in advance on 9/18/2017 to house Board of Selectmen meeting, Administrator Carlino noted expectation of attendance to be higher due to agenda posting of executive session, felt being prepared to move to auditorium would reduce interruption to meeting. Vice-Chairman Huntoon also noted she felt blind-sided by Superintendent Murray’s comment 9/18/2017 regarding the board removal at the Emery Street ball lot pavilion, Clerk Senecal agreed, felt issue was “not left as said”. Administrator Carlino noted she took responsibility and had requested the Highway Department address the issue as it appeared the BoS wanted the project completed. Chairman Baldasaro noted that Carlino should proceed with “day-to-day stuff” just the final piece of communication was overlooked. John Foley asked why all meetings were not held in the auditorium and allowed for hearing impaired by use of microphones and speakers. The Board felt it is not efficient – expense of heating, availability of required supporting documentation, lack of sufficient attendees to warrant space, etc., Clerk Senecal stated if there is a trend toward overflow of Selectmen’s office capacity then we can address space issues. Vice-Chairman Huntoon suggested research of alternate hearing devices as well. Chairman Baldasaro suggested research PVPC grant for hearing devices. Bob Daly wanted to make the Board aware of

the work being done by Sue Kucharski-COA Director on behalf of the COA members regarding emergency preparedness, that she (Sue) has initiated discussion with Middlefield COA in the spirit of collaboration of services relating to the COA.

There being no further discussion Chairman Baldasaro adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OCTOBER 2, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Rosanne McClaflin

John Baldasaro – Chairman

Barbara Huntoon – Vice-Chairman

Rene Senecal - Clerk