

TOWN OF CHESTER

Board of Selectmen/Water Commissioners/Zoning Board of Appeals

Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2018

1. Chairman John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of 6/11 were approved.

2. Board Reorganization:
 - R. Senecal made a motion to appoint B. Huntoon as Chairman, J. Baldasaro seconded. Unanimous.

 - B. Huntoon made a motion to appoint J. Baldasaro as Vice Chairman, R. Senecal seconded. Unanimous.

 - B. Huntoon made a motion to appoint R. Senecal as Clerk, J. Baldasaro seconded. Unanimous.

Barb asked that Pat check the 6/18 minutes for corrections and the 25th for verification on next meeting with representatives from Blandford.

3. East River Rd. Rene had reviewed the bids and agrees with Lane Construction as being the winner, and moved that the Board accept the bid and award the bid to them. Barbara 2nd. Unanimous. Ray Peters, the representative from Lane was in attendance, and informed the Board that their schedule to hopefully begin by 7/16, with the completion date being September, 2018. They will be using Ludlow Construction to do the culvert work.

4. The Selectmen read a memo from the COA Director regarding the use of the COA room as a “cooling center”. She said in the three years it’s been active, it’s never been used, and she feels they should discontinue this use for now.

5. Town Accountant Interviews:
 - a. Jason Fogue gave an overview of his past employment in finances. Although he has no municipal experience his skill set is such that he feels he could handle the position quite well. He has had extensive experience in audits and would like to see us do better. Question: would he have time to work with the Treasurer and other departments of the town, as well as go to any classes offered for the position? Jason explained that at this time in his life he was looking to slow down from the physical demands of his business, so would have time. As far as working with other departments, personalities, etc., he handles those types of personalities well, as he has become older. During his time at Morgan Stanley, he was known as a “fixer”, with efficient skills to handle departmental problems. John B. asked how he would establish more communication with Treasurer and balancing accounts. He stated that reconciling would be most important between Tax Collector, Treasurer & accountant. Jason was asked about departments running over budget and said he would set a “margin” and notify department heads.

- b. Paula Beck: Paula is aware of our reconciling troubles and believes she could help, and is fine with the number of hours in the Accountant's office. She has a lot of flexibility with her schedule, as she has been unemployed for a while. She would be fine working with the Treasurer and Tax Collector. She also has no municipal experience, but is knowledgeable in the way that warrants are processed, through her work with Tom Beck when he was Highway Superintendent. She also has served on a number of committees in town, re: Library and Finance Committee. She is willing to take any training offered. John B. asked how she felt she would interact with the other departments in town, different personalities. She stated she had worked with many different personalities over the years, one needs to "sign on" to the work. She feels this is not an issue. John B. also explained about how the process has worked in the past, sometimes the past accountants have run over budget. She would need to be involved in forecasting. She would need to coordinate her time to be available to work with the Treasurer. She asked about any benefits, hours, etc., and time frame for appointments. The Board said they would be discussing the issue at the end of the meeting.
6. Discussion of advertisement for Highway Superintendent. The board instructed Pat to advertise the position in the Westfield News, Berkshire Eagle, MMA Website, Mass live, Western Mass Craig's list, Country Journal (already done).
7. Citizens Comments:

Jason Forgue. Asked about water for irrigation on ballfield. Seems to be pipes in the ground, not sure whether it works or not, discussion of installation of water meter. He would like to be able to irrigate once in a while during hot streaks like this week. Pat will check into information and speak with Bernie.

Cameras? Discussion of how many, lines to be run, etc. John B. stated he had had a "heated" discussion with Jill, CMELD manager, asking for proof that the cameras are in place. She wants to see the "feeds". After further discussion it was decided that Barbara and Rene would attend the next Electric Light Department meeting, whether it be July or August. Pat will find out when it is. (August 14th at 6:00 p.m.)

Ron Ouimette appeared before the board to explain the work he will be doing on Old State Rd. to fix the culvert. Has received Concom approval and is ready to go. John B. moved to go ahead with the approximately \$8,500 project. Rene seconded. Unanimous

John Foley commented he understood why Jill wanted cameras at the ballfield.

Jason Forgue said signs that the rec committee put up seemed to be helping.

Bob Daley Bob questioned Jason about the use of the cameras, number needed, cost, etc. He asked if we had had any response to our question of the Quinn Brothers. Nothing as yet. How is the Tree purchase coming? Waiting for more details. Who will install. At this time we are thinking that John Murray would install, but need to check on the guarantee.

Pat confirmed with the Board that the next Blandford meeting would be July 23rd in Blandford at 5:00 p.m., so we will change our meeting to 6:30 p.m. that evening.

Treasurers note? The Board has no input in hours, etc.,

Teacher contract? When will we have information? Barbara stated she did not know at this time.

Rosanne McClafin asked if Richie could “water” the Emery field to help when overly hot out (with grass)? Not sure, will check into it.

Pat reported that Cheryl has agreed to take over as Tax Title Custodian.

Clerk Senecal spoke about alerting Cheryl to the fact that we might have to borrow in anticipation when the East River Rd. project begins. Pat will speak with her.

Accountants Appointment Discusiion:

Rene feels like this is premature, would like to wait a week and go over resumes again. Difficult call right now. John B. feels we have two strong candidates and feels they can talk about it now, and maybe Rene will change his mind. Barbara agreed.

John feels there is one factor that weighs heavily, and that is availability, in his opinion. He feels Paula would be a better fit.

Barbara feels that Jason will be available as he stated. Given what he’s done in the past Barbara feels he has said he is a “fixer” and she believes him. He will do it.

Rene still would like to wait a week to make his decision.

There being no other business, John B. made a motion to adjourn, Rene seconded. Unanimous to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Patricia Carlino

Barbara Huntoon – Chairman

John Baldasaro –Vice Chairman

Rene Senecal - Clerk

