



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

**Monday, April 24, 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, Water Commissioners Bob Daley and Tom Bean, and COA Director, Ann Daley. Other residents in attendance were Kiresen Broman, Rich Holzman, Jessica Sakaske, Jane Sutton, Avril Willimain, Rosemary Delasandro, Brian Fogue, CMELD director Dianne and Rosanne. Other residents were in attendance via remote.

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

- **Chip Dazelle Highway Superintendent update.** Planning on Filling potholes on Skyline Trail next week, Dirt roads are looking good, putting material down as well as grading, Filling holes on Prospect St before COT, replaced culvert on Lyman Rd, Sweeping should start in 1-2 weeks, catch basin cleaning also in July, Quote on Johnson Hill is a bit High in Chips opinion, John agreed. Chip said they could do it themselves have parts in for that. Chip also had two handouts summarizing the past weeks work and the quote from E J Prescott..(attached)
- **Water Commissioners Report**  
Lyle Synde was not present so Bob Daley filled in. They have received several grants  
GAC grant -\$100,000.00  
Efficiency grant-\$178,000.00  
AMP grant- \$113,000.00. The AMP grant is partially funded by the town. Town Contribution is \$19,295.00 Bob suggested this be paid thru ARPA funds as discussed in the past.  
John made a motion to pay from ARPA funds when invoice comes in , Andy seconded.  
Bob said there was a fine from DEP for the 80 Rte 20 fire, fine was \$10,000 renegotiated down to \$2000.00 paid out of water budget, just wanted selectboard to be aware of it.  
John stated that the town will find the extra funding needed for the Prospect St project, Looking at possibly PVPC funding 1/3 of the amount . The total amt is \$240,000.  
The records for water lines are pretty non-existent so it is not a surprise that there is additional costs.





- **Don Humason Report** – Sam Mazzafero from West Branch Landscaping wants to continue with contract to mow Emery Field and will give a quote to mow at the Transfer Station  
John said yes to Mowing the Ball field price quoted is \$6000.00 for mowing for the year , \$600.00 for fall cleanup and \$300.00 for spring cleanup.  
Transfer station amount is \$1200.00 for mowing Liz Massa (BOH) said that amount is Ok  
Emery Park is in rough shape. Trash left all around, highway dept would be picking up . The Highway dept will police it about once a week for trash.  
Ann Daley concerned about trash because they are planning on using the field for events this summer.  
Don, auditorium use policy? Chester residence are not charged, functions allowed by residences as long as no costs involved or damages.  
Cemetery commissioner resigned; Liz Massa expressed an interest in that appointment. Records are a mess asking King Information systems to come take a look and see what they can help us with.  
John said need to digitize all records are very old and fragile. We could use three cemetery commissioners.  
Liquor licenses have been signed tonight. Don to do a one day liquor license for the fair. Fee agreed to \$25.00.  
John made a motion to grant license to fair, Andy seconded it.  
Andy Myers handed out Littleville Fair Festival.
- **Public questions**  
Clean up on 80 Rte 20 property. When is that happening?  
Using money in revolving account. Liz Massa, are a go for 8 Emery St demolition but not enough money for 80 Rte 20, replenish fund after Emery St project. Both projects run about \$20,000 per project. Fund is capped out at \$30,000. Problem is Mark Boomsa who gave the bid the bid was for both projects and if he is to do one project then he will want more money.  
John wants Nic C to reach out to Mark Boomsa and get a quote for 80 rte 20 only.  
Associated Building Records bid was over \$50,000 for 1 property.  
Revisit at next meeting.  
A neighbor says there is buckets of feces at 80 rte 20 , Liz says that is included in the cleanup process.  
John said to prioritize 80 rte 20 first before Emery St .Health and Safety issue.  
Revolving account capped at \$30,000 fines go into account. 5 properties in town have the court judgement that the town can take over cleanup. That is approved now just trying to find more funding to get them all cleaned up.  
Nic said Mark needs the contract from the town  
Don has Marks contract Tom Mullins to change a few numbers, John said Don to do tomorrow. So Mark can start asap  
Ann Daley suggested increasing the revolving fund, has been just raised in April, Mary Ann said there are no fines coming in. When property sells we get the fines.  
Don -insurance people coming in , Aflac , Smart Plan, to go over insurance options, for open enrollment.  
Andy Sutton who for contact information for Vocational School Tuition, Don will do it.





