



**TOWN OF CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER COMMISSIONERS & ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
15 MIDDLEFIELD RD
CHESTER MA 01011**

Meeting Minutes of Monday October 21,2019 at 6:00pm

Selectmen present John Baldasaro, James Higby. Selectmen absent Barbara P. Huntoon. Others present Kathe Warden Town Administrator, Chief Daniel Ilnick, Nicholas Weidaas and residents of the town.

John opened the meeting in Board of Selectmen's office at 6:00pm. Signing of meeting minutes and warrants. Meeting was recorded by Selectmen

New Business

Police Chief Daniel Ilnick introduced Nicholas Weidaas to the Board. Nicholas is a graduate of Gateway, holds a master's degree in Criminal Justice. He started his career in Washington DC and recently retired from the Easthampton MA police dept., after 31 years of service, as a detective. John makes a motion to hire Nicolas Weidas as a patrol officer, James seconds the motion and all vote aye.

Old Business

None at the time of posting

Town Administrator update

Update on Green Community Grant FY2021- Kathe said she met with Jill Decoursey last week and was updated on the next round of grants. Kathe would like to put the money towards a new heating system for Town Hall.

Kathe asked if the Town normally posts on the website Winter Parking Ban that goes into effect on November 15 and the Snow & Ice mailbox replacement policy. John said he didn't believe it was done in the past but to please do it. John said there should be a meeting to discontinue the use of roads, Kathe said she would get it set up.

Dept & Committee updates

None at this time

John read a letter from Town Accountant Paula Beck with concerns about the audit. David Irwin of Adelson recommends the CMELD cover 25% of the costs or \$5,000. In the FY17 Management letter Tom Scanlon notes a material weakness because subsidiary records for CMELD's Accounts receivables are not reconciled to the Town's records. John asked Kathe to get a meeting set up with the Electric Commissioners for their next meeting to discuss.



John said he had a discussion with a resident who asked if Russell could have a wind turbine why couldn't Chester. John asked Kathe to call the Russell Town Administrator about the benefits, rates, individual solar and net metering.

Public Comments and questions

*Kathe said in the original agenda there was to be an update on transportation issues and that was incorrectly posted.

*Andy Meyers said the Finance Committee had met before the Selectmen's meeting and the committee was good with all the articles and would support them. He said the committee would like to amend article #10 to include the Assessors with a one-year term limit. John said an amendment could be made from the floor.

*Bob Daley expressed concerns for setting the tax rate. He wanted to know when RRG would be starting, Kathe said she would follow up with Laura on Wednesday for an update on their start.

*Sister Judith Dalesandro asked who to talk to about a house on Prospect St that had issues with trash all over, wild animals living in a collapsing barn and a tree leaning towards her home. John said to send a letter to Building Inspector and Board of Health.

*John Foley asked who sets the numbers for properties that don't have home on it. John said to talk to the Assessor's office, and they could help with it.

*Bob Daley asked if the Selectmen would be considering appointing him as the FRTA representative for the town. John makes a motion to appoint Bob as the FRTA representative for Chester, James seconds the motion and all vote aye. Bob also asked if a new officer was appointed tonight. John said there was one, he feels Chief Ilnicky is building a seasoned department that will benefit both Towns in the IMA. John explained how the IMA will work going forward.

*James asks John for a highway update, John said due to the crew preparing early for the storm last week there wasn't as much road damage that could have been. The crew will be working the next 4 -5 days to get the trucks and equipment ready for the snow season.

*James said he is meeting next Monday at 10:00am with DEP, Bernie ST Martin up at the water treatment plant to review operations. James said he will reach out to Rich Gullick to see if he could join them. John said he will try to get up there also. James said he would like to discuss with DEP about lowering the classification of the plant.

John made a motion to adjourn at 6:40pm, James seconded the motion all voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted

Katherine Warden



John Baldasaro– Chair

Barbara P. Huntoon - Vice

James Higby -Clerk

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