



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

Monday April 13, 2020 at 6:00pm

Open meeting, (not an executive session) closed to the public. *Amended 3/20/2020*

Signing of warrants and minutes.

**Selectboard Members Present: John Baldasaro, Rich Holzman
Barbara Huntoon**

Also present: Town Administrator, Kathe Warden; Town Clerk, Sister Judith

Selectmen held this meeting in auditorium due to social distancing. No public presence.

Meeting was available on webinar.

Signed warrants.

John opened meeting at 6PM

New Business

#1 Discussion and possible vote to move Town Election to June 13, 2020 10-2

Discussion included that there are no contested races on the ballot, nomination papers are already in, and the deadline has passed for submitting papers. John does not feel postponing it for too long will change the number of people that will turn out to vote. Discussed advantages and disadvantages of moving the election. Town Clerk spoke about the need for workers, concerns about holding the election too soon, and is in favor of moving till June 13th. Town Clerk also is suggesting pushing early voting and absentee ballots. Would like to see it advertised and on the Town website, Fire Department sign. Clerk is very concerned about getting workers to count and being able to control social distancing. After much discussion Rich Holtman made a motion to move the Town Election to June 13th from 10-2. Barbara second and all voted aye.

#2 Discussion and possible vote to accept a local option to waive interest during pandemic.

Rich made a motion to waive interest and penalties for late payment of excise tax, betterment assessment or apportionment thereof, water rate or annual sewer use or other charge added to a tax for any payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made after its respective due date but before June 30, 2020. (In accordance to Governor Baker's Chapter 53 Section 11 in the acts of 2020 dated Thursday April 2, 2020). Barbara second and all voted aye.

Old Business

None at time of posting



Town Administrator update

Audit Update for FY19 – Handed out Financial Statement and Supplemental Information and Management Letter for Selectboard. This is for Selectboard to review and discuss with Paula Beck, Town Accountant, and David Irwin, the auditor.

Request to transfer from Reserve Fund to Legal Counsel – This transfer has been approved by the Finance Committee. Rich made a motion to approve transfer from Reserve Fund Account to Legal Counsel Account to cover invoices. Barbara second and all voted aye.

Update on Vocational Transportation and shared email from Town Counsel. Discussion was in reference to paying for busing for March and April and the lack of transportation provided. John stated that the contract says that the payment comes if buses run. If buses do not transport students, payment is not due. Kathe W. to talk to Gateway, Smith Vocational, and Westfield Technical Academy, to see what the intentions are and if payment for remainder of school year will be due. School has not been in session since March, so therefore expenses must be lower, so should we expect a refund or credit? Kathe will call Stephanie Fisk, Gateway Business Manager to talk with her about Gateway and will update Selectboard.

Update on Old State Rd. cell tower - Steel in the Sky is a company that negotiates cell tower contracts. Selectboard agreed for Kathe to pursue this option.

Emery Street Properties – Discussion about Building Inspector, Jason Forgue, continuing to notify owners of unsafe properties, properties in need of repair, and yards needing clean up. Continue to have property clean up-on agenda to continue conversations about this. Rich suggested opening the demo and metal portion of the transfer station for free dumping during pandemic. Rich's thought is people are home from work and cleaning up their yards and homes. John explained how expensive demolition material is to get rid of and he would not advise doing that. The discussion ended with selectboard agreeing not to go that route.

John asked for a motion to adjourn. Barbara made the motion to adjourn, Rich second and all voted aye.

Meeting adjourned 7:00

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Engwer - Administrative Assistant



John Baldasaro, Chairman

Barbara Huntoon, Vice Chairman

Richard Holzman, Clerk