



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

Monday July 06, 2020 at 6:00pm

Open meeting - Town Hall Auditorium. Signing of warrants.

Meeting being recorded and web based available also. Barb called meeting to order at 6:00.PM Barbara Huntoon and Richard Holzman present. John Baldasaro attending remotely. John Baldasaro arrived at 6:57

First order of business is reorganizing the board. John nominates Barbara as Chairperson, Rich second and John and Rich voted aye. Barbara nominates John for Vice Chair, Rich second, Barbara and Rich voted aye. Barbara nominates Rich as Clerk, John second and Barbara and John voted aye.

#1 Appointments – Kathe Warden states there are two amendments to the list;

Rich Holzman, PVPC and Rich Holzman Planning Board to be added to list.

Rich wants to be on record that if any resident was to step up and ask to be appointed to one of these 2 boards Rich would be happy to step aside and let a new person become a member of the board.

Animal Control – Teresa Donovan

Rich made motion John second all voted aye

Board of Registrars – 3 Vacancies

Board of Health Agent-Vacant BOH to appoint

Cemetery Commissioner – Vacant

Cemetery Maintenance – Vacant

Conservation Commission – R Duane Pease, John VanHeynigen, Ben VanHeynigen
Rich Holzman made motion, John B second and all voted aye. (Barbara Huntoon abstained from voting).

Council on Aging and Council on Aging Board of Directors Tabled till July 20

Cultural Council – 5 Vacancies

Economic Development Director -Jean LeClair

Rich made motion John second all voted aye



Fire Chief – Emer. Mgt – Forest Fire Warden – Richard Small

Rich made motion John second all voted aye

Highway Superintendent – Tabled John B abstained from any input.

Historical Commission – Janice Brown, Annette LaMountain, Fay Piergiovanni

Rich Holzman made motion, John B second and all voted aye.

I beilieve John Hultman was forgotten to be on historical

Inspector of Animals – Teresa Donovan

Rich Holzman made motion, John B second and all voted aye.

Inspector – Building Jason Forgue

Rich Holzman made motion, John B second and all voted aye.

Inspector Electric – John Vanheynigen

John B made motion, Rich second and all voted aye

Inspector – Plumbing & Gas – William Clark 111

John B made motion, Rich second and all voted aye

Inspector – Assistant Plumbing – Nicholas Chiusano

John B made motion, Rich second and all voted aye

Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Bylaw Committee – Elizabeth Massa

John B made motion, Rich second and all voted aye

Parks & Trails – Elizabeth Massa

Rich Holzman made motion, John B second and all voted aye.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission – Lyle Snide, Richard Holzman

John B made motion, Barbara second and all voted aye. (Rich Holzman abstained from voting).

Planning Board – Harry Sanner, Lyle Snide, Richard Holzman, Michael Hickson

John B made motion, Barbara second and all voted aye (Rich Holzman abstained from voting).

Police Chief – Daniel Illnicky

Rich Holzman made motion, Barbara second and all voted aye. (John Baldasaro abstained from voting)

Police Officers – Todd Allman, John Baldasaro, James Grzelak, Phil Lanier, Gary O'Brien, Tammy Weidhaas, Christopher Barton

Rich Holzman made motion, Barbara second and all voted aye. (John Baldasaro abstained from voting)



Recreation Committee – Jason Forgue, Stephanie Bodendorf, Kathy Engwer
Rich Holzman made motion, John B second and all voted aye

Town Accountant – Paula Beck

Rich Holzman made motion, John B second and all voted aye

Town Collector – Mary Ann Pease

Rich Holzman made motion, John B second and all voted aye.

Town Treasurer – Jon Lumbra

Rich Holzman made motion, John B second and all voted aye.

Town Clerk – Rosemary Dalesandro

Rich Holzman made motion, John B second and all voted aye

Town Counsel – Thomas Mullen, P.C.

John B made motion, Rich B second and all voted aye.

Westfield River Wild & Scenic – Dave Pierce

John B made motion, Rich B second and all voted aye.

#2 Handbook discussion and possible vote to adopt

Corrections that were given have been done. Slectboard agreed that no further changes were needed. A motion by Rich was made to accept the Employee Handbook for town of Chester as written, John second and all voted aye.

#3 Discussion about vocational transportation

Kathe met with David LeCrenski, Bus Company, Josh Garcia, Blandford, Jennifer Peloquin, Huntington. Davis is willing to talk to Towns, is going to get his numbers together from what he presented to Worthington with the breakdowns. He is looking at between 40-50% of outstanding balance for the school year. He is supposed to get back to the towns as we need to clear this up before July 15th and David L is aware of this and Kathe reached out to him again today. Andy pointed out that the van service portion of the business did not stop working like the bus drivers that the company automatically laid off. Kathe explained that Lecrenski is looking to have his reoccurring expenses paid whether school was open or not. Barbara asked if the company had applied for any relief via the Covid programs. Andy said that DESE rationale is that if your going to use this company when they go back to school the payments will help keep the company solvent. Rich understands that and could be agreeable as long as Lecrenski has sought but not



received any aid. The Town should be the last place that they come for money. They would have to prove that they tried everything available for other aid. Kathe brought it up and asked about encumbering the money by July 15, in case the Town decides to pay the 40-50% Lecrenski is requesting. Selectboard agreed to encumbering money.

#4 Discussion about grading of dirt roads & possibility of hiring a subcontractor

Highway Superintendent not present. Superintendent came in during meeting.

Kathe put this item on at the request of Jon VanHeynigen. He feels that at this time last year the road was all graded and in good shape but is not the case this year. Barb asked John if he has any idea where the Highway Dept is with grading of roads. Rich says they have done Abbott Hill and Ingell. John suggested Ron Radwich from Middlefield to come and grade as he has in the past. Andy M pointed out that John V called about the roads because he had to do an electrical inspection on Maynard Hill and it was dangerous to drive. Barbara brought up that we are in July now and this should have been done by now. John believes we should contract out the grading. Barbara asked if Ron drives our grader should we bother replacing the grader. Rich mentioned that the brakes are bad on the grader if we are going to put someone in it. Brakes were repaired last year, but there are not good now. The cost for an operator in their own backhoe would be 4 times the cost. The town is charged \$125 per hour for an operator using our grader.

Corey Sparks, Highway Superintendent, has just joined the meeting at Town Hall. He was asked to fill everyone in on the status of grading the roads. Corey said he spoke to the guy who did it last year, he is busy now but as soon as he is done he will do ours. Barbara asked how much he will charge us and Corey said he assumed it would be same as last year but he did not discuss price with Ron. Barbara asked about the brakes and Corey responded they were bad. She then asked what we were going to do about that and how much to fix. Corey had no idea how much it would cost to repair, just that it would be expensive. He stated that they worked on them and temporarily fixed them, then the other side would go, then a bleeder valve or line would go, then another, etc. It is a continuous problem.



Barbara asked how far in financially are we on the grader and Corey said he didn't know. Barbara asked if he could get back to Kathe with that figure. Corey said parts are cheap but it is finding the time to work on it. Right now there is another line broke and it is not fixed yet. Can we allow someone to drive the Town backhoe with the brakes like they are, what is the liability? Barabra asked Corey to ask Ron if he is willing to drive our grader and the cost for the use of our equipment as well as a cost to use their own grader. Corey to get back to Kathe. Rich mentioned that he heard that the blade is worn. Corey said yes and that Carl is working on getting prices for a replacement blade. Carl has gotten a quote for a lot of money from Ripco, it was a lot of money, Corey thinks it was around \$3000. Barb asked if that was foe a new blade and John said no. Rich asked if we fixed the brakes and replaced the blade what else would need to be done to operate the machine safely and efficiently. Corey added that it needs lights, there are no blinkers or strobe lights, no brake lights, it's old. Barbara asked if grading the roads is the only thing we use it for and Corey said yes. Rich said that no it is used to plow when we have a real bad snow storm, and to push snow banks back. Rich suggests getting a price the repairs just spoke of. Barbara asked if the Highway crew is comfortable and capable of repairing this grader. Corey says that what happens when you try to fix one thing then something else breaks. If we can find someone who can give us a price to get the grader in ok working order. Selectboard feels we should hire this out. Corey stated that you have to pick, want roads graded or pot holes filled? Both Rich and Barbara answered that both have to be done, Corey answered that it won't happen. In July the pot holes should be done by now. Do we get rid of the grader? John thinks that the grader has a lot of life left in it. Brakes were replaced 3 years ago at \$3000. He feels the all the parts inside are done, sounds like the bake lines are rotting out and it is time to replace them. It is time consuming, but it is not a huge mechanical issue. Corey didn't know how many brake lines there are. Corey to find someone and get a quote back to Kathe with quote. Ron has said he will be able to come and do roads within 3 weeks. Corey to get a quote for operator with own machine. Andy suggest that Corey look at the roads like Maynard that is dangerous and make a list. John says you can't do what is needed with the back hoe, but could be a quick fix. Kathe asked about reaching out to another Town and ask to hire their operator and equipment. Corey says no other Town isn't going to help within the next week. He is going to have the crew bring material up there and back drag it. Corey



complained that there are only 3 guys, and one of them is going to be out for next 2 days, so that leaves 2 guys to do the work. Barbara pointed out that there are 4 on highway and with one out that leaves 3. Corey told Barbara it would take 3 people to fix Maynard Hill. John said it will be good till you get Ron in there.

Rich asked about the mechanic that lives in town and was told you cannot get him. He is booked months ahead. John is adamant that this man will not work on the grader at all. Corey to investigate all over New England and find someone to work on the grader, reach out to White Wolf for their mechanic, and get us on a schedule to get the grader fixed. Corey says he has no bargaining chip, Barbara asked why you would need a bargaining chip, just see if he is willing and get a price.

Corey looked up some info, grader blade is \$3400. He also thinks it might be the cylinder and not the brake line.

#5 Employee Review – Highway Superintendent Corey Sparks

John Baldasaro will abstain from this discussion do to his brother on the Highway Department

Barbara does not want to do Corey Sparks review tonight. Selectboard wants a list of things he has accomplished and things he needs to work on. Corey agreed. Rich observations over many years there are always things to do, no one is questioning how hard you work but how can you work better. Suggest hiring professionals to repair the equipment rather than taking workers off the road jobs. Is probably more economical and efficient to do this. Corey used an example that how does he dig a grave and bring material with a truck down. Was reminded that there will always bumps and breakdowns but as Superintendent you have to be able to work around these issues as you are always going to have them. Corey mentioned again that he is getting work orders for the water department daily. John B says again that the Highway Department is not the Water Department. Work orders needs to go to the operator not automatically to the Highway. Never was the Highway the water department, only in an emergency and also to turn water on and off. Water used to pay a meter person and had a contractor to dig the breaks. Corey claims to have enough work orders to be a fulltime job. Bernie must find a meter person.



Cemetery maintenance is an issue also. The summer helper only mows, does not get off the mower. May consider hiring a water meter and cemetery maintenance position.

Andy Myers suggests a 10 year plan for Highway and Water Departments. We know we have needs and we need to plan how to correct situation. Potentially hire someone to be the water department person as well as the cemetery person, 10 hours a week in the summer.

Barbara suggests shared services for water and highway superintendent. Same discussion about not being the only town in this position.

Barabra told Corey he has to be looking for reimbursements and grants and not necessarily out on the roads.

Rich wants all of these issues written down so that the Selectboard can see them and address them.

Selectboard became water commissioners when there was a conflict between the Water Commissioners and the Selectboard, so the Selectboard did not reappoint them.

Kathe going to ask for any overtime for water or cemetery is coming out of Highway budget. Corey asked where he gets money for salaries and parts for water or cemetery and Barbara reminded him that the overtime is to come from appropriate account whether it is water or cemetery.

72 hour notice from now on for a water shut off or turn on for water unless it is an emergency.

It is John B opinion that the Highway Department has been the back up for every department in need. It has gotten a lot better in the past few years.

Continued discussion about cemetery and burials.

Kathe W and Kathe E to look in other towns for help with the water department.

Barbara told Corey that when the water is overwhelming or other issues come up that the Highway cannot keep up on, the Selectboard must know.

Corey mentioned that Jason Ellershaw probationary period is up. He is supposed to have a review and a pay raise. Barbara reminded Corey that he is Jason's boss and the review is up to him. Corey told to put something in writing and submit to Kathe, who will submit to Treasurer and Corey will have to sign off o that whenever he is available. Corey was going to be in the mower tomorrow but now he cannot be because one of his employees has a funeral.



Corey review put off till the following week.

Kathe W Update – Spoke to Bernie St Martin, requesting the Town be put on restrictions, for now. No rain in future, at mid to late August levels in the reservoir. No car washing, watering lawns and only hand watering of gardens. Erring on side of caution. Will be posted on website and a robo call. Only the village is affected.

Need the agreement with Kye Technologies signed for the GIS and new software.

Rosemary Dalesandro - All new appointments must be sworn in and do an ethics class in 30 days. This includes volunteers, employees and appointed board members. Ethics is every two years. Everyone must be sworn in every year.

Barabra suggested advertising the vacancies on our boards in the Country Journal to try to fill the positions.

Barbara asked if Frank Pero Jr has accepted the School Committee position and Town Clerk said yes, but he has not been sworn in. Cannot go to any meetings until sworn in. Code of ethics is every 2 years.

Public Comment

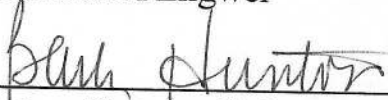
None

Adjourn meeting 6:51, to go into Executive Session.

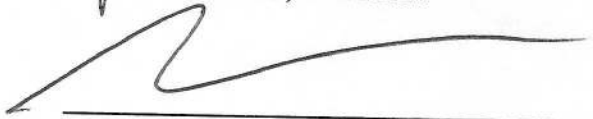
Motion made to adjourn to go into executive session, Mass General Law 38A Sub Section 21A6 to consider the purchase lease, exchange or value of real property if the Chairperson so declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the negotiating position of the public body. Roll call vote, John Baldasaro, yes, Barabra Huntoon, Yes, Richard Holzman Yes.




Respectfully Submitted
Kathleen A Engwer



Barbara Huntoon, Chairman



John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman



Richard Holzman