



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

Monday May 11, 2020 at 6:00pm

Open meeting - Town Hall Auditorium. Signing of warrants

John Baldasaro called meeting to order at 6PM. John Baldasaro, Barbara Huntoon and Richard Holzman in attendance.

New Business

#1 Corey Sparks Highway Superintendent – update on Main St. bridge, new truck, road updates.

MA State bridge inspection team inspected Main St bridge and found it to be in need of repairs. Requiring jersey barriers to be placed along edge of curb. Corey and Kathe Warden went under the bridge to see the damage for themselves and observed deteriorating concrete and Corey feels it is from the salt. The bridge was designed to flex and the barriers will keep it from moving when traffic crosses it. Waiting on DOT Francessca to supply the barriers for the town to pick up and put out on the road. Selectboard suggested Kathe reach out to Natalie Blais and Adam Hines to let them know that we cannot afford to fund the repairs on this bridge and it is Main St.

Highway needs to replace the 350 as it is not worth putting anymore money into. Corey had 3 quotes thru Sarat Ford who told Corey these 3 bids would be what he needed to proceed. John B asked about the State Bid Contract and was Sarat a vendor, because if so the quotes should have had the state vendor number on it. John stated that it is much easier and quicker to use a State Bid Vendor. Kathy Engwer is going to provide Corey the list of vehicles and the website for State Bid information. Marcotte Ford is a State vendor and will do all the leg work for the Town. Selectboard explained to Corey that this must go to Town Meeting for approval to borrow the money to purchase the truck. Will have to lease a truck while the 550 is in the repair shop.

Road updates- cleaning ditches, basins and culverts are just about done on Abbott, Mica Mill, Lyman, Elder and Holcomb. Maintenance Man was in Town street sweeping and all of downtown is done as well as Skyline, Bromley, Lyons and Johnson Hill. Used 3 tons of black top patch. Tontolino is bringing in material to spread on the dirt roads. Carl Baldasaro is running the grader. The Transfer Station has been cleaned up, cemetery's are good and stop signs have been repaired on Bromley. Truck maintenance has been done as well as chipper and roller Corey to call Jim at Palmer Paving and have him come out to help determine the worst parts of the road and where to start. No repaving plan in place yet. Chapter 90 plans are for Bromley Rd, would like to do the whole thing at once but will probably too much money. Corey to call Mike at Beaver Solutions for beaver issues on Skyline and Bromley. Corey to call about patch and hot box. Wasn't sure if plant was open yet, John B said yes they were. Will get that done in next 30-60 days. Trash pick up at various dumping locations. Corey updated Rich on the upcoming Prospect Hill project. That repair is from a grant thru PVPC. Rich asked about grinding and milling Baystate Drive. Could be a Chapter 90 improvement project, John estimates \$30,000 tops. Pine Hill Cemetery is cleaned up. Will be installing speed bumps in front of town hall. Corey complimented his crew and said how much work they have accomplished.



#2 Chester Theatre – discussion and possible vote to wave the rent for summer 2020

The Theatre is asking for the Town to wave the rent for the summer and after a brief discussion the Selectboard agreed. Barbara made motion, Richard second and all voted aye.

Old Business

None at this time.

Town Administrator update

#1 Discussion about FY2021 budget

Kathe provided expense reports in Selectboard packets. Concerns are that the State will be giving less as the Commonwealth's revenue's have decreased with the Covid and businesses not paying sales tax, etc. Suggested freezing general expenses. Natalie Blais claims there is plenty of \$\$ in the State's rainy day account and she feels it will be used. Natalie is one of the few who feel this way, others believe the monies from the State will be far less than last year. John B suggest creating two budgets, one being a conservative budget and the other being the planned budget.

#2 30 Williams St Issues

The owner deeded a piece of this property to the Town so the town can enlarge and make a safer turn area for the town trucks and plows. Nothing was ever filed at the registry of Deeds, property was surveyed and Steve Salvini has the plot plan but a deed is needed to record the plan. The town Attorney and the donating party's attorney will generate a deed.

#3 Memorial Day

Discussed whether to cancel the Memorial Day events and the Board thought that it should be cancelled. Kathe suggested that the town plan to have Memorial Day and Veterans Day as one event on veterans Day. Selectboard thought that was a good idea.

The front door of Town Hall needs repair. It does not latch tightly when shut. Must pull of push it closed.

Solar project is complete, just waiting for the Building Inspector.

Dept. & Committee updates

Maryann Pease updated Board on Hilltown Ambulance progress. The Town of Huntington is looking for a first right of refusal should the ambulance ever decide to sell the building. The concern is any new buildings are built or major improvements made the Ambulance Association would want to be compensated for that. The Attorney's will handle the negotiations.



Library is waiting on the Governor's timeline to reopen.

Public Comments and questions

Maryann Pease paid all the employees that have been coming to work at the Town Hall very high praise. Just wanted the Selectboard to be aware of the loyal employees they have. Selectboard acknowledged the dedication.

Rich Holtzman discussed the East West Rail project and asked the Selectboard to create a resolution supporting and pointing out how important it is for the Town of Chester to have transportation opportunities. Barbara told Rich to write the resolution for the Board to review.

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


Motion to adjourn made by Barbara, second by Rich and all voted aye.

Respectfully submitted


Kathy Engwer
Administrative Assistant



John Baldasaro, Chairman



Barbara Huntoon, Vice Chairman



Richard Holzman, Clerk