

Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals
Minutes
December 4, 2017

Chairman Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes from 11/27/17 were approved/signed.

Warrants were approved/signed.

I. John Murray-Highway Department

John reported that the oil pan on the International had rotted out and we're in the process of getting it repaired. 350 is back in operation and operating fine. Question was asked about the final outcome of the two bills for the 350. John reported that they were two different issues and that they were 19 days in between. The Selectboard was under the impression that the problems were much closer together, and therefore were concerned about the bills.

John B. asked about the line painters and what was happening. John M. reported that he had had numerous conversations with them, Ro too, and for some reason they keep putting the work off. The company had wanted to work at night, but John M. told them no. As it is now getting too cold to do the work, they may have to wait until spring. Rene suggested calling Hampshire County to see about a "second bid". Pat to pass information along to Ro to have her look into it. This is a different company than we have used in the past.

Barbara asked if Chester "pre -treats" their roads. John M. said we have not in the past, although we may have the equipment to do so. It does not work on dirt roads, but he will check it out. John explained that he went up to Smith Rd and deposited materials and rolled out, but a "driver" who possibly drives too fast up the road continues to "chew" it up at the steep parts. He will go again and try to roll it out again. In addition, the highway department is going to begin "repairing" the stone walls and berm at the Keith property on Smith Rd. tomorrow. If all goes well it should be done in a couple of days

The culvert project on Old State Rd. has received the go ahead from ConCom, and John hopes that will begin soon. Mr. Daley asked about the use of the leased grader, and what John M. felt about it. John reported it worked for what they needed, but that it was only a 2-wheel grader. Will look into pricing to lease a 4-wheel grader.

II. As the Treasurer could not attend tonight's meeting, the Town Clerk did not attend, as both were requested. John B. asked to reschedule for 12/18/17 with both of them.

III. Tom Huntoon: Tom attended to ask that the Board of Selectmen “be open” in regards to calling for a Moratorium on Recreational/Retail Marijuana. He was under the impression that the board had already granted a moratorium, which is not the case. John B. explained, in fact the board asked the Planning Board to “put off” the question of whether we should impose a moratorium until further research could be done on the effects that such an action would have on possible future activity in town. Any such action would have to be voted at a Town Meeting. At this time discussion was held about the retraction of Herbology, Inc. to partner with the Town on their proposed Medical Marijuana Facility. Herbology, Inc. wrote a letter to the town explaining their reasons, which were primarily financial. The Board said they were disappointed and would not want to put up any “roadblocks” to other potential business developers.

IV. Town Administrator: Nothing to report except still working on finding a copy of the town’s Emergency Preparedness Report

V. Citizens Comments:

Bob Daley reported on the meeting he went to with the Collaborative Board in Franklin County. The group would like to have our legislators attend their next meeting in March. He also looked into how we could provide “TV access” to Chester residents. There is equipment at the school which would probably need about \$10,000 worth of upgrades. Pat informed the Board that Ro is looking into YouTube. John B. mentioned this might be something we negotiate with Comcast for when the next contract is due, which is coming up.

Barb asked about services in the COA, WiFi?, Computer accessibility? Computer classes? Bob said yes, we have that availability.

Jason Fogue asked about the Recreational fund he heard about. He has some ideas for the ballfield. Barbara mentioned we need a new Rec. Committee. Jason will get on the agenda for the 18th.

Mary Ann Pease: Do we need a notice in the Country Journal regarding closed roads? Pat will do. She reported that Comcast gives the Library free internet. Is Wired West a done thing in Chester? Yes. Do we use “outside” vendors for snow removal. Yes, John has three people lined up for the dirt roads and is trying to negotiate a lower rate.

Barb asked if the plow routes were in place. John said yes, for the department as well as the vendors. Had we done any salt/sand yet this year. Yes once. Barb asked if we ever do “welcome packages” for new residents. Pat responded that we don’t, but if anyone comes into town hall and lets us know they are new to the area, we gather as much information as possible to give to them. (John B. stated that perhaps we could look into welcome packages for the future.)

Mary Ann also wanted everyone to know about the Christmas Party at the train station this Sunday, 1-4.
All are welcome.

John B. moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Barb seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully,

Patricia Carlino

Town Administrator

John Baldasaro, Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, Vice Chairman

Rene Senecal, Clerk