

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

Minutes

November 26, 2018

In attendance: Board Members, Town Administrator, Katherine Warden, and various members of the public

1. Chairman Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of 11/19/18 were reviewed and signed. Warrants were signed.
2. Erica Johnson, PVPC: Public Performance Progress Report on Community Development Grant for Hampden St.

Erica reported that due to the weather this year, the paving for Hampden St. will be put off until Spring. The new water main is in and all homes have been tied in. The culverts are done and the drains have been restored. There will most likely be a couple of more culverts and some more drainage put in after the winter when they start up again in spring. A stone surface has been put down on Hampden St., and rolled, to get through the winter. John B. asked they bring a couple of more loads in since the road is already beginning to rut. Erica will contact contractor with those instructions. Most of the equipment is gone, but some may be stored up at the Highway garage over the winter. Paving will not take long once it begins. Loam and seed, guardrails and added drainage will also take place in the spring. Barbara asked if there would be line painting? Answer was no. Erica will do up a status letter for Selectboard approval, which will be sent out to residents on Hampden St.

Kris Lee, homeowner on Hampden St., attended the meeting to ask a few questions. She stated the workers had been very nice all along, had been very helpful when needed. She had a couple of requests that Erica said she would pass along to the contractor. Erica and John B. will do one final walk through before project is shut down for the winter. The Board then signed an extension for the project, a Change Order #1 for material, and the payment application #2. Bob Daley asked about Prospect St. It was noted that there had been various borings done and there is a draft of plans done, still in progress. It will take some time. The town will not be eligible for CDG grant until FY 2020 so we have time.

Mr. Foley asked about the Senior Center Feasibility Study. Erica responded she had received a first draft, and she is sending it back with her comments. She expects final draft by Dec. 31, 2018, since that is when the grant runs out.

3. At this time the Board of health Ch. Norma McDonald and member Morgan Jacquemin attended the meeting to talk about joining the HMRC. After discussion with the DEP representative, they are in agreement that the best option for the Town of Chester is to join the HMRC for FY 2020. Norma reported we were assured our yearly reports could be turned in retroactively to allow for the possibility of obtaining grants to remain intact. Pat to get 2020 figure of the amount needed to be raised at town meeting.

4. Joan Stalcup asked if the electricity had been turned on yet in the new shed at the Transfer Station. Pat to find out status.
5. Norma also suggested that given the new rules and regulations coming out of DEP regarding recyclables, something be sent out to residents, and put at the Transfer Station to alert people as to what they can and cannot recycle. Rep from HMRC left some signage and handouts when she was here, so Morgan took them to put at the transfer station.
6. Town Counsel Thomas Mullen sent out a request to the Town of see if they would accept his raise in hourly rate, as it is still lower than other town counsels are receiving. Barbara said she has been very satisfied with Tom's responsiveness and felt we should stay with him. John B. agreed. Barbara made a motion to accept the terms of his agreement, John B. seconded. Unanimous. Pat to notify Mr. Mullen.

Barbara noted she attended the last Hilltown Collaborative meeting. Discussion was held regarding the reopening of the Chester/Blandford State Forest. The next meeting is going to be aimed at getting our legislators here to discuss that and other issues.

Questions to John B. about fixing of holes on Prospect and Johnson Hill Rd. Would they be fixed? John reported the material needed had just been delivered and they would be getting to them soon.

Wilma Foley asked if someone could inspect the COA van, which needs to be inspected soon. John B. said he would take a look at it.

Bob Daley: Question on Bonding of Asst. Treasurer. Yes, she will be bonded.

Jason Fogue asked about proceeds from sale of Slocum property being used to purchase property across from ballfield. Need to know assessment of the property. Kathy Engwer will contact real estate agent and see what they are asking. Jason then asked John B. if the water at ballfield had been turned off. Seems like there is still some coming from pipes. John will contact Bernie. Jason asked if we would plow if the skating rink goes in. John said only if property is frozen, so they can get in.

Wilma Foley. Will someone go up and fix ditch on Sylvester Hamilton? Yes.

John Foley: What if Selectboard meets and John B. is out plowing? The Board will figure it out. We will begin two nights a month in January Jan. 7th and 21st. February 11th and the 25th.

There being no further business John Baldasaro moved to adjourn. Barbara Huntoon seconded. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino

Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman