

**Town of Chester Board of Selectmen
Water Commissioners and Zoning Board of Appeals
Monday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m.
Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA**

John opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Town Administrator and Country Journal recorded the meeting. Warrants discussed and signed. John explained the Board was restructured at the last meeting held in Blandford before the Police Shared Services Meeting

New Business

Review FY2019 Budget Transfers – John said the list of accounts were ones that had a shortfall and would need the transfers to balance them for the end of the fiscal year. Kathe asked if there was no objection to any of the transfers there needed to be a vote and signing of the transfer list for the Town Accountant. Barbara made a motion to approve all of the transfers; James seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Old Business

Continued discussion of formation of Water Study Committee - James said he has a preliminary list for potential Committee membership. John suggested James make the list an odd number for a count of five. Both Barbara and John said the Committee is a good idea. James would like to meet with Rich Gullick from RCAP to have a standalone public meeting. Meeting to be arranged.

Town Administrator update

Continued discussion & review of project scope of services for Town Hall Doors by Hill Engineering – Dan Downer couldn't make the meeting but will be at the August 12 meeting.

Kathe updated the Select Board on the following:

- The roof was leaking in Town Hall auditorium so Tech Roofing will be out tomorrow to make repairs. Kathe noted plaster has fallen in a small area and after the theatre season is over it will need to be addressed.
- MIIA grants were released and due by November 8, 2019.
- Eversource sent a notice for a hearing for pole replacement. John said to schedule it for a regular meeting.
- Louis Magni would like to continue his appeal for his sheds. Kathe will schedule both for August 26.
- A performance bond was asked for Vocational Transportation Bid, but the sole bidder, Lecrenski Brothers, is asking for a wave in the bond as it would cost the contract an extra \$4500 per year. John said the performance bond is usually for companies we haven't done business with before, but since the town has a positive history with Lecrenski, he believes it is fine to wave the performance bond. Barbara agreed.
- Kathe will draw up a 'disposal of surplus equipment' policy and draw up a procurement policy for departments to have the Selectboard sign-off on. The policy will ensure the Selectboard will be aware of purchases. After some discussion, \$3,500.00 is agreed upon as the amount above which the Selectboard will need to sign-off on.

Dept & Committee Updates

Highway update –

-John shared a letter from Environmental Partners group about the Prospect St, Lower Prospect St, and Soisalo Rd project. He explained Environmental Partners would like to do a full depth reclamation (FDR) for the project. Since it would be very costly to do the entire project as FDR, John prefers overlay with FDR where necessary. This will save the Town from having the road blasted. John stated since it isn't a high traffic area it doesn't make sense to spend that kind of money on those roads. John believes since it will need so much drainage the funds would be better spent in that area. John said when the project gets closer Environmental Partners will come out for inspection and discussion.

– Brushing cutting has begun on Skyline and Bromley and will continue throughout town. Once brush cutting is finished, the crew will start on ditch-cleaning.

-Chapter 90 requests will be going out in the next week for Johnson Hill, Middlefield Road, and Skyline Trail.

-East River Road is being repaired by the contractor and John will review the repairs at the end of the week.

-Barbara asked about the hiring of a fourth highway person. Kathe said there were two more people who will be sending in resumes and she sent the listing to the VA for posting on their job site.

-Salt bid is \$55.00 a ton

-Sand bid is \$10.10 a ton

-Solar project should start on August 1, 2019

Transfer Station -

James will ask the treasurer for the payroll records for the Transfer Station, due to inquiries about how many hours were appropriated for the hours worked there. James asked if the jersey barriers are going to be delivered. John said he was going to talk to DOT about their inventory.

Public Comments and Questions

Bob Tingley of 26 Main Street said the river is overgrown with trees near the Main Street bridge. He stated it is a public safety issue and is concerned with the amount of silt building up. There is a lot of brush building up against the piers of the bridge. John said he will look into it.

Bob Daley asked when the meeting with RRG was going to be with Laura and Kathe. Kathe said she was waiting for RRG to get back to her about the time. Bob asked if it would be open to the public and John said anyone could attend. Bob asks who can legally hire the consulting firm and if the Town has a legal opinion about it. John said once there is a full Board of Assessors, they will handle the decision-making for who is hired.

Bob Daley asked if the GRSD Regional Agreement is completed. John said two communities still haven't signed the agreement and the facilitated meetings will continue into the next year.

Bob said he read the School Committee meeting minutes and saw a search committee for a new Superintendent would be formed in the next year. He expressed hope community members be involved with the search. A discussion followed about the enrollment dropping at Gateway.

Jason Forgue said there needs to be the water line replacement at the ballfield. John said the work can be done when the kids are done with the field. Jason would like to see more water outlets added and John said that can be done. Jason said the Recreation Committee has added horseshoe pits and cornhole boards. All agreed the whole area is looking great.

Board of Health - Liz Massa said BOH has been very busy. They have added another day of office hours on the 2nd & 4th Fridays from 5:00-7:00pm. Charles Kaniecki, Claudia Lucas, and Bob Lavigne (as a backup) have all been added to the Health Agent list. The cost for these agents is less than previous agents. Liz is reviewing the BOH fee structure. Transfer Station is going well. Anthony Turgeon notified Liz that he is available on Wednesdays now for per diem work at the Transfer Station.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn at 7:50pm and James seconded the motion, all voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted

Katherine Warden

John Baldasaro – Chair

Barbara P. Huntoon - Vice

James Higby -Clerk

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