



TOWN OF CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER COMMISSIONERS & ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Monday August 24, 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, Richard Holzman and John Baldasaro present

#1 Board of Health – new hire for appointment- Jeremy Friend

Continued till September 14, 2020 Selectboard meeting.

#2 Plumbing Inspector – Nicholas Chuisano, Assistant Plumbing Inspector application for appointment for Plumbing Inspector

Appointed Nick Chuisano as Plumbing Inspector and Aaron Poteat as Assistant Plumbing Inspector

#3 Historical Committee appointment – John Hultman

John Hultman was left off the original list of appointments. Appointed John to Historical Committee.

#4 Grow Chester –presentation of new Host Community Agreement

Grow Chester held the Community Outreach Meeting, for a new location at 126 & 133 Middlefield Rd. The meeting was advertised in The Berkshire Eagle only and there was no citizen attendance. Discussion with Selectboard about new Host Community Agreement with the Town. During discussion items such as landscaping and façade improvement were discussed. Per Grow Chester, contractors will dictate how quickly the work can be done. Discussed buildings that will be removed and ones that will stay. Concentrating on one parcel at a time. The Selectboard has requested a signed purchase and sale prior to entering into the Host Community Agreement for this new location. John B suggests that Chester Grow gets a copy of the Host Community Agreement that was in place for this



property in the past as there are additional stipulations for this property that were not in the Host Community Agreement for the Baystate Drive location. New location equals new rules. Chester Grow estimates to be up and running in January of 2022.

#5 Highway – update from Foreman Carl Baldasaro

Update on employees was favorable in having a leader and knowing what their jobs are every day. Having a schedule has helped morale considerably.

New trucks being undercoated. Wants Richie at Richie's General Service to look at the 350; could be repaired without having to tow out of town and could save some money.

All dirt roads with exception of two are graded and raked.

Discussed locks on garage and gate. Carl felt it will be okay as is, but if upgrade happens Carl in favor of the fingerprint type.

Trying to get something scheduled for this year's Chapter 90 money. Will be working on that. John mentioned a Paving Study done by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) of all roads in town. This study lists the roads in order of shelf life and helps prioritize the order in which roads are repaired.

Carl is catching up on paperwork. Has warrants and payroll entered into the Highway Department computer. Hired a summer helper for Fridays. Looking to fill the fourth position on the Highway. Selectboard agreed to a temporary fulltime laborer as the fourth person is in the budget. A job posting will be created for the position.

Carl asked to be paid at Superintendent pay as that is the job he is doing. Without the CDL license he asked for \$24.50 per hour. Selectboard agreed to \$24.00 per hour with a 90-day review. Pay increase as of August 24, 2020, 90-day review on October 19th. Rich suggested 45-day review in light of winter approaching. Rich made a motion to increase Carl Baldasaro pay to \$24 per hour as of 8/24/2020, with a 45-day performance review. Barbara seconded. Rich and Barbara voted aye; John abstained.



#6 Kathe Warden, Town Administrator –

Discussion about William Ivey Long, 10 Middlefield Rd. Attorney has stated that The Town of Chester could have a special town meeting to accept a deed in lieu of tax title-taking and then vote by 2/3 majority to transfer the property to another use. It was noted that this transfer would not have pertain to any personal property tax owed, or any other real property taxes on any other parcels belonging to Mr. Long in Chester. Kathe to direct attorney to draw up necessary documents to proceed.

Kathe requested town Hall to remain closed to the public till January 4, 2021. Selectboard agreed.

Had meeting with Senator Hinds and informed him of the issues with DEP and running a water plant on limited funds and the requirements being the same for a system with 30,000 customers as 300 customers.

Water restrictions need to made more public. Kathy to put on fire department sign, hand out letter at the Transfer Station, and update website with info.

Need special town meeting for a bill from Elm Electric for water department issues that was from FY2020 but not submitted or received till FY2021.

The Selectboard agreed the Ford Focus the Waters family has offered to donate to the Council On Aging is in need of too many repairs and respectfully declined the donation.

COA committee search letter to go out in Watts News with deadline of September 10th to select new COA committee members to write new COA bylaws.

Public Comments and questions

Sister Judith asked that the Highway Department help move the heavy vote counting box to the auditorium as the elevator is broke and it is heavy. Carl agreed.



Meeting Adjourned 7:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen A Engwer

Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Richard Holzman, Clerk