

Town of Chester

Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Board of Appeals

Minutes of 7/16/18

1. Chairman Huntoon opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
2. Minutes of 6/18 and 7/2 were reviewed and signed. The minutes of 7/9 were reviewed and returned to Carlino for minor corrections and will be signed at the next meeting.
3. East River Rd. Contract: Due to Ro McClafin leaving her position, according to the project manager in Boston, the Board will have to appoint a new "project manager" to the project before a contract can be sent to the town. J. Baldasaro moved to appoint Patricia Carlino, Town Administrator as the new "project manager". B. Huntoon seconded. Unanimous.
4. The Board signed the Contract for Lane Construction to do the East River Road project. Two signed copies will be sent to them for return of one signed from them. The cover page being sent to Lane will spell out the change of "project manager" and contact information.
5. a. Johnson Hill Rd. There were two choices to discuss. One would consist of 2" of hot mix asphalt which would take care of the top and the middle, at a price of \$168,976.50. The other choice was 1 ½ " on the entire length. At a cost of \$170,729.32. After discussion of the pros and cons of each process, the board agreed to do the 2" process on upper and middle Johnson Hill Rd.

b. Line painting project: Discussion of whether or not ERR is included in the list of roads to be done. It is. R. Senecal felt this should be a separate project, since they might come to do all the roads and ERR may not be finished. Will they come back? We will need to change the road mileage in our request. After discussion it was decided to remove ERR from the request and make it its own request.
6. Stephanie Bodendorf was here for her interview for the Asst. Admin/Highway Asst. position. B. Huntoon asked the first question. "Why" do you want this position. Stephanie replied that she wanted to become more involved with the town (as she is now a member of the Recreation Committee). As a resident and taxpayer, she wants to understand where our tax dollars go. She has experience with spreadsheets, inventory, Quick Books, Microsoft, Excel. Both J. Baldasaro and B. Huntoon explained that this position may evolve into something more if the town decides to enter into a shared town administrator. She would be interacting with many departments, many different people, including the public. How did she think she would do with this. Stephanie responded that she felt she could handle that. She would work to develop the skills necessary. She is a planner, and can prioritize and be problem solver. Stephanie then asked what the work week would be and was told 9-2 five days per week. Was child care a problem and she answered no. B. Huntoon noted that if the town should go to a shared town administrator, that person would need a strong assistant in this office. And the hours may go up to 30 hours weekly. There is not much training to assist, other then just working with the Town

Administrator. Stephanie asked the salary range. Currently Approx. 22,000 or 16.94 per hr. B. Huntoon thanked Stephanie for coming in and said the board would take this under advisement.

7. The Board were each given a packet of information for review regarding the property at 115 Lyon Hill Rd. This will be on the 7/23 agenda for discussion.
8. Question was raised about International. It is currently in our garage. It has not been used lately, but there was a problem bringing it back last time it was used. It broke down on 6/26 but they were able to get it back to the shop. J. Baldasaro noted that they have not heard from anyone regarding a resolution to the issue. Pat directed to send a "forceful" letter to Nutmeg requesting a response.
9. Barbara read a memo from COA Director Sue Kucharski. The COA was given an anonymous gift of \$5,000 for the express purpose of purchasing a data base, custom made which will incorporate information for not only the COA, but other departments, such as Police and Fire, read only access for emergency purposes. The Board expressed their thanks to the anonymous donor.
10. Terry Donovan was in to inform the Board that she has applied for a grant from the MSPC, which should cover three sites of beaver activity. The town would need to commit to a maintenance fee of \$285 per year, for 2-3 years. The BOS agreed to this. The program would require maintenance approximately four times per year.
11. Questions were directed to the Town Administrator regarding John Murray.
 - a. The Board needs something. Barbara asked if he could come in and talk to them? BOS would like copy of Doctors report and MIIA claim. Rene asked if we had a list of which culverts he had planned on for East River Road. How can Bos get info? Pat to research just how this can be done.
12. At this time Norma McDonald came to the meeting to ask the Board if they had the packet of information that was prepared for them for 115 Lyon Hill Rd. She asked what was the end goal? Barbara said the board needed to look at all the information. Much of it was he said she said. Norma asked would the Board of Selectmen make a Board of Health decision. Barbara answered NO. Mary Ann Pease said that Irene was under the impression they (BOS) were meeting tonight to make a decision. Barbara said at the last meeting that there were some misconceptions, mistakes made. John Baldasaro spoke to Irene and told her to come to the Board to investigate a claim by a resident. Barbara referred to an email from Mary Ann. Much discussion of what was said during 7/9/18 meeting. More discussion between all parties. BOS will read information for next meeting on 7/23/18., when Irene is due back.
13. Jason Fogue said he feels that Irene may have been pushed, can we go back? He feels she got the wrong impression. Pat spoke up that no, the Assessors cannot go back and revalue the property, as per Mass law.

Rene said we can't tell the Board of Health or Tax Collector what to do. Might have been corrections, maybe we can't do anything. Barbara stated that the board needed to do their due diligence and be really clear to the person involved. We are Team Chester, and do the best for the Town.

Rene stated he was concerned with the highway guys working alone. With John out and Steve on vacation, that only leaves one person, using grader?

Discussion was held regarding the Thursday and Friday hours. Has anyone been here? Ro is using some of her vacation/personal days as she is leaving July 29. Her time on Thursday and Friday has been limited.

Bob Daley. Asked question regarding NEFF. Is it still an access question? John B. stated we need to revisit this.

Barbara noted the DEP response letter we received after sending our own letter to our legislators.

Recreation committee spoke about an event they are planning for 8/11/18, with a rain date of 8/12/18.

John B. looked at the Hampden St. project.

Ron Ouimette reported that he had finished the culvert on Old State Rd. He found an old handrail in the ground. Guardrails need work. Could use that handrail to look historical. Something to think about. Would cost about \$2,500.

Ron asked about the difference between elected and appointed positions, and thought that in Hinsdale no one has been reappointed. He will check and come back next week.

John Foley had a comment for the Rec. committee. They need to see BOH for the barbecue benefit.

Bob Daley questioned the timing of the 7/23 meeting. It will be at 6:30 p.m. to allow the time necessary for the Board meeting with Blandford. He also noted the note on the Treasurers door regarding her office hours.

Ro brought up a text she sent to Rene, that did not go through and resulted in her calling him on the phone, which Rene felt was inappropriate. Rene did not want to go further with the conversation.

Ron stated that he would vote for an appointed position, and referred to the accountant's position. At this time Barbara stated she would like to put a stop to this, and Ron stated he was just expressing his opinion under the 1st amendment of freedom of speech. Barbara, "we're done".

Jason informed the Board that the Rec Committee had had its first soccer event and thanked the Highway dept. and the BOS. They also had a family night. Fire Dept. has been down once with water. He tried to reach out to the owner of the 1.6 acres across from the Ballfield. It would be nice to have the Gateway league at the Ballfield, but parking could be an issue. The next plan is the Basketball Courts. The Board thanked him for all his help.

Ron reiterated he just wants to give some input, doesn't want to start trouble.

John Baldasaro moved to adjourn. Rene Senecal seconded. Unanimous to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino
Town Administrator

Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Rene Senecal, Clerk