



TOWN OF CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
15 MIDDLEFIELD RD.
CHESTER MA 01011

Monday, August 29, 2022

Meeting held in COA Room; Virtual option unavailable due to connectivity issues.

In attendance: Selectboard members John Baldasaro, Jason Forgue (Andy Sutton was not physically present but phoned in from overseas), new Administrator hire, Don Humason, PVPC representative Tiffany Menard, Tax Collector Mary Ann Pease, Water Commissioner Bob Daley, Board of Health Chair Nick Chiusano, Finance Committee Chair Andy Myers, Members of the public

John called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM. He apologized unable to connect to ZOOM, so no virtual meeting.

Agenda issues:

- 1. Highway Superintendent.** There are two applicants and two letters of interest. Board decided to wait and set up interviews. Discussed restructuring highway from the current four positions to potentially less people and more contract services. John stated the contracting of grading services has proven cost-effective. Discussed the option of hiring PT seasonal employee for over-guard rail mowing; John and Andy said if that was the case, they thought three employees would work. Will discuss at next meeting Jason mentioned having a conversation with CMELD to see if the town could do all the mowing but that if CMELD wants to continue with same set-up to do a schedule. Also discussed coming up with a list of things to outsource, i.e., potholes, tree trimming. Jason expressed concern for what happens if contractors don't show up and John responded there would have to be structure and discussions. Andy agreed and Jason suggested doing performance bonds with the town keeping the money if the contractor is a no-show. Decision made to discuss highway applicants and restructuring at next meeting (in two weeks) with scheduling of interviews to be determined.

2. School Committee Vacancy Appointment:

Jason reached out to the Ethics Commission who responded since School Committee members are generally elected but not appointed, and the person elected declined to serve, it would be acceptable to appoint Jason to the vacant seat. John made the motion to appoint Jason Forgue to the vacant School Committee position for the remaining time of the position. Andy seconded; both voted aye. Jason abstained.

3. Bromley Road Fire Department heating system:

Nick Chiusano, licensed plumber/HVAC contractor was recognized, and stated oil is not cost effective; propane is 30-40% better and requires less maintenance. He "doesn't see where prices should be more than oil" for a propane boiler and installation. Jason talked to Fire Chief Richie Small – his concern is the oil tank is fairly full, but he can find another use for it in town. He said his main concern is the desperate need for heat in the fire station. Discussed types of propane systems; Nick will spec out propane. Andy Myers was recognized and suggest approving the money and then getting quotes. Decision made to continue to the next meeting for quotes.

Other Business:

- Administrative Assistant Jill Strong has been in communication with the Board but is still on maternity leave.
- Jason – Insurance on the old school building has expired. Chester Theatre Company will pay the insurance for the time they used the building; town will let them know how much. The cost for renewing insurance is \$3903. John signed contact. Jason will figure out what the Theatre's share is and invoice them.
- Jason – Sam Mazzaferro has four outstanding invoices for lawn care for town. Jason told him to submit them to the new administrator next week.
- Tiffany from PVPC presented invoices and contracts for John to sign. R. Duane Pease was recognized and asked if all grants must go through PVPC and John responded no, the Town can apply for any and all grants that would benefit the Town. Jason asked Tiffany to investigate conducting informational sessions for CDBG grant money available for housing rehab that would benefit many people in town. Tiffany said she will. Tiffany was also asked what is happening with the Prospect Street rehab project. She said there have been obstacles (water shut off, etc.). She said it should get started next spring. Andy Myers asked if there were any plans for Middlefield Road and John responded not at this time but will discuss with new Highway Superintendent when that person is hired.
- Jason said he reached out to Highway RE: the missing branch mentioned a couple of weeks ago. It is in the brush pile at the garage. John stated the Town has received a request for information regarding the tree that was limbed and discussed at the same meeting. Since that has happened, John said there will be no further public discussion on the issue.

- Jason stated requests for use of the Town Hall Auditorium are coming in and he will get a calendar of events to the new Administrator once he is officially hired.

Citizens Comments:

- R. Duane Pease requested patching of potholes on Prospect Street. John said the Board will reach out to highway to do so. R. Duane opened discussion of sale of watershed timber again. He said sawmills are “crying for logs” and timber prices are at an all-time high so seems like a good time. He said the watershed is 1010 acres and mentioned a forester he recommended a couple of years ago. Jason said the person was contacted but didn’t call back and said the Town will try one last time. R. Duane urged the Board to check into harvesting the watershed timber. Bob Daley mentioned meeting with another forester and will pass that on.
- Andy Myers – handed out a sheet (attached) related to Chester Solar Project. He said he’s getting quotes from Elm Electric and Northeast Solar. Jason wondered if Highway or CMELD will help out since that was part of the agreement with Elm. No clear answer.
- Nick reminded the Board the old school will need to be winterized. Also mentioned the gate valve in the street is not working.
- Barbara Huntoon, Moderator, stated Joe Ryan had been appointed to the Finance Committee so the Committee is now full with five members.

Motion made to adjourn by John, seconded by Jason. All voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted



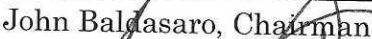
Barbara P. Huntoon, Meeting Secretary pro tem

9/12/22

Date Signed



Date Signed

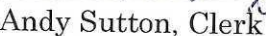


John Baldasaro, Chairman



Jason Forgue, Vice Chairman

Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Clerk

9/26/22

Date Signed

9/12/22

Date Signed