

**Town of Chester Board of Selectmen  
Water Commissioners and Zoning Board of Appeals  
Thursday November 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.  
Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Rd Chester MA**

Selectmen present: John Baldasaro, Barbara Huntoon, James Higby, Town Administrator Kathe Warden, and members of the public

John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Town Administrator and Country Journal recorded the meeting. Meeting minutes of 9/9/2019, 10/21/2019 were signed. Warrants were signed.

**New Business**

**\*Town Treasurer resignation and discussion of options to fill the position** - John said Treasurer Cheryl Provost has resigned as of Dec 1, 2019. Kathe said the Town could pay someone approximately \$24 per hour for 10 to 12 hours. Kathe would like to post the position as an interim position. She will reach out to the different county treasurer associations to see if they will allow postings. Barbara would like to see if for the future, there could be a shared position with another town. John said the Town should ask during interviews if someone would be open to that. Kathe said she would ask Mary Ann Pease if she is interested in the position. Kathe said she would ask Cheryl if she could stay another week or two if possible. John wanted to thank Cheryl for the time she has given the Town as both Treasurer and Town Clerk and wished her the best of luck in the future.

**\*Discussion of setting a date for Special Town Meeting** – Kathe said she reached out to Moderator Melvin Hook and he is available November 25 or December 23. John said he would like to do November 25 and Barbara and James agreed. Kathe said the only thing she had was to cover the costs of the repairs to the septic system and the boiler. She is asking for a \$10,000 transfer to cover the repairs.

**Old Business**

**\* None at this time**

**Town Administrator update**

**\* Water Treatment plant maintenance to replace a water valve** - Bernie reached out to Elm Electric to replace an actuator at the water plant. The cost of one is \$9,616.00 or \$27,785.00 for all three. John explained what the actuator does at the plant and said that replacement of each one is part of upkeep. There are three that will need replacing; will do one each year till they are done. James asked Kathe to ask Elm Electric to also look at the SCADA history function and see if there needs to be repairs to that, too. John, Barbara and James all agree this needs to be done. Kathe said she will reach out to Elm Electric to get the process going.

**Dept. & Committee updates**

**\* None at this time**

### **Public Comments and questions**

John said a complaint was submitted from Sr. Judith Dalesandro about the way she has been treated while performing her duties as Assistant Town Clerk. John asked Sr Judith to explain what happened, which she did. Discussion about the complaint followed and John asked Kathe to draw up a letter to all Town volunteers and employees outlining their responsibilities when they are appointed. Kathe asked the Selectmen if, in the future, this happens would they want her to step in and John said to please do. James and John said they would talk to the parties involved.

John announced that he would be resigning as of December 9, 2019 as Highway Superintendent. He has accepted another position in his previous career field. He will be staying on as a member of the Selectboard. Kathe said she would post the position.

Kathe said the Town received a letter from Northeast Paving asking for the final payment of the East River Rd project. A discussion was held to decide to pay them in full or half now and half later. The Board agreed to pay them in full now. Kathe asked if she could put an article on this Special Town Meeting for this to happen. Everyone was in agreement to place the full amount on the warrant. There is a year warranty given with the project after final completion and John said that the road is holding up well. The line painters will come Sunday night into Monday to paint the lines in town.

Barbara asked John for a Highway Department update. He said they are ready for the storm should it occur on Monday into Tuesday. The International is at Nutmeg getting repaired and he has 3 trucks ready to go for the storm.

The Selectboard waited while Kathe prepared all of the required copies of the Special Town Meeting Warrant then the Selectboard signed them. Kathe said she will have an officer come up and sign and post it on Friday. Kathe reminded everyone of the Smith Road bridge dedication on Saturday at 1:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Katherine Warden

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John Baldasaro– Chair

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Barbara P. Huntoon – Vice

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James Higby -Clerk

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