



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, June 3, 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, Veronica Marr, Rosemary Dalesandro, Darlene Stone, Jan and Harry Sanner, Adam Bryant, Kirsten Broman, Beth Lansing, Norma McDonald, Melodie and Tony Mazzaferro, Annette LaMountain, Wilma and John Foley, Craig Boyer, Flo Bolduc, Melissa McAuliffe, Chris and Ernie Baker, Kendall Bennett, and Brian Forgue.

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

- **Presentation By M&S Development**

M&S presented their report on the old school at 10 Middlefield rd. It had been done with several town meetings and input for various people. The purpose was to show how to make the old school an asset and what that would cost. Suggestions were community use, affordable housing or high end housing. Next step is for selectboard to review the information and send out RFP's . It was suggested to give a while for the requests to come in, months in fact.

Veronica Marr asked if the RFP could be limited to not include housing, John said no, they don't want to limit it at this point, Veronica also asked if the community can submit an RFP. John said yes.

Don will post the M&S report on the town website

- **Presentation by Angela Panaccione of PVPC**

Angela presented the conclusion of the Chester- Blandford- Middlefield MVP Resilient Dirt Road grant. This study was done in the three towns and consisted of beaver activity study, culvert study, and operational and maintenance plan for dirt roads. This grant project has been going on for a couple of years. This study allows the towns to apply for other grants in the future to help with maintenance of dirt roads.

- **Kendall Bennett- Assessor Clerk-**

Kendall presented two proposals for appraisal services for the town, since Mayflower is no longer doing it. Bishop and Associates quote was \$7500.00 Tyler Technologies quote was \$15000.00

Kendall and the Board of Assessors approve of Bishop and Associates. John B made a motion to accept the bid from Bishop and Associates, Andy seconded, all in favor.

- **Craig Gauthier- Cemetery upkeep**

Craig was wondering why the Pine Hill Cemetery was not mowed before Memorial Day. Jessica Slatcher responded that she did not have any contact with the man who mows the cemeteries. She has no phone number, and no one knows how to get ahold of him. Someone else spoke up and said the town mower was broken. No one had reported this. Jess was to get his number and see what is going on.



- **John Baldasaro- Tax Collector Position**

Job had been posted on the website for 4 weeks and in the Country Journal for 1 week. Two applications have been turned in for this position. John appreciates every person applying., but in his opinion one applicant has had no experience in municipal work and tax collector is a tough place to start. Andy Sutton agreed. John wanted to make the decision to hire now so that person could train with Maryann for a month. John made a motion to appoint Terry Donovan as Tax Collector , Andy Sutton seconded , all in favor. Don will post Town Administrative assistant position.

Bob Daley wanted to know why, since this was such an important position, wasn't the search done on a wider field, John responded that they always post on the website and country journal and his belief is that they could have spent more money, but the outcome would be the same.

- **Don Humason- TA report**

-New Business- establishing a Highway Department Training Account.

Chip was asking to reimburse moneys spent on training, ie CDL- cost 7000.00 to a new employee. Chip is asking for a line item of \$10000.

Andy Myers said we could do that this year from free Cash, and if we want to make it a line item next year. BOS agreed to try it

- James vonDeck Eagle Scout project- James would like to make a bench on the Arches Trail facing the second arch. John B said it was a great idea and to talk with Liz Massa about placement.

-Former Highway Employee question, a former employee claims he was not paid for his final week of employment, he however never turned in a time sheet. He also still has uniforms that he needs to return. Can we pay him? Answer is no, he purchased clothing and lights while working for the town that the town paid for and he kept. No pay due him and he needs to return the uniforms.

Don to reach out to him.

-Fire Chief wants BOS to declare Engine 2 as surplus. John said yes, everyone agreed.

-Prospect St final walk thru on Wednesday June 5 at 10:30

-Insurance with Chester Theater using the old school is all set.

-Chester Elementary School Playground Ribbon cutting on Friday 6/7/24 4:30pm all invited.

- **Public Comment**

Beth Lansing- Presented to the selectboard a Citizens Petition to stop the sale of CMELD. There are 142 names to stop the sale of CMELD and for the immediate dissolution of the Energy Committee.

John responded that first it would be a town vote to dissolve the Energy Committee since they were appointed by a town vote. Second there is no sale yet to stop, no negotiating is being done. Nothing to stop. We are still gathering information, waiting for CMELD audit to be done, will be 6 months to a year before we have movement forward. The BOS will speak with CMELD and discuss when the time comes. If there is no viable offer, then probably won't go forward.

Rich Holzman said there is no risk in having the maximum information about CMELD/Eversource and base your vote with a full understanding of what is going on.

-Veronica Marr- wants to put a committee together to investigate funding to make the old school the Chester Community Center, anyone interested meet in the lobby after the meeting.

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

Adjourned 7:20pm



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Respectfully Submitted



Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant



Date Signed




John Baldasaro, Chairman




Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman



Date Signed



Craig Gauthier, Clerk



Date Signed



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

(413) 354-2276

Highwaysuper@TownofChester.net

***6-3-24 Selectboard Report
from the Highway Department***

- 1] Going thru the FCOG bids they look good Blacktop went down a few dollars
- 2] Replaced a culvert on elder road that was bad and washed road only 15 ft wide now more
- 3] Got some blocks to put on round hill where road is washing out and electric pole almost exposed.

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

Town Administrator

From: Jeana Briggs <webmaster@townofchester.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 12:34 PM
To: Town Administrator
Subject: Invitation to our ribbon cutting ceremony.

From: Jeana Briggs <jeanagelston@gmail.com>
Subject: Invitation to our ribbon cutting ceremony.

Message Body:

The Chester PTO is so thankful to the Town of Chester for helping us fund our playground project. We invite all officials to come to our ribbon cutting ceremony on June 7th, 4:30PM, Chester Elementary School. Any questions call 413-530-2352.
Thank you so much,
Jeana Briggs

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Welcome to Chester, Massachusetts (<https://townofchester.net>)