

**Town of Chester**  
**Board of Selectmen minutes**  
**November 30, 2015**

1. Chairman Don Ellershaw called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Minutes were signed from November 9, 2015. Warrants signed. Chapter 90 reimbursement requests for Skyline Trail, Johnson Hill, and Lyon Hill Rd. were signed.
2. Tax Classification Hearing: Due to a hold up out of Boston, the final approval was not received before the hearing time. Gene Bishop explained the process the Assessors went through and stated that the Assessors had voted, and DOR had approved, to stay with a single tax rate for all residential/commercial and industrial property. Splitting the tax rate would put too much of a burden on the business community. Mr. Ellershaw asked what effect the "solar project" was having on the tax rate. Gene responded that it was being taxed as per the terms of the contract. This is not the time to "set" the tax rate, that will come after all the pieces of the recap sheet are completed by the various departments. Voting on the tax classification was continued until 12/14/15.
3. Tax Collector Mary Ann Pease and Treasurer Melissa McGovern had presented a request of approval from the Board to appoint each the Assistant to the other. There is no monetary affect and provides for continuity. Don made a motion to approve the appointments. John seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. Request for Contract Extension on Timber project by Lincoln Fish. This request had been brought up at the 11/9/15 meeting, but there was a question of payment. Payment in full was verified. John moved to approve. Barbara seconded. Unanimous approval to extend completion of project to May 31, 2016.
5. Three bids for heating of the salt shed were reviewed. There were another nine denials. John moved to award the work to Pioneer Plumbing at a cost of \$4,187.46 for both unit and installation. Barbara seconded. Unanimous.
6. Two bids were received for the old plow equipment. Don moved to award Village Truck Sales the winning bidder at \$4,590.00. Barbara seconded. Unanimous.
7. Millings: John Murray had submitted an estimated price from Lane Construction of \$19,350 to crush the leftover millings. Tonlinos gave him a recommendation that this was a reasonable price due to the volume. Before making a decision, the Board would like John to get pricing on the rental of a crusher, and what it would take for our own men to do.

8. Liquor licenses: Don moved to approve the submitted liquor licenses from Chester Village Market and A & L Market for Calendar year 2016. Barbara seconded. Unanimous. The other two outstanding license holder will be notified by Pat that they need to get their requests in before the next meeting.
9. At this time (6:30 PM) a Pole hearing was conducted for Verizon. A representative from Verizon was here to discuss the project. Verizon is looking to put in a new pole at Abbott Hill and Brown to replace one that has broken. This has nothing to do with the CMELD pole, and Verizon will be the sole owner and maintain the pole. Joe S? was in attendance and asked about DSL service. Don explained the process to date. MBI was scheduled to come out on 11/23<sup>rd</sup>, but had asked about changing the date. Pat will make sure and notify Joe when they reschedule.
10. Discussion of School budget; The board was notified by DESE on Monday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, that it should send in any comments/suggestions to the Commissioner, by close of business this same day. Pat sent a note requesting an extension of time due to the late notification, with a copy to Rep Kulik, Rep., Pignatelli, and Sen Downing. This extension was granted for one week. Diane Dunn and Martha Otterbeck from the Chester School committee were in attendance. Discussion focused around future budgets and comments to DESE. Don feels we should argue for 100% reimbursement for State mandates. John believes the DESE needs to look at other alternatives to funding the district. The Board wants to stress that they are not negative on education, but the current trend will become unsustainable. Pat will write a letter to DESE and distribute to Selectboard for approval/comments, etc. and send to DESE, legislators and the other towns. Discussion of new group that has formed. The Board, as well as the school committee members, feel their responsibility is to the town and that forming another board is redundant. Don is tired of hearing other citizens not from Chester "speaking" on behalf of Chester. A possibility of a conference call to made to the new group that was meeting at 7:00 p.m. was not endorsed by either the Board or the School Committee members present.
11. Town Administrator: Pat informed the Board that the BOH and she are working on an "Abandoned House Initiative" that has been developed by the AG's office. She will keep them informed and present something when they have more information. Diane Armitage has asked for permission to use the auditorium for two Scouting events, on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> for a Scout Party and again on March 11, 2016 for the Pinewood Derby. Don moved and Barbara seconded the permission. Unanimous. Pat mentioned that Erica from PVPC was looking again at a couple of projects she would like to present to the Board.
12. Citizens Comments:  
Ed Meecham still unhappy with the ditch clearing that has been done. Doesn't know why we spent monies to create a turnaround on Sovereign Rd. Asked again about DOT coming to measure depth of new pavement on Skyline. Pat responded that DOT will be receiving all the paperwork this week for approval of the Chapter 90 projects, and that part of that approval process will be to calculate how much was taken up and how much was put down, and make

sure it agrees with the specs before approving the projects. In addition he feels there will be drainage problems in different spots due to the inconsistency of even edges. He stated Kinneybrook Rd. is a mess with potholes, in terrible condition. Don was in agreement that he felt not enough was being done by the Highway Department. He is concerned that the crew is just sitting in the garage waiting for snow. He would like to see john submit a priority list of projects instead of a list of what the crew has done. Do they have a daily schedule? He and John feel they have given instruction to John Murray at the meetings but he has not followed through on it. Brush cutting is a big issue and it did not get done. Pat will speak with John M. and ask him to attend the meeting on December 28<sup>th</sup> to evaluate his progress. Barbara felt that if the board had been instructing John on what they wanted done, he should explain why it didn't get done.

John Baldasara moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Don Ellershaw seconded. Unanimous.

Next meeting scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino  
Town Administrator

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Donald Ellershaw, Chairman

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John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

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BarbaraHuntoon, Clerk