



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

**Monday, November 20, 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, Rich Holzman, April Willemain, Jane Sutton, Keirsen Broman, Mary Ann Pease, Don Humason, Craig Gauthier, and Kendall Bennet, Laura Lafreniere, and Duane Adams from Mayflower Valuation.

John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00pm, warrants, minutes and all correspondence were signed. No computer access for virtual.

- **Kendall Bennet- Tax Classification Hearing**

Duane Adams from Mayflower Valuation LTD and the Assessors presented the assessment classification report to the selectboard. John Baldasaro made a motion to accept the Residential class 1 tax rate, Andy Sutton seconded, all in favor.

- **Jane Sutton, Terry Donovan- COA Advisory Board**

The advisory board had their first meeting and wanted to clarify a few things with the BOS.

-The part time (8 Hours) paid position is not being offered at the moment, are trying to fill that space with volunteers first. Will revisit in January, if needed it will be posted and interviews done before a person is chosen for that position.

-The board met with the BOH to confirm that the COA can hold pot lucks, ice cream socials, etc. without a serv safe certified person attending. Charlie said it was allowed because we are not preparing food in the COA. This was in response to a complaint that the BOH received after the COA had its ice cream social. Charlie suggested that Keirsen get allergen certified, which she has done. Keirsen will also be getting serv safe certified as soon as time allows also.

-The Board asked the BOS if they want updates on how the COA is going? They responded no not needed. This was asked because a member of the BOS asked a member of the advisory board to email him every week about how the COA was going. The advisory board suggested that if the BOS wants updates then approach the board and ask them do not approach one person on the board to do it.

- **Tower Point Proposal**

This was passed over, has to be in executive session



- **Kendall Bennet**

Kendall is suggesting a Town Facebook page, not to be confused with the Chester Community page. This would be for Town Business , would have direct links to the website and give correct information. She suggested trying it for a bit and see how it works. Kendall is willing to get it started and run it. The board agreed it sounded good, any other way to get information to the general public is welcome.
- **Town Administrator Report**
  - Don has completed the first phase of procurement training, he learned what not to do and who to go to for questions.
  - Reminder of the Christmas tree lighting on Nov 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Jessica Sakaske has resigned from the Recreational Committee
  - still working on the electronic signatures from Novus, John suggested Adobe or Microsoft office , Don will check into.
  - Avril Willemain wants her name and information posted to the website for cemetery commissioner.
  - Nick Boldyga to come visit and speak with selectboard , Don to arrange ,Brian and Andy would like to meet with him.
- **Brian Forgue**
  - Brian has met with UMASS officials to see about getting grad students to help with grant writing. Was inquiring about the hours , responsibilities, etc. Bob Daley said he could use help, also the Highway dept could use help. Andy said Dept heads need to point out where they need help, John said to email Dept heads when firmed up.
  - Brian also sent a letter to the Sheriffs Dept expressing thanks for their help with cleaning up the Cemetery on Bromley rd.
- **Andy Sutton**
  - Andy has received quotes on fixing the chimney at the old school, suggestion is to tear down chimney and cap for now until we decide what is going to happen with the building. He also received a quote to fix the cupola on the town hall. Total for work to be done is \$28,000.00
  - DER grant for Abbott hill we received \$55,000 extra which is a huge help
  - Grant for generator- about a year and a half to obtain the grant , should we wait for the grant before replacing generator? It was agreed to wait on replacing the generator till grant is obtained.
  - Blandford /Chester Fire Dept ? Best practice grant, suggested By Chris Dunn, should meet with the BOS at Blandford to discuss, Henry wants it done by January, John cautioned to go slow, identify the issues from the start, best practices grant is the way to go, Check with Chris Dunn make sure is filed for the grant, Ira who will be filling in when Chris is done worked on the police dept merge he will be a big help.
  - question on the audit contract- does that include CMELD? Don will check on .
  - How to get a handle on HR? Don thought it was working with Sara and the payroll company, is it not?
- **Public Comment**
  - Andy Myers- Free cash has been certified, if not purchasing generator can use ARPA money for repairs to buildings.



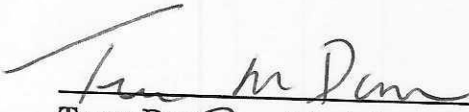
-Avril Willemain- working with Chester foundation, was told by BOH that they can't bring in baked goods? John suggested giving her Charlies number to check with him.

John Baldasaro made a motion to adjourn, Andy seconded. Meeting adjourned 7:00pm.

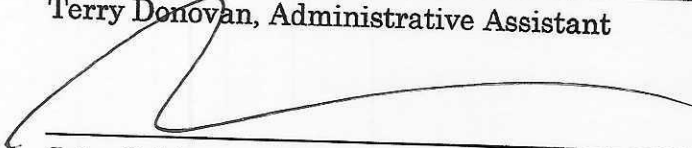


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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
15 MIDDLEFIELD RD.  
CHESTER MA 01011

Respectfully Submitted

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

11/27/23  
Date Signed

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

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

12-4-23  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Fogue, Clerk

12/4  
Date Signed