

**Town of Chester Board of Selectmen
Water Commissioners and Zoning Board of Appeals
Monday, August 26, 2019 at 6:00p.m.
15 Middlefield Rd, Chester MA 01011**

Present: Selectmen John Baldasaro, Barbara Huntoon, James Higby; Town Administrator Kathe Warden

Selectmen, Country Journal, & R. McClafin recorded the meeting.

6:00pm - Public Hearing for the purpose of action on an Appeal submitted by Louis Magni, 402 East River Road Chester for a variance to the Zoning Bylaw, Sec 3.3.3, setbacks, to allow the proposed construction of two sheds. John apologized to Mr. Magni for the delay due to not having a full board. Louis said that the shed sizes would be 4'x8' and 6'x8' and one is to be relocated so it's not too close to the property line. Barbara asked what the sheds would be built of and Louis said wood with T1-11 wood siding and sit on a stone base. John asked for public comment. Cedar Millett stated she is concerned about the road and emergency vehicles being able to see since the lot sits at an intersection. She understands it is an odd lot but cares about the safety of children in the area. Cedar says she isn't objecting to the project. The Board didn't see any issue with visibility. James asked if it was a variance and John explained it's a variance because of the set-back from the road. Barbara made a motion to grant a variance for the two sheds. James seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Since it was too early to start the Eversource hearing John moved forward on the agenda.

***Peter & Nadia Stroganov – dead tree bordering cemetery.** Nadia said there is a dead tree on the property line between her home and the cemetery. She showed photos on her phone of the tree. She is concerned that the other trees on the property line are showing age also. She showed a copy of the deed and plotline. Nadia said they would be glad to split the cost of the removal with the town. John said he will look into it the cost of the removal and get back to her on it.

***Update on 22 Emery St and response from Town's offer to purchase -** Kathe said George Lyttle, property owner, wants to sell both properties together and is firm on his price of \$30,000 for the properties. John said it needs to go to Special Town Meeting for the residents to approve the Selectboard to enter into a purchase agreement and approve the amount to be spent on the property. John said it should be tabled to later in the meeting.

6:30pm - Public Hearing upon the petition of NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY DBA EVERSOURCE ENERGY & VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. for permission to relocate and or install poles, wires, cables and fixtures including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across the following public way: East River Road. To install one (1) pole directly across from existing pole 4/129 on East River Rd. This pole is required to anchor the existing pole that is currently leaning toward the river. Jessie Martin, representing Eversource, said it is necessary and it will be a 35ft pole. Barbara made a motion to

allow Eversource to install a 35ft pole to anchor an existing pole on East River Rd. James seconded the motion and all voted aye.

From this point forward the agenda lineup was changed. The Selectmen were running ahead of schedule. Items were rearranged.

Update on 22 Emery St and response from Town's offer to purchase- continued-John said the properties are valued at \$16,300. Kathy Engwer said she would be glad to help and contact some appraisers to see what it appraises at. John said the Board needs to decide to either ask Special Town Meeting to approve the Board entering into an agreement or taking it by eminent domain. Barbara said she feels that eminent domain isn't the way to go due to the complexities of the process and that it should be put on Special Town Meeting. It's agreed the discussion will continue at another meeting.

New Business

*Interview for Highway Laborer/Driver position – John explained that Kathe and he had interviewed 4 candidates (a fifth one didn't show up), and from that narrowed the field down to the three candidates presented here. John said he has asked all the questions that he needed to so the other Board members can ask their own questions. After looking at the candidates resumes, James and Barbara interviewed each.

Nathaniel Page – Barbara asked where he has experience with snow removal-Nate answered he worked for Chester previously as well as plowing for homeowners. Barbara asked for his experience with drainage work. Nate answered he has worked on sewer drains, culverts, waterlines and gas lines. Barbara asked if he has a 4G license and Nate answered no but would be happy to get it. Barbara asked where he lives. Nate answered he lives in Plainfield, about 35 minutes away. Barbara asked why he wants to the job and Nate answered that he likes to plow snow, he likes to help people. He feels it would be a public service. He says he is currently building houses, putting in septic systems. Barbara asked what his mechanical experience is and Nate answered he can do light mechanical, change oil, hoses but more in-depth he couldn't do it. Barbara asked where he works now and Nate answered he works for a private contractor. Barbara asked why he left him- Nate answered he never left him even when he worked at the quarry. Nate said he was working with a different contractor but was fired when he asked for the time off to come to the first interview. Barbara asked about his references. Nate explained how he knew each reference. Barbara asked how if Nate thought he would have issues getting to work during a snowstorm. Nate said he never has had issues getting to work. Barbara asked if he had any questions for the Select Board- Nate answered when could he start. Barbara asked if he understood that the job was more than snowplowing. Nate said he did understand it was also road work, cleaning ditches, trimming and cutting trees and that John had explained all the job requirements. Barbara said she was all set; James said he didn't have any questions. John told Nate he would be contacted either way.

William Kenney – James asked Bill where he lives NS Bill answered Blandford. James asked why he wanted the job. Bill answered because he needed a job. James asked what

Bill is currently doing and Bill said he isn't working currently. He worked previously for Woodbury Tractor and did everything there. Three years ago, he had a heart issue and that ended his work there. He then got married and relocated to Blandford. Barbara asked if he had plowed snow before and Bill answered he had for homeowners. Barbara asked him if he had his CDL and Bill said he didn't. Barbara asked if he had looked into it getting it; Bill said he was hoping for help from the Town to tell him what to do to get it. Barbara asked about his mechanical ability and Bill said he learned it all at Woodbury Tractor. John said he didn't have any questions to ask. Barbara asked how he felt about snowplowing at night and Bill said he expected it when he applied for the job. James asked how long it would take for him to get to work Bill said 25 minutes. John told Bill he would be contacted either way.

