

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

Minutes
September 14, 2015

Chairman Ellershaw opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Warrants and minutes of August 24th signed.

John Murray: Highway: (see list) John gave overview of activities over the last couple of weeks. Skyline Road work will begin September 22 and take approximately 4 days. There will be one lane closure as well as delays. Will advertise this. New truck will not be available until December, so is getting Mach all fixed up and in shape for winter.

Discussion of placement to stockpile millings from Skyline for Johnson Rd. and Lyon Hill. Various possibilities which John will look into. Also he has rented a Bobcat to help with the ditches on Skyline.

Discussion with Clear Span regarding repair of roofing material not going anywhere.

Selectboard asked John to send registered letter to them to try to put some pressure on them.

Don asked that in addition to John M. reports of what has been done, to add what future tasks are coming up and to prioritize them. Barbara asked about brush cutting on Bromley Rd.

John will check it out. Generator coming on Tuesday. Pole barn coming along.

Sue Kucharski: COA director: Sue is looking to take advantage of a Senior Work off person if there is still a position available. After discussion it was determined that there are still two openings. This position would help with the "mealsite" that would be in the COA. The Town of Huntington has discontinued its mealsite, but Highland Valley would continue cooking and delivery, while it looks for a new site. This project would require someone for cleaning, organizing, and overseeing the meal days, as well as some general office work. Sue has a few of the seniors that would be willing and able to fill this position. John suggested using the "train station", Don suggested one of the churches. Discussion was held regarding accessibility issues. Barbara moved to allow a Senior Work off position in the COA, John B. seconded. Unanimous.

Cheryl Provost, Town Clerk: Cheryl has concerns over how she is receiving information for new appointments. Pat will research for old appointment letters and reinstitute them going forward. She is also having trouble accessing the internet through her laptop and didn't know who to call. Pat will call Bob Rock, the IT fellow we have been using to see if he can help. She also would like her warrants for any Town Meetings to be done on long paper that will fit into her "warrant" book. She then had questions about whether we have an "assistant treasurer" at this time. We do not. And there is no money in the budget for paying an assistant treasurer at this time. Discussion as to back up in case of illness or vacation. Currently we work around it.

Bernie St. Martin, Water Dept. Bernie could not attend the meeting but asked Pat to relay to the board that 1., no one can apprentice that does not have either a D-1 or T-1 license. If the Selectboard would like to create a position for the future then we should sit down and come up with a description, etc. John suggested we contact Blandford and Hinsdale to get their feeling on a "joint" position, since Bernie now takes care of all three. Pat to send letter to towns. This would allow all three towns to prepare for the future when Bernie decides to retire. John then encouraged both Eric Freniere (present) and Steve Cooper (who had sent a letter of interest) to continue to pursue getting their licenses in an effort to plan for the future.

Pat announced the oil bid was awarded to O'Connell Oil at 2.24 per gal. for the 2015-2016 season. Barbara noted that she was currently paying less than that and that maybe we should not be locking in. After much discussion Barbara made a motion to cancel the locked in pricing bid and place an order at current pricing, then go out to bid again for the rest of the year. John seconded. Unanimous. Pat will contact O'Connell Oil in the morning to cancel the bid and start over.

Citizens Comments: Ed Meecham wondered why we are so late with the bidding. It was explained that we were not late, but we were subject to the calendar set forth by the contractors. They are coming 9/22 and then again mid October. John B also suggested we should be looking at adding material to the project to add to the blacktopping. Currently we have approximately \$143,000 left in Chapter 90 funds. Will need to check with Kathy Stevens regarding the changes. John M. will call.

Tom Beck was concerned there was geo text on Johnson Road, and they should be careful not to rip it up.

Discussion about millings. There should be about 40 loads from Skyline which should more than take care of what we need, leaving some to do Holcomb, Crane, and Kinnebrook. John M. will look into hot patch on Middlefield/Skyline to repair.

Erik Freniere: Was present and reported that Mike Bell may be retiring, and Erik may take over Tae kwan do, not sure yet. Asked about costs, rent, etc. For future discussion.

John moved to adjourn, Barbara seconded. Unanimous adjournment at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia D. Carlino
Town Administrator

Donald Ellershaw, Chair

John Baldasaro, V. Chair

Barbara Huntoon, Clerk