



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, November 6, 2023

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

Selectboard members present, Brian Fogue, and Andy Sutton. Also present Terry Donovan, Andy Myers, April Willemain, Jane Sutton, Keirsen Broman, Missy Robiteille, Korin Harding, O'Conner Hart, Varsha Hart, Heather Comee, Chief Dubiel and Don Humason was on the phone.

Virtual access was not available at this meeting.

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

- **Chip Dazelle Highway Superintendent update:**

Brian read Chippers report, notes attached.

- **Keirsen Broman COA Update**

Keirsen and Terry Donovan presented the COA bylaws to the Board. They wanted a line in the bylaws to be deleted. On page 2 of the bylaw they wanted to delete the line saying all Council Board Members shall be registered voters.

Brian Fogue made the motion to strike that line out of the bylaw, Andy Sutton seconded. Approved, town clerk will update bylaw.

- **Town Administrator Report**

Brian Fogue called Don Humason on the phone to get his report, Don was home sick.

-Electronic signatures Novus is going to set up for us so the selectboard can sign things via email if needed. Brian and Andy approved of this and Don will get it implemented.

- New Fire truck is registered and insured. Issues with the stairs at the fire dept have to be addressed. Brian said Fire expenses are up to 75% of budget and maybe when we transfer money to Highway then we can do some to Fire also. Brian also suggested a joint meeting with Blandford selectboard to continue talking about combining fire depts. Andy to reach out to Chris Dunn at Blandford.

-Benefits and Insurance deductions issue- Don was under the impression after working with Sara that this was all set, Brian said no they all got an email from Diane (CMELD) stating that still not fixed and if not resolved by the end of the week, she will bring legal actions against the town. Don will reach out to Sara on Tuesday.

-Cell tower- still waiting to hear from legal, revisit next meeting?



-Agreement for new auditing firm, both selectboard members agreed to it , Brian to sign. Agree to lock in for the next 2 years also. Andy Myers suggested asking CMELD if they want to participate in this audit or go on their own.

- Water dept/Mass DEP Lead Service Line Inventory- Tighe and Bond reaching out to 250 people on water to get a survey of lead pipes in town. Will ask by survey, website, and door to door.

- **Andy Sutton**

Building work needs to be done, fire dept. steps crumbling, Henry to get bids on repair, Chimney at old school we were advised to take it down and cap it until we decide what we are doing with the building. In danger of collapsing. Cupola on top of town hall needs repair , water coming in and leaking into town clerk office, waiting for quote on that repair. Waiting for bids on the school chimney, for tear down or repair. Possibly has someone interested in buying the old school. Andy Myers wants to know what would they use it for? We share the septic and parking. Andy said it is just a new request and will pursue it.

Generator for town hall, \$3700.00 for engineering alone, Has applied for a grant for generator price is going to be around \$60,000. Building needs to be brought up to code before we can put in a new generator. Andy Myers said are we contacting John Vanheyngan about generator, Andy said yes. Working on a grant for repairs at old school also.

DER contract signed, requests for bids sent out today for Abbott Hill Culvert.

- **Brian Forgue**

Meeting with UMass students to help with grant writing.

Attended Educational Hearing in Boston, verbal and written testimonies given for assistance increase in rural schools.

Brian wants to invite Nick Boldaga to speak with selectboard.

- **Public Comment**

Andy Myers-Free cash will hopefully know soon how much, may be able to help with generator cost. Next meeting is tax classification, hoping for tax decrease.

Water dept at meeting rescinded the charge policy for people within the system that do not use the water.

Missy Robitelle –

Playground for school should be in before December. Town donated money towards it.

Missy read a statement about an incident at a taekwondo class at the town hall, between her son and the instructors. Heather Comme also claimed the instructor used inappropriate force on the boy.

Wants to know when their contract is up.

Andy Sutton said he was sorry this happened and when it is legally settled out we will decide if he will be allowed to continue here.

Brian Forgue said the rental agreement ties our hands. We as a board will follow thru the legal channels cannot vacate them at this point. Brian will check on a code of conduct for usage of the auditorium.

Andy made a motion to adjourn the meeting , Brian seconded. Meeting adjourned 7:02pm.



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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
15 MIDDLEFIELD RD.
CHESTER MA 01011

Respectfully Submitted

Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

11/14/23

Date Signed

John Baldasaro, Chairman

11/20/23

Date Signed

Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

Date Signed

Brian Forgue, Clerk

11/20/23

Date Signed