

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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

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**Monday, November 4, 2024**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Open meeting – This meeting was held in the Chester Town Hall Auditorium with a virtual option.

Selectboard members present were John Baldasaro, Andy Sutton and Craig Gauthier. Also present were Town Administrator Don Humason, Town Clerk Terry Donovan, Assessor Clerk Kendall Bennett, Finance Committee member Andy Meyers, assessors' board members Keirsen Broman, Tim Dunn and Rosemary Dalesandro, and members of the public.

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

Town Administrator Report

- The request from the Cornerstone Church to store items at Chester Elementary school has been rescinded.
- Comcast is looking to extend the town's internet and cable contract to 10 years. The request for year-round services at Littleville Fairgrounds will be discussed in the renewal negotiations. John Baldasaro said he wants to sit in at that meeting.
- Dave Pierce will be holding off on his retirement from the maintenance position in Town Hall until further notice.
- Nick Chiusano will be winterizing the old elementary school pipes this weekend.

Public Comment

- Deryck Savoy asked about an issue with health insurance for an employee of CMELD. Don has a meeting on 11/5 with the town's health benefits consultant at 11 am. Don offered for the CMELD employee to sit in at the meeting to ask questions. Diane Hall said she would let the employee know. John brought up the point that the

town doesn't have an HR department, and the insurance consultant Soyna has been working with the town for 10 years. Deryck asked how benefits like this are normally set up. Don said that it is handled with Sonya through a personnel portal where they sign their onboarding documents. John said the town might try working towards having an HR consultant.

- Deryck brought up an issue about communicating information about electrical outages to customers. He said there was an outage for 30 minutes on 11/3 and they were only able to post on FB. He asked about the robocall alerts that the town used to have. Police Chief Dubiel said it was removed last year because the fee was \$3,000, and the police department couldn't take on that expense anymore. The town website needs to be updated to take off the alert system sign up portal.
- CMELD is working on changing their energy consultant to MMWEC, but a town vote is needed to give permission to change.
- Craig Gauthier asked for an update on selling the old school. Andy Sutton said he is still working towards completing the RFP. Andy Meyers said he had an agent look at it today and we may need to survey the area to have the town own the big parking lot and the septic system. If listing privately, the agent would require the buyer to put in their own septic and have a new driveway put in. Andy said it may be worth exploring selling it with a private realtor. Andy Sutton said he discussed it with a private developer, and the time it would take might not be worth it. He discussed the possibility of demolition as Huntington did with their school when it closed. John confirmed that it would require a town vote to sell the school privately.
- Brian Fogue asked if Nick was still coming to 12/2 BOS meeting. Don Humason said yes, he is still on the agenda.
- Andy Meyers brought up the cost of keeping Comcast equipment at Littleville Fairgrounds. It was a better deal to have a yearly contract, and they pay \$156 a month for internet and other services even though there are only being used a few times throughout the year. He asked that it be brought up in the Comcast negotiations. John brought up the possibility of adding a security system to the highway garage, parks, ball fields, the transfer station, town hall, littleville, fire station, water treatment plant and more. There has been vandalism recently where cameras would be helpful to have.
- The Green Communities annual report has been finalized with PVPC. Andy Meyers said there isn't a grant available right now but there may be one in the spring. Free cash should be certified in one week. The accountant closed up FY24 accounts on 11/4.

- Andy Meyers asked about an update on new growth in the town. Kendall Bennett said it is still in process. There was a system error with an LA3, but it is on track and there is around \$300,000 in new growth. She said our evaluation company, Bishop and Associates, will be coming in to resolve the LA3 and enter in the property evaluations this week.

***John Baldasaro made a motion to adjourn the BOS meeting and start an executive session. Andy Sutton seconded, and all voted in favor. The Board of Selectmen meeting adjourned at 6:44pm and went into executive session.***



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Respectfully Submitted



Kim Fox, Administrative Assistant

11/18/24

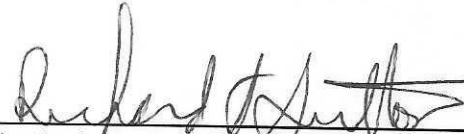
Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Chairman

11/18/24

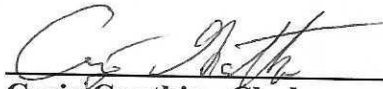
Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

11/18/2024

Date Signed



Craig Gauthier, Clerk

11/18/24

Date Signed



CHARLES "CHIP" DAZELLE, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT  
CHESTER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
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***11-4-24 Selectboard Report  
from the Highway Department***

- 1] Guardrails that were hit on old state road by bridge fixed last week
- 2] Line painting has been done Skyline, Johnson, Lyons hill and Middlefield Road
- 3] Getting equipment for winter sanders ready
- 4] Maynard hill tree removal from Eversource At no cost to the town has started
- 5] Opening more catch basins and ditches on Bromley Road
- 6] If there is anything you can think of, please let me know thanks 2<sup>nd</sup> winter here think we are set

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