

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

Minutes

July 13, 2015

Present: J. Baldasaro, D. Ellershaw, B. Huntoon, E. Meecham, G. Watters, P. Zebrowski, M. Hickson, J. Murray, B. Downer

Chairman John Baldasaro called the meeting to order and welcomed new board member Barbara Huntoon.

Minutes of 6/22/15 were signed and warrants signed.

John then entertained a motion for reorganization of the Board. He moved Donald Ellershaw as Chairman. Barbara seconded. Unanimous. Barbara then moved John Baldasaro as Vice Chairman, Don 2nd. Unanimous. John moved Barbara as Clerk, Don 2nd. Unanimous.

John Murray: Highway. John gave a description of work that has been done over the last few weeks, with potholes, culverts, tree work, grading. The new Administrative Assistant Roseanne has started. Still dealing with Clear Span on the damage to the Mixing shed roof. Chapter 90 roadwork will be done beginning the first of August.

Pat brought up the problem of finding a replacement for Art Lindberg, who installs the water meters. Ad in the paper did not produce any applicants. After discussion it was decided that the Highway Department could learn from Art how to process. Pam Z. explained it only was needed sporadically throughout the year, but it was helpful if someone was available when needed. Pat will check with Dave Pierce before informing the Highway. Also Pam brought up subject of their being an issued with Tribeca and the shut off. Pat will research the study PVPC had done a few years ago to see if we can locate the shutoffs.

John B. then said he would like to revisit the 1 year appointment made for John Murray. He feels that John M. has proved his worth, and the appointment of 3 years vs. 1 year was justified. John B. made a motion to appoint John Murray to the position of Highway Superintendent for a 3 year term. Barbara seconded. Don Ellershaw is opposed but would like the minutes to reflect that it has nothing to do with Mr. Murray. John B. yes, Barbara H. yes. Don then read the list of 2016 additional appointments, which are:

Planning Board: Gene Bishop
Historical Commission: Annette LaMountain
Conservation Commission: Patricia Carlino, William Guazzo, John Vanheyningen.
John 2nd. Unanimous

Veterans Services: Pat reported that she had been in contact with the Northampton Service Agency regarding joining their group. Hopefully she will have a contract by next meeting to sign. The cost is approximately \$3,500 more per year, but will be done correctly, and in a timely manner for not only the veterans, but for the Town's reimbursements.

Franklin D. Hamilton Scholarship. We had one applicant who sent in a request, sorry for being so late. We do have monies left from this year. John moved to award \$1,000 to Walker Lee, attending Westfield State University. Barbara 2nd. Unanimous.

U of NH invoice/letter: This is an ongoing issue regarding the lateness of billing for this report. The board felt that the filer missed the deadline, it is now two years later, and they do not feel they should pay the bill. Pat will check with Dan LaPrade from the state, to see exactly when report was done, and where it is.

Citizens comments:

Mr. Robert Downer, Abbot Hill Rd., was in inquiring about his property and whether it is buildable or not. Sent him out to speak with John Murray. Board advised him to see the Assessors to ask what he was paying for, either a buildable lot, or not.

Ed Meecham: Wondered about the lower end of Skyline, could the excavator be used there? Don had talked to John M. about that. John asked Pat to ask John M. if he would "try" the excavator on Skyline.

Mike from the Country Journal told the Board he would be leaving (retiring) sometime soon.

John B. moved to adjourn., Don 2nd. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino
Town Administrator

Donald Ellershaw, Chairman

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Barbara Pease Huntoon, Clerk