***Discussion of FY19 accounts and transfers** – Kathe said this was the final set of FY19 transfers to be made, from the payroll that had issues with. Barbara approves FY19 yearend transfers, James seconds all vote aye.

***Sign meeting minutes of 8/12/2019,8/19/2019.** Discussion and signing of warrants. – This was passed over and will be signed at the next meeting.

***Review Town Counsel's response to Open Meeting Law violation** – Kathe said Town Counsel needed the Selectmen to proof the letter that needed to go out. Barbara said that there were two issues that needed to be changed, otherwise it was ok for Town Counsel to send out.

DPW Update- John said the paving for Middlefield Rd, Skyline Trail and Johnson Hill Rd. will start next week, curb cuts and joints are being made this week. Town line signs are moved 180ft up on Middlefield Rd. On the Blandford side it was move about the same amount. The mistake was found during the updating of the GIS maps. John said there would be mowing done with Highway and Electric sharing the job. There has been issues with the electricity bills at the Highway garage, they have shut off the power in the Salt Shed and seeing what will happen on the next bill. Tree cutting will be going on Timber Ridge from Russell has a list to work on.

Since the third candidate hadn't arrived yet, John moved the meeting on.

Old Business

* Reappointed John Baldasaro to Police Dept – wasn't previously posted on August 19, 2019 agenda – James made a motion to reappoint John Baldasaro to the Police Dept; Barbara seconded the motion and both voted aye. John abstained from the vote

Town Administrator update

*Continued discussion of Tangible Assets Disposal Policy – John stated he thinks this is a good idea; James and Barbara agreed. Barbara made a motion to accept the Tangible Assets Disposal Policy as written. James seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Kathe said she had spoken to Megan Coburn at the grammar school. Megan would like to invite the Selectmen to the open house on September 17 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

Wayne Fischer – Wayne joined the meeting and John said that Wayne was chosen from a pool of three candidates and that John had asked all the questions he needed to so that the other Board members can ask their own questions. Barbara asked if he had a CDL and Wayne said he didn't but has started studying and filled out the license for the over-the-rail mower. Barbara asked if he had plowed snow and he said he had. Barbara asked why he wanted the job and Wayne responded he is looking for a new adventure and would like to explore new opportunities. He is no longer with his previous employer, Camp Bonnie Brae. Barbara asked where he lived and he is currently living with a friend and will be moving back into his home on Olin Ave. Barbara asked how he felt about being called out at midnight to plow and he said that when he was at Bonnie Brae he was on call all the time during camp season. He knows basic mechanics and Barbara noted he has a welding certificate. Wayne said he does, from Gateway, but hasn't used it a lot. When he was employed by J. Guachione he did repair welding and rebuilding of equipment but that wasn't his primary job. Barbara asked what questions he had for the board and he asked about the benefits. John said there would be a discussion after the interviews and Wayne would be contacted.

John asked did they want to talk about the filling the position tonight or wait till next meeting. Barbara said she would like to get it done. She asked which candidate John felt best about. John said he thought they were comparable with pros and cons of each. John said he was concerned about Nathan's distance getting called out in the middle of night. He felt that Bill had mechanical experience but not a lot of actual experience operating equipment. John felt that Wayne knew the area since he grew up here. John said he had asked them basically all the same questions in the preliminary interviews and that Kathe had taken notes. John said out of the three, Wayne has better communication skills, and John believes he will be more able to interact with the residents. He believes for long term and ease of getting to work Wayne is the choice and would like to give residential preference. Barbara liked that Wayne had taken the initiative to start on getting his licenses and would like to see residence preference. James feels they are comparable in experience. James feels Wayne's resume is stronger and stands out and understands the proximity issue. Barbara feels strongly to hire Wayne. John said he has known Wayne since Wayne was young. James said they are in agreement but says it's tough when you need to ask all the same questions. Barbara made a motion to hire Wayne Fisher at \$19.99 per hour. He must get his CDL and hoisting license in six months, all on contingency that he passes a CORI check and a drug test, and with subsequent raises on completion of the licenses. James seconded the motion and all vote aye.

Dept & Committee updates

*None at the time of this posting

Public Comments and questions

Rosanne McClafin asked about the jersey barrier for the transfer station, if anyone asked at the Superintendent group if they had extras. John said he was at a meeting last week and no one has any available. John said they will have to call County Concrete and put in place on delivery. Kathe said she could order them, John said to order 4 of them. Rosanne asked if John was applying for Mass Works or Complete Streets. John said not Mass Works this year but is applying for Complete Streets for Middlefield Road from the corner to the school. Rosanne

asked about the Prospect St project. John said it's in the design stage and its being applied for a Block Grant for the project. It will take 3 phases to get it completed.

Liz Massa said all was going well at the Transfer Station, Anthony Tourgeon could weedwack on the weekend. John said he would get him set up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully Submitted

Katherine Warden

John Baldasaro – Chair

Barbara P. Huntoon - Vice

James Higby -Clerk

There are 5 pages for August 26,2019 Select Board meeting minutes