

TOWN OF CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN/WATER COMMISSIONERS/ZONING BOARD OF APPEAL
MINUTES
APRIL 25, 2016

Chairman Ellershaw opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of April 11, 2016 were approved.

Warrant signed.

1. Jamie Bartok, from PVPC was present to provide a brief public presentation regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan currently being worked on. She explained its purpose (which is to put us in line for possible mitigation monies). In order to be eligible for funds we must have an approved plan in place. This plan is to work on mitigation plans in the event of a natural disaster. Once finished, a draft plan will be sent to MEMA/FEMA for approval. Once it is approved we can then apply for grant monies.
2. East River Rd. Robert Johnson and Olwen Dowling appeared before the board with a letter they had sent to our legislators regarding the project for East River Rd. that was included in the 2014 transportation bond bill, but to date not funded. They informed the board that they had met with various representatives of Mass DOT, and were here to submit to the board a "Project Need Form", which they were told needed to be filled out and submitted to Mass Highway ASAP. Bob and Olin asked what they could do to help with the process and Chairman Ellershaw stated the best thing was for them to keep in contact with our legislators. Pat will fill out the form and send it in ASAP, and go from there. We will wait to see if our engineering plans for the project are still acceptable, or if they need further attention.
3. Comcast Representative Eileen Leahey: the board had asked for a representative to come to a meeting to discuss whether or not Comcast had fulfilled its contractual obligations. Mr. Ellershaw felt there were some areas that build out had occurred sufficient under the contract to allow for expansion, but was not sure it had been done. Ms. Leahey asked for the Board to send her a letter or email stating the pole locations under review and she will have her construction department come out and take a look. Mr. Ellershaw stressed the importance of buildout, and Ms. Huntoon reiterated that fact, pointing out that it was now becoming an issue before someone bought a house, as well as those trying to sell their house, in Chester, with no DSL, no wireless internet, etc. Pat will work with Jill (CMELD) to ascertain the pole locations and get them to her. Mr. Baldasaro, who could not attend the meeting, was reached by phone so that he could be part of the discussion.

4. John Murray: Highway Department: John gave his overview of East River Rd., and what could be done for the time being while we wait for the project to be approved. He suggested doing a full depth reclamation w/fine grade of compaction on 1 mile of road (worst part) (est. cost of \$20,650. If we did two miles, bottom and top, and then fill pot holes in between, it would of course be approximately \$41,300. Selectboard will need to consider how much Chapter 90 they can afford to set aside for this project and will discuss again.

He reported that the Nutmeg repairs over the last 3 to 4 years amounted to approximately \$19,000. He then gave the board an estimate for a mini excavator/with trade in of \$10,000, for a net cost of \$35,000, as an option. Barbara questioned the \$35,000 figure that had been given before. John explained that this was a trade in and he agreed to collect some estimates again of what an outright sale would be should we decide to sell the big excavator, and come back to the board.

5. Smith Road. Mr. Ellershaw gave an overview of his and John Murray's meeting with the Keith family at their property. The Keith's feel the town has done certain things to their property over the years that the town should be responsible to fixing. After looking at what they were pointing out, both Don and John felt that the Highway Dept. could help them out by restoring the stone wall and making some repairs to their property. Both he and John felt that there is little we can do about the water running onto their property, since they live on a hill, and indicated that the water was not running into their meadow, but actually emptied out into a brook on the property. Don suggested we try to make some repairs to the property, take some of the material away that had been pushed onto their property over the years, fix the stone wall. Their lawyer asked for some kind of a plan within 30 days. John M. will work something up to present to the board for approval.
6. The board was presented an e-mail string from Mr. David Olcutt regarding road conditions on Abbott and Bromley. John M. said they were in the process of filling potholes, had done some already and will be continuing again.
7. Brian Farr: Brian was here to present to the board a suggestion for an "Historic road sign for Old Route 20". Currently there is a bill in the House asking to place signs on Route 20 as historic, in addition they would like permission to put up smaller signs on those roads that were originally part of the Old route 20. He asked the board for permission to locate one or two signs on Old State Rd., where they can be seen, but not "on" route 20. After discussion of where they could go the Don moved approval to place 1 or 2 signs on Old State Rd., after the Police Department is consulted. One at the intersection of Rte 20 and Old State Rd., and one near the Hunington line. Barbara 2nd. Unanimous.
8. Mower Agreement: the questions asked at the last meeting were answered. At this time, given the fact of John M.'s request for the mini excavator, Don suggested that he should figure out which one he wanted more, the excavator, or the mower, since he probably would not be able to get both. Barbara then asked why CMELD can't just mow for the Town. Discussion was then held as to how CMELD operates, who they report to, etc. Barbara asked if Jill, the manager, and

possibly one of her board members, could come to a BOS meeting to speak to this issue, as Barbara is new, and would like to understand the interaction between CMELD and the Town. Pat will speak to Jill and ask that they attend. At this time the mower project is on hold. The possibility remains that a mower could be added to a mini excavator, if we were to purchase one.

John Murray also relayed that the grader was now out for repairs and the 350 is due back soon. Discussion also of Lyman Rd, Sovereign.

9. Junk license for Barry Pease. Barbara moved to approve. Don 2nd. Unanimous after Don confirmed that Mr. Pease had had a junk license In the past.
10. Ambulance Agreement: Barbara would like the ability to question the Ambulance again before she is comfortable with signing the new agreement. Pat will ask that they come into the next meeting. Barbara would also like Richie to attend.
11. Resolution to Gov. Baker regarding broadband coverage drafted by town of Heath. Although it was determined that it wouldn't hurt, as Don pointed out, Chester is not in the same situation as Heath as Chester is already partially wired. It was suggested that Pat reword the resolution to reflect Chester's position, and then present it to the Board for signature, rather than Annual town Meeting.
12. Generator maintenance agreement: the Maintenance agreement for the Water plant generator will be put back on for May 9th discussion when John is here. Pat will ask Bernie to attend.
13. Request to towns for use of "program income" for demolition of 37 Middlefield Rd. the letter was sent out last week. Pat to check with Erica if we have heard anything yet.
14. Discussion of Library plans. Letters have been sent to Mr. Long regarding his property. There has been no response. Currently the property is assessed at approximately \$340,000, which is probably what we would have to offer if we were to take it by eminent domain. Pat reported that he felt the Library had already looked at the property and found it unsuitable. Should we ask the Library Commissioners in to a meeting again and discuss their efforts? Barbara felt it would be beneficial. Pat will ask them to come in.
15. Pat reported that the new "culvert program", which Don was informed of at a February MMA "breakfast meeting", is not yet active. John M. is attending a Superintendent's meeting this week and will find out specifics on this.

Citizens Comment

Mike Hickson reported that there had been some kids hanging out at the Cooper Rd. house now owned by the town. Pat will inform Police Dept.

Rene Senacal commented on a new bridge program coming in 2017.

Tom Beck had questions on the mower/ renting equipment vs buying, also on Comcast discussion.

Ed Meecham: Feels CMELD should do all the mowing. Don suggested that he make sure and vote for candidate who reflects his feelings.

Barbara moved to adjourn at 8:42. Don 2nd. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino
Town Administrator

Donald Ellershaw, Chairman

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, Clerk