

Town of Chester Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals

Minutes

September 17, 2018

1. Chairman Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:00. Minutes of 8/27 and September 10th were reviewed. Ms. Huntoon submitted some corrections to be made to September 10th. Minutes of August 27th were signed. Warrants were signed.
2. Barbara asked about the monthly updates from the Treasurer and Accountant that were supposed to happen. Pat will contact both to see about their availability to come to the BOS meeting.

Barbara brought up the issue of the Transfer Station. The volunteer recyclable person currently in place (Carl) is going to retire soon. Barbara asked that the BOH come into a meeting to speak with the Board about possibly hiring a part time position in his place. Barbara also had a conversation with Norma regarding the pay scale for Dennis LaCourse renegotiating his pay to \$75.00 per hour instead of \$90.00, but hasn't heard back.

John B. spoke to Charlie Hunter from Middlefield. He had let his license expire, but is willing to go get it again. Barbara agreed he should do that.

Barbara would like the HRMC group to come in to talk about the services they can provide in regards to the Transfer Station.

Barbara thanked Steve and Doug for the mowing on East River Rd. that was accomplished so far. Please try to keep up with it to help with the project. Downed tree on East River Rd.? Steve took care of that last week.

1988 Grader? Barbara has a friend in Michigan who said we should at least drive it once per week in the Highway Dept. Drive and that should keep the brakes in order. Steve said he thought we could get parts from Park East.

Steve asked if he could call plowing vendors that were used last year? Barbara said yes. Pat has submitted advertisement.

Steve asked John B. if he had spoken to an Arborist about the tree on Middlefield Rd. John responded that he had and he asked someone to take a look at it.

Lane Construction will be back on Wednesday to continue East River Rd.

3. Steve Cooper, Highway Department: Steve had a number of questions for the board.
 - a. Mowing at the Ballfield: did the board want him to handle it or did they want to handle it. It was unclear. The board stated they would like him to handle it.
 - b. Trees on Skyline Rd. Steve stated he is not a Tree Warden. He did note there is currently one tree on Middlefield that probably needs attention. John B. suggested that he would follow up with an arborist to assess what needs to be done, unless it becomes a public emergency. Steve suggested that the trees on Skyline be allowed to just fall if they are going to, and we will clean them up.
 - c. Culvert on Smith Road. The culvert in question is on private property, on a private roadway leading to a private cemetery. The town originally put the culvert in, but maintenance of the culvert would now fall onto the property owner. Pat to draft a letter to owner.
 - d. East River Rd.: Work has been slowed by an issue with getting the right size trucks to haul, can't use the larger trucks as normal. Lane said it would probably be a 2-3 week delay until the trucks become available, and then they will start again. Rene to call Lane and ask contractor to put in an email any alerts, or issues that come up, not just verbal conversations, so the Board will have a record.
Rene is getting together the International Repairs list in preparation for a conversation with the agent out of Hartford.
Pat to look for original contract under Veh 95 State contract.
Chapter 90 projects: Need to get those out to bid. Pat to check on it. Need itemized bill to date from Lane so as to know about the culvert monies and any available funds.
Grader solution? Not yet.
Salt Bid: Hampshire County has bids.
Put out vendor ad for plowing (Pat)
John B. asked Steve to take a look at Maynard Rd.; bottom is in need of repair.
Ballfield: Can Rec Committee take care of trash at ballfield, or should highway. Barbara suggested to Rec committee that they take care of it.
Water leak on School St. Water shutoffs.

4. BOH. Would like to tweak their fee schedule.

5. Pat to advertise for BOH and School Committee vacancies.

6. Andrew Schiller: Cannabis Proposal

Zach and Andrew Schiller made a power point presentation to the Board and attendees regarding their proposal to establish a cultivation and manufacturing facility on Middlefield Rd. Questions were asked and answered by the Board as well as the audience. The next step in the process would be for them to prepare a Host Agreement for the BOS, and hold a "Public Outreach meeting for all residents/voters. Question of current Host Agreement on file with the State which was for the Quinn Brothers. Pat to check if possible to have it withdrawn. Town Counsel explained that was not necessary. It was suggested that they make certain ascertions in their Host Agreement as to some of the plans they spoke of. Planning Board to come in next time they are coming.

7. Retiring COA Director Susan Kucharski read a memo outlining her recommendation of Peggy Graveline as COA Director based upon 2 applicants. The Search Committee is 100% behind Peggy as well . Rene Senecal made a motion to appoint Peggy Gravelne as COA Director, John Baldasaro 2nd. Unanimous to to approve Peggy Graveline as COA Director.
8. Discussion of Special Town Meeting: Article dealing with Sale of town owned Property. John B. would feel more comfortable with a “Public Sale” then outright sale to Fisheries and Wildlife. We can motion to pass over at the meeting.
9. Dan Ilnicki, Police Chief.

Dan gave an overview of where we are with helping in Blandford. Currently Dan has been appointed as Chief and will spend two Mondays per month at their office to be on hand for gun permits, on his off nights in Chester, plus any mutual aid calls as of 9/3/18. Question, What if you are needed here when in Blandford? Dan will evaluate the situation and call in State Police If needed. B. Daley asked if the schedule in Blandford for officers will mimic the schedule in Chester. Somewhat, Dan will evaluate when necessary.

The Board signed a request to the PVPC asking for a study to be done from DLTA funds for the combination of the two town Police Departments.

Dan reported that the new cruiser was out front for everyone to see.

Town Administrator

Pat submitted two scenarios for the future of the Selectboard office for the Board to look at, review, and comment sometime In the future.

Citizens Comments:

Pam Zebrowski commented that for the future, the “Community Outreach Meetings” for the Cannibas proposals be done prior to the BOS signing a Host Agreement.

Annette LaMountain commented that she had heard that the Chester Inn was going to be torn down and wanted the Board to know that the Historic Commission would be very upset with this. The Board explained there has been no talk of the Inn being torn down. It is currently condemned by the BOH, who are working with the owner to rectify its deficiencies.

Bob Daley: Finance Committee met earlier to discuss the Auditor’s report and the STM. Suggestion that a public hearing be held next year before the Annual Town Election to explain the urgency of changing elected positions to appointed positions.

10. John B. made a motion to refuse Chester’s Right of First Refusal for property owned by Scoyt Gillinghast located at XXXXXXXXXXX. Rene Senecal 2nd, unanimously approved.

Jason Fogue asked about grants, eminent domain takings for property across from the ballfield Barbara said she had spoken with Mr. Lyhle, who would like to sell the property, but told him a sale is not feasible for the town at this time.

Questions regarding Audit report.

Are the treasurer/accountant working together? Yes

Is treasurer using the cashbook? Yes

Is Accountant working with CMELD Manager? Yes

Auditor Scanlon will help us to write off approximately \$12,000 of undesignated funds, working through the Bureau of Accounts.

School committee? Discussion of weighted votes. One Chester member has moved away and resigned. Pat to advertise for a new member.

Assistant Building Inspector: How much is for them to do? Does Jason want the job now?

Yes. John Baldasaro moved to appoint Jason Fogue as Asst. Building Inspector, Rene S. seconded. Unanimous.

Rene motioned to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. John B. seconded. Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino

Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Rene Senecal, Clerk

BOS minutes 9/10/18