Best Practice wants to know how we have accounted for the \$15,000 we received. Don has spoke with Sean will speak to him again and see what he needs

Ann Daley (COA)- Request To BOS The Western Mass Foodbank is very excited to integrate their Mobile Market program with the COA. Asking to use the town hall on Thursdays for pick up.

COA needs a new refrigerator to do this and wants to use ARPA money for the purchase. \$2100-\$2300 Andy S questioned the COA expenses to cover it Ann said as a capital item Andy Myers suggested using ARPA funds.

John questioned why can't use coolers. John is not comfortable with food handling and why are we looking to take it over.

Ann says you cannot leave meat and produce without refrigeration.

Ann says she looked across the street but they do not work.

John needs to think about it more, Andy wants to look at just a refrigerator unit only.

John taking it under advisement for now.

Tracy McPheron- Complaint about highway dept, "some guy" walked up to her car screaming, yelling and cursing at her, with a cigarette in his hand, about her driving while they were filling in holes. Five other woman also posted on Facebook that it happened to them, but they were afraid of coming in and reporting it.

John said when the first call came in about it, he also went on Facebook and read the complaints. He immediately called the Highway Supervisor who talked to the employees and got it straightened out. That kind of behavior will not be tolerated.

Brett McPheron (Tracy's Son) said it has been going on for longer that we know. He use to work at the highway dept and "those guys have no respect for anyone" and have said "they will do whatever they want" Brett also said when you mess with my family that's where I draw the line and will take the matter into his own hands if needed.

John said proper signage and cone placement will be added in the future and it has been made clear to the employees what the consequences will be.

Eileen Duane- Thank you to the selectboard for putting the petition for wireless communication on the town meeting warrant. Would like more information on the contract if possible. How many years are they for, when do the contracts expire, how many cells can they put on, etc might have to rewrite petition.

John said they are not full cells at this point he believes they are 25-30 year contracts and do not rewrite the petition yet, the language can be changed on the floor.

Avril Willemain- COA director Ann Daley is abusing her power as director of COA on her mother and stepfather. Intruding on them while he is on hospice. Threatening to remove them from the meal list. Giving them ultimatums, Ann claims Avrils stepbrother gave her permission to go to their house, he did not.

Ann said that is untrue.



John said he is sorry this has been happening and we will check into it and ask some questions.

Rosanne McLaughlin- wants to relay a problem that has left her uncomfortable on Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> there was no agenda for the selectboard meeting posted outside the town hall. She sent an email to the Selectboard stating this is not the first time it has happened, and it is a disservice to our residents as well as a violation of the open meeting law. She then received an email from Don saying she was mistaken and he posted the agenda on Thursday prior to the meeting and that he had witnesses and the key to the board is available for anyone to use so maybe someone took it down and accused her of maybe taking it down. Rosanne then went up to Dons office and asked him if he was accusing her of removing the agenda, his response was now you know what its like to be accused. He also said she should have come to him instead of trying to get him in trouble with his selectman, exchange became heated resulting with the Town Administrator saying don't F – mess with me. Rosanne was shocked by his tone and comment and asked are you threatening me. Rosanne then said she was so upset she said something like do your job, used the F word and kiss my ass and left.

He was unprofessional and she wanted to make sure this went on record.

Don responded with his apologizes and stated the agenda has been posted.

John said they will discuss further.

Jess Sakaske- Want to start up volleyball at the town field again but do not know where the net is. Net is in shed and if needed there are funds to get a new one.

Sister Judith- What are town hall hours ? They are not posted correctly on website. Website says Monday- Thursday 9-3, and she thought he was supposed to be here 8-5, but then at a meeting John had said 9-5. John said yes 9-5 , SJ said he isn't here at 9. She drives past Don every day 9:30-10

Rich Holzman- Praises to Liz Massa who once again is stepping up to help the town as cemetery commissioner She sets an example for all of us.

John appreciates everyone's input tonight.

John adjourned meeting at 7:39 seconded by Andy Sutton



John made the motion for the meeting to adjourn, Andy seconded, all voted aye.  
**Meeting Adjourned 7:14pm**






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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
15 MIDDLEFIELD RD.  
CHESTER MA 01011

Respectfully Submitted

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

5/6/23  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Baldasaro, Chairman

5/8/23  
Date Signed

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Vice Chairman  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Sutton, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed  
5/8/23  
Date Signed