



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

**Monday, December 9, 2019 at 6:00pm**

Select Board Present John Baldasaro, Barbara Huntoon and James Higby.

Others present Kathe Warden Town administrator, Harald Scheid of RRG, Laura Lafreniere Assessors Clerk, citizens of the town and Middlefield. The meeting was recorded by the Selectmen.

John opened the meeting at 6:00pm; Warrants were signed.

**New Business**

#1 Tax Classification Hearing along with the Board of Assessors to determine the tax rate for all classes of property for FY2020 – Harald Scheid of RRG gave an update on the steps to setting the tax rates. He said that the valuations of property would rise between 2.5% and 3%. New growth had been certified by the State at \$16,014.00. He said due to the fact of two important numbers needed for the report, that weren't available as of today, he couldn't give the Board the exact number of what the tax rate would be. He asked that the Selectmen continue the hearing to next Monday December 16. Barbara made a motion to continue the hearing to Monday Dec 16 at 6:00pm; James seconded the motion and all voted aye.

#2 Alcohol License Renewals & Common Victuallers License Renewals - Kathe said that everyone returned their applications with required documentation, except for A & L Market.

- a. Chester Village Market, Inc. – package store/ all alcohol & common victualler licenses – Barbara made a motion to renew Chester Village Market, Inc. package store all alcohol and common victualler licenses; James seconded the motion and all voted aye
- b. Chester Common Table LLC – restaurant all alcohol & common victualler licenses – James made a motion to renew Chester Common Table LLC restaurant all alcohol and common victualler licenses; Barbara seconded the motion and all voted aye.
- c. Eric Bird - Classic Pizza – restaurant/all alcohol & common victualler licenses – Barbara made a motion to renew Eric Bird – Classic Pizza restaurant all alcohol and common victualler license, James seconded the motion and all voted aye.

#3 Discussion and possible vote to sign the Springfield MRF Contract – Kathe said the current contract will expire in June. The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) awarded the new operations of the MRF with Recycle America/Waste Management. The rate for dual stream will be \$93.50 per ton with a 2.5% increase each year. James made a motion to accept the contract for the Springfield MRF; Barbara seconded the motion and all voted aye. Bob Daley asked about the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) contract and if the



Selectmen agreed to sign it. John said he wasn't sure he would sign it at this time, but he also wasn't sure the other Select Board members thought. Board of Health member Greg Harrison explained the positives of joining HRMC while Board of Health Chair Elizabeth Massa expressed concern about the cost to the Town considering it is a three-year contract. John asked that Kathleen Casey be invited to next week's meeting to discuss the HRMC contract.

#4 Discussion and possible vote to call a Special Election for January 23, 2020. – John said there needs to be a special election to fill the vacancies left by the resignation of Selectman James Higby and Town Clerk Susan Kucharski. Kathe said there is only a one- or two-day period when the election could be held, and the cost is approximately \$1300.00. There is a discussion about the election. Barbara made a motion to hold a special election; James seconded the motion and all voted aye.

### **Old Business**

None at this time

### **Town Administrator update**

Kathe said that the Town had received a \$800.00 credit for the workmen's comp audit and a \$9577.00 grant for hiring a forester to create a Forest Stewardship plan for the Watershed area. She said that on Friday there would be a kickoff meeting for the census at Town Hall at 1:30 explaining how important to the communities the census is. Kathe also gave an update about the accident on Friday night with the F550. Waiting to hear from the appraiser from MIIA.

### **Dept. & Committee updates**

None at this time

### **Public Comments and questions**

Bob Daley, John Foley, Wilma Foley, Liz Massa, Greg Harrison, Kathy Engwer, and Andy Myers all wished John the best of luck on his new job and thanked James for all he has done.

Andy Meyers said that on Wednesday night there would be a School Committee meeting that would discuss the budget and the search for a new school superintendent. The budget for the school will be going up approximately 2.5% and there has been an increase in students at the high school. There are 828 students at Gateway and 120 students at Chester Elementary. Jason Forgue said that there is a desire from School Committee members for the search committee to keep the superintendent's job in house and not look outside for applicants. None of the Chester School Committee representatives are on the search committee. Andy, Jason, and Barbara will attend the Wednesday night meeting.



John said he is bothered over Town employees not working as a team and always looking for the negatives of other employees. He expects a more positive outlook from Town employees and more teamwork.

Barbara said that the highway has done a great job staying on top of the roads since the storm. She said that residents who chose to live on dirt roads, which she understands due to her own very long, steep, dirt driveway, have to take a certain responsibility for themselves during the winter.

James assured everyone he will still be involved in the town just in different capacity and thanked them.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn at 6:55pm and James seconded it. All voted aye.

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

There are 3 pages for the December 9, 2019 Select Board meeting.