



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

**Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**

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

Selectmen John Baldasaro, Jason Fogue, and Andy Sutton are present. Town Hall staff present include Town Administrator Don Humason, Administrative Assistant Jill Strong, Town Clerk Terry Donovan, and Tax Collector Mary Ann Pease. Finance Committee member Andy Myers and Library Trustee Jane Sutton were also present along with some residents in person and remote.

John called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, warrants, minutes, and any correspondence was signed.

- **Highway Department Superintendent:**

Jason opened the meeting with an update on the offer placed with the new Highway Superintendent Chipper Dazelle. He stated that he had spoken with him this morning and was close to a yes but wanted to meet the other Highway Department employees and check out the garage to know the status of the equipment. Jason stated that they resolved the monetary concerns and Chipper was pleased with the benefits as they are less expensive and a different plan than what he currently has in Huntington. The plan was that he would go to the garage to check everything out and meet with the guys on Wednesday and give us a final decision after that. Don commented that Wednesday would be a good day as he is meeting with our DOT Representative Dave Stokes in the morning. Jason stated that he would suggest coming around that time. John commented that he hoped our equipment was in good shape as he understood that the guys had been working on things the past few months, he asked if Jason knew how long it would be before Chipper started as long as he agrees to the position. Jason answered that he believed he would be providing a two week notice to Huntington.

Don updated the Board that a resident on Lyman Road had come to town hall to discuss a highway issue. There is a beaver pond that has been an issue that the resident has been handling himself but wanted the Highway Department to be aware of. John stated that he knew where he was talking about as it has been a long-standing problem. He stated that the best way to handle any beaver problems is to use a beaver deceiver which can be taken care of through a grant process.

- **Joint meeting with town Finance team:**

It has been suggested to have a joint meeting with the Selectboard as well as the Finance Team, Treasurer and Accountant office to discuss some issues. John stated that this was a good idea and

we can apply for grants accordingly. John agreed stating that typically there is a public hearing to discuss suggestions and thought it may be smart to put something on the website to encourage residents to submit suggestions. He thought it may be smart to reach out to Pioneer Valley to look at facilitating a feasibility study. He stated that we are tied to the building as we have a shared septic and use the parking lot. Someone asked if water had been turned on in building while the Theatre was there using the space. John answered yes and it will need to be winterized.

Jason stated that he had spoken with Jeff about servicing the boiler at the Town Hall and stated that he will reach out in the next few weeks to set something up to do the work. He also let us know that the gentleman involved in the dog complaint who lives on Campbell Road is leaving town. Don asked if the Board would like the Chief to take a drive by to check the property. They answered that would be fine.

Terry let the Board know that a member of the Board of Registrars is resigning and with the upcoming election we will need to appoint a new member. She had the information of the person leaving and the person to be appointed for the Board to review.

Jason made the motion to acknowledge the resignation of Judith Borden from the Board of Registrars and appoint Keirsen Broman, John seconded, all voted Aye.

Rich Holzman stated that the Planning Board had approved upgrades for additional service to the cell tower at Pine Hill and wanted to ensure the Assessors office knew of the improvements to taxes were paid accordingly. Jason believed that they were aware because the permit program was used for the work. Mary Ann agreed stating that the Assessors get notification on utilities and were probably already aware.

Mary Ann stated that the Cultural Council deadline was approaching on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October and Chester needs to get everything organized with the Mass Cultural Council to know about our available funds to be distributed. Jason asked what was available and where he could find the information, Mary Ann answered that she had checked the Mass Cultural Council website. Jason stated that he would look into it and when he got further information, he would reach out to Wendy to have something put on the website. Jill stated that she had seen emails from the state coordinator Timothea that she would forward to Jason.

Terry asked with the work being done at the Fire Station to upgrade the heating system would part of that work be to dispose of the old tank or would it be stored on the property. She commented that there is a large accumulation of junk at the Fire Station and did not want things to keep being added to it. Jason commented that everything would be disposed of properly.

Jason made the motion to adjourn, John seconded, all voted Aye.

**Meeting Adjourned 7:00 PM**