



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, August 28, 2023

Open meeting—This meeting was held in the Chester Town Hall Auditorium with a virtual option.

Selectboard members present, John Baldasaro, Brian Fogue, and Andy Sutton. Also present Terry Donovan, Mary Ann Pease, Jane Sutton, Chip Dazelle, Henry Fristik, Pat Post, Craig Gauthier, Keirsen Broman, Rich Holzman, Liz Massa, Nick Chuisano, Craig Gauthier, Norma McDonald, Annette LaMountain, Laura Wade, Don Humason, Elaine Gilmore, Liz Massa, Nick Chuisano were virtual.

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

- **Chip Dazelle Highway Superintendent update:**

Catch basin cleaning all done, paving moving along, Middlefield Rd working on right now, trying to get some lines painted Skyline and Bromley and checking on bid for more lines. Chip mentioned Paul Hathaway who is out on short term disability and if the town can help him out at all with long term, Don or Chip are to reach out to Paul and schedule an executive session to discuss if Paul wants to. Brian Fogue mentioned that the budget number for contract services is over 60% used already. And where did the money for the Johnson Hill culverts come from, Chapter 90 or contract services? Chip will check on.

- **Water Department**

Brian Fogue presented Bob Daley's water dept update. "EP, chemical engineering study is on track for completion 1 OCT. They have reviewed all data submitted and feel they have enough biweekly sampling data to make their recommendation to address DBP (disinfection by products). The study focuses currently is on chemical contact time and location points in the clear wells. They are also looking at the efficacy of chlorine, i.e.. Possible loss of its 15% potency. Reminder the ARPA \$55K cost for this study only funds the study/ recommendation. The cost of the DEP mandated plan will be borne by the rate payers. The ENR with Blandford has been signed.

2 Water main breaks during the construction on Prospect st But found 9 residents fed by that pipe that they didn't know before.

Grants:

Currently Water Commissioners administer Horn Pond water source protection, shared E&R, AMP, Lead Pipe and Cyber security grants and are seeking help with EPA grants thru Sen. Markey's office.

Prospect St Project:



Contractor Baltazer will be on hiatus in September returning in October to complete the project. All major drainage components in place as is new water piping and hydrants.”

- **Superintendent Kristen Smidy**

Gateway School update, new grant Bar Foundation selecting schools to create new opportunities to fill districts, touring different schools , creating a vision of how schools should be teaching/ learning. Then it would fund indefinitely. Right now in the planning stages, just gathering information. Appeal for rural school aid, 15 million state wide, not sure how much gateway will be receiving.

Rich Holzman mentioned that Kristen drove the van for the meeting with Ann Gobi (Director of Rural Development) and Rich, Bob Daley, Brian Fogue and Andy Myers. The selectboard knew nothing about this meeting and John stated to keep them in the loop when state officials come to town.

- **Chief Henry Fristik**

The truck they were going to look at does not have the motor needed to run in the hills. So they are still looking.

Engine 2 is out of service on the hill, did not pass inspection. Looking for a borrowed rig to tide us over. Two more trucks are coming up on the list to purchase , relying on mutual aid. Station 2 on the hill has a moisture problem, looking at commercial dehumidifiers and a hot water line needs to be put in.

- **Ann Daley and Keirsen Broman**

Keirsen asked about how to hold a meeting to select a board. Brian Fogue also wants a copy of the board bylaw and code of conduct that Keirsen submitted. Any more discussion was tabled because Ann was out of town.

- **Town Administrator Report**

-Met with DOT Friday with Chip, to discuss Main st bridge. Not going to be done for a few years, there is some concern about the weight listed and the equipment for Prospect st going over it.

-Small retirement party was attended for Ritchie Small, plaque was given and retirement congratulations were given

-Train Station gathering with DER. Well attended, grants were announced , \$54000 for Chester for culvert on Abbott Hill.

-Old School Insurance- still checking into, can't be under the same umbrella, due to it being vacant

- Andy Oleksak- wants town to put road in for access to timber plot. Not a public road, Meeting with Don and Army Corp on September 6.

-USDA Compliance survey needs to be done, possible Maryann and Terry to fill out?

- **Citizens Comments**

- Maryann presented the bill for the emergency call system from the Police Chief, Police do not feel they should pay for it all, agreed that it is a town expense and for Don to pay from town hall expense.



- Brian Forgue stated he also was on the town tour with Ann Gobi, they looked at the school, water treatment plant, E-W rail , policy changes, etc.
Brian also made a motion for waving the building fees related to the Littleville fair bathhouse.
Andy seconded, all in favor
- Andy Myers was on a zoon call with assessors and state auditors discussing state owned land.
Agreed that small towns are short changed when it comes to getting their fair share on state owned land. Example, on the state list the state owned land in Chester is valued at 2 million, and our assessment is 4 million. Laura will be doing a reconciliation and hopefully we will get more.

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:20pm



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Respectfully Submitted



Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

9/11/23

Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Chairman


9/11/23

Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

Date Signed



Brian Forgue, Clerk

Date Signed