

TOWN OF CHESTER

Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2017

Attendance: BOS-Chairman John Baldasaro, Vice-Chairman Barbara Huntoon, Clerk Rene Senecal, Town Administrator Patricia Carlino, Administrative Assistant Rosanne McClafin, Gene Watters, Bob Daley, Anne Daley, Jeanne LeClair, Andy Myers, Michelle Kenney, Mary Ann Pease, Jeff Wyland, John Foley, Wilma Foley, Laura Lafreniere, Ray Lyons(NEFF), Richard Holzman, Peter Spotts (Country Journal)

- I. Chairman Baldasaro called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. on November 13, 2017**
- II. Minutes from last meeting date November 6, 2017 were approved and signed.**
- III. Warrants were approved and signed.**
- IV. Town Administrator-Pat Carlino:** relayed concerns voiced by resident Ann Daley regarding positions of recycle containers at Transfer Station, attendants of the Transfer Station feel it would be safer to eliminate the option to back up to recycle bins and that 1 direction for traffic flow would provide a safer environment for attendants. Discussion followed regarding possible “bottle-necking” at gate area as well as “traffic jams” due to residents/attendants socializing. Vice-Chairman Huntoon requested a plan be drawn up by Transfer Station attendant/employee for further consideration. Clerk Senecal noted no changes should be made until plan is reviewed and approved.

Administrator Carlino noted additional comments received regarding topic of “lock-box” installation in Treasurer’s door to allow for turn-overs. Water department and Building Inspector unable to make turn-overs to Treasurer due to her absence 11/13/2017 during regularly scheduled hours. Clerk Senecal feels the lock-box option should be up to the Treasurer. Chairman Baldasaro recommended tabling discussion until November 20, 2017 meeting when Treasurer should be in attendance.

Michelle Kenney-President Jacob’s Ladder Business Association request one-day liquor license issue for JLBA anniversary event to be held November 16, 2017 at the Chester Train Station. Vice-Chairman Huntoon motioned to approve issuance of one-day beer and liquor license to JBLA for 11/16/2017 event, Clerk Senecal seconded, unanimous.

While waiting for all parties to be present for NEFF / Assessors discussion, Chairman Baldasaro provided information regarding Hilltown Collaborative meeting held Thursday 11/16/2017. PVPC representative Joshua Garcia spoke regarding shared accounting services, Blandford and Chesterfield are currently considering utilization of PVPC accounting service. PVPC is also preparing an RFP for IT Services and moving toward an E and R Grant for funding to provide hardware, software and support services, Vice-Chairman Huntoon motioned to include Chester in the RFP for IT Services, Clerk Senecal seconded, unanimous.

Bob Daly wanted to thank Barbara Huntoon for volunteering as Chester representative for GRSD school committee, Huntoon will participate in executive session meetings. Discussion of school committee meeting and improved communication between committee members and Town representatives. School administration to be invited to come to Town meetings for better understanding of Town's financial picture. Chairman Baldasaro did note that the last school department meeting was not well attended.

V. **NEFF-NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION.** Chester Assessors feel NEFF should pay property tax due to lack of public access to the NEFF property as per original terms of property transfer (voted at Town meeting.) Chester Assessors have filed documents to go to Appellate Tax Board to pursue NEFF tax payments, however NEFF is a non-profit organization and therefore tax exempt. The Board of Selectmen feel strongly that "the promises" made by NEFF at the time of the original deed transfer from Mr. Wright have not been kept- public access is severely restricted and NEFF should enhance accessibility. Ray Lyons- legal representation for NEFF noted 2 separate issues, taxes and access, will address access issue with NEFF administrators to develop feasible options, but tax "issue" is mute due to the exempt status of NEFF. Chairman Baldasaro stated "we would rather negotiate than litigate" Mr. Lyons to convey desire to meet with NEFF representative. Assessors agreed to push back APB date to allow additional discussion or reach resolution.

VI. **Discussion of variance request by Louis Magni postponed until 11/20/2017.**

There being no further discussion Chairman Baldasaro motioned to adjourn, Vice-Chairman Huntoon seconded, unanimous-meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Rosanne McClafin

John Baldasaro – Chairman

Barbara Huntoon – Vice-Chairman

Rene Senecal - Clerk