



Chester Water Commission
Town of Chester
15 Middlefield Road
Chester, MA 01011

Minutes of Water Commission meeting of January 14, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10am with Andrew A. Lora W. Bob D. Craig G. and Jim Z. in attendance. Minutes from the December 2nd meeting were read and approved and signed. Bob updated about conversations with Dave Johnson about the land around Horn Pond in Becket. Bob also spoke of the work Limited Budget did around the Water Treatment plant to address concerns from the Asset Management Plan. Bob spoke about concerns with plowing out the Water Treatment plant for personnel to be able to access and do required work and was concerned Chip D. was more concerned with town roads. Andrew spoke about Highway being legally mandated to maintain said roads and that the Water Department as an enterprise fund needed to be responsible for all expenses related to all operations around the facility. Lora had some concerns about safety of plant personnel during a storm. Bob got a quote from Limited Budget for plowing and sanding during a storm event and mentioned that historically the town has plowed out the road to the plant. Craig G. said he is willing to talk to all and suggested a possibility of a joint Highway/Limited Budget plan to accomplish the work. We spoke about the zoom call with ITS about future work on the Plant's SCADA system and getting a better handle on chemical dosing and meeting the interlock requirements from state regulations. Bob commented about the work by MM & T's work with restoring the access road to Horn pond (partially completed and to be finished in the spring). Bob spoke on the LSL notice and I spoke on the results. Bob mentioned Filter #1 has been drained and is awaiting cleaning. Bob spoke about the upcoming Workforce Development meeting on January 16th at the Springfield Water & Sewer Commission. Bob spoke briefly about the Chester/Blandford grant, rates between the communities and need for a part-time grant writer. We spoke about the need for 800 feet of 8" pipe in Horn pond to reach the deeper location. We spoke about working with people from UMASS about possible grants and trying to locate a student grant writer. We spoke of the need for a dam inspection and that it can only be done by certified personnel. The possibility of needing to increase the water rates to fund the needs of the system. Andrew spoke on the zero based budget and suggested ways to break out the costs. We spoke about working with CMELD. The meeting was closed at 11:37am.

Jim Zimmerman

1/29/2026

J. G. J.