

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

**Minutes**

**October 15, 2018**

**In attendance: Board Members, Town Administrator, Katherine Warden, and various members of the public**

1. Chairman Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:00. Minutes of 9/24 and 10/1/18 were signed. Warrants were signed.
2. John Baldasaro reported that White Wolf has been here in town with their grader, doing work on the following roads: Smith, Maynard, Abbott, and back to Smith again. Will concentrate on Lyman, Round Hill, Engell, and Melville next. East River Rd. is coming along good, but the rain is not helping.
3. It was decided that Doug Noel will bring the International and the check down to Nutmeg as soon as he is able and has another man to follow him.
4. Jason Fogue had sent a letter asking the board to approve the exemption under Sec 20D, that would allow him to hold more than one appointed position within the town. John B. made the motion. Rene seconded. Unanimous

John B. then asked the board to make the same exemption for himself, as he will be taking over as Highway Superintendent on Nov. 1. Barbara made a motion to approve the exemption for John B, Rene seconded. John B. abstained. Unanimous.

6:20 p.m. At this time Chairman Huntoon moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations. On a roll call, John B. aye, Rene S., aye, Barbara H. aye. The board will reconvene in public session immediately after.

Katherine Warden Employment Agreement:

Pat had forwarded an existing employment agreement to Barbara for a starting point. It was the one used for the Town Administrator's position before her. Pat does not have an agreement in place with the Board.

It was pretty standard, except for a few changes regarding hours and pay, vacation time credited upon hiring, and length of contract. Pat will make changes, send out to Katherine for signature and then she can bring it back next time she is here. Katherine indicated she would begin attending the BOS meetings on a weekly basis to learn about her new position.

At 6:50 p.m. the Board moved to close the executive session and go back into public session. On a roll call, John B. Aye., Rene S. Aye, Barbara H., Aye.

5. Walkability Report: Dave Pierce, from Wild and Scenic, Sarah Baker from Collaborative.org Krysten Archs, and Corrine from PVPC, and Patty Gamberini attended the meeting and presented the Board with the Chester Downtown Walkability Assessment report, which was prepared by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for Healthy Hampshire and the Town of Chester. The report contains various long and short term recommendations that can be made by the town, for each segment. Sarah Baker also distributed a pamphlet entitled CHESTER WALKS, which outlines various walking routes within town, and the benefits of walking. Patty Gamberini displayed a map of the routes, and the reasons they chose for them. The next step is to obtain help and support from various agencies, such as Mass DOT, to further expand on these activities, as well as apply for grants that might be available. The group will keep the Board informed as to their efforts. The Board thanked them for their efforts to date and will look over the report.
6. At this time Ronnie, from White Wolf came into the meeting and reiterated what John B. had told the Board earlier. Tonolino is billing us for material only.
7. The Board looked over resumes that had come in for the Highway Truckdriver Laborer position. John B. recommended that they interview three of the applicants. Pat will set up interviews for October 29, 2018.
8. At this time Rene Senecal gave the Board his resignation as a member of the Board, effective November 1, 2018. He will be moving out of town and has checked with the State as to his status. Barbara read his letter and stated he would be missed. The Board will not seek to have a special election, but will wait until the Annual Town election in May to add board member. At that time the seat can be filled immediately due to the vacancy. Bob Daley wishes Rene the best and thanked him for his time on the board.
9. Discussion of Tree Lighting ceremony. The ceremony will take place on Friday, November 23, 2018 at 6:30 at the Tree, with refreshments to follow at the Town Hall.

#### Town Administrator

Pat informed the Board that the office will be closed Wednesday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, due to a conference she is attending.

Pat informed the Board that the town had received an offer from Fish and Game for the approximately 55 acres of Slocum Property on Skyline Trail. John B. did not feel that the "appraisal" done by Fish and Game was certain enough to sell. How did they come up with this acreage? The Assessors have the property at 26 acres. His concern is that we might be selling property that doesn't really belong to the town. Pat to check further and report back.

Lane Construction Bills : The board instructed Pat to hold up on payment of the bills until the job is completed and we know how much chapter 90 monies we are going to have to use.

Barbara stated she had researched some of the towns around us to see what their BOH fees were in comparison to Chester, and feels ours are out of whack. She then read some of the

other towns fees. She stated she had tried to call Norma regarding an issue at the Train Station, but had not heard back. She also had left her cell phone and home phone numbers but had not heard back. Rene stated that he had to have an inspection done at his home and there was an issue with the inspector not coming as scheduled. Now resolved. Barbara also said she had checked with Charlie Hunter about his license, but he does not have one at this time.

Barbara asked Pat if she had advertised for the transfer station attendant for the recyclables. Pat stated no, but would make sure that got in this week. 7 hrs. week times 52 weeks at 12.00 per hour.

Citizens comments:

Tom Beck: Asked the question regarding a tie vote if only two Selectmen on the Board. Barbara answered that the Town clerk then makes the third vote, after being informed of the question.

There being no other business before the board Rene moved to adjourn, John seconded. Unanimous. Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino

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Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

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John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

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Rene Senecal, Clerk