



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

**Thursday, January 18, 2024**

Open meeting—This meeting was held in the Chester Council on Aging with a virtual option.

Selectboard members present, John Baldasaro, Brian Forgue, and Andy Sutton. Also present Terry Donovan, Andy Myers, Tom Bean, Bob Daley, Nick Chuisano, Jane Sutton, Mary Ann Pease, Don Humason, , Liz Mazza, Craig Gauthier, Kiersen Broman, Pat Post and Chief Dubiel.

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

- **Emergency Management Director and Hazard Mitigation Plan update**

As far a MEMA is concerned John is the official appointed person.

Andy Sutton made a motion to appoint Chipper Dazelle as the EM coordinator , Brian Forgue seconded, all in favor.

Andy Sutton has been contacting consultants to help with the HMP , FEMA requires towns to hire consultants to write the plans, there are lots of requirements and no one in house has the time or expertise to write it.

He will have two of the consultants call in on a zoom meeting or in person to discuss with board.

- **Water Dept- Water update**

AMP-Asset Management plan – Town has to match \$19,000.00 in funds and 950 hours in kind service, Andy Sutton asked how can the BOS help, Bob Daley will reach out when needed. The GIS system is an important part of the plan, Getting ready for a hands on training , date to be announced sometime in February, operators , commissioners need to attend. Bob will develop a list of people needing to attend. Another grant, Inland Dredging , hope to get in on it, will help with dredging ponds and reservoir.

Lead Service Line grant, still slow response, can they do a robo call? Need to contact water customers, need phone numbers, water dept has data base but can't print out numbers.

John suggested screen shots of the numbers. Don to talk to Ro to see if that can be done.

Site visit with Blandford Water Dept. , meeting with them on Feb 1, looks like a go.

- **Chief Fristik- Fire Dept Update**

Chief was not available, Don spoke to the issue with the sprinkler system at the chester elementary school, System is repaired how does the BOS want to bill. Do they want to charge a fee for the truck and the firefighters?



John Baldasaro suggested no fee for the truck, but yes to paying the firefighters. The school will pay, Chief Fristik to figure out how much. Brian Forgue suggested \$50.00 and hour for 8 hour days.

- **Terry Donovan – Town Clerk**

Terry wanted to make everyone aware that the Town Clerk posts agendas not anyone else, unless she is out and to keep in mind when making your agendas that the town clerk hours are Tuesday 1-3 and Thursdays 11-3

Town clerk also went over the positions open for town election, just to make sure everyone is aware of the term being up.

Wanted clarification on “snow days” is the town hall open or closed. Do we have to report for work and/or can we if town hall is closed? It was decided that Chip and Don would decide by 8am if there should be a ‘Snow Day” and if the town hall would be closed. If closed you do not have to report for work, however you can if you want, it will be closed to the public.

Animal Control vehicle is still not in service, Blandford still insists it is their car and also bill for windshield repair is still not paid.

John asked Don to set up meeting with Blandford BOS to discuss numerous things including this car.

- **Hilltown Hikers**

Looking to make a trailhead to the Granite Saw Mill, wanted to come off Prospect but there is a large ditch there. Asking town if they can have access from the ballfield parking lot on Emery st, would like to make it an ADA trail and hopefully open for Chester on Track in May

John Baldasaro made a motion to grant Hilltown Hikers right of walking access from Ball park parking on Emery Street, Brian Forgue seconded, All in favor.

Mary Ann Pease said register of deeds -rite of easement grant access, Tom Mullins should be contacted.

- **Town Administrator Report**

- MIIA accessed value of town hall and water buildings gone up.

Why? No improvements have been made? Mary Ann said to ask was it due to actual cash value versus replacement cost? Don to check on.

Andy Myers said we have 30 days to sign to agree values are higher, could take money from free cash if needed. Need STM approval.

-BOS need to vote Starkweather Pasture as surplus to the needs of the town before it can be placed on the STM, Brian Forgue made the motion to declare Starkweather pasture surplus property to the needs of the town, Andy Sutton seconded, all in favor.

-Town Hall Boiler, inspected by the Fire Marshall and failed. Requiring some work to be done that should have been done upon installation in 2020, Don is instructed to contact by email and certified letter the company who installed the boiler, Tradesman of New England, to come and fix.

Nick Chuisano suggested contacting the state inspector and have him inspect instead of the Fire Marshall.

-PVPC Transportation Improvement Program need to appoint someone by Jan 26<sup>th</sup>

John made a motion to appt Chip Dazelle, Andy Sutton seconded, all in favor.

- **Brian Iadarola**



-wants clarification on tax bill and liens on bill, never informed of violations until received second notice from Jason on April 2023,

John explained the BOS does not waive any fines without concordance with building inspector. BOS suggested reaching out to Jason and the BOS will wait till they hear from Jason that the violations have been corrected.

- **Mary Ann Pease**

Suggests a meeting between, BOH, Charlie, Building insp, Don and BOS. People are saying they were never told about fines and fees. Don to coordinate meeting.

- **Andy Myers**

STM on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, articles 7 and 8 are not worded properly per Janice, Town consul advised the articles not be on the warrant at all, not needed just a reclassification .

- **Liz Massa**

New book box at the transfer station, need more lights , would like a spot light on pole, Liz instructed to ask CMELD.

Meeting adjourned to go into Executive session-7:40pm

Roll call vote;

John Baldasaro-yes

Andy Sutton-yes

Brian Forgue-yes



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15 MIDDLEFIELD RD.  
CHESTER MA 01011

Respectfully Submitted

*Terry M. Donovan*

Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

*2/5/24*

Date Signed

*John Baldasaro*

John Baldasaro, Chairman

*2/12/24*

Date Signed

Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

Date Signed

*Brian Forgue*

Brian Forgue, Clerk

*2/12/24*

Date Signed

## Highway updates 1/16/24

- 1] Finished the temp run off culvert on Abbott and fixed the head wall and road on the side that fell in during the last rainstorm, hopefully this will help until the state does its part. I will tally it up, so we have to track our part for costs.
- 2] Snowstorms have got us the past 2 weekends, made out good no calls, if you do get any please let me know.
- 3] The freight liner is down again something in the front end, it is at the shop getting looked at.
- 4] Just an idea I have, seeing we ran out of gas 2 weeks ago and I was told the gage reads 330 gals still in there that both tanks are to be filled when they reach 500 gals. If this was an emergency and 2 cruisers possibly animal control car, fire car and highway truck were needed, it would knock the whole town out of service.



# The Chester Directory

It was not long ago when Chester was 100% self-reliant. We relied on each other for everything; food, clothing, goods, services and community.

Today many Chester residents hardly know their neighbors. Most of us have no idea what type of skills, products or professional services our neighbors offer.

The next time you need a plumber, a haircut, a babysitter or someone to plow your driveway, why not contact your Chester neighbor first!

## Welcome to The Chester Directory

We need YOU! What kind of time, talents, skills, products or services do you have for hire, to sell, give or exchange?

Are you a teacher? a nurse? an electrician? a painter? a landscaper? are you a farmer? a dog sitter? Do you care for the elderly? or maybe you can bake a tasty apple pie. Whatever your skills, we need YOU! Everyone has something to share, even if you're retired.

## Please Join the Chester Directory. Its free!

This is a private directory for Chester residents. When you list your name, address, phone and occupation you'll receive a printed (and digital) list of your neighbors information, along what they have to offer.

The more people who join and use this directory, the stronger the Chester community will become.

To join the directory, please contact Eileen Duane 413-854-1637 or Veronica Marr at [veronicamarr4@gmail.com](mailto:veronicamarr4@gmail.com)