



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, September 25, 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, Andy Myers, Bob Daley, Craig Gauthier, April Willimain, Tom Bean, Rosanne M. , Mary Ann Pease, Jane Sutton, Chip Dazelle, Henry Fristik, Pat Post, Wilma and John Foley, Jason Fogue, Keirsen Broman, Rich Holzman, Liz Massa, Ann Daley, Jessica Sakaske, Chief Dubiel and Don Humason.

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

- **Chip Dazelle Highway Superintendent update:**

Issues with Prospect St project. Engineer design flaws. Don will Conference call with John and Bill and Erica. John will not sign new estimate does not show credit.

Additional work is being done on a culvert on Maynard Hill Rd, putting a small culvert in on Abbott Hill, holding off on the bigger culvert until bridge culvert is done at a later time.

John Baldasaro said there was no need for Chip to have to attend every BOS meeting anymore. Chip will email updates before the BOS meetings.

- **Water Department**

Asset Management Grant, couldn't make it work, Don helped out and got it done. Grant is needed to sign certifying authority to file, John changing wording to Water Commissioner Chair. Brian Fogue made a motion for John to sign, Andy seconded.

DEP gave the verbal allowance to stop bi-weekly sampling.

Switch to Austin Brook is on the fast track , getting it in writing.

Access Rd needs work, not going to be cheap.

EPA Infrastructure grant is being worked on, Nov 6 due date, Bob needs help. Don will assist. Bob wants a grant writer or shared grant writer, Don will check with PVPC.

Maryann asked about the waters rates and have they been set ? Yes 9.3% increase to all. In effect Oct 1?

No was the answer the rate increase is retroactive for last quarter. Water Dept is an enterprise fund now, not supported by taxes except for the lien.

Tom Bean states 3 hydrants had to be replaced cost \$3500.00 nothing is cheap.

- **Chief Henry Fristik**



Moving forward on a truck without a deposit.

Dry Bridge Hydrant project working on, \$45-7500 per hydrant, looking for grants to install.

Attached is a list of budget items he needs, black writing is done, red needs to be done. (see attached),

Got refurbished radios, will need more next year. Gear dryer is in will need a 220 outlet for that,

Got an email domain for the station -@chesterfd.net

Fire and elevator safety inspection done today at Town Hall, alarm button not connected to anything.

Having open house at station.

Need a closet renovation to mouse proof the medical closet, cost \$2500.00

- **Chief Dubiel**

3 grants in the works , are responding to 81% of the calls, State Police not helping out with arrests, not holding people for us requires our personnel to transport to Ludlow. Time consuming and costly. Growing and need more space, holding arrests in office next to her desk.

- **COA Update**

Ann Daley said the “ learn the finances” meeting was scheduled for today but Kiensen didn’t show because she was up in the office talking to Don and Terry. No Board for appointment yet, people have been approached but are dismayed at the result of this process. She needs clarification at how to appoint a board, she lost the copy of the bylaw she was given.

Keirsen Broman stated that this mornings meeting was the third time it had been rescheduled. The past two times Ann had not shown.

John B- The COA is out of control, has been for the past three months. The BOS has asked for simple things to be done and they are not accomplished.

John suggested giving the COA directors two more weeks to present a list of potential board members.

Andy Sutton- This discourse has gone on too long, no more second chances, he feels there should only be one director and he chooses Keirsen Broman.

Brian- Met with Ann today, his understanding is neither of them have desires to see either of them go, but it is clear it is not working out. Andys idea is a good one but prefers to have them work it out.

John- Explained the BOD of COA to them again and how to get nominations.

There was more discussion amongst the BOS.

John Foley made an outburst, about how he can’t hear what they are saying and why have a meeting when people can’t hear. John said to bring your chair closer if you want. The BOS is discussing it among themselves. John Foley then shoved his chair up right next to the table.

John B said that there needs a decision to be made.

John Foley made another outburst and John B told him to stop or leave.

John B then reversed his decision to give the COA two more weeks. Andy Sutton made a motion to have Keirsen Broman to be the COA Director and for Ann Daley to step down, Brian Forgue seconded. All in favor.

John stated that no more discussion will be entertained on this subject.



