



TOWN OF CHESTER
15 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

Monday, April 6th, 2026

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

Open meeting – This meeting was held in the Town Hall Auditorium with a virtual option.

Selectboard members present were John Baldasaro, Craig Gauthier and Brian Forgue. Town Administrator Andrew Alward and Administrative Assistant Kim Fox were also present.

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

Report from Town Departments

- MVP Application

Bob Daley explained that this grant opportunity is critical given the Water Department's financial constraints. He said the EPA is involved with the MVP grant, along with the Audubon Society. The Water Department is also exploring partnerships with neighboring communities and Gateway Regional to develop an internship program for training future water operators.

John Baldasaro agreed to move forward with the application. Brian Forgue stated that he would be willing to assist if additional resources are needed. Veronica Marr asked what benefits the grant would provide to the Water Department and whether it was the same program as the drinking water listening session previously held at Town Hall. Bob clarified that this is a separate grant opportunity.

- Demand Fee Adjustment

Terry Donovan on behalf of the Tax Collector's requested to increase the demand fee on delinquent taxes from \$5 to \$15. She explained that several other communities have made similar increases because the current \$5 fee is often ignored. The Board agreed.

Brian Forgue made a motion to increase the demand fee on late taxes from \$5 to \$15. John Baldasaro seconded the motion. The motion passed.



- Approval of Abatement of Real Estate Taxes 2011-2019

Terry presented a list of uncollectable real estate taxes from 2011 through 2019 in the amount of \$9,658.74.

Brian Forgue made a motion to abate the listed taxes the Town's books. John Baldasaro seconded. The motion passed.

Report from Town Administrator

- Culvert Replacement - ECO One Stop Applications

The Town is seeking to replace two culverts and that the applications would soon be available for review. Brian asked whether the grant would be reimbursement-based. Andrew Alward stated that it would be.

- Accident Reporting Policy

The Board reviewed a proposed Accident Reporting Policy, which was developed following an incident several months prior that could have been handled more effectively.

John Baldasaro made a motion to accept the policy as written. Brian Forgue seconded. The motion passed.

- Use of Town Counsel Policy

The Board reviewed a proposed policy formalizing who is authorized to contact Town Counsel. Requests would be directed through the Town Administrator or Town Clerk.

Brian Forgue made a motion to accept the policy. John Baldasaro seconded. The motion passed.

- Health Insurance Opt-Out Policy

The Board reviewed the Health Insurance Opt-Out Policy.

John Baldasaro made a motion to accept the policy as written. Brian Forgue seconded. The motion passed.

- Health Insurance Opt-Out Form

The Board reviewed the Health Insurance Opt-Out Form.

John Baldasaro made a motion to approve the form as written. Brian Forgue seconded. The motion passed.



- Next Meeting Date

Because Town Hall would be closed on Monday, April 20 for Patriots' Day, the Board agreed to hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 21.

- Update on Town activities

Andrew Alward announced that he has finished his course and is certified as a Chief Procurement Officer.

The Highway Department has coordinated street sweeping to start in May and they will start grading dirt roads. John commented that Chester's dirt roads appear to be in better condition than those in neighboring towns.

Andrew confirmed the Finance Committee has reviewed the Selectboard stipend increase request and reduced the proposal to about \$3,000 per member which is still an increase from this year. John said he does want to see that increased higher.

Public Comment

Brian announced that there will be a School Committee meeting on Wednesday, 4/8.

Nate Bolduc stated that he had received a couple of offers for the old fire truck and asked about the proper process for moving forward. Andrew said the vehicle could be posted on the Town website for 30 days, after which the top three bids could be reviewed before selecting a buyer.

Sally Loomis, participating via Teams, said she is working on a conservation project on East River Road and Bailey Road. She explained that the property would be subject to restrictions preventing further development. She noted that the land is located within endangered species habitat and a floodplain area. Sally said she would return to present additional details to the Board closer to June.

John Baldasaro made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Forgue seconded. Meeting adjourned 6:20 pm.



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

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Kim Fox, Administrative Assistant

4/28/26

Date Signed

Selectboard:

Craig Gauthier

5/4/26

Date Signed

Brian Forgue

5/4/26

Date Signed

5/4/26

Date Signed