



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

Monday, January 25th, 2021

Open Meeting – Meeting Held Virtually

No warrants or minutes to be signed due to the meeting being virtual, Selectmen will stop into the Town Hall at the earliest opportunity.

Selectmen John Baldasaro, Rich Holzman, and Barbara Huntoon present. Town Hall staff present - Kathe Warden, Town Administrator; Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant; Mary Ann Pease, Tax Collector; and Sister Judith, Town Clerk. Others present included Elizabeth Massa from the Board of Health, Bob Daley from the Finance Committee and Chair of the Water Improvement Committee, Jason Forgue our Building Inspector and member of the Finance Committee, and Andy Myers member of the Finance Committee. We also had Peter Spotts Assistant Editor of the Country Journal, and two Chester residents Kathy Engwer and James Higby. Highway Department members Carl Baldasaro and Jason Ellershaw were not present.

#1 Review of the COA Bylaws: Rich and John had no problems with the updated bylaws, but Barbara wanted a few things changed. She found some editing that needs to be done and felt that there were a few things that could be helped by the guidelines from the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs that she looked up. Barbara will email a copy with edits and suggestions to Mary Ann. The next step for the COA will be to work on the job description for the Director, they are waiting to have the bylaws viewed for approval so that the job description could match. Barbara also suggested the job description include the Director shall have measurable goals. John thanked them for the work put in, Mary Ann said they will make all necessary corrections and bring back with the new job description.

#2 Discussion with Jason Ellershaw about Water Department: Jason is not in attendance; will move to the next meeting.

#3 Highway Dept. Update – Carl Baldasaro: Carl is also not in attendance; will be moved to the next meeting.

Barbara brought up bringing back public comments which had previously been decided we would not be doing in the virtual format. The decision had been any questions needed to be submitted prior to the meeting. Barbara believes we can allow comments because the Selectmen have control over people

speaking, they can mute people if they felt things were getting out of hand. Her suggestion was to have a time limit of three minutes and speakers must first introduce themselves and state their address. John stated that we will need to vote on this because we have previously voted against this. John opposed the idea due to his belief if people are comfortable in their homes, we are unsure of their state of mind when they are asking these questions. Rich felt that this would be ok to try to see if people can follow the rules and we can re-visit if there are problems. Rich made a motion to go through with allowing questions with the guidelines of a time limit and mandatory introduction with a follow up of the discussion in two months. Barbara 2nd, John chose to abstain from the vote not completely against the idea but still had some reservations. Barbara and Rich voted aye. Comments allowed.

Town Administrator Update:

- We have decided on our new Chief for the Chester Blandford Police Dept. Officer Tammy Weidhass, who will be sworn in on February 1st at 6:00pm. This will be held in the Chester Town Hall as an invite only event with a max of 40 people.
- The boiler project has started in the Town Hall and is going easier than initially thought. The old one has already been completely taken apart and the new one is coming tomorrow 1/26/21. The contractor is optimistic it will be completed by the end of the week.
- Have a meeting this week with Erica from PVPC about the CDBG grant the town received.
- We are putting together the calendar for meeting with each of the departments regarding their budget. Will be getting in touch with those she has not heard from yet so this can be finalized.

Public Comments and Questions: Now that we have decided to open things up to public comments, we do have a few people on our virtual meeting who would like to speak.

Bob Daley: A Chester resident, who is part of our Finance committee, would like to applaud the Selectmen for their vote to allow participation. He also asked for a quick explanation from Kathe regarding the CDBG grant. Kathe explained that this was a block grant that had been awarded to Chester for \$1.3 million which would be going toward the Prospect St. project as well as to social services which was already designated as part of the grant.

James Higby: A Chester resident, read us a statement that he had sent to our Selectmen on January 11th regarding the attack on the Capital that took place on January 6th.

Jason Forgue: A Chester resident who is our Building Inspector, would like added to the agenda for Select Board approval the process for the Tax Collector to adopt measures to sign off on all permits. This does not need to be a bylaw it only needs to be approved by the Selectmen. He also suggested that he begin looking at options for Regional Resource Group (RRG) if things do not start to look better with the finalization of our tax rate and their work in general. Barbara answered she would like to meet with all the boards including the assessors soon and discuss that.

Bob Daley: Had one more question, wanted to know if the water compliance presentation would be taking place at the February 8th meeting? Kathe assured him that it would. Barbara asked that anything

people had to contribute to the water committee please let us know so it can be brought to the presentation.

Rich made the motion to adjourn, John 2nd. All voted aye.

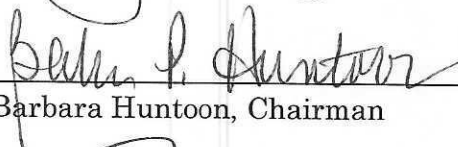
Meeting adjourned 6:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted



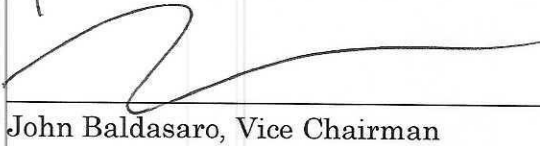
Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

1/28/21
Date Signed



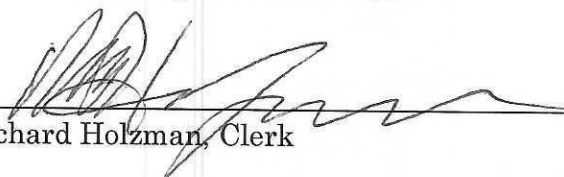
Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Date Signed



Richard Holzman, Clerk

Date Signed