



CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
and ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
15 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, April 10, 2023

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

Selectboard members present, John Baldasaro and Andy Sutton. Town Hall staff present included Town Administrator Don Humason, Administrative Assistant Terry Donovan, Tax Collector Mary Ann Pease, Chester/Blandford Police Chief Jennifer Dubiel, Finance Committee member Andy Myers, and Water Commissioner Bob Daley. Wendy Berman from Ironblender was present. Other residents in attendance were Tara Herman, Carl Baldasaro, Jessica Sakaske, Jane Sutton, and Kathy Engwer. Other residents were in attendance via remote.

John opened the meeting at 6:00pm, warrants, minutes, and all correspondence were signed.

John made an announcement that Jason Forgue has resigned as Selectboard member as of Tuesday April 4th, and thanked him for his service as selectboard member.

- **Chip Dazelle Highway Superintendent update.** They are doing well, patching Main St, Blandford Rd and Skyline Trail. Hot box is working well. Removing brush and fallen limbs on sides of roads and addressing the collapsed culvert on Lyman Road.
Getting a new computer in highway office so he will be able to give weekly email updates.
- **Terry Donovan Discussion on Bills to be paid:**
Terry presented the bills from King Information Systems and from the ACO Vehicle repair. John made a motion to use ARPA funds to pay both bills. Andy seconded it.
- **Town Clerk Update on selectboard vacancy:**
Terry explained the Selectboard can make a call for a Special Town Election to fill the vacancy for one year, or they can choose not to go that way and continue for a year with just two board members. But if the town citizens want to have a special election then the Board has to call it. In order for a resident to ask for a special election they have to get a petition with 180 registered voters signatures. John suggested they move forward with a 2 person selectboard and Andy agreed.



- **Wendy Berman**

Wendy is the person who runs the town website. She made a proposal to upgrade the website, making it more user friendly. Maybe more photos, place of interest page, new resident page, improve search mechanisms. Time frame for upgrade to start would be late June early July.

John requested local access to site in case something needs to be added if she is on vacation.

Wendy said Jill had instructions for this use but she will be happy to give Terry and Don instructions how to update.

Andy Myers wants someone to review the website on a weekly basis, to measure our return on the investment, how to drive more people to use the website instead of calling town offices. What do we as a town want out of the site and commit to it.

- **Town Administrator Update:**

Don had received a citizens petition for Cell Phone tower restrictions to be put on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. John said yes they would allow it. Terry will certify the signatures.

Fire Chief retiring at end of Fiscal year. Andy Myers had a handout showing 4 options for new fire chief. He suggested posting the job ASAP, to see what applicants we will get. Could be a shared position with Blandford, but depends on the applicant.

John suggested meeting with Blandford, offering increased salary and to look into number of calls .

Don stated if shared position we can apply for a grant also.

Don reported the Chester Cultural Council is al caught up thanks to Jessica Sakaske taking over the leadership of that group. Jessica said she is trying to create more interest in the council and is setting up a table at Chester on Track.

Don reported that Novus Insight an IT company similar to NEIT will be coming out to see what our requests are and making a proposal.

- **Public Comments and Questions:**

Tara Herman 15 Campbell Rd is selling 35 acres that are under chapter 61B. So she was here to offer the town right of first refusal.

John made a motion that the town does not exercise its right of 1st refusal, Andy Sutton seconded.

Andy Myers stated April 29 9-12 Finance Committee is meeting in COA room or Town auditotium. Meeting with treasurers, Chip, and accounting.

Andy Myers also stated we need to look at the liability policy for the old school and update it as to how much insurance we need to carry. Selectboard instructed to find policies and review them , cancel insurance when not needed by the Theater.

Brian Forgue spur of the moment hearing of the ways and means committee. He was not able to attend but Christie Smitty and some others did go to testify for more funding and school transportation.

Chief Jen Dubiel firearms need upgrading. Smith and Wessons they have now are jamming. She has received a great price on Glocks that she has money for in the budget. Old weapons would be sold back



or can be sold to officers. She believes a price of \$275.00 would be offered in the buy back. Also new Tasers are needed, the department has two tasers available and only one works right now. She is looking at a 5 year lease program for tasers.

Terry Donovan wanted it noted that Kathy Engwer dropped off paperwork for the highway dept. She did not have the keys she was still looking for them and no laptop.

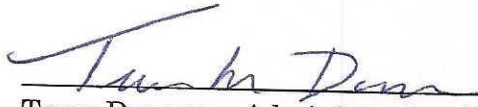
John made the motion for the meeting to adjourn, Andy seconded, all voted aye.

Meeting Adjourned 7:14pm



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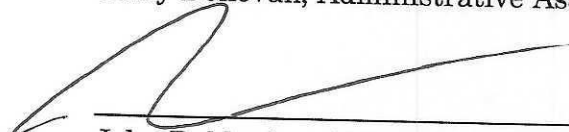
Respectfully Submitted



Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

4/17/23

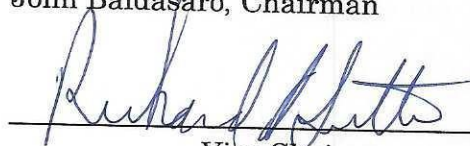
Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Chairman

4/24/23

Date Signed



Vice Chairman

4/24/23

Date Signed

Andy Sutton, Clerk

Date Signed