



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, January 27, 2025

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 was Town Administrator Don Humason, Town Clerk Terry Donovan, Finance Committee member Andy Meyers and Brian Fogue, Water Commissioner Bob Daley, COA Board member Jane Sutton, Highway Superintendent Chip Dazelle and members of the public.

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

Town Business

- Kinnebrook Road Culvert Replacements
 - Erin Rodgers from Trout Unlimited said they have been working for a few years on culverts on Kinnebrook Road that historically wash out. The culvert on Skunk Brook was replaced in the spring of 2020 and they are now ready to replace the second culvert further north on Kinnebrook by Eastman Road. They have received all the permits needed and are going to move forward most likely this



summer. Kinnebrook Road will need to have closures during the time they're replacing, and some trees will need to be cleared. Andy Sutton asked if the process would be like the first culvert replacement and Erin said yes. Andy then asked how long the road will need to be closed. Erin said they would be shooting for four weeks. She confirmed Worthington has been notified and is on board. Erin confirmed this will not be happening during Littleville fair weekend.

- Employee Health Insurance
 - Discussion will be moved to a future meeting as Derek Savoy and Diane Hall were not able to attend.
- Council on Aging Update
 - Jane Sutton presented on behalf of the Council on Aging to announce that the COA hours will be reduced due to lack of participation in events and activities. She said the board has gotten together to make this decision, but they will remain open from 11-1 Monday through Friday with continued lunches. The foot clinic will continue as well as the food pantry's provided Brown Bag program one Friday a month. Details about the updated hours will be posted on the town's website and published in the Coach Messenger. Jane said anyone that has questions about this can email her or the COA. There was a discussion about the possibility of merging town COA boards. John Baldasaro agreed that it makes sense to cut back. Jane mentioned they surveyed senior members in town to see what activities they would like to join in, but most of them included traveling to other towns and providing transportation for everyone is an issue.
- Shared Police Agreement Update
 - Police Chief Jen Dubiel said the shared Blandford/Chester police agreement expired January 1st and needs to be reviewed with Blandford to renew. Jen said there isn't anything she sees that needs to be changed; they just need new agreement dates. Jen also mentioned that her contract is expiring this year as well. John Baldasaro asked Don Humason to reach out to the Blandford Town Administrator to get that meeting scheduled.
- Review Appointment Process
 - Craig Gauthier brought up hiring people to town jobs and boards without reviewing resumes or having a discussion as a Selectboard before bringing them on. John wanted to clarify if he meant the appointment or hiring process? John explained that appointing people typically happens quickly due to fear that the participant will lose interest. Craig said he would still like to know about the person volunteering and their work experience before confirming appointments. John said that can be something they do going forward.



Old Business

- Classic Pizza
 - Craig Gauthier said he is advocating for the selectboard to sign their liquor license since they have been putting in a lot of effort to make the repairs needed to bring their building up to code. The business is unable to get liquor orders delivered without a current liquor license and without their income from alcohol sales, the business owners are concerned that they will not be able to afford the \$50 per day fine they will have to pay for being out of compliance. John Baldasaro said he would agree to issuing the liquor license if there continues to be documented progress on their repairs. Andy Sutton said he would feel better having the building and electrical inspectors go back in to check on the work before the Selectboard sign off on the license. Brian Fogue asked if they approve the liquor license and then the business stops making progress on repairs, can the license be rescinded? John said yes, the Selectboard can rescind the license at any time. Craig mentioned there is a scheduled building inspection on February 8th.

John Baldasaro made a motion to grant Classic Pizza their 2025 liquor license with the stipulation that if the building inspection scheduled for February 8th does not go well, the license will be rescinded. Craig Gauthier seconded, and all voted in favor.

Town Admin Report

- DLTA grant
 - This is a grant Don Humason has been working on with Ira from PVPC to create a Capital Asset Management Plan. This would help the town have a set schedule for replacing vehicles, computers or other assets that have depreciation.
- Phone system update
 - The first batch of upgraded town department phones are expected to begin installation around February 25.
- Comcast Renewal
 - Comcast does not have a good solution for having internet at Littleville Fair Grounds year-round. John said he wants to sign a one-year contract. He said he feels that Comcast is trying to extend the term of the contract to longer than what the town wants. Andy Meyers said he's been working with a few reps at Comcast as well and they will give the town what they're looking for, but not at a discounted rate and the rate that was previously agreed on was only for TV services. John said he would rather renegotiate with them every year.



- Don also mentioned the contract for the town's new tax title software has been reviewed and signed.

Public Comments

- Brian Fogue said the school committee has a meeting at 7pm on February 12th, at Gateway to discuss the budget. He said he is expecting less than a 5% increase. The finance committee is meeting on February 13th. He mentioned Maura Healey's proposal for a 5-year increase on Chapter 90 funds, but he is not sure how much of these budget increases will come to fruition.
- Bob Daley mentioned the Volunteer Fire Capacity grant program as a possible way to give firefighter volunteers incentive pay to alleviate the issues of low attendance at firefighter meetings. John Baldasaro said Chief Nate Bolduc was going to check around with other towns about what they do.

John Baldasaro made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into an executive session. Andy Sutton seconded, and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:37PM



Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Fox

Kim Fox, Administrative Assistant

2/12/25

Date Signed

John Baldasaro, Chairman

Date Signed

Richard J. Sutton

Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

2/18/25

Date Signed

Craig Gauthier

Craig Gauthier, Clerk

2/12/25

Date Signed



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***1-27-25 Selectboard Report
from the Highway Department***

- 1] Sorry for no report last meeting. Not much to update.
- 2] A couple storms. Got thru them.
- 3] Checking roads daily for slick spots and snow drifts.

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