



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

Monday, May 10th, 2021

Open Meeting – Meeting in Town Hall auditorium, Virtual available as well.

Selectmen John Baldasaro, Richard Holzman and Barbara Huntoon present. Town Hall staff present included Town Administrator Kathe Warden, Administrative Assistant Jill Strong, Town Clerk Sister Judith Dalesandro, and Tax Collector Mary Ann Pease. Highway Foreman Carl Baldasaro, Animal Control Officer Terry Donovan, and Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas were present. Duane Pease from the Electric Light Commission, also from the Finance Committee Andy Myers, Jessica Sakaske, Jason Fogue, and his son Brian were present. Residents Tom and Paula Beck, Kathy Engwer, Ed Meacham were present as well as a few others that were participating virtually. Elizabeth Massa and Nicholas Chiusano from the Board of Health were also participating virtually. Per the agenda Alexandria Caleb-Parizo was also present.

Minutes were signed, there were no warrants.

Barbara opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and asked if anyone was recording, no one was.

- **Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas presenting Alexandria Caleb-Parizo for interview and possible vote to hire.** Police Chief Weidhaas presented the candidate for hire to the Select Board, all were given a copy of her resume to view. Alexandria has a master's degree in Criminal Justice and has been working as an officer for the town of Southamptton since 2017 and is someone Chief Weidhaas recommended as she already had the pleasure of working with Alexandria in the past. John also mentioned that he had worked with Alexandria on a few details himself and he felt strongly on recommending her for hire. Rich asked Alexandria, why she was interested in Chester? She answered that in her current position she did not have much flexibility which is why the position of a part-time officer is appealing. Barbara asked her, with the new police reform bill which requires any officers with only a part-time academy to return for further training would she fall under that and if so, what she would be doing to prepare for that? She answered yes, she would but it would be no problem she already had plans on moving forward to take the bridge academy. John made the motion that we hire Alexandria Caleb-Parizo as a part-time officer for the Chester Blandford Police Department, Rich 2nd, all voted Aye. Police Chief Weidhaas asked if she could be notified when a decision had been made about the

Memorial Day celebration as Blandford is also planning to do something and has asked that the Police Department be present. Barbara told her that they would be meeting this week on Thursday the 13th to discuss plans and she would be in touch with her.

- **Building inspector Jason Forgue, Board of Health Liz Massa updates on Code and Health Violations.**

Jason led a discussion that has been ongoing regarding derelict properties and junk cars. Their current focus is on properties that have a trailer/camper that looks to be a residence which is against our zoning laws; the reason for which there needs to be proper sewer and running water. Jason told us that he has sent out some notices and there are seven properties that he knew of specifically but believed there were more. He further stated the problem is proving someone is living there. Jason believed that moving forward our bylaw does state that no temporary residence is allowed so this needs to be enforced across the board. Rich asked if our bylaw was similar to other towns? Jason said all towns have variations; they may allow you to apply for a permit to allow a temporary residence. He brought up that after this past year with the pandemic we have all noticed a rise in people wanting to come to the area as an escape and suggested revising the zoning bylaw. The language in the bylaw could ensure the necessary sanitation supersedes the building code. Nick brought up the concern is always that people had a bathroom and running water. The limitation of having a trailer or camper on a piece of property to two days was that an internal tank could not contain more than that amount without disposing of the waste in that amount of time. Rich wanted to organize a meeting with the Planning Board as well as Liz and Jason to work further on making amendments to this bylaw to bring to the Annual Town Meeting on June 14th.

- **Discussion with Highway Foreman Carl Baldasaro about Bromley Rd. project.**

Carl opened the discussion letting us know that the Bromley Road project will start on May 27th and will begin with milling the road. He has already talked with Chief Weidhaas and is arranging for details throughout the project. Rich asked who would be taking the millings; last week we were discussing if we were keeping them, or the contractor was taking them. Carl told us that the contractor would indeed be taking them. Rich asked why we were not saving them to use on our dirt roads? Carl gave an explanation as to why we can not just simply put it down: the road does need to be prepped and from information he had the roads that were suggested this option might not be best practice. He also had been told that the millings can be used as an additive rather than used alone and they have a much better outcome. Rich thought we could find some use for the millings, and we could store them because letting the contractor take them, we are giving money away. Barbara brought up that this is late to be having this conversation, as it is close to the start of the project. She asked if the Highway Department had the time if we came to a decision on a road to use the millings to prep the road to have them put down, also do we have the budget? A suggestion had been made prior about having White Wolf available to prep the road which Carl agreed would be helpful if we were to decide on this because they are still fixing the grader. However, doing this will still cost an additional \$6,000.00 - \$8,000.00 to do this and does not change the price from the contractor if they no longer take the millings. Rich suggested that we take a few days to look at the finances and assess which roads would be good options. Andy made the recommendation that we not overspend until we had free cash certified. Brian Forgue asked what and how much are we loosing if it did not work out that we were to keep the millings? Tom Beck gave an estimate at the length of Bromley Road and the

amount of millings to truck loads would be worth approximately \$70,000.00 for the contractor to sell on their own.

- **Update on Finance Dept.** Andy had some concern that we should have more oversight now that we have a new interim Treasurer and Accountant in place and will not have free cash certified until after the Annual Town Meeting. There is a meeting on Wednesday with CPA Erik Kinsherf that he asked if a member of the Finance Committee and a member of the Select Board could be a part of. Barbara said that she could participate because the meeting is virtual. Andy let us know that the Finance Committee has a meeting on Saturday the 15th and plan to have the budget ready to present to the Select Board at the next meeting on the 17th.

Town Administrator: Kathe let us know that Governor Baker has issued a re-opening plan for the state for August 1st, so we also need to make some decisions about re-opening the Town Hall. Barbara suggested limiting hours open to the public and suggested Kathe come up with tentative hours. Kathe also let us know that things with the Interim Treasurer Karen Shaw are going well and she believed she had a plan to stay on with us but would be speaking with her this week about it.

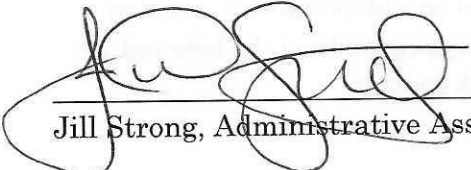
Public Comments and Questions:

- Jason was able to meet with the members of the Littleville Fair board to discuss the improvements that were made to the fairgrounds. They believed they would be able to bring everything into compliance by fair time. He has also done some further investigation into the solar panels being used and has spoken with our Electrical Inspector John VanHeynigen as well as Elm Electric and ACE Solar who did the install. Hopefully, this information will help us to move forward into remedying the issue with the lack of power being generated back into our buildings. Rich also spoke with Eric at PVPC who administrated the project and signed off on it, currently PVPC is not offering any financial compensation.
- Ed Meacham let us know that the signs he had asked about on Skyline Trail that needed to be replaced were now back up.

Barbara made the motion to adjourn, Rich 2nd, all voted Aye.

Meeting adjourned 7:32 PM


Respectfully Submitted



Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

5/13/21

Date Signed



Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

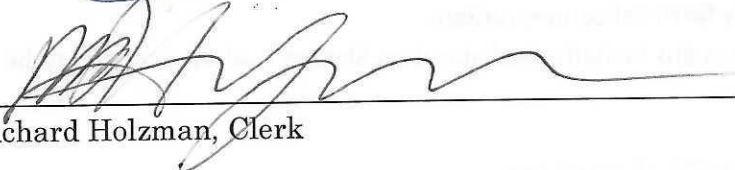
5/17/21

Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Date Signed



Richard Holzman, Clerk

Date Signed