



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

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 pm**

Open meeting – Town Hall Auditorium

Selectmen Barbara Huntoon, John Baldasaro, and Richard Holzman present. Town Hall staff present; Kathe Warden Town Administrator, Jill Strong Administrative Assistant, Mary Ann Pease Tax Collector, Sister Judith Town Clerk, Carl Baldasaro Town Highway Foreman, Kathy Engwer and Duane Pease. Meeting is being recorded and web base available as well.

Signing of warrants, no minutes available.

Meeting called to order by Barbara at 6:02 pm.

**#1 Continuation of Tax Classification Hearing:** This will still be continued to after the first of the year. We will have Harald Scheid from Regional Resource Group come in for a meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> with all of finance because all agree the numbers do not appear correct. Kathe received a call from D.O.R. today (12/14/20) LA13 was not approved. Until we know the absolute correct tax rate, we will be distributing estimated tax bills.

**#2 Continuation of Employee review:** Change the status of Carl Baldasaro from Foreman to Superintendent. Selectman John Baldasaro has recused himself from the discussion due to his relation to Carl. Everyone agrees Carl is doing a fantastic job, the new project on Johnson Hill Rd. looks great. The selectmen did however agree that they did want to wait to promote him to the actual position of Superintendent until he has all the proper licensure. Carl has been encouraging all of the employees to pursue getting their licenses but is wondering if the town would be willing to offer any assistance? Whether it be through paying for the actual license or paying for his time while taking the class, he was not willing to do all of this on his own time. He was also under the impression that the town was going to be contributing to the cost, we will have to check past meeting minutes for this discussion, as well as the job description. Also suggested that we check with the surrounding towns to see how they handle their employee's licensures or any suggestions they have. Carl left immediately after the discussion and waited in the hall.

**#3 Discussion of Boiler Bids & Vote to Award:** Eric Weiss from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is on our Go-To-Meeting, and recommends that we take the low bid from New

England Trade upon doing a reference check. We are unsure if the boiler contains asbestos so it could cost more, however John believes an assessment was done for the entire basement a few years ago. Barbara made motion to take the bid from NE Trade, Richard 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion contingent on the reference check. Kathe W. did let us know that while the work is being done that we could be without heat for 5-7 days.

**Administrative Updates:** Kathe let us know that Hilltown Voices a domestic violence organization is looking for sponsors. They would like us to make some signs to put up in the Town Hall and they can come and take some pictures.

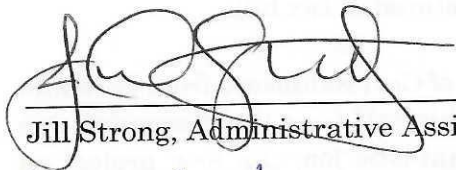
**Public Comments and Questions:**

This past weekend the Fire Dept. did their annual round with Santa. A big thank you to the Fire Dept. as well as the combination Chester and Blandford Police Dept. for all of their dedication and hard work that they always do and especially this year. A discussion of sending out thank you notes to members of the Fire and Police Dept. from the Selectmen. Discussed opening comments and questions to the public. At this time during Covid not allowed to have larger group of people in the building, Go-To-Meeting participation decision was no due to how easily things can be broadcast to social media. Anyone who has any questions or comments should email them ahead of time, along with your photo and address so they can be discussed.

John made the motion to adjourn, Barbara 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned 6:46pm**

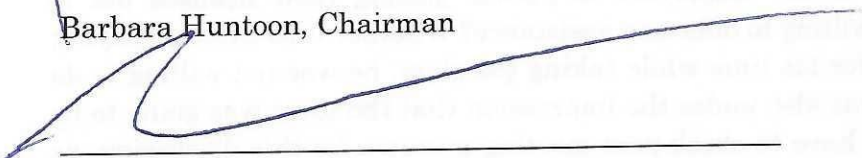
Respectfully Submitted

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

12/28/20  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

12/28/20  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

12/28/20  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Holzman, Clerk

12/28/20  
Date Signed