

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

Minutes

December 17, 2018

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

Chairman Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of 12/10/18 were reviewed and signed. Warrants were signed.

2019 Liquor license for Eric Bird was signed after correction made from last week.

1. Mary Ann Pease: Ambulance update.

The Hilltown Ambulance Association took possession of a 2014 Ambulance with 32,000 miles today. Their goal is to someday be able to purchase a new ambulance, and preferably a 4-wheel drive vehicle, and with that goal in mind they would like to start an "Ambulance Capital Fund". This would mean an additional line item at town meeting each year in all the towns. The amount would be figured on a "per capita" formula, which would be fair to all. Mary Ann was here to see if the Board would support their request at the next town meeting. Both John and Barbara agreed that they would be supportive of a warrant item. In addition, the association is continuing fund raisers towards this goal also, and pursuing grants when available.

Mary Ann then informed the Board that her term on the Ambulance Assoc. is up at the end of this year and asked if they would appoint her again. The Board indicated they would and Pat will have papers drawn up for 1/7/19 meeting.

Town Administrator:

Pat explained that the Water Dept. was looking for another "back-up" person to help Art in installing/replacing water meters, when needed. Morgan Jacquemin has offered to be that person. The Board suggested that Pat advertise the position first.

Andy Myers:

Andy came to the Board to explain what was going on in Russell. Chester had raised monies at our annual town meeting through an article which transferred from free cash an amount of money to offset Russell's increase of the school budget, due to the assessment change. Clarification of who the check should be made out to needs to be checked out, as we have conflicting recommendations from DOR. Pat will call Russell tomorrow and also will check again with the DOR about whom should be paid. Will try to coordinate by next meeting so a check can be cut and delivered.

John B. discussed last school committee meeting he attended. There was a presentation that took a very long time, and he was unable to stay until the end. Andy relayed that there was very little time for discussion also. Enrollment is fluctuating, 3/1/19 census would be a good indicator of actual numbers.

Pat asked if employees could leave at noon on Christmas Eve. The Board agreed it was all right. Liz Massa asked Barbara if the town could put the town hiking trails on the website. Of course. Barbara will forward information to Pat.

Pat informed the Board that there is a senior work off person at the transfer station on Wednesdays, but not on Saturdays. It is hard to get someone to fill that slot as no one wants to give up their weekend. Pat will continue to pursue getting another work off person.

Barbara asked if we had heard from anyone interested in the Zoning Board of Appeals vacancy yet. Pat will speak to the one individual that had expressed interest.

John B. gave overview of Highway work. They were out Sunday night due to storm. Working on a sink hole that is being stubborn. Getting drains cleaned out.

Update on Water notice. Pat will check to see if it is on the website. If not, will put it on. Matt Drennan asked about the color of his water. Says it's not clearing up. John B. will ask Bernie about it. Seems to be affecting Hampden St. Question asked "do we clean the reservoirs?" John B. responded that we used to clean them every couple of years, but we need to be very careful because it is a public water supply.

Mike Amelia and his wife were present to complain about their road getting plowed and sanded. He felt the Highway should get to him sooner than they had so they could leave for their work on time. Discussion about whether or not the road was sanded and how many times it was plowed took place. John B. explained that the highway plows all roads, in a certain route, maximizing those routes with as much efficiency as possible for all residents. Both John and Barbara reassured the couple that their road would be taken care in the normal operation of storm clean up and in as timely a manner as possible.

Andy Myers remarked that the Theatre was beginning to think of some improvements for next year. Possibly another bathroom, a hearing device for the auditorium, new air conditioning. John B suggested we ask if we could possibly use whatever the hearing device is for our town meetings. Andy also reported that we are still having a problem with the leak in the roof. Pat to try to contact someone to look at it. Mary Ann noted that the problem has made its way down to her office as well.

James Higby asked about sidewalk snow removal on Main St While Dave Pierce does some areas that are of "public use", property owners are responsible for removing snow on the sidewalks abutting their property.

John Foley asked about winter parking ban. How is it enforced? John B. responded that first a warning is given. After that it gets towed. John also wanted to know why the Police tended to park in the driveway, blocking the entrance. John B. explained sometimes they needed to park in that spot in order to interface with their computer.

Also John B. stated that he had gone out to look at the tree the Foley's had spoken about last week, but he couldn't find it. Suggested that John Foley put a mark on it and he will look again. Also John reported that he had looked at the culvert the Foley's had spoken of last week, and knows what needs to be done in the spring.

Barbara gave an overview of the board's meeting with the Blandford Board of Selectmen regarding the study that was recently completed. Basically there were three options the boards can look at in regards to sharing of Police Department duties. The option of an Intermunicipal Agreement between the two towns they felt was best. Both Chester and Blandford will be having "public meetings" within the near future with residents in both towns for their input. There are grant opportunities available that they could take advantage of.

Bob Daley: Read a "whimsical" proclamation in reference to Mr. Foley's birthday.

There being no other business, John B. moved to adjourned. Barbara H. seconded. Unanimous to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino

Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman