



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

Monday July 27, 2020 at 6:00pm

Open meeting - Town Hall Auditorium. Signing of meeting minutes No Warrants.

Meeting being recorded and web based available also. Barbara called meeting to order at 6:00. Barbara Huntoon and Richard Holzman present.

#1 Discussion with Donald Sanders on behalf of William Ivey Long RE

10 Middlefield Road – Donald explained, as Mr Long had during previous meeting, that his companies are in financial ruin. With Broadway being closed due to Coivid and potentially being closed till 2021 there is no income and will not get any better. Donald and Mr Long are willing to return the school to the town for taxes owed as well as personal property taxes, on 10 Middlefield Rd. Taxes owed on 10 Middlefield Rd are \$88,021.07, including treasurer's interest and fees. The property is presently in tax title. Personal property taxes are \$5,516.32 for 10 Middlefield Rd. Mary Ann Pease reminded the Selectboard that the property is incurring 16% interest daily on unpaid balanced. See attached documents for Town Council opinion and data sheet with tax figures owed)

Rich made a motion to have Town Counsel draw up a Purchase & Sale Agreement to return 10 Middlefield Road back to The Town of Chester, in lieu of outstanding taxes, including penalties and interest, subject to Town Meeting with a 2/3 vote. Barbara second and all vote aye.

#2 Jason Forgue, School Committee member updates about Gateway Regional

School Committee has been meeting 3 mornings a week to get a plan together for students return to school. 1st phase being high need special need students, approximately 200 students. Phase 2 would include Pre School and Kindergarten. The plan is then to progress to Elementary School then High School. There will also be an online academy available. Idea is to have 3 groups and students will be at school 3 times a week. Potential of School Committee coming up with a plan and having teacher and parents say no. The Teachers Union gets a say and Jason feels they are lumping our school district with schools out in the East for negotiations. Buses will run, students will wear masks. Bus monitors will ride the buses at an approximate cost of \$130,000, with \$225 per student being received from Federal Government towards this expense. State is guaranteeing level funding. Only 14 students per bus will be allowed. Gateway will be observing the 6' social distancing rule. 10 desks per room. Discussion continued about use of all 3 buildings or will schools be merged? Will wrap around be available? Destination learning, such as outside Gym

Class? School Committee will be submitting report to DESE(Department of Elementary and Secondary Education), to see if approval will be given or not. Bob Daley asked if Dr. Hopson is still retiring in June of 2021. Answer was yes.

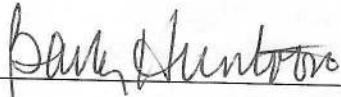
PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Schoonmaker, lives on Rte 20 by Maple St bridge, came to talk about the speed that cars go thru the village. With Carm's being open and a crosswalk there on that corner he is afraid that someone is going to get hurt. Was asking if Town could do something and get lowered to 25MPH. Selectboard will have Kathe look into it and provide update at later meeting. Rosemary Dalesandro mentioned the flashing speed limit signs as a possible solution.

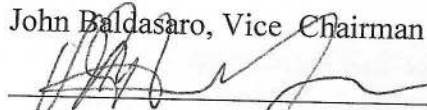
Bob Daley Update on East West Rail, Chester is included on all 3 proposed plans.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05

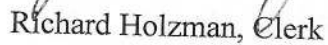
Respectfully Submitted
Kathleen A Engwer



Barbara Huntoon, Chairman



John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman



Richard Holzman, Clerk