

**TOWN OF CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN/WATER COMMISSIONES/ZONING BOARD OF
APPEALS**

MINUTES

MAY 26, 2015

John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Due to the large number of attendees it was suggested that the meeting be moved downstairs to the auditorium. The meeting moved downstairs.

Minutes of 5/11/15 were approved. Warrants signed.

1. Bernie St. Martin: Water Department: Bernie had projects that need to be done at the water plant. He wanted to inform the Selectmen and receive their approval. The generator needs to be spun around, he needs to drain the reservoir, the filters need to be resanded. It was suggested to do one this year and one next summer. Bernie will get prices for both. There is a leak at Tribeckas. We are wasting water somewhere. Tried to shut it off at the road, found another valve underneath the road. Frank P. will let him into the vault to check. Will follow up. Selectmen agreed he needed to do what he needed to do at water plant, as long as there is enough money in the budget.
2. Council on Aging: a petition was presented to the Board by supporters of the COA (approximately 130 signatures) Gene Waters explained that the COA was losing grant monies (around \$8,000) from Highland Grants. The state will no longer give "mini grants", and in order for the COA to "maintain" their current services, they are requesting that their 2016 budget request be funded in whole. It was explained that the additional 2 hours per week requested was for both "outreach" work as well as grant writing. Chester has 68 active seniors. Michael Crochiere explained that the Finance Committee had explored other towns budgets and found that we are much higher, and in fact there were some towns that were staffed wholly by volunteers. John Baldasaro addressed the group and acknowledged the Board supported the seniors and did not want to hurt their funding. Motion made to include original COA request plus COA to the 2016 proposed budget. Don 2nd. Unanimous.
3. John Murray: Highway. Reported on various projects that have been accomplished in the last couple of weeks. Has article back in ATM warrant for "partner" plow for International truck International has been sent out to get sandblasted & painted. Cleaned reservoir screens. Truck lettered. Prospect St. blacktopped. Ongoing maintenance of equipment continues. Mowing should be started soon. Will do some pothole

maintenance on Skyline. Would like permission to transition to four, ten hour days for highway crew. John B. moved to allow change in hours, until Highway Super decision to go back. Frank 2nd, Unanimous. Would like permission to use existing funds to construct a ‘pole barn’ in conjunction with CMELD for housing Highway Vehicles and Equipment. The town cost would be ½, at \$22,500. In addition, would like to heat and insulate Salt Shed to allow parking of new truck. Would save on electricity costs. And if articles pass at ATM for the “partner” plow, will be using \$6,000 of existing funds also for this purpose. John B. will help with pricing of the Salt Shed. After discussion by Don of whether the Pole Barn was discussed before, as he didn’t remember talking about it, John B. said it had been discussed about five years ago., the board agreed to go along with the idea. Don also felt that CMELD needed authorization to use town land.

4. Snow and ice deficit: Board recommended to use \$100,000 of “Free cash” at ATM to reduce deficit.
5. Request from college researcher to go on town owned land for the purpose of researching soil samples. Board asked Pat to request more information.
6. Town Counsel: After review of proposal from Thomas Mullen, Atty., John Baldasaro moved to transition Town Counsel services to his firm, with Judith Pickett remaining as our representative, at the same pricing as currently in place. Frank P. 2nd. Unanimous.
7. Employees COLA for 2016. It was agreed that as we have not really kept up with increases over 8 years or so, we would go to the town floor at the ATM with a 2016 COLA of 2%. We can always adjust down if voters do not approve.
8. Police Chief contract: Don moved, Frank 2nd, to sign Dan Illicky’s contract for 3 years, through 2018. Unanimous. John B. abstained.
9. Briefly read Governor’s response to our letter regarding E. River Rd. improvements.
10. Water Report requested by Mike Hickson. The Selectmen looked at the report that had been formulated as of this date. Suggested that an average use be applied and then come up with what the overage was.
11. Citizens comments: Ed Meecham questioned a liability letter if beaver trapping was to take place on his property. One will be provided if necessary.

Mr. Foley noted that it was nice to be able to sit down for this meeting, and also that it was very hard to hear at the Memorial Day ceremony. We need a new sound system. Will look into it.

John B. moved to adjourn the meeting. to go into executive session under MA Gen. Law c. 30A, Sec. 21, 6, for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, not to return to open session. Don 2nd. On a roll call vote. John B, Aye, Don Ellershaw, Aye, Frank Pero, Aye.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino
Town Administrator

John Baldasaro, Chairman

Donald Ellershaw, Vice Chairman

Frank B. Pero, Jr., Clerk