



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, July 28, 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, Town Administrator Don Humason, Water Commissioners Bob Daley and Jim Zimmerman, Planning Board Chair Liz Massa, 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.

Reports from Town Departments/Town Business

- Additional Board Appointments from the Town Clerk

Terry Donovan said Yvette Bigelo has handed in appointment paperwork to join the Council on Aging board. COA Chair Jane Sutton said the board met with her and there is also another person interested. Terry said she didn't know there was anyone else who wanted to join, and no paperwork was submitted. John said the board should meet with both and decide on who should move forward since there is only one position open on the board.

- Animal Control Car Disposal Quotes

Craig Gauthier received three quotes for the surplused Animal Control Car, as is. The best quote received was \$600 from Ian Gifford.

John made a motion to accept the quote from Ian Gifford to dispose of the surplused animal control car. Craig seconded and all were in favor.



- Water Commission Review of Current Water Situation

Craig asked Bob Daley and Jim Zimmerman about the quality of the water. Craig said he has been getting a few complaints about discoloration again. Jim said the water leaving the plant is clear and their turbidity level is low. It is clear when it leaves the water treatment plant, and they believe it has to do with the pipes in the homes. Bob said he received a notice from someone on Maple Street having greenish water. He said they flushed the hydrants on that road and they're hoping that should resolve the problem.

Craig asked about Horn Pond and if there is a problem with the intake pipe and how much it would cost to replace it. Bob said he did not know.

There is an old mine that's not very far from the plant, Craig said he thought about doing a horizontal drill test instead of vertical. He said there could be an aquifer in the mine the town could tap into. Bob said that was something people have brought up in the past. There are water quality issues with water from the mine.

John asked if water test results are being posted on the website? Bob said no. Craig said he felt like they should be posted. Jim said they were posting updates when there were issues with the water.

Report from Town Administrator

- Reactivate Alert and Notification System

Don Humason looked into systems surrounding hill towns use. Code Red seems to be the most popular. He said he is still looking into prices for the service.

Bob said that Pittsfield uses Code Red too and it can target certain areas of town as well.

- Update on New Payroll issue

Sonya was on vacation last week but returned today and Don is waiting for her to connect with him on the payroll issues.

- HCGIT

Don said that Hampshire County Group Insurance is holding an emergency meeting on Thursday. He said they are looking to increase the rates by another 20%. The Board had voted to keep them as the town's health insurance provider since their rates were still the lowest although they raised their rates 18% before the vote. John said to vote no. Don agreed.



- Gateway Superintendent

Brian said there is a school committee meeting on Wednesday to interview candidates to replace Gateway's superintendent. He said they will be holding the interviews and then going into executive session to decide that night. One of the candidates has applied for interim and two of them are permanent.

- Town Hall Custodian Interviews

Terry asked about a new town hall custodian. Don said they just got a new applicant this morning and there was someone who expressed verbal interest but didn't send anything in. John said to move forward with the two they have official paperwork from. Don said he will schedule the interviews. Craig, Kim, Don, and Dave Pierce will do the interviews.

- Littleville Fair

Liz Massa said the Littleville Fair starts this weekend and there are a lot of activities planned.

John Baldasaro made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Sutton seconded and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:33pm




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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Respectfully Submitted,




Kim Fox, Administrative Assistant

8/11/25
Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Chairman

8/11/25
Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

8/11/25
Date Signed



Craig Gauthier, Clerk

8/11/25
Date Signed



CHARLES "CHIP" DAZELLE, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
CHESTER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
2 TOWN ROAD
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011
(413) 354-2276 Highwaysuper@townofchester.net

7-28-25 Selectboard Report from the Highway Department

- 1] Roadside mower in the repair shop, should be back this week
- 2] Have a new truck new F-550 ordered the
- 3] Chester corner should done soon
- 4] Got called in Monday night 7-14-25 and about rain and roads flooding, Found Cooper drive about 1,000 feet washed away most on Prospect Street.
- 5] Maynard, Crane, also washed out. Lyman, Johnson hill, Abbott hill, washed but minor. Abbott hill new culvert prevented the road from washing, had a little by entrance. Looking good. Maynard the worst we had passible by Tuesday afternoon and total open by Wednesday afternoon. We are replacing the culverts most are metal need to be replaced, Plastic we are trying to save.
- 6] Everything has been reopened minor repairs are ongoing.
- 7] Hired a new employee Seth Wright to replace Chris Brown, the only one who applied

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