



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, June 5, 2023

Open meeting—This meeting was held in the Chester Town Hall 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, Finance Committee member Andy Myers, Water Commissioners Bob Daley, Lyle Snide, and Tom Bean, Mary Ann Pease, Avril Willimain, Rich Holzman, Jane Sutton, Jason and Brian Forgue, Highway Super Chip Dazelle. Also present was Erik Kritensen and Ashley Bomely, from Mass DOT.

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

- **Chip Dazelle Highway Superintendent update:**

The beaver deceiver on Lyman road is complete. Grants should cover the whole cost. The Culverts on Johnson Hill Rd are moving along hopefully will be passable by Wednesday. The WRAP grant is complete thanks to Andy Sutton for helping with that. 2 burials coming up no problems there, Will be back up to Skyline Trail patching by Thursday if all goes well with Johnson Hill, new summer intern help started so will be getting more work done. Avril asked about highway helping maintain Pine Hill Cemetery, two trees leaning on some stones.

- **Mass DOT**

Eric and Ashley were here to talk about the sidewalk improvement plan for Middlefield Rd. This needs to be done to get it ADA compatible. Need to bring the crosswalk down from 95 ft long to 60. John had some concerns about traffic design, would trucks be able to make the corner. Ashley showed the design in better detail. The curb will be widened out new curb, sidewalk, and some grass to fill in. Church parking will be changed a bit, no driveways impacted. The water dept asked about water gates, those would be adjusted to the new grade in the grass. Project expected to start next year. (spring 2024)

- **Town Clerk**

Presented request for an appointment to the BOR, Kristina Colby. John made a motion to accept, Andy seconded, approved.

Presented what we have listed for appointments, John said for Don to get in touch and set up interviews with potential fire chiefs, and to put the request for appointments in the paper and on website.



- **Water Commissioners Report**

Proposal for GAC replacement was opened. We received a grant (100,000) to cover , proposal came back at 230,000. John will take it under advisement and let the water commissioner's review.

Bob Daley asked if John knew when the last clear well cleaning had been done. John thought about 5 years ago but would check with Kathe Warden .

Also need to see if David Neal would dive for them again, John would reach out to him also.

All hydrants have been flushed, only three need to be replaced.

Agreement with Blandford water commissioners has not been decided on or not letting Chester know so water rates are slated to go up, was put on the annual town meeting warrant, 24% increase. Mary ann asked was that the customer rate? Yes, was the answer, when was the public hearing on it , Lyle said the public hearing was last Thursday.

Discussion went on about the shared services with the water dept and CMELD. What agreements were originally made , John said this has been for years nothing decided as to who is responsible for what. Bob Daly said the intern program has been very successful and Chip has been very helpful.

- **Town Administrator Update**

Don had to leave on an emergency, so this was discussed.

Applicants for Scholarships, Steinhart -Don to reach out and find who has the highest GPA Hamilton – split up amongst applicants.

Next BOS meeting to be scheduled for Tuesday June 20th because of holiday on June 19th.

Appointments will be given out then.

- **Public Comments and Questions**

Andy Myers—Mass Wildlife has given an option to buy 128 acres for \$115000. Need to sign and get back to them asap. An article was put on the warrant for a hiking path easement for hiking to the beacon “Highland footpath” it is called. Mass Wildlife is in agreement of this.

Elaine Gilmore asked if the refrigerator for the COA was signed for today. John said all warrants were signed.

Rich Holzman expressed his gratitude to Chip, and discussed trees that need to be removed on Bromley Rd

Jason Forgue asked if ARPA money was being used to pay for 80 Rte. 20 Yes is the answer.

Jason was then asked because he had charge of it before he resigned as to how to report ARPA fund.

Jason said it was a yearly report listing how much and what it was spent on he would find the portal and forward it to Andy Sutton.



ARPA funding discussion continued. Andy Myers said we need to get together and see how much we have left and what projects it will be used on, John said should schedule asap maybe same day of Fire chief interviews.

Jason said there is a process to follow if using fines to clean up these properties and authorization come from him, if using ARPA funds that's fine.

1 Crane road has to be relooked at, Judge came back saying fine structure is too high

Receiver put in \$160,000 with fines- judge said no too high. Jason said \$50.00 a day for three years that's why its high,, homeowner never responded. Fees are legit.

John said to put on next agenda

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:20pm