



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

Monday, October 24th, 2022

Open Meeting – This meeting is held in the Chester Town Hall Auditorium.

Selectmen John Baldasaro, Jason Forgue, and Andy Sutton were present. Town Hall staff present included Town Administrator Don Humason, Administrative Assistant Jill Strong, and Tax Collector Mary Ann Pease. Water Commissioner Bob Daley, Finance Committee member Andy Myers, and Library Trustee Jane Sutton were also present. Elizabeth, Liz, Massa, and Nicholas Chiusano from the Board of Health were participating remotely along with Rene Senecal and a few residents.

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

- **Host Community Agreement for Faded Flowers Cultivation:**

Jason has recused himself from this discussion as he is a part owner of the property on Baystate Drive that Faded Flowers is interested in purchasing. John asked if everyone had a chance to review the agreement, all answered that they had. Andy Sutton stated that nothing jumped out as an issue and the concern from Jason about a Community Impact Fee, Andy thought was worded in a way that covered everyone as in the contract they refer to it as a "Community Inclusion Fee." John agreed and stated that the agreement was pretty standard.

John made the motion to accept the Host Community Agreement from Faded Flowers, Andy seconded, all voted Aye.

- **Highway Department Superintendent update:**

John stated that on Wednesday last week they met with Rene Senecal at the Highway Garage. After the initial discussion he felt they were very behind in prep for the winter however he was able to go back to the garage and speak with both Highway Department employees and things were better than first expected. John brought up former Highway Department employee Corey and asked if the other Select Board members were comfortable with bringing him back as a laborer. John mentioned that today he received another application for a laborer from someone who had previously worked for the town. Andy and Jason both agreed that bringing Corey back was a good move.

Jason made the motion to offer Corey a position as Highway Laborer subject to proof of licenses he will start at the full-time laborer wage, Andy seconded, all voted Aye.

John stated that he would inform Corey after the meeting tonight. Jason commented that they should discuss with all the employees their expectations. John agreed stating that they will need some

decision about the grader, and make a list of items that could be sold. Jason stated that if there is enough to host a Municipal Auction that may be more beneficial than to do sealed bids and may bring in more revenue to the town.

Andy asked how they wanted to handle when the Highway Department does work for the Water Department. John answered that in the past there was money set aside but things have changed. Now the Highway Department should keep track of their hours and submit a bill to the Water Department, Bob stated that was correct.

Andy went on to discuss that there was still interest within the Highway Department to purchase a hot box to do patching, this was also recommended by our DOT Rep. Dave Stokes. John asked what the cost was, Andy believed it to be approximately \$49,000.00 which would be paid using WRAP funds. John and Jason both thought we should have three quotes, Andy stated that he would speak with Paul in Highway as he had looked into the first one to get details and better information to be able to get additional quotes.

Before moving on the Board discussed the contract with the Hilltown Ambulance that they received last week for the upcoming year. Mary Ann stated that this was for services effective July 1st, 2023, and that the ambulance was looking at revisions that were suggested by Huntington and Russell. The Board all agreed that they were ok with the contract as read.

- **Special Town Meeting update:**

A date for the Special Town Meeting was chosen at the Select Board meeting last week, the date will be Monday, November 14th, and the Articles to be included will be an update from the Energy Committee, unpaid bills from the last fiscal year, raise caps on Revolving Accounts, and to accept the Mass General Law which allows regular voting to be held on the preceding Friday if the day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. John asked if everyone wanted the meeting to be scheduled for 6:00 or 6:30 PM. Jason and Andy were both ok with the normal meeting time of 6:00 PM. John stated that the Warrant will need to be posted by next week and that Don could reference previous Warrants to see the posting places and reference the Articles for language to use. Andy Myers commented that typically unpaid bills would come from Free Cash but because Free Cash is not certified yet it will need to come from Stabilization and the Article should note that. John agreed that was correct and thought it would need a four fifths vote.

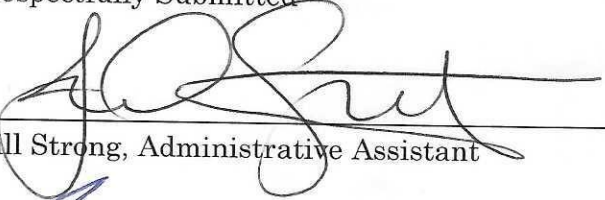
Don asked if the Board wanted the new cap amount to be listed in the Article for increasing the cap on the Revolving Account for code violations. Jason thought that it could be discussed on the floor, Mary Ann said that presently she believed that it was set at fifteen thousand dollars and that it should be raised to twenty-five or thirty thousand. John agreed stating that court fees add up quickly and that it should be raised to thirty thousand.

Before moving to the Town Administrator Jason wanted to remind everyone that this weekend trunk or treat will be hosted on Saturday at the Emery Street ballfield with a haunted trail. Also, the Board announced that regular trick or treating will take place on Halloween, Monday, October 31st from 5:00 – 8:00 PM. John brought up that he has been asked if we will be doing the tree lighting again this year, he answered yes it will be the Friday after Thanksgiving.

- **Town Administrator:**

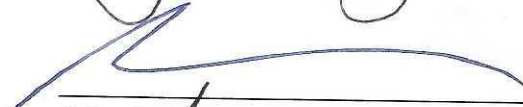
Don asked who he should contact for propane at the Town Hall. Jason stated that the Fire Station had recently been filled and it should be whoever they use as well which, the Board thought to be George Propane. Nick commented that he stopped by Town Hall last week when he checked

Respectfully Submitted



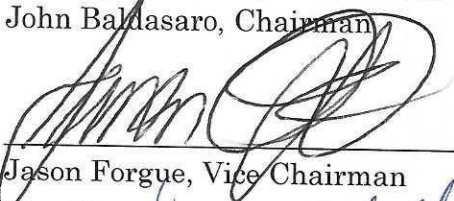
Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

11/8/22
Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Chairman

Date Signed



Jason Fogue, Vice Chairman

11/7/22
Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Clerk

Date Signed