



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

Monday, May 23rd, 2022

Open Meeting – This meeting is held in the Chester Town Hall auditorium with a virtual option.

Selectmen John Baldasaro and Richard Holzman were present, Jason Forgue was absent. Town Hall staff present included Town Administrator Kathe Warden, Administrative Assistant Jill Strong, Tax Collector Mary Ann Pease, and Town Clerk Terry Donovan. Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas was present along with Finance Committee members Andy Myers and Andy Sutton with Library Trustee Jane Sutton. Water Commissioners Bob Daley and Lyle Snide were present, Elizabeth, Liz, Massa from the Board of Health was participating remotely, along with a few residents remote as well as in person.

John opened the meeting at 6:04 PM, warrants, minutes, and all correspondence was signed.

- **Discussion about CDBG miscellaneous account to subsidize Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Program that had a shortfall for March – June 2021 of \$3,457.00:**

Kathe opened the discussion explaining that she had received an email from Erica Johnson at PVPC that due to an accounting error the program was not funded properly. The account that they are looking to subsidize from is the same account that we recently allocated money to Huntington from to finish the ramp they are building at their town hall. John asked if this would be the account from the entire program again, not specific to Chester, Kathe answered he was correct. John asked if they would need a vote from all towns, Kathe answered yes and stated that if they wished to hold off due to Jason's absence, we could do that. Rich asked what happens if this was not funded through this money, Kathe answered that she would look into it but thought that because they are a subsidiary of UMASS they could reach out to them for assistance. John stated that he would like to see more documentation and would like to table the discussion until then. Rich agreed, Kathe stated she would look into that and put this back on the agenda for the meeting on June 6th.

- **Steve Cooper – continued discussion about damaged tire:**

At a previous meeting on May 9th, we had discussed a letter that Kathe had received from resident Steve Cooper about his tire being damaged by one of the center markers on Blandford Rd. back in January. He had included with the letter a picture of the damage and the invoice and was looking to be reimbursed one hundred dollars. John stated that he thought this was similar to the tree issue on Maple St. and was hesitant to pay for this as he thought it would

are any significant changes. Lyle explained that they had already done that and there has not been anything that has stood out. At the last meeting they discussed the access road to Horn Pond and cleaning the screens, John asked if they had any luck with this. Bob answered that the road itself is almost impassable and thought they would need to access everything by coming from the water. John agreed that probably was their best option.

- **Open & Reviewing Mowing Bids:**

John opened the bid for mowing, he stated that we only received one bid for the mowing that was posted which is from Sam Mazzaferro. The bid from Sam included the first location which is the Emery St. ballfield, the total for this he had at \$4,625.00 which included all tasks, spring cleanup aerating, seeding, all mowing for the year, as well as the fall cleanup, removing leaves, and fertilizing again. Location number two which is the Hampden St. Park with all tasks performed was totaled at \$1,600.00. The third location which includes all town properties in the center, 10 and 15 Middlefield Rd. as well as the monument property located at the corner of School St. all tasks totaled at \$2,625.00. The fourth and fifth locations all the smaller town cemeteries as well as Pine Hill Sam did not submit a bid for. John stated that along with the bid Sam attached a copy of his insurance. John commented that he did not think we should award this now but use this to build a plan. Rich asked who would be taking of this now, John stated that there would be no change it was done by town personnel which is not ideal, and the cemeteries are completed by Donald Gauthier. Liz commented that Dave Pierce has taken care of Hampden St. and the town hall and that she takes care of the cemetery on Round Hill Rd. as it is near her house. Rich stated that he would like to keep this on the agenda to ensure that we create a plan, Andy commented that a line item had been added to the budget for parks maintenance. Kathe commented that her son took care of cemeteries in Lee, and he had looked at Pine Hill and explained to her that it was a large job that he suggested having a three-man crew to complete it in a timely manner, John agreed commenting that it was more than mowing it was a lot of hand work. The Select Board agreed the immediate issue was maintaining Emery St., Rich asked how long it typically took. John answered he would think a few hours and Jill commented that she would guess dedicating a half a day to complete it comfortably.

- **Town Administrator update:**

- *Review of the ATM Warrant:*

Kathe has the warrant for the Select Board to review, she stated that Jason asked because he is not present to put off reviewing the budget until next week. We discussed Article nineteen which is to reduce the uncollectable tax burden. Kathe explained that Laura had reached out to DOR, and they would like to see a list. Mary Ann provided a copy of the list that they will be providing to DOR, John commented that the numbers had dropped. Mary Ann stated that he was correct and that she had found that there were still a few people in town that we could go after for this money rather than paying it through free cash. She stated that upon reaching out to these people she has had some push back and would like a letter to be created by the Select Board that she thought would help. Kathe stated that she could help put it together and get it to Town Counsel Tom Mullen and present it to the Select Board next week for approval.

Kathe also wanted to discuss that she was notified that our firewall will be expiring, it will be upgraded and will be a three-year contract coming to a total of \$1,750.98. John asked

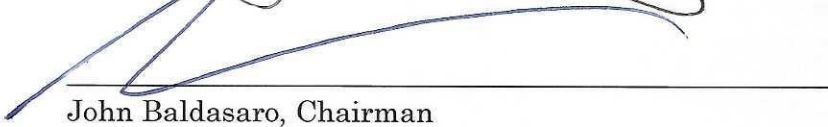
Respectfully Submitted



Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

11/1/22

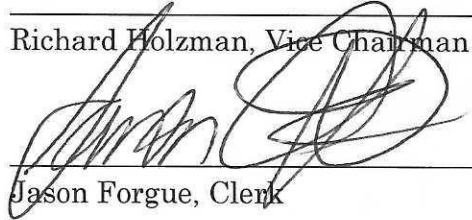
Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Chairman

Date Signed

Richard Holzman, Vice Chairman



Jason Forgue, Clerk

Date Signed

11/2/22

Date Signed