



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, June 30, 2025**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Open meeting – This meeting was held in the Council on Aging room with a virtual option.

Selectboard members present were John Baldasaro, Andy Sutton and Craig Gauthier. Also present was Town Clerk Terry Donovan, COA Director Keirsen Broman, Finance Committee Chair Brian Forgue, and members of the public.

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

Town Business

- Battery Energy Storage Facility Policy

Nate Bolduc said that without a bylaw, the state allows for an energy storage facility to be built in town. He talked to the Planning Board, and they have started writing a bylaw to prevent Chester from having these facilities. They are going to follow what the town of Agawam has. Blandford also has a policy, and Becket is working on one. John said once the bylaw is ready the selectboard will review it and likely approve.

- House Number Markers for 911 Calls

Nate presented an example of reflective house markers for 911 calls. The Fire Department had a call on Lyon Hill Rd recently and they had a hard time finding the correct house because the number wasn't visible. Nate is requesting that it be required for all residents to have reflective markers at the end of their property driveway or on the mailbox, so it is close to the road. There was an agreement that these markers should be standardized, and the town would have a link to the markers on the town website to buy. There was discussion about state law which says your



house number must be visible for emergency calls. There was speculation about a grant to provide these to residents and that Middlefield may have applied for it in the past.

- New Town Administrator Search Process

Craig Gauthier said there was an incident on 6/19 where he came into a meeting the search committee was having. He was told it was a private meeting. He thought it was unacceptable, and he felt like he had been escorted out. There was no posting for it being a public meeting. John asked if it was a screening interview. Craig said yes. John said typically if there is a committee of more than 2 people then it should be posted to the public. He said that CMELD did interviews during executive sessions which are not allowed. John agreed that it should have been publicly posted. Andy Sutton said that he believes that as well. Jen Dubiel said she asked Dave Hopson who was part of the Town Administrator screening process with her in Blandford. By his account, when there is a committee that is just screening and forwards candidates to the selectboard, the next phase of interviews would need to be public. Brian said Gateway follows that same process. John said that may be true but if a selectboard member wanted to come into the meeting he should have been allowed. Chief Dubiel said that if that was the case and they let Craig into the meeting then the committee would have been violating open meeting law.

#### Town Administrator Report:

- National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court Grant for Emery Field

National Fitness Campaign is a company that builds outdoor gyms and could be a nice addition for Emery Field. Typical costs are \$150,000 - \$200,000 but a grant can be awarded by the organization for \$50,000. The Selectboard agreed that it was not a priority project and could be tabled for another time.

- Don Humason will be On Vacation July 7-11

#### Public Comments

Andy said they need to set up interviews with the Town Administrator candidates that were presented to the BOS from the screening process. John said they can do the interviews during a Monday night meeting and confirmed they will have to be public. Andy wanted to move forward with a meeting on Monday 7/7. John said he can make next Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> work. Andy asked about a start date. John and Craig said they should go through the interviews first and then discuss. Craig asked if Don should have the opportunity to speak to the BOS first about staying.



Andy did not think so and John said it wouldn't hurt to have him reinterview for the position. He said once they interview the two applicants presented they can go from there.

Craig said that he wants to meet with Brianna from DEP to discuss cleaning up the woodwaste landfill. He's hoping they'll allow the town to work on it either in the fall or the spring.

Bob asked when the start date would be for the new administrator. John said his three-year commitment would be up in September. Bob asked if there was a formal contract and John said no there was not.

*John Baldasaro made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Sutton seconded and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.*



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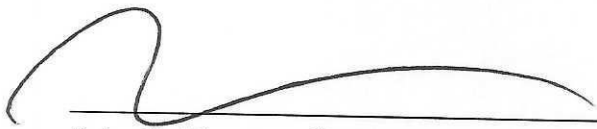
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Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Kim Fox, Administrative Assistant


7/14/25  
Date Signed

  
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John Baldasaro, Chairman

7/14/25  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

7/14/25  
Date Signed

  
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Craig Gauthier, Clerk

7/14/25  
Date Signed