



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

Monday, March 15th, 2021

Open Meeting – First meeting back in Town Hall.

Selectmen John Baldasaro, Barbara Huntoon, and Richard Holzman present. Town Hall staff present included Town Administrator Kathe Warden, Administrative Assistant Jill Strong, Tax Collector Mary Ann Pease, and Accountant Paula Beck. Also present were Highway Foreman Carl Baldasaro, Fire Chief Richard Small, Building Inspector Jason Fogue, from the Board of Health Greg Harrison, and from the Finance Committee Andy Myers and Bob Daley. Zack Blake and Marcia Bohinc participated to give their presentation virtually. Water treatment operator Bernie St. Martin was not present. Minutes and warrants signed prior to beginning the meeting. Barbara opened the meeting at 6:11 PM.

Meeting with DOR/DLS Zack Blake and Marcia Bohinc discussion about Finance Dept. and implementing new procedures. Due to some computer issues, we were unable to view the presentation. However, Barbara played the presentation over her phone so that everyone could hear Zack and Marcia. The Select Board members and some Town Hall staff had a printout of the presentation to follow along. Marcia focused on the report and some suggestions she had for the Treasurer's office. Zack also explained that this was not going to be something that they put together then left for us to handle alone. They were committed to helping Chester along the way to implement these goals to ensure improvement. Barbara asked if they knew of anyone who would be willing to help while we do not have a treasurer as the person that Kathe had hoped for is not interested. Zack said that he and Marcia would put their heads together and try to think of some names who could help on a possible interim basis. There were no questions for them from the Finance Committee, Paula or Mary Ann. Barbara thanked Zack and Marcia for all their help. Kathe let us know that the job for the Treasurer has already been posted. Something that was brought up by Marcia that should be addressed is the number of bank accounts opened for the town. This could be cut back to assist in having a much easier time reconciling all accounts and always knowing the available funds. John, as well as Mary Ann and Andy, believed reconciliation should be a focus. John also brought up that this was something we could possibly investigate as a shared service to ensure we have a quality and trained person for the job.

Meet with Fire Chief, Highway Foreman and Water Treatment operator to set up Town wide hydrant flushing program. Fire Chief Small let us know that we used to do hydrant flushing much more frequent but stopped because it seemed to give a bad reading on the water tests. The Select Board discussed how

this was brought up as a suggestion from the Water Treatment operator so it should be fine to move forward with this if we keep him informed. It was decided that beginning on Tuesday, May 11th, they would start the process of flushing all the hydrants. This will be published in the Watts News to keep everyone in town informed of the start date and how long this should take.

Carl gave us an update with the Highway Dept.; the Freightliner is still being worked on and they are hoping to have it back soon. They had eight loads of stone delivered to Abbott Hill due to the mud conditions that made the road almost impassable. Carl and John both agreed that for the cost of what has been spent over the years to keep the road maintained it would be a great candidate as a paving project.

Town Administrator: Kathe had a few things for us.

- She received a copy of licenses from Carl and Jason Ellershaw in Highway for their 4G and 2A. Paul Hathaway is still waiting for an exam date for his hoisters license.
- The Select Board needed to approve a student for Vocational school as his application was not into Gateway at their approval date March 1st but was in by the state's and our approval date of April 1st. The Select Board approved the student with no problems as it did not interfere with any of our guidelines.
- The Town should be receiving a large sum in the amount of \$400,569.00 in two amounts over two years as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act due to Covid-19. As of now it has no restrictions as to what it can be put toward. Greg asked if this could be used as something for improving the Water Plant since that has been a topic of discussion. Kathe's answer was yes but that we were waiting to get a little more information as this knowledge of receiving this money was just released only a few days ago. Jason was also informed that the Gateway school was going to be receiving something similar and was under the impression that it needed to be spent to reimburse or assist anything Covid related. Kathe assured everyone that we would not be committing the money toward anything until we got more information.

Barbara also informed everyone that she would not be running for re-election once her term ends in June.


Public Comments and Questions:

- Jason brought up that he believed our policy regarding the approval date for vocational students should match the school. The Select Board asked Kathe to put it on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Bob thanked Barbara for everything she has done as a member of the Select Board and commended her for doing a great job.

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

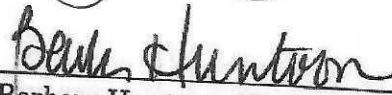
Meeting Adjourned 7:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted




Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

4/1/21
Date Signed



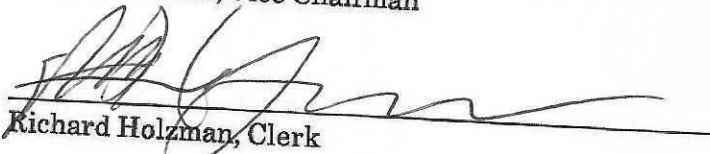
Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

3/17/21
Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Date Signed



Richard Holzman, Clerk

3/24/21
Date Signed

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