



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, June 17, 2024

Open meeting—This meeting was held in the Chester Town Hall COA Room 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, Liz Massa, Bob Daley, Veronica Marr, Rosemary Dalesandro, Darlene Stone, Kirsten Broman, Beth Lansing, Annette LaMountain, Flo Bolduc, Melissa McAuliffe, Ro McClafin, Nate Bolduc, Deryck Savoy, Terry Murphy, Diane Hall and Brian Forgue.

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

- **CMELD Commissioner Update**

The commissioners gave a letter to the BOS informing them that the CMELD commissioners have no desire to sell or be sold to Eversource or any other utility company at this time. They want all current negotiations to cease.

Deryck Savoy spoke to the negative impact the Eversource “proposal” was having on morale and hiring employees, he stated the rate payers did not ask for this and the two petitions that the townspeople have done were pushed aside, and that this was dragging on too long. Multiple signatures from townspeople should show the BOS that people are against the sale.

John Baldasaro spoke to the fact the Energy Committee was voted on at a town meeting, that there is no negotiations going on at the moment still waiting for CMELD audit to be done and the next step would be to meet with Eversource and CMELD and look at the financials. Real numbers have not been seen yet.

John said there has to be a Special Town Meeting to vote to stop, even though there were 150 signatures there are 900 registered voters in town and he will not make the decision for them. Andy Sutton said the process needs to move forward or go to a STM.

A STM was scheduled for July 15 at 7:00pm. Don to check with legal about wording of article. It would be a secret ballot vote according to the town clerk.

- **Appointment Discussion**

John Baldasaro made a motion to appoint all on the list except the Fire Chief and Forest Fire warden at this time, Andy Sutton seconded, all in favor.

Discussion was about Nate Bolduc and Henry Fristik who both put their appointment papers in for Fire Chief and Forest Fire Warden. Nate was present in the room and John asked why he put his papers in. Nate responded because Henry told everyone he was getting another job and to put his papers in. Andy



Sutton asked if Nate was available during the day, Nate said no he works elsewhere. Henry Fristik was on zoom and said yes he was approached by Sandisfield and it was more money but he decided not to pursue it, he said he never told Nate to send in his appointment papers and that he has offered Nate Assistant Fire Chief twice and Nate has turned him down.

John said he was concerned that our fire chief was actively seeking other employment, and would like the chief to be committed to Chester. John suggested tabling this decision until the next meeting, Andy and Craig agreed. Both Nate and Henry want to keep their appointment papers in.

- **Bob Daley- Water Department update**

GAC Filter grant signed off on

7/16 Filter 1 will be done, and Filter 2 will be done in August.

The switch from Horne Pond to Austin Brook is continuing to bring improvements. First quarter numbers showed improvement, Second quarter numbers finally not in violation. Seasonal changes could impact that number but all going in the right direction.

The Water Commissioners would like to thank Chip and his crew for all their help and thanks to Rich Holzman, John Baldasaro and Jason Forgue for allowing ARPA funds to be used allowing the water dept to move forward. Also reached out to Jessica Slatcher and will be helping fund the cemetery commission with the timber sale from the boundary land.

- **Liquor License**

John Baldasaro made a motion to approve the one-day liquor license application from Emily Smith-Lee for 6/29/24, Andy Sutton seconded, all approved.

- **Don Humason- TA report**

-Heat Advisory, Coa can be set up as a cooling center if needed, second choice is the school. Chip is informed as Emergency Director

-Bridges – Main st bridge reduced to one lane, Blandford Rd Bridge must be shored up, Chip to pay for out of CH 90 funds. John said the town never paid before for bridge repair, Don to reach out to state reps and invite them to visit the BOS.

- Two applications for Admin Asst have come in, ad will be in paper this week.

- Dave Peirce put in his resignation for the end of the summer, John suggested putting it on the website July 1 so Dave can train.

-Steinhardt Scholarship – Highest GPA For Chester Senior goes to Jackson Harding, with a 4.33GPA.

John made the motion to award Jackson the Scholarship, Andy seconded, all approved.

-Don is at a meeting June 27th and vacation July 1-5

- Wednesday June 19th- Town Hall is closed for holiday, Juneteenth

- **Public Comment**

Mel McAuliffe- Chester Foundation is donating flowers and clean up to the two circles on Mian st, Chip will maintain form there.



Brian Fogue- Asked if the Cornerstone Church could be on the STM on July 17. Andy Sutton said we need to have a private contractor come in and give estimate so there is better numbers to vote on at the meeting, MaryAnn asked if Jason Fogue would be allowed as contractor, John said yes. Overall thought it would not be enough time to get it on the warrant.

Veronica Marr- is putting together a proposal to turn the old school into a community center and thinks the church would be a perfect opportunity for that.

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

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

Adjourned 7:05pm



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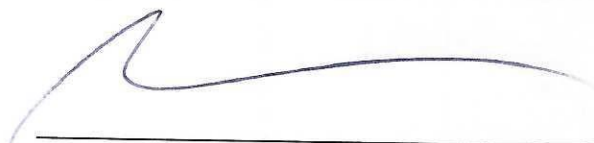
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Respectfully Submitted



Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

6/18/24
Date Signed



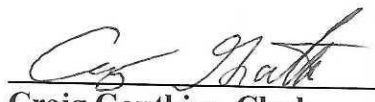
John Baldasaro, Chairman

7/1/24
Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

7/1/24
Date Signed



Craig Gauthier, Clerk

7/1/24
Date Signed