



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

Monday, June 28th, 2021

Open Meeting – Meeting is at the Chester Railway Station with a Virtual option.

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 Town Clerk Sister Judith Dalesandro. Also, present were Librarian Angelique Toroni, Animal Control Officer Terry Donovan, and Highway Foreman Carl Baldasaro. From the Finance Committee Andy Myers, Bob Daley, Jessica Sakaske, Jason Forgeue, and his son Brian. R. Duane Pease from the Conservation Committee was also present, and a few Chester residents were participating remotely.

There was an issue connecting virtually through the laptop, so Barbara used her phone. Barbara asked if anyone was recording the meeting, no one answered that they were.

Barbara opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

- **Discussion about the fuel pumps at the Highway Dept.** In March it was first brought to our attention that there was an issue with the gas and diesel pumps that are at the Chester Highway Department. The gas and diesel pumps are both used by our Highway Department as well as Chester Municipal Electric Light, the Chester Blandford Police Department, as well as the towns of Middlefield and Blandford. At the Select Board meeting on April 5th two of our CMELD Commissioners Deryck Savoy and Duane Pease explained that every five to six months approximately five hundred gallons is unaccounted for which translates to an estimated \$3,000.00 in uncollected funds. There had been a discussion about whether the pumps simply needed to be recalibrated or if they needed to be fixed. At the next discussion at the meeting on May 3rd, after having them looked at it was explained that they did indeed need to be fixed and was more cost effective than having them replaced. Duane mentioned having Middlefield contribute toward the cost possibly 25% and said that he would inquire if that was possible. Barbara also brought up that because we have the shared police agreement with Blandford we could inquire if they could also contribute to the cost. At this meeting we were given a quote from Bolduc Mechanical Services for the cost of repairs which was \$3,720.00 for the gasoline pump and \$3,720.00 for the diesel pump but this does not include the cost of labor which we are still waiting for a quote. As we had already met with Deryck and discussed the issue at hand

and had decided to move forward the Select Board saw no problem with making a move on this. Barbara brought up which had also been discussed at a previous meeting CMELD also contributing to the cost. John made the motion to accept the quote from Bolduc Mechanical Services to repair the gasoline and diesel pumps contingent on the previous discussion of having the towns of Middlefield and Blandford contributing to the cost. Rich 2nd, all voted Aye. Andy mentioned that he thought that having CMELD contributing to the cost was a great idea. With the audit we are having done this year which will cost the town approximately \$18,000.00, as well as our new Accountant he thought they should be contributing to these costs. Barbara agreed that this makes sense.

- **FY 2022 Appointments:** Barbara opened with discussing any appointments, new or renewed, come into effect on July 1st, 2021. John brought up that we have Carl listed for appointment however because he is as of now the Foreman and not Superintendent this is still a hired position and not appointed. Barbara asked Carl where he was with getting his CDL. Carl answered that he had paid for his classes and was committed to get it. We moved on to the list of appointments, John stated that we should read through the ones that have on applicant. Barbara read through the list of appointments for a vote, Rich recusing himself for the vote for Planning Board and PVPC Representative as he is a candidate.

Planning Board – Lyle Snide, Richard Holzman, Elizabeth Massa, Nicholas Chiusano, and Alternate Katherine Warden.

Building Commissioner – Jason Forgue

Plumbing Inspector – Nicholas Chiusano & Assistant Inspector – Aaron Poteat

Electrical Inspector – John VanHeynigen

Fire Chief – Richard Small

Forest Fire Warden – Richard Small

Emergency Management Dir. – Richard Small

Police Officers – James Grzelak, & Alexandra Capen-Parizo

Animal Control Officer/Inspector of Animals – Teresa Donovan

Tax Collector – Mary Ann Pease

Recreation Commission – Jason Forgue

FRTA Representative – Robert Daley

Director of Parks & Trails – Elizabeth Massa

Wild & Scenic Advisory Representative – Dave Pierce

Conservation Commission – John VanHeynigen, Ben VanHeynigen, and R. Duane Pease

Jacob's Ladder Scenic Byway Committee – Elizabeth Massa

PVPC Representative – Richard Holzman

Chester Water Improvement Committee – Donald Bean, Robert Daley, Elizabeth Massa, and Nicholas Chiusano

Barbara made the motion to re-appoint all the applicants for their respective positions or committees. John 2nd, all voted Aye.

The position of Cemetery Commissioner as well as openings for the Historical Commission and the Board of Registrars had no applicants. Barbara encouraged people to get involved and asked anyone who was interested to contact the Town Administrator Kathe Warden.

