

Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Board of Appeals
Minutes of 6/4/18

Chairman Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Rene Senecal participated remotely by telephone.

1. Sue Volrath came in for Right of First Refusal regarding a piece of property on Bromley Rd. Barbara moved, John seconded. Unanimous.
2. Jason Costa: Mr. Costa was here to introduce himself and talk about outdoor cannabis cultivation in Chester. We should be thinking about it. CCC regulations will be similar to indoor, have rules that are friendly to farmers. Barbara asked why outdoor vs. indoor. Jason explained some of the differences. While he did not have a plan as yet, he is looking at Middlefield as well. Rene asked about the procedures. Approval process is the same for either indoor cultivation or outdoor cultivation.
3. Peter Stroganoff has asked if he could purchase a laptop out of transfer expenses so that he can prepare a spread sheet to better record vehicle stickers and bags. The board agreed with his request.
4. The Board requested that Pat write a letter to our Reps. and Senators regarding the new DEP policy of not sending out help "on premise". We are a small water system and from time to time need some technical help. DEP has informed us that we should be looking to "partner" with an engineering firm for our help.
5. Discussion of NEFF suit. What has it cost? Too much. John B. stated he would not pay any further legal bills in regards to this suit. We are not going to win and instructed Pat to contact Tom Mullins, town counsel, and give him that message, and to ask the Assessors to rethink their position.
6. Snow & Ice: The Board voted to enact a policy for the use of Snow Removal Salaries. Barbara moved that this account be used "only" for Highway Department Overtime starting with the first snow storm each year. Rene seconded. Unanimous.
7. At this time Cheryl Provost attended the meeting. John B. had questions for Bev Cooper, accountant, but she had already left the building. John asked Cheryl about balancing and reconciling with Bev, how was that coming. Cheryl indicated that they had not sat down together as yet, but will leave each other notes. After much discussion Barbara made a motion to terminate Bev Cooper, Rene seconded. Unanimous. Pat asked about timing of dismissal,

being the end of the fiscal year, but the board was unanimous that it be effective immediately. Rene suggested advertising in the MMA, as well as locally. Pat to contact Bev and ask her to turn in her keys and passwords. John suggested calling PVPC about temporary accountant help. Hours for permanent replacement should be under 20, between 10-15.

8. John Murray, Highway Department: Representatives from Nutmeg International were here to speak with the Board regarding the repairs/money that has been spent on the International Truck to date. The truck was purchased off a state contract. There have been numerous issues with the truck. The company does not make the engine anymore. Question was asked if others who bought the same truck have had these issues. Chris answered that there have been some. International's response to Nutmeg was that they have a "huge" maintenance budget. John B. asked "Why don't they just replace them?". Emissions system a problem (electronics?) If we continue to have issues he would consider to move on. John B. stated we had to resolve this we will not continue to pay for repairs. Chris will speak with the Navistar rep, get some sort of commitment from Navistar (All upgrades have been done). We will continue to use the truck while Chris speaks with those involved and see what they say. What is Nutmeg willing to do to get us out of this truck? John B. looking to negotiate something. We need a long term resolution. Jason Forgue mentioned that the town of Huntington has the same engine. And they pay \$99.00 for regular maintenance.
9. Adrienne Johnson: Needs insurance binder from MIIA (received) for Mr. Long. The proposed Farmers Market has been changed to the "Chester Summer Market". Hours will be 8 am to 12:30 p.m. every other Sunday for 9 Sundays. Norma has guidelines and will speak with Adrienne about them. Currently there are 19 vendors signed up. Monies collected will be for bleachers and playset at the ball field. She will notify paper with press release for website and others.
10. 10. Board of Health: Norma attended to introduce the newest BOH member, Morgan Jacquemin. She was interested in the direction of structure. Should there be mandates about attending classes? Obstacles? 2 meetings per month?. John B. suggested they work with the new member and new agent for a few months, and then come back if they need to. Cheryl indicated there was a problem with transfer station turnovers. Norma indicated she had not heard about.
11. Cheryl: looking for a \$3,000 federal grant that came in. Can't figure out who it belongs to, maybe Richie Small, Fire Chief?
12. Back to Highway: Still doing pot holes, 8 loads already. Blandford Rd, Prospect left. Cleaned water plant filter. Johnson Hill Rd.: new culvert 38', saw cut road. New plastic culvert. Added material and packed for 1 night, left for cars to pack, 2 or 4" deep. Cones were there, but no signs. Rene said you can't leave an open culvert like that, too dangerous. The board discussed how a driver got a flat tire and possible front-end damage to their car from driving over the cut. Not posted properly. Could be OSHA problems. We only had "bump" signs. Loggers? Curb cut? Driveway permit?. Tell him he can't log there. Driveways are problems. Discussion of budget,

going to be short: Barbara thinks changes need to be made. John M. should have paid more attention to budgets. Rene: discussion of vendor who came in but nobody knew he was coming? Barbara asked what was going to be done regarding Ms. Morrissey's burial. Will check with Melvin Hook, Cemetery Commissioner. John M. said they dug where the markers were. Highway does not mark it. Question as to why the sweepers were up on the hill? We have a blower, do we not want to use it. John M. explained why he used the sweepers.

13. Pat to call Erin Patrick and ask her to come in about theatre schedule.

Citizens Comments:

Bob Daley: Asked when Exit interview would be done with auditors. John B. explained the exit interview process. Maybe a month or two?

Mention was made that Donald Gauthier did not mow ballfield when he was asked to. Also, cemetery not being done.

Who is Donald under the supervision of? Highway. John M. will call him and straighten out his days, duties and have his payroll submitted to highway. Clippings are an issue also.

Barbara moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m . John B. seconded. Unanimous.

Recording Secretary
Patricia Carlino, Town Administrator

John Baldasaro, Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, Vice Chairman

Rene Senecal, Clerk