



TOWN OF
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

01011

BOARD OF HEALTH

15 Middlefield Road
Chester, MA 01011
413-354-7781

Board of Health@townofchester.net

Board of Health Meeting Town Hall April 11, 2025 at 5:00 pm

Open Public Meeting 5:20 pm Nick Chiusano (NC, chair), Liz Massa (EM, clerk), Rich Holzman

Agenda

-Approve last meeting minutes of March 5, 2025. NC motion EM 2nd approved

-Bids for Transfer Station for Hauling open bids for Transfer Station Hauling Contracts Dave Wickles Trucking was the only contractor to submit bids for the transfer station hauling. The bid covered two years 2025 July 1st to June 30, 2027. The bids reflected a very small increases; Per ton rubbish disposal increased from \$111 to \$115 per ton, Hauls increased from \$255 to \$265, Rental of the rubbish compactor container steady at \$75 per month, rental of demo box steady at \$60 per month. The steel box and hauling continues to be covered by Kane Scrap Metal for free rental, free hauling and cash back for steel. Recommend to BOS to sign contract with Wickles, NC motion, EM 2nd, approved.

-Mowing quotes for the Transfer Station West Branch Landscaping \$1,400 biweekly, Limited Budget \$910 Mowing NC motion EM 2nd Contract awarded to Limited Budget

-10 William Street Receivership Charlie Kaniecki, Health Agent met with the AG on site, side door not secured, inground pool fencing is down plus more violations not adhering to Enforcement order. Reviewed photos supplied by CK of trash and debris around house and barn, septic is still failed. Bank owned property which has been auctioned however no ownership has been taken of the property nor any clean up or repair of septic. House is not secured. The Attorney General's office has decided to move forward with receivership of this property and will award contractor to clean up enforcement issues and then contractor will sell the property.

-126/133 Middlefield Road upcoming inspection Inspection by all town departments is scheduled for May 19th at 1:00 pm. Concerns with the condition of all of the structures, property secured, growth of brush around structures and an attractive nuisance. The inspection will include the fire department and other town officials. A 10,000 gallon underground fuel tank is on site.

-36 Taft Road inspection report On March 26th CK conducted an inspection of this property. He observed; no burning of trash, an on-site sewage disposal system indicated (old and not of current designs), property has no potable water, kitchen sink is connected to a hand pump, there is no plumbing or hot water in the house, toilet is flushed by dumping a bucket of water, the dwelling is an old building structure which does not meet minimum standards. Conclusion: The occupants are elderly. CK seek this as alternative housing and would need to apply for this permit. The occupants have no financial way to bring house up to code. CK contacted Elderly services to provide assistance to the homeowners. Follow up in 30 days.

-Camping at lot 60 Round Hill notice CK has inspected this camp. Perc test was done here last here by this individual however the property deed does not show transfer. A notice of violation was sent March 26th, property owner informed a temporary housing permit was needed. The application did not include any form of potable water or sewerage, power, etc. on the property, therefore not in compliance to stay overnight in a van. Application for temporary housing permit was denied by CK and property owner told to vacate.

-Web EOC Quarter 4 required Emergency reporting completed WEB EOC quarterly emergency preparedness has been completed April 5th by EM. Note: MEMA Chester rep should also be doing these drills.

-Spring 2025 RDP grants for transfer station are open update EM has finished the RDP Grant and has applied for a compactor for cardboard grant to save on hauling fees as well as PAYT program funds to pay for any recycling improvements. All grants are for recycling only, no grants for rubbish. Will give update when grants are awarded.

-Infectious Disease Reporting completed for 2024 The Hampshire Public Health Shared Services Grant is paying for and now completing our Infectious Disease Reporting. This is our 3rd year using the shared services program and it has been providing free services to Chester including Food Inspections, public health nurses and disease reporting. A 2024 Infectious Disease report was presented by EM concluding our disease rates has significantly decreased since 2022, tickborne disease is steady, tuberculosis has decreased, influenza is low, bacterial infections are low. EM states has been infected with Lyme Disease twice in the last 2 years as well as others in the community showing that Lyme is still a challenge in the Hilltowns.

-Maguire Equipment maintenance of rubbish compactor at Transfer Station Maguire came today to service the compactor and will provide report.

-Regulation of permitted curbside haulers per DEP Hauling Regulation Policy reviewed. Tonnage reports have not been received from the two Town permitted haulers; Pioneer Valley Waste and USA. EM will request a third time and reach out to our regional DEP manager as to how to enforce compliance of recycling by curbside pickup haulers. All roll off containers need to be permitted in Chester as well.

And any other concerns that can not wait for the next posted meeting

6 Sylvester Hamilton Road CK would like to know if Chester has a constable to serve orders for buildings, no constable. CK inspected the burned building on March 28th and found the condemnation posting had been removed so he reposted it. No trash or debris has been removed. No work has been done to repair the property. CK recommends receivership be appointed to this property. NC motioned to have CK send to receivership, EM 2nd. Approved.

St. Pauly Textile shed at the Fire Station is doing good with many using it. All rebates are going to the Town of Chester.

Rich Holzman reported that there is a camper on Sylvester Hamilton Road next to the Foleys that appears to have people staying overnight, will need a temporary housing permit. EM states there is a camper on Round Hill Road next to Lot 60 up on top of the hill noticed when Hilltown Land Trust was performed land monitoring, will also need a temporary housing permit if staying overnite.

28 Middlefield Road 2nd and final notice sent on March 21st for enforcement action for reported failed septic. Property changed ownership on 11-29-25, a Title V is required and not completed. CK to follow up.

Review Mass DEP guidance for ADU Accessory Dwelling Units per CK. Title V requirements would involve increasing the size of an on lot septic system to comply with the added number of bedrooms in the ADU. In addition if the Septic System is older, it would have to entirely be brought to current code with a multi compartment tank.

EM states that participation in Hampshire County Shared Services meetings is mandatory by at least one member of the BOH, these are held during the week in Northampton. Also the emergency preparedness framework plan which is also mandatory has been completed by EM. In order to comply with this grant Chester BOH needs to be more active with the shared services board as we are a voting member.

Meeting will adjourn meeting adjourned 5:50pm NC motion, EM 2nd approved

*approved
June 25, 2025
EM*

Posted _____ by _____