John Foley stated that “ you two clowns made a position that didn’t exist, you have appointed somebody that is not qualified to be the director, you are a disgrace”

- **Town Administrator Report**

- DER grant admin update for Abbott Brook

- Who needs to sign, all three selectboard members and Don to sign.

- STM October 2 at 6:00pm

- Bob Daley wants to know can you vote absentee ? No Can not vote absentee at town meetings

- Executive session On October 16th to discuss contract agreement for cell tower rental

- STAM rural town info letter presented to selectboard.

- John made motion to endorse STAM letter, Andy seconded , all in favor.

- **Town Administrator Job Performance Review**

- John- increase in emails letting BOS know what’s going on is good, they give good incite into what is going on in town. Suggest a department head meeting to find needs of departments and filter them, give to BOS. Don replied this is already in the works.

- Brian- coming in 9-5 that’s good

- Initiatives on anything else?

- Don- Yes being here 9-5, went to grant training meeting, learned BOS needs to give guidance on what grants are important.

- John- water is critical, fire , highway , town hall maint, IT grants, security grants

- Brian- do a formalized plan 5 or 10 years plans(he went to the same meeting Don did)

- Don- Being a small town it is harder to do. Contact PVPC to update

- He has signed up for ma state procurement training in Nov and Dec, on line classes.

- Checking into human resources online, searching for HR services, payroll dept might have one.

- Promoting the town to Mass Film Office as a possible location for filming movies.

- Brian- recent developments are welcome, grants 101, meeting with dept. heads, signing up for additional training is all well and good, everything we are talking about right now probably should have been handled in your first 3 months as TA. Why were they not done.

- Don – There is a lot to this job that you don’t know, there are daily things that take time away. The first months of his employment there was no one here to train him. I heard you loud and clear two weeks ago as to what you want and I have responded , now are there other things you want to add to the list? Aand I will do my best to get a handle on things.

- Andy Myers- Suggested its unfair to do this performance review this way. Suggest having the Chair only have performance review during office hours. Authorize the Chair to do the review.

- Andy Sutton- We did meet individually with Don , Brian and I did. Don answered my questions, but I guess not all of Brians.

- John- Has to be done in a public setting. Brian has a right to ask Don questions.

- Suggestion for Don and Brian to meet privately.



Brian- I feel we are making baby steps way too late in the process. I have offered you help in the past this is the first time I have heard you need help.

John- Yes Don has asked for help and I just couldn't give him help.

Brian- We have made our opinions clear, please keep us in the loop, no matter how many emails you have to send.

- **Citizens Comments**

- Avril- Cemetery Commission, plot in Pine Hill fenced off. Are they allowed to clean in there? Trim and clean it up.

John- family buried there put the fence in , yes take it down and trim up. Rough drafts of cemetery? Yes up in Don's office.

-Andy Myers-Littleville Fair and Comcast. Littleville is willing to purchase the equipment themselves but would like the town to negotiate for cost of the coverage with Comcast John will reach out to Comcast about year round access.

Brian-Looking for an intern to help with Admin stuff and maybe IT, no bites, Intern will be unpaid, Brian will be checking with the different departments to see their needs.

Jason Fogue- School Committee - Bar Grant requires 50% in survey participation from the town , link on website, we need participation.

Main reason he is here, he is confused, I agree with Mr Foley that whole COA debacle is your fault. Co director position with two people that don't get along was ridiculous, I am glad to see you are taking steps to rectify that and move forward in a positive fashion. John you and I made a mistake a year ago, I have had conversations with just about everyone in this room about this mistake, we need to rectify it and move forward. Stop beating around the bush and move forward and to be clear I am talking about Don. I had hesitations at the time that we voted, It was clearly it was a mistake, we need to move forward.

Liz Massa- Hilltown Hikers purchased the Chester Granite Saw mill.

John made a motion to adjourn, Andy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:41.



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Respectfully Submitted

Terry M. Donovan
Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

10/26/23
Date Signed

John Baldasaro, Chairman
Andy Sutton
Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

Date Signed
11-6-23
Date Signed

Brian Fogue
Brian Fogue, Clerk

11/6/23
Date Signed