Town Clerk – Rosemary (Sister Judith) Dalesandro & Teresa Donovan

- John brought to our attention that one of our retired Police Officers, Don Ellershaw was in need of a new retired Police Officer ID. The one he currently has is old and falling apart and wants to ensure that it is still legible if it is needed. The ID allows any retired officer the license to carry across state lines so it should be legible and easily identifiable to the person with the ID. Don inquired with Chief Weidhaas about getting a new one issued but, in her records, there was no record of him serving as an officer. John knew this was incorrect as he was appointed when he was Chief and retired as an officer in good standing for medical reasons. Don was an officer until he had an accident then was re-appointed and then retired after he had a heart attack. Rich asked if Don received any disability benefits? John and Barbara both thought he may, but they were not from the Town. Barbara affirmed that he just needed a letter from the Select Board that he was indeed an officer so he could be re-issued an official ID. John made the motion that we honor the request to issue Don Ellershaw a new retired Police Officer ID, Rich 2nd, all voted Aye.
- Barbara asked Carl for a report with the Highway Department. Carl said that things were moving along, White Wolf had been working on grading and we have finished the repairs on our grader. Lynes Road, Abbott Hill, Maynard Hill, and Captain Bemis Road have all been completed. Rich and Andy both commended Carl saying that all the dirt roads look great so far. R. Duane also commented that the roads look great and thanked the Highway Department for doing a good job.
- Barbara had been contacted by Ed Denham from New England Woodland Management in West Stockbridge regarding purchasing timber at the water shed. She explained to him that she would no longer be on the Select Board very soon, but she was happy to get the ball rolling. John said that with the price of timber being so high right now it was a great time to do this for some added revenue for the Town.
- **Public Comments and Questions:**
This is Barbara's last meeting as a member of the Select Board. She thanked everyone for their support along the way, "It has been interesting, and I hate the forum, not the people, but I appreciate everyone." John expressed while working with many Select Board members throughout the years it has been a pleasure and thought that with Barbara's help this has been one of the most progressive and forward-thinking Boards he has been apart of. Rich agreed with John's statement using the quote, "Public service is public trust" and that is what Barbara has brought to the table.
Andy brought up that the next Select Board meeting on the 12th will also be the next review with the Finance Committee. We will be looking at things such as what our free cash would have looked like this year. He thanked Barbara for her time as a member of the Select Board and welcomed her to the Select Board alumni association.
Many others thanked Barbara for her service as a many of the Select Board and wished her the best hoping she had more time to enjoy her life.

John made the motion to adjourn, Rich 2nd.

Meeting adjourned 6:37 PM

Barbara read Terry's letter of interest which also included a resume and asked why she wanted the position? Terry answered that she not only would appreciate the extra income as with the past year during the Covid-19 pandemic she knew that her kennel could not sustain her, even without much Town Clerk experience she had good organizational and computer skills as an example using excel and google docs. Barbara asked if she had any experience within the Town Clerk's office, which Terry answered yes as an Assistant. John asked what she could bring to the office? Terry stated that she thought she was fair with people, and she is generally interested and would like to do the position. Rich added that Terry already does a lot for the town and is everything she says she is. Barbara then offered Sister Judith, the current Town Clerk, the opportunity to speak. Sister Judith stated the position requires a lot of learning, specifically last year learning new ways to do things. She was happy with what she has done and hopes to be re-appointed. Barbara asked the Select Board if there were any questions or need for further discussion, John and Rich said no. Barbara spoke to Sister Judith and said that she appreciated everything she had done however she made the motion to appoint Terry Donovan to the position of Town Clerk, John 2nd all voted Aye. Before moving on, R. Duane asked if there had been funds set aside for an Assistant Town Clerk. Barbara, John, and Jason said there were, but the current Town Clerk chose to contribute them toward her salary.

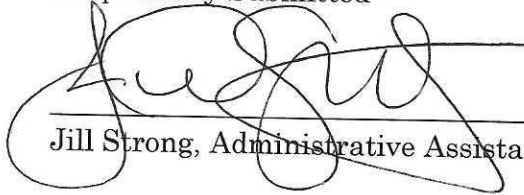
COA Director – Margaret (Peggy) Graveline & Angelique Toroni

Peggy was participating virtually she stated that she was happy to hear that someone was interested in the position and was going to withdraw her application for appointment. She stated that she would be here to help if necessary. Barbara read Angelique's letter of interest which also included her resume as well as letters recommendation. Barbara asked again why she was interested in the position. Angelique answered that she had a passion for helping senior citizens, wanted to be more involved and develop more programs and just had a love for the community. John added that being the Librarian her being involved with the COA made sense as it goes hand in hand. Barbara commended her on doing a great job with the library, which Angelique mentioned that she hoped to continue that and bring more to the COA. Barbara made the motion to appoint Angelique Toroni as the COA director, Rich 2nd, all voted Aye.

- **Town Administrator:** Kathe discussed the audit for this year which she has received a letter from Adelson and Company who will be conducting the audit. The fee they had listed in the commitment letter was \$18,500.00 which Kathe's response to them was no. The previously agreed amount was for \$18,000.00 so she was requesting a new commitment letter which will require the signatures of the Select Board.

The next Select Board meeting is on July 12th, next week Monday the 5th there will be no meeting in observance of July 4th Independence Day. On the 12th we will be in the Town Hall, and we have the Fire Station available for the remaining meetings that were meant to be remote if the Select Board choose to go to in person. As this is Barbara's last meeting as a member of the Select Board and we will be welcoming out newest Select Board member Jason Forgue at our next meeting we will be restructuring the Board and can make decisions then. Also, as it has been in the past during the summer, meetings have been done only on the second and fourth Monday's so we can also decide if we choose to move to that schedule. The Chester Theatre Company should be finished with rehearsals by the second or third week in August so after that we will not have to be concerned with being only remote or using another location.

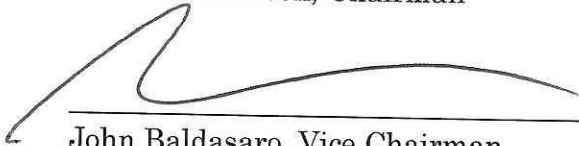
Respectfully Submitted



Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

7/1/21
Date Signed

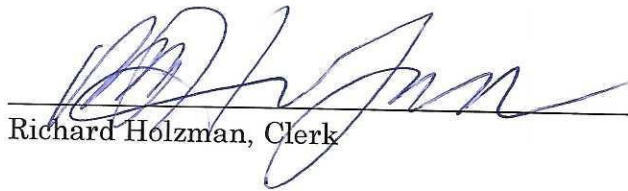
Barbara Huntoon, Chairman



Date Signed

John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

7/2/21
Date Signed



Richard Holzman, Clerk

Date Signed