

Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals
Minutes
August 22, 2016

John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

1. John Murray: Highway Department

John reported various activities being carried out over the last two week period. Potholes, mowing, weed whacking, revision of Chapter 90 projects, water shut offs.

After measuring Campbell Rd., it was determined that the town street list as per the State list, extends approximately 360' past Preston Webb's driveway. John said that the highway department could clear, grade and add millings to the remaining portion of the road length as approved and certified by the town.

There have been various problems with vehicles which are in the process of being taken care of. We have been notified by Allstate paving and Lane Construction that the Johnson Hill rd. project and the ERR project approved by Mass DOT are scheduled for the second week in September. Short discussion of Keith property. John M. does not feel comfortable promising anything more than what was initially proposed to the Keith's. Feels if he gets started and has to change something for road safety, he wants the flexibility to do so.

Discussion of TAC representative: In Hampden county, it is known as the JTC representative. Pat is working with PVPC to understand exactly who is on the committee, and whether Chester needs to have their own representative on that committee.

John B. asked to have Judy Pickett review the procurement laws for the proposed Chapter 90 projects submitted this evening to make sure we are complying with the law.

Comcast response to our question. John B. explained that the response is not really what we are asking for. We need to assure Comcast's adherence to the contract with regards to the build out requirements under Art. 3.1a of the contract. Pat will double check and address this with Comcast again.

Traffic counters: After contacting various people and agencies, we were directed back to the PVPC. The board agreed to pay the \$300.00 for the extra traffic counter in order to get the results needed to try to recategorize ERR for future road projects.

Barbara asked about oil bids for this 16-17 year. Pat reported they would be bidding out shortly.

We received notice from Christine Hatch of Masstech on behalf of Peter Larkin that MBI had signed a contract with Comcast for the long anticipated extension of broadband coverage. More details will follow at a later date.

Christine Lee, Hampden St.: Request for reimbursement of \$200.00 for thawing out pipes at her home during the winter of 2015. She had requested this some time ago, but the board had not acted upon her request. After discussion, it was determined that it was indeed the town's problem with the pipes in the road, and that we should be responsible. Barbara moved to reimburse Ms. Lee \$200.00 through a credit on her water bill. Rene seconded. Unanimous.

Ed Meecham: Believes the highway department missed quite a few culverts to clean up on Skyline, as well as other roads. John M. suggested Mr. Meecham just call him. He would be thankful to know this so he can follow up with the men. Skyline trail, there is a spot that is somewhat dangerous and should have some cones around it because of a big drop due to a soft edge to the road. Feels the mower hasn't seen much use. John M. explained it had been in use off and on between potholes, etc.

Question as to how long the summer help will be here. Until the end of Summer. John M. said they are actively looking for a blower, getting prices. Rene asked about getting a price to clean out the culverts rather than us doing them.

Tom Beck feels some of the culverts will be hard to clean due to the asphalt ditches. Blower will not be able to handle. Lots of sand, more cutting needed. Tom suggested that road plans in the garage may be able to pinpoint culverts.

Ed mentioned that the Upper Bromley looks good.

Wilma Foley mentioned problem with Abbott Hill getting washed out along Taft Rd. John M. will check it out.

Bob Johnson, Olin Dowling: Bob asked about the plans for ERR and how the work is progressing. As stated, we hope the first project (from Middlefield line) will be started by mid September, as per the contractors on the project. It was mentioned that culvert work will have to be done before they start. John M. and Rene explained exactly what the process was that is going to take place, ie; full depth reclamation at one end, and then a base overlay at the other end. We are also applying for a Massworks project of up to 1 million for the 4.5 miles in the middle. If we don't receive it we will have to come back next year and find other ways to complete. We are also involved with the Complete Streets program, which hopefully will bolster our request for funds.

Barbara asked about the culvert on Old State Rd. At this time we have not pursued any particular project request. There is another new bridge program out that we will look into. Rene suggested we call Mark Moore at DOT about the details.

Rene asked about the Personnel policy currently in place in Chester. Pat reported that it has not changed since she started and that she would like to work on updating, etc., but has not had the

time available. Rene then asked about the cell phone policy. Pat will check into it for the next meeting.

Barbara moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Rene seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Carlino
Town Administrator

John Baldasaro, Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, V. chairman

Rene Senecal, Clerk