

Town of Chester

Board of Selectmen

Monday, December 14, 2015

Minutes

Chairman Donald Ellershaw opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Warrants and minutes of 11/30/15 were approved and signed.

1. Tax Classification hearing that had been continued from Nov. 30th Being that the Selectboard had already talked with the Assessors at their last meeting, where there was not a quorum, but where the Assessors had recommended to stay with a single tax classification, John B. moved to keep the 2016 tax rate at a single rate, Barbara Huntoon 2nd. Unanimous.
2. There were two additional liquor licenses to approve: Roscoe's and Bluenote. Don moved to approve the two licenses. John 2nd. Unanimous
3. John Murray: John presented list of activity over the last couple of weeks, as well as projects planned for the upcoming two weeks. The Board spoke of the need for brush cutting again, and after discussion they explained to John exactly what they meant, since John was unclear with what they were trying to get done. After explaining where it was needed, and how it used to be done John M. said he understood and would follow through with their instructions. He also is still looking into "crushing" of the millings left over from the Chapter 90 projects. Northig finalized yet.
4. Harry Phelps project: Mr. Phelps presented to the Board his plan to renovate and rehabilitate a piece of property on Rte. 20 that had been vacant for many years. After discussion it was recommended to Mr. Phelps that he approach the Assessors and the Building Inspector for more information regarding the property. Mr. Phelps left, but came back a little later in the meeting to report that "it was a little more involved then what he thought" so he would not be pursuing the project at this time.
5. Erica Johnson, PVPC: Public Forum: Erica was here to speak about the 2016 CDBG grants. Chester will be applying for one on their own, for potential projects such as Hampden St., Senior Center Needs Assessment, Middlefield Rd Sidewalk Improvements and Prospect St. & Soisalo Rd Drainage issues. In addition Chester will also be included in the Regional application for Housing Assistance, Economic Development Rehabilitation, Planning, and public social services. She stated that Hampden St. was not looking like it would go, due to income levels on the street, but will continue to pursue it. Erica will be back on January 11th for the Public Hearing on these grant applications. Don then explained that he and Pat had met with Sharyn ??, regarding the

researching for other grants that could help us with roads, etc., but that she didn't seem very positive about the possibility.

6. Andy Myers: Andy was here to give us information regarding the GTECH group that has been meeting. He feels that Chester should be represented. Spoke about Smitty Pignatelli's plan of shared services that is currently being adopted in Berkshire County. Smitty has apparently proposed this to the GRSD area towns also. There may be some grant monies available. Pat to call Smitty's office to find out details. Andy will still continue to monitor GTECH and keep Selectboard informed. Barbara explained to him their feeling was that GTECH might just be another layer and that they felt there were enough groups already in place to deal with this situation. Pat will forward copy of our letter to Andy Myers as an FYI.

At this time (6:59 p.m.) John B. moved to adjourn the meeting to the auditorium to conduct the 7:00 p.m. Zoning Board hearing, and to come back up at the conclusion to finish the Selectboard business. Barbara 2nd, Unanimous.

Don called the meeting back to order at 7:30 p.m.

Town Administrator:

Boarding up of two town owned properties. Board voted to take under advisement.

Water Dept. Bernie received one bid for catwalk. Board voted to the under advisement

Pat apprised the board that Senator Ben Downing would be holding a public forum at the Chester Town Hall on January 11th, from 2 – 4.

Pat discussed the possibility of having a Special Town Meeting to deal with the school issue once we are notified by the DESE of what we have to pay. Cannot set the tax rate without that. John B. suggested that we may not be able to set the rate for awhile, that this had happened before.

John B. asked that we notify Comcast to come in to a meeting to discuss the current contract. Don asked that we notify MBI to come in to a meeting to discuss future plans.

John moved to adjourn. Barbara 2nd. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned t 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino, Town Administrator

Donald Ellershaw, Chairman

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, Clerk