



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

**Monday January 27, 2020 at 6:00pm**

**Selectmen present: John Baldasaro and Barbara Huntoon**

Open meeting in Board of Selectmen's office. Signing of meeting minutes and warrants Meeting was recorded by the Selectmen

**New Business**

**#1 Erica Johnson, PVPC discussion about the Community Development Block Grant** – Said that the FY2020 community block develop grant application is due beginning of March. (see attached handout.) Phase one will not have Soisalo Rd in the project. It will be starting at the train station to upper part of Lower Prospect. Phase one will include housing rehabilitation to serve 6 units of housing. The Public Social Service portion has more requests than there are available funds. There is up to \$260,000 available. The requests need to be reduced by \$43,111. Erica said one of the issues is that there is a new program request and that has caused the issue with the funding. John doesn't want to see one agency against another and if possible, reduce the monies evenly. John asked all the representatives to give a brief description of what their agency did. All the programs said this was a major source of their funding. John is concerned at where to make the cuts. Barbara makes the motion to authorize PVPC to submit the proposed FY20 Chester Community Development Fund grant application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000 as detailed in the public hearing and to include infrastructure improvements on Prospect Street in Chester, housing rehabilitation in the towns of Chester, Huntington, and Middlefield, as well as social service programs assisting residents in the three towns. John seconds the motion and both vote aye. Barbara makes a motion to authorize for the Chair of the Board of Select, or Acting Chair, to sign all required forms, documents and authorizations pertaining to the proposed FY20 Chester Community Development Fund grant application. John seconds the motion and both vote aye.

**#2 Lincoln Fish – discussion about Forestry Management Grant** – Lincoln explained about the previous discussion he had with Kathe about harvesting in the watershed but at the time the funds for timber prices were very low. Lincoln had suggested that the Town pursue the grant to come up for a plan to manage the woodlot in the watershed. Lincoln gave the Selectmen a work order but omitted when the completion date, he hand wrote the completion date of April 15,2020 on the work order. Barbara makes a motion to sign a workorder for the Forestry Stewardship program, John seconds the motion and both vote aye.

**Old Business** - None at this time



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

#1 Mary Ann Pease – Library – canceled

#2 Jason Forgue - Abandoned properties - canceled

### **Town Administrator update**

#1 DCR Letter – DCR is purchasing a 5-acre parcel that runs along Route 20. DCR had to notify the Selectmen of the purchase. The property is surrounded by land already owned by DCR.

#2 Kathe discussed her visit with PVPC and how disappointed she is with her meeting there. She was hoping that the Town could apply for a grant through the Green Communities to pay for the new heating system but since the solar project isn't complete the Town can't apply in the next round.

### **Interviews for Administrative Assistant position**

Due to the previous issues taking longer than originally planned the interviews started later than scheduled.

6:45pm Stephanie LaRoche – Barbara asks why she would like to work in for the Town, Stephanie said she moved to town in 1995 and her current home in 2002. She would like a part time job, to get to know the people. Barbara asked why this position and Stephanie said she would like to explore and meet new people. She knew that she would be working for different offices. Stephanie asked if they were day hours, Kathe said in the beginning she would need to attend a few Selectmen's meetings to see how things go. After that would be day hours. Barbara asked if she would prefer day hours and Stephanie said yes. John asked if she did meeting minutes before and she had. John asked if she had any work availability issues and Stephanie didn't. Stephanie didn't have any questions for the Selectmen, she had an extensive interview with Kathe and had them answered. John thanked her for coming in.

7:00pm Kathy Engwer - Barbara asked why you want to work for the Town, Kathy said she always wanted to. She would like to work with Kathe and feels that she could learn a lot from her. Barbara asked how she liked doing meeting minutes and she said she doesn't like doing them but knows it is part of the job. She works for the Water Commissioners in Huntington and understand that they are important. She understands that meeting minutes are important and priority. She said she is versatile with the hours and can work around the hours required here. Barbara asked her how she feels about working for other departments, Kathy said she does that now in Huntington. John asked does she have any issues with working on Monday nights. Kathy said that she is here a lot on Monday nights, and it wouldn't be an issue. She is here to do a job and get it done.



John asked Kathe her thoughts. Kathe would like to hire both; they would be good assets for the Town. Kathe said Kathy has municipal experience which is important in this position. It would save time from teaching some all rules and regulations. John said he felt the same way and with the shared services in the future it would be of help. Barbara asked if possible, Stephanie might like the Cemetery Commissioner position. Kathe explained the Raeh Switzer had applied for the Administrative Assistant position but on interview realized it was too much, Raeh had asked if she could volunteer. Kathe said she has started working on the cemetery lists to be in excel and is meeting with Raeh on Wednesday to continue the project. John asked Kathe who she would recommend, and Kathe said she would Kathy due to her municipal experience. Barbara agrees with John.

### **Public Comments and questions**

Bob Daley wanted to put some information on the train campaign at the desk downstairs. EW Rail is having a third meeting for the Transportation. CWIC met with DR Richard Gullick, he is hoping RCAP will work on some projects and Dr Gullick will work on others. Bob would like a hydrant flushing on a schedule. Bob said the committee would like to have a site visit of the plant. James Higby said he tried to set up a time with Bernie, but he hasn't been able to connect with him.

Andy Myers said the Gateway budget is looking for a 2.5-4.25% increase. At the next budget meeting there should be better numbers. The MARS meeting may end since the meetings aren't being well attended. Andy said that Dr Hobson is doing his best to lower the budget.

John makes a motion to adjourn at 8:10pm Barbara seconds the motion and both vote aye.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm and James seconded the motion, 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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Vacancy - Clerk

There are 4pages for 27 January 2020 Select Board meeting