



CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
and ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

15 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, April 7, 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, Fire Chief Nate Bolduc, Library Board member Karen Avery, and members of the public.

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

Town Business

- Hamilton Library Trustees – Request to remove a trustee

Karen Avery presented concerns on behalf of the library board about their secretary, Chelsea Girton. She has missed more than 3 meetings in a row and has been mostly unresponsive. Karen said she has not been present since August. Because Chelsea is elected, the bylaw states she would need to submit a letter of resignation, which the board has asked for and has been refused. Karen said she does not respond to meeting notices to say that she will not be attending. Karen said the library is looking for some guidance on how to move forward with this. John Baldasaro said the Town Administrator to send a letter to really enforce the need to attend meetings or resign. John said there could also be recall election but there wouldn't be enough time to get it on the upcoming town election. There could be a special election although that would be expensive, or it could be added to next year's if there are no changes in participation from Chelsea.



Karen also brought up the issue of Chelsea having the library's secretary book and they are having a hard time getting that back. John said if it is library property, they can work with one of the police officers to get that property back. Otherwise, as an elected member of the board, there are no other options to have her removed.

- Planning Board – over 55 Housing Bylaw

Liz Massa presented on behalf of the Planning Board. She worked with the town council on the previous questions. The Planning Board added revisions to the bylaw regarding the age restrictions and water supply. She said this would be a great addition to the town and would increase tax revenue. The purposed location for development is the old gravel pit on Wilander Rd but there have not been any permits pulled for this project. It is just a proposal currently.

John made a motion to accept the planning board presentation, and they can move on to holding a public meeting. Andy Sutton seconded and all were in favor.

- CFD Proposal for Tax Credit for volunteer firefighters

Fire Chief Nate Bolduc said there were no new members who attended the Fire Department's open house event held in March and Nate is looking to give an incentive for volunteers. He is requesting real estate tax credits for volunteers who meet specific criteria throughout the calendar year. He presented the requirements in writing to the Board. Bob Broga said that other towns add the tax credit as a line item in the town budget to bill the Fire Department in order to even out the tax loss the town could see from this program. Bob said he thinks it would be great for young people moving into town and since the criteria required would happen throughout the year, it would be a great way to make people commit to the job.

John said it will be presented it to town council and will likely need to have on a town vote.

Town Admin

- Request from Verizon for public hearing on Smith Rd pole relocation

Will be tabled until a future meeting. Verizon has not set a date for the public hearing.

- Select Board Meeting is scheduled for Patriot's Day / Easter Monday

The Board cannot have a meeting on a holiday so the next BOS meeting will be moved to Tuesday, 4/22.



Public Comment

- Ron Ouimette said there was a large rainstorm and Maynard Hill Rd was washed out into the wetlands. All of the silt has done damage to the wetland and he is concerned about the effects of that. John advised Ron to talk to Chip Dazelle, the Highway Superintendent. John said he'll look at it and see if there's anything the Highway Department can do.
- John had a meeting on Friday with Comcast, they are looking for an extension. The contract was up in March and the extension allows for more negotiation. He said there is also a franchise fee that the town could possibly benefit from, and John is trying to get them to give the town that benefit. The funds from the franchise fee would be put toward getting better set ups for town meeting zoom calls. Veronica Marr asked how long the town has had Comcast. John said maybe 25 years. She asked if this rebate was offered the whole time? He said it was not presented that way when they previously negotiated but after further research, he found other towns have benefited from that and he brought it up to Comcast.
- Someone asked about having the town take over Taft Rd. John said the best place to start would be Chester Highway superintendent. Mass Highway and their engineers would need to look at Taft Rd to see how that could possibly move forward.
- Liz asked for an update on the Blandford Rd Bridge. Per Chip's Highway report, they are looking to pave Blandford Rd Bridge. The cost of paving would be \$14,000. The state is not ready or willing to replace the bridge, which is why the town is paving to try to make it as safe as possible in the meantime. The town could close the road, but it would be an extreme disadvantage from an emergency response standpoint. Main street bridge is also a bridge that needs to be replaced. Someone asked who writes grants for the town. John said there isn't a grant writer, but the town works with companies that write grants on our behalf.

John Baldasaro made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Sutton seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:44pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Fox, Administrative Assistant

4/21/25

Date Signed

John Baldasaro, Chairman

Date Signed

Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

4/22/25

Date Signed

Craig Gauthier, Clerk

4/22/25

Date Signed



CHARLES "CHIP" DAZELLE, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
CHESTER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
2 TOWN ROAD
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011
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***4-7-25 Selectboard Report
from the Highway Department***

- 1] Had a few windstorms and trees down again
- 2] Freightliner is at L&B freightliner for repair almost done found more than expected
- 3] Dealing with mud, roads are holding up good
- 4] Had LB Corp given a price to fix the blacktop on Blandford Road bridge, we cannot patch it anymore, around \$14,000. Hoping to start around middle to end on month will post
- 5] Sweeping and line painting should be done by Chester on track
- 6] loaded dumpster with rubbish, tires and mattresses that have been picked up thru the winter
- 7] Red 550 is at Richie's for repairs

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

Tax Reduction Criteria

Fire Fighters:

- One year on the department
- First responder training/CPR up to date
- Attend 80% of the weekly meetings
- Respond to a minimum of 2 calls a month (if missed, make up calls on next month)
- Monthly project ie. check med batteries, Scott tanks, truck checks, attendance keeping etc.
- Volunteer for 2 assignments ie. Chester on track, Santa on the fire truck, Littleville fair events etc.
- Take on a project or help someone with one
- Attend one Mass Fire Academy class a year, either online or in person or ICS classes or wild land classes

Officers:

- First responder training/CPR up to date
- Attend 80% of the weekly meetings
- Respond to a minimum of 2 calls a month (if missed, make up calls on next month)
- Conduct weekly trainings
- Assign tasks to fire fighters ie. shoveling steps, check med bags, truck snacks, Scott bottles etc.
- Volunteer for 2 assignments ie. Chester on track, Santa on the fire truck, Littleville fair events etc.
- Take on a project or help someone with one
- Attend one Mass Fire Academy class a year, either online or in person or wild land classes
- Complete Incident Command System training (ICS 100, 200, 300, 400 700) depending on rank

Administrative Assistant(s):

- Did they complete their assigned tasks? Yes or no?

Fire Fighters: \$400 off taxes

Officers: \$750 off taxes

Administrative Assistants: \$750 off taxes