



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, April 22, 2024

Open meeting—This meeting was held in the Chester COA Room with a virtual option.

Selectboard members present were Brian Forgue, Andy Sutton and John Baldasaro. Also present Terry Donovan, Andy Myers, Mary Ann Pease, Don Humason, Craig Gauthier, Jane Sutton, Jason Forgue, and Jill Strong.

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

- **Terry Donovan -Animal Control Officer**

Officer Donovan gave the BOS paperwork to sign that allows her to investigate a Dangerous /Vicious dog complaint, Hearing on this complaint to be scheduled on May 6, 2024 at BOS meeting.

Officer Donovan also stated, again, that her vehicle is still not insured, waiting for the title from Blandford. She had emailed the TA from Blandford four weeks ago. And Don has called about it also.

- **Brian Forgue-**

Brian brought to the attention of the other board members that there is an issue with the warrant. Chief Fristik has overspent on his budget and bills cannot be paid. Don has been directed to let Barb know that no more bills can be paid. BOS will meet with Chief Fristik at next BOS meeting on May 6, 2024 Don also to check with Finance and see where the money can come from, reserve fund or STM. Don to check with Barbara to see what assets are available.

- **Don Humason- TA Report**

-The Carrs are scheduled for May6, to discuss tax relief at 50 Smith Rd.

-Staff meeting and open enrollment and FinCom budget proposal this week.

-Chester on track May 18, BOS to be in parade

-Memorial Day May 27 ceremony and parade

-Colleen O'Conner on Middlefield Rd asked about having the fence around the old Mill moved back off her property line. John said it would be up to the owner of that property to do it so for Don to give Colleen that person's contact info. Not town property.

- **John Baldasaro**

John asked about the millings from the roads to go to the transfer station. Don said Chip felt that gravel would do a better job for the transfer station, millings will go to the town garage to be stored.

Jason Forgue said millings could be used at the parking lot across from the ball field if possible.

John also spoke about the state overturning the tax taking law calling it "equity theft" he had briefly checked into it. Maryann will contact attorney and check up on it.



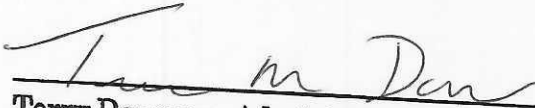
Next Selectboard meeting is May 6 , 6:00pm..

John Baldasaro made a motion to adjourn, Brian seconded, all in favor.
Adjourned 5:50pm



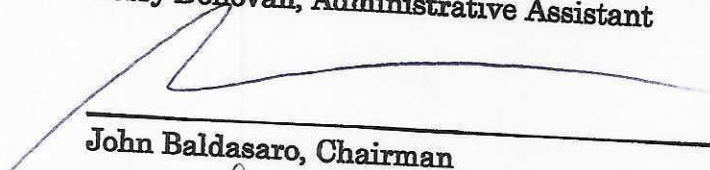
TOWN OF CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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CHESTER MA 01011

Respectfully Submitted



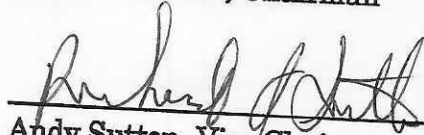
Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

4/23/24
Date Signed




John Baldasaro, Chairman

Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

5-6-24
Date Signed



Brian Forgue, Clerk

5/6/24
Date Signed

4-22-24 Selectboard updates

- 1] Mark is in school for his CDL and pursuing his hoisters LIC. Just wondering if Chester rein burst's an employee for getting a CDL license or helps in any way? Mark is paying \$6,995.00.
- 2] Trucks and sanders washed hopefully put winter stuff away
- 3] Freightliner should be back frontend rebuilt and matching tires put on
- 4] Replacing culverts that are plugged or collapsed on prospect street
- 5] Baltazar should be reclaimed by 4-24-24 and Base down by 4-26-24 I will be putting a coat around Prospect Street to hold until grant comes thru on 4-29-24 if all goes well and Baltazar will be putting finish coat on 5-6-24. I will be milling and filling Main Street hopefully week of May 6th to have done for Chester on Track.
- 6] Street sweeping will start on April 22nd or 23rd and continue until done.



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April 18, 2024

Dear Representative Boldyga:

On behalf of the Chester Board of Selectmen, I am writing to thank you for supporting small towns like ours and to request that you put these amendments on your radar so that you may support them when the House of Representatives votes on their proposed FY25 budget next week. Thank you!

Amendment **1052 Rural School Aid** (Representatives Blais, Ferguson, LaNatra)
This amendment will increase the rural aid line item to \$15 million.

Amendment **1053 Rural School Aid Formula** (Representatives Blais)
This amendment will change the per capita income from annual to 3 year average; implement a hold harmless status for one year for those districts who no longer qualify due to student density or per capita income; and allows districts to establish a rural aid fund which they can carry forward funds in for one year.

Amendment **390 Regional School Transportation** (Representative Scarsdale)
This amendment will increase the regional transportation line item to 100%.

Amendment **1237 Foundation Inflation Index** (Representative Ferguson)
This amendment changes the foundation budget inflation factor to a three year average.

Amendment **772 Non-Resident Pupil Transportation** (Representative Ferguson)
This amendment will fund this line item at \$1.5 million. This line item was not funded in the HWM budget.

Sincerely,

Don Humason, Jr.,
Chester Town Administrator

Chester, The Gem of the Valley
The Town of Chester is an Equal Opportunity Employer.