



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

**Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Open Meeting – Meeting Held Virtually

Warrant and minutes signed prior to the meeting.

Selectmen John Baldasaro, Richard Holzman, and Barbara Huntoon present. Town Hall staff; Town Administrator Kathe Warden, Administrative Assistant Jill Strong, and the Assessors Clerk Laura Lafreniere. From the Board of Health, we had Elizabeth Massa and Nick Chiusano also our Plumbing inspector, Jason Fogue our Building Inspector also a member of our Finance Committee, and Jason Ellershaw a member of our Highway Department. Also present, Bob Daley from our Finance and Water Committee, Andy Myers from the Finance Committee, Jessica Sakaske from the Finance Committee, and our presenter Dr. Richard Gullick of Water Compliance Solutions. We also had nine Chester residents sitting in on the meeting, James Higby, Kathy Engwer, Frank DeJackmo, Dennis Kunian, Anita Milman and four others who did not have a name displayed. Highway Department Foreman Carl Baldasaro and Water Department Primary Operator Bernie St. Martin were not present.

Meeting called to order by Barbara Huntoon at 6:00 pm.

**#1 Presentation of proposed strategic water plan from Dr. Gullick of Water Compliance Solutions.**

**Discussion and possible vote to accept:** Dr. Gullick gave his presentation to everyone for a strategic water plan that would improve the quality of our water. The plan is broken down into goals with a system of 21 strategies on how to achieve those goals. A proposed idea as part of the plan is a re-organization of how we run the system. Options were to have the Highway Department completely take over the responsibility or the possibility of regionalization with nearby water systems. The Highway Department already does take care of some of the work but if we choose this route, they would then assume the responsibilities of all the administrative duties as well as the treatment and distribution system operations. The staff would be required to have specific licenses to carry out their duties however the knowledge is then retained within the town. A member of our Highway Department Jason Ellershaw has already taken interest and is going to be taking classes to get started down this path. Dr. Gullick let us know that 15 of the 21 strategies they have come up with have no additional cost. However, there are two systems that are suggested one for aeration and another for improving the color caused by manganese which can be costly. We could look for a grant or a loan to make this happen. Barbara suggested reaching out to our State Rep. Natalie Blais or Senator Adam Hinds for

assistance. Kathe did let us know that the water budget is tight. So, we would need to find funding for this otherwise the decision to move forward would need to discuss taking it from Stabilization which requires a town vote. Andy suggested researching loans available and Dr. Gullick gave us the suggestion of trying the Department of Agriculture for funding. John liked the plan and wanted to start implementing what we could and believed that it was cost effective after the initial investment. He asked that a meeting be set up with our Highway Foreman Carl Baldasaro and the current Primary Operator of the Water Department Bernie St. Martin to discuss the structure change as well as training for Carl and Jason. Rich also brought up that we could talk with PVPC about grant possibilities. Bob Daley of the Water Committee brought up his thoughts that priority #1 should be the aeration system which he felt we could make affordable if D.E.P. (Department of Environmental Protection) approves the system. John motioned that we accept the plan contingent on funding. Rich 2<sup>nd</sup> all voted Aye. Dr. Gullick thanked everyone who helped along the way Kathe, the Water Committee, and the Highway Department. Barbara also thanked everyone who helped to make this happen.

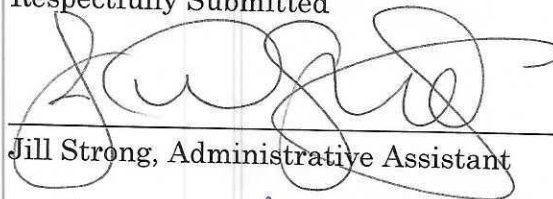
**Town Administrator Update:** Kathe had no updates for us.

**Public Comments and Questions:** There were no questions.

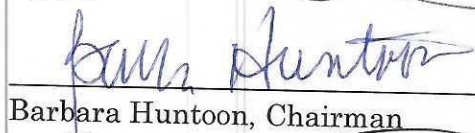
John made the motion to adjourn, Rich 2<sup>nd</sup>. All voted Aye.

**Meeting adjourned 8:08 pm.**

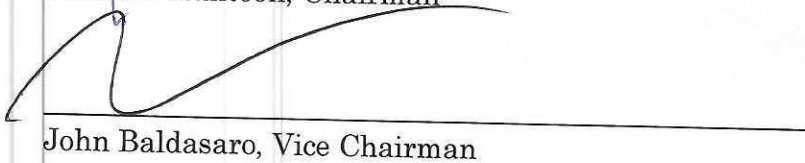
Respectfully Submitted

  
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Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

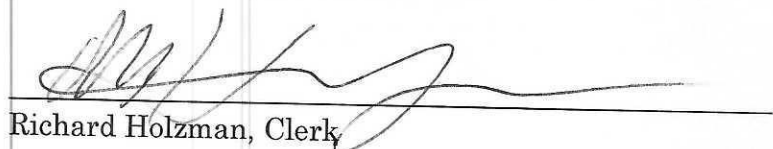
2/23/21  
Date Signed

  
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Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

2/23/21  
Date Signed

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

2/11/21  
Date Signed

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

3/1/21  
Date Signed