

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

Monday June 8, 2020 at 6:00pm

Open meeting - Town Hall Auditorium. Signing of warrants and minutes. Meeting being recorded and web based available also. John called meeting to order at 6:05. John Baldasaro, Barbara Huntoon and Richard Holzman (arrived late) present.

#1 Awarding of the Theodore Steinhard and Franklin D. Hamilton scholarships \$800

Steinhard Scholarship had 2 applicants, Sara Camarco and Idona Dulude were the applicants. Barbara made a motion to award the Steinhard Scholarship to Sarah Carmaco, John Baldasaro second and all voted aye.

Hamilton Scholarship had 5 applicants, Idona Dulude, Maria Pless, Sarah Camarco, Grace LeBarron and Rachel LeBarron were the applicants. The fund has \$7500 available and a motion was made by Barbara Huntoon to award \$1500 to each applicant for the Franklin D Hamilton Scholarship. John second and all voted aye.

#2 Account Transfers – Kathe Warden provided a list of transfers that were approved by the Finance Committee. John asked if this will take us thru the end of the year and the answer is no just cleans us up for now, but will be just small amounts at the end of the year. Barbara made a motion to accept the Account Transfers as shown, John Second and all voted aye. See attached list.

#3 Discussion and possible vote to send a letter for the East West Rail

support- Barbara apologized for not having time to tweak the letter of support that was provided by Bob Daley. This item was tabled till next Monday and Barabra will have the letter completed for signatures.

#4 Discussion and possible vote to award Refuse and recycling hauling bids –

Liz Massa from Board of Health (BOH) joined the meeting via phone to give Selectboard input on the contracts received for the Transfer Station. Discussion was about the bids received from Wickles and Kane, for trash removal. Received a quote for scrap metal that would be better for the town but would like to discuss with Wickles about whether there would be an issue if another hauler handled the scrap metal. Discussed electronics disposal also and will check on that also. Wickles is low bid, Selectboard agreed to wait for more information on the

contracts before signing. Liz stated that the BOH has applied for a grant to install 2 sheds at the Transfer Station. Will know in a month or two about grant.

#5 Meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the budget for the Annual Town Meeting – Andy Myers from the Finance Committee presented the proposed budget for FY2021. Selectboard reviewed the figures and asked for the following changes to be made: Board of Assessors Clerk to \$14000, Tax Collector increase of \$848 vs \$487.50 and Recreation Committee to \$2500. The Capital Requests were reduced by removing the following items: Highway Department plow and new truck, will be borrowing for this purchase, not from free cash. For FY2021 the Water Department will only purchase one Filter Bed Acuator this fiscal year and one next fiscal year at a cost of \$9666 each. Selectboard decided to not have an audit done this year and save \$17,000. The Town has had an audit the last two years. Jason spoke that he was against an audit last year to give the new team time to clean up the past, he feels that this year audit would tell the Town if in fact we are moving forward as well as we think. Request was made for monthly condition of accounts to be given to all departments. Jason has said he has requested these reports multiple times and has not received them. Selectboard and Kathe will assure that reports are made available monthly. An education stabilization account was suggested. Andy reminded the Town about the J&J Timber property that needs the attorney to put finishing touches on and Mass Wildlife is still very interested in purchasing this piece of land locked land from the Town and could mean \$100,000 for the Town. Snow removal budget is in the negative as usual and will have to be made up from other leftovers.

#6 Review of the Annual Town meeting warrant – Article 4 will be to vote on the overall number but discuss each category as Finance Committee is broken them down. No number in the Chapter 90 money because if you vote for a specific number and you get more you, have to have another vote. Stabilization for Fire Truck is changed to \$25,000. When special items are voted in the budget, to put a time frame on other end, so there is an expiration date and the money is not used by end date money returns to Free Cash. Discussion to keep Town Meeting here at Town Hall. Andy suggested putting on the warrant this time to move any of those unused account balances that have not been used for 3 years since approved and return these amounts to Free Cash.

Kathe Warden reminded everybody that the bridge in Middlefield on Chester Rd will be closed for construction for at least a year. The contractor will be installing signs notify drivers of the closure.

Public Comments and Questions

Jason Forgue - Jason asked about water lines being installed to ball field. John told Jason to coordinate with Corey Sparks from Highway Department to install. Jason asked about material for the parking lot at ballfield.

State Inspector is coming to deal with 8 Emery St.

Jason asked about cemetery commission position as he feels badly about the condition of our cemetery. Asked what the job description is.

Bob Daley - asked for an update on Town Hall door replacement and was told that is part of why PVPC is looking for a local concrete person.

Mary Ann Pease – concern about the traffic speed on Hampden St and is looking for one of those little turtle people with a flag. Barbara found them on Lowe's website.

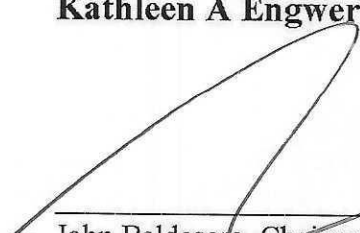
Corey Sparks – Presented the bid for the truck at \$77,000. There is a 2016 pick up available at \$25,000, will be negotiating the price, that will become the superintendent truck so the large truck stays in Town.

Meeting will adjourn at 8:11PM

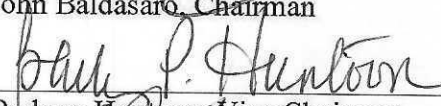
Any other matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

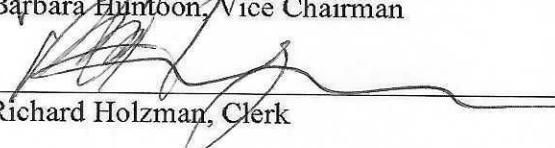
Kathleen A Engwer



John Baldasaro, Chairman



Barbara Huntton, Vice Chairman



Richard Holzman, Clerk