



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, May 20, 2024

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

Selectboard members present were Craig Gauthier, Andy Sutton and John Baldasaro. Also present Terry Donovan, Andy Myers, Mary Ann Pease, Don Humason, Jane Sutton, Rich Holzman, Liz Massa, Nick Chiusano, Bob Daley, Jess Slatcher, Muriel Hall, Veronica Marr and Andrew Kurtz.

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

- **MaryAnn Pease-**

At the last board meeting the Building Inspector mentioned that the town could use money from his revolving account to help pay court costs. Mary Ann spoke with the accountants and treasurer and that is not how the article passed was written. If we want to change that the Article needs language added to clarify that usage and be in the ATM. Mary Ann asked how to change that. Don to reach out to Tom Mullins for wording on Article and to get it in this ATM.

- **Bob Daley- Water Commissioner Vacancy**

Bob wanted clarification again on the term length. It is a 2-year term to finish out a three year term, after that it will be a three year term. John said if Bob finds someone, they can appoint for up to 1 year or until the next election, whichever comes first. Notice will be put on the website also.

- **Andy Myers- Finance Committee**

Some budget updates, see attached notes.

Free cash for this year goes away on June 30th. Suggestions for usage, Andy Sutton meeting with painter to clean up the front of town hall.

Don to check with Tom Mullins about the wording of the fire dept article, can we use that leftover cash for bills?

- **Liz Massa- Planning Board**

Liz presented zoning changes for 70 Ingell Rd, owners want to make it a destination wedding event. Zoning does not allow assembly and amusement., Bylaw from the 1960's. Planning board to amend bylaw but want BOS approval in amount of people. 25 or less, Yes in AR
And more than 25 requires a special permit.

John suggested leaving it open to the number of people, no restrictions. The Planning Board will make changes to the bylaw. Rich Holzman wanted it in the minutes, he is a neighbor and lives on Ingell rd, and is also on the Planning Board and will be voting on this when the time comes.



Don Humason- TA Report

-Discussion on Starkweather property. 50 acres to be sold to Mass Fish and Wildlife for \$50,000. Andy Sutton made a motion to accept the offer, Craig Gauthier seconded, all in favor.

-Resignation of John VanHeynigen as electrical inspector, has resume of replacement, would like to have him come on board now to shadow John. BOS said yes and if interested will appoint when time.

-Hamilton Scholarship needs to be voted on, John Baldasaro made a motion to award the Hamilton Memorial Scholarship to two students, Gabriella Salvini and Natalie Loïselle, Andy Sutton seconded, all in favor

-Chester Theatre update- James was in attendance and was concerned about not having the old school available for rehearsals. Need it 5-6 hours a day Tuesday- Saturday for three months. The town reduced the insurance to liability only and told the insurance company the building is vacant. Andy Myers said for occasional use should be fine. Is there a short-term policy the town or theater can get? Andy Sutton is concerned that it would be looked at as fraud since we told the insurance company the building is vacant. Don to notify MIIA and see what they say, he will then let James know.

- Annual Town Meeting, articles for the warrant due May 28th.

-Name plate ordered for Craig.

-Brian has been notified to return keys to the building.

- **John Baldasaro**

Welcome to Craig Gauthier on election to the Board of Selectman.

- Made a motion to appoint Andy Sutton to the shared Fire Service advisory board, replacing Brian Fogue, Craig seconded, all approved.

- **Public Comment**

- Veronica Marr- late to the meeting, what land got sold, on Middlefield st? No off-East River rd., Starkweather property.

- Rich Holzman- Praised the highway dept with the paving that has been done. When will Skyline trail be done? And the side of the roads need to be cleaned up. Chip is on it and knows what needs to get done, will update us when it is known.

- James- The theater would like to have a benefit play, with proceeds to be split with possibly the fire dept or some town dept needing funding. Don and James will get together on that.

John Baldasaro made a motion to adjourn, Andy seconded, all in favor.

Adjourned 6:50pm



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Respectfully Submitted



Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

5/22/24
Date Signed




John Baldasaro, Chairman

6/3/24
Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

Date Signed



Craig Gauthier, Clerk

6/5/2024
Date Signed



CHARLES "CHIP" DAZELLE, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
CHESTER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
2 TOWN ROAD
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

(413) 354-2276

Highwaysuper@TownofChester.net

***5-20-24 Selectboard Report
from the Highway Department***

- 1] Grading of dirt roads almost done
- 2] Milling and paving has been completed on Main and Baystate drive
- 3] Baltazar has finished paving Prospect Street
- 4] Going thru new street signs going to start again putting them up
- 5] Parking lot at town hall will be coming soon, Steve at LB Construction said he will concentrate on the other roads as he has been a great help in getting this done for the residents and Chester on Track.
- 6] Our FY 25 FRCOG bids have come in, going over them now

-Charles "Chip" Dazelle,
Chester Highway Superintendent
Cell 413-393-8946



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**Chester Scholarship Recipients 2024-2025 Academic Year
Frank D. Hamilton Memorial Scholarship**

ACTION REQUIRED

Selectboard should vote to award two (2) \$3,750.00 scholarships from the **Frank D. Hamilton Educational Fund** to the following students:

Gabriella Joy Salvini
128 Prospect Street
Chester, MA 01011
413.351.5277
UMass Amherst

Natalie M. Loiselle
223 Bromley Road
Huntington, MA 01050
413.561.6087
Westfield State University

All eligible candidates were considered. No eligible candidates were declined.

One candidate was declined because he lives in Montgomery, not Chester, which makes him ineligible for the Frank D. Hamilton Educational Scholarship.

His name is Elijah S. Gilbert of 140 Carrington Road, Montgomery, MA 01050.
Phone 413-454-8967.

I spoke with Elijah and verified this, and explained the scholarship policy, which I had confirmed with the Selectboard. He understood.