



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

Monday, March 1st, 2021

Open Meeting – Virtual however Select Board and some staff are present in person at the Town Hall.

Selectmen John Baldasaro, Barbara Huntoon and Richard Holzman present. Staff also present in the Town Hall were Kathe Warden, Town Administrator; Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant; Bernie St. Martin, Water Department Primary Operator; Noreen St. Martin, Backup Water Department Operator; Carl Baldasaro Highway, Foreman. Signing in virtually were, Sister Judith Dalesandro, Town Clerk; Mary Ann Pease, Tax Collector; Tim Dunn, Assessors; Andy Myers, Finance Committee Chair; Bob Daley from our Finance and Water Committee; Elizabeth Massa from the Board of Health; and Paula Beck our Accountant. We also had three residents sitting in on the meeting, Linda Koske, and two others who did not have a name displayed. Harald Scheid from Regional Resource Group also participated virtually. Jason Ellershaw, Highway Department; Richard Small, Fire Chief; and Dr. Rich Gullick from Water Compliance Solutions were not present.

Warrants and Minutes signed.

Meeting called to order by Barbara Huntoon at 5:04 pm.

We waited on Carl for a few minutes to discuss the Water Dept. so meeting began with the Town Administrator update and COA bylaw review.

Town Administrator Update:

- Kathe let us know that the Animal Control Officer (ACO) will be moving under the Police Dept. umbrella. We will be turning our Police cruiser that is being retired into an ACO car for Terry Donovan, our ACO, who also works in other towns. Will investigate using mileage paid by other towns to help cover expenses with vehicle.
- Kathe will be taking a course via Zoom for the next five Friday mornings on municipal finance.

Council on Aging (COA) Bylaw review and possible vote to accept.: All the Select Board members had a chance to review the bylaws and had no issues. Barbara had done some editing but all approved, Rich made the motion to accept the bylaws, John 2nd, all voted aye. The next step for the COA is writing the Director's job description, which they are working on at their next meeting and plan to bring to the Select Board at the meeting on April 5th. The Select board will also review the COA Board Member

Responsibility list for potential acceptance at that meeting. The Board thanked all those who worked on the COA Bylaws.

Discussion with Bernie St. Martin about the Water Dept.: A discussion regarding Dr. Rich Gullick's plan between Bernie and the Select Board began with Bernie expressing his belief that the problems Dr. Gullick brought up are things that have already been looked at. He had a few suggestions that we could try prior to moving forward with Dr. Gullick's plan. Bernie believes with the combination of flushing the fire hydrants at a minimum of two times per year as well as adding bleeder valves would help to make a difference. Hinsdale, another town where he is the Water Operator, uses a bleeder system and Blandford, the other town where he is the Water Operator, is going to be installing this at his suggestion. Jason Ellershaw, a member of our Highway Department, is taking classes to learn more about what is involved in being a Water Operator and becoming licensed. Bernie would like Jason fully licensed with at least a D-1 license before he trains Jason in the water treatment plant. He said it obtaining that license is a matter of Jason taking a test. Bernie also suggested that we check on the warranty for any of the issues we have had with the buildings because he believes some things may be under a lifetime warranty. Richard Holzman felt it would be beneficial to discuss these suggestions with Dr. Gullick and volunteered himself to call and discuss this with him and invite him to come to the Select Board meeting on March 15th. We will also try to have Richard Small our Fire Chief attend this meeting to discuss flushing the hydrants.

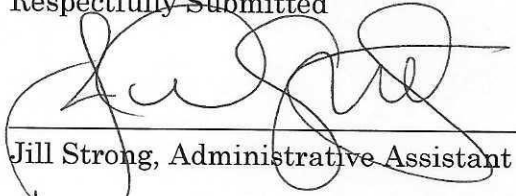
6:00 Regional Resource Group (RRG) – updates on tax classification: Harald Scheid from RRG gave us an update on what they had finally reached as a conclusion for the tax rate. He offered an option for a single or a split rate which would split the rate making it slightly higher for commercial and industrial, and lower for residential. The Select Board believes there is not enough business in town to make it a split rate and doing so would put the small businesses there at an unfair disadvantage. John brought up that he did not believe that the town had ever done this. John made a motion to set a single tax rate, Rich 2nd all Aye. The final rate will be set within the next few days with a discussion with the Tax Collector and bills will be sent out.

Public Comments and Questions: Bob Daley was our only participant with a comment, and he expressed how we had two people with knowledge about our Water Dept., Bernie and Dr. Gullick and suggested that we get them both physically together to discuss the plan from Dr. Gullick and the suggestions from Bernie.

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

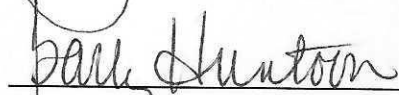
Meeting Adjourned: 6:41 PM

Respectfully Submitted



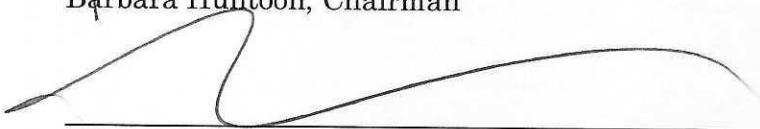
Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

3/4/21
Date Signed



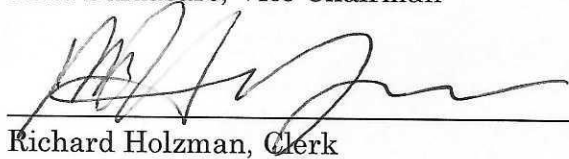
Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

3/15/21
Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

3/15/21
Date Signed



Richard Holzman, Clerk

3/9/21
Date Signed