

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Friday, September 6th, 2013
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

- 6:00 PM Call the Meeting to Order
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Chairman’s Additions or Deletions
- Public Comment (10 minutes)
- Approval of Minutes
- Bid Opening – Wason Pond Athletic Fields & Driveway Relocation
- Richard Antoine, Fire Chief
- Roundtable
- Public Comment (10 minutes)
- Non-Public Session
- Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Landau called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 6:07pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

- Joe Castricone
- Jack Cannon
- Joseph Hagen (arrived at 6:11pm)
- Stephen Landau
- Richard LeBlanc

Members of the Public present, at various times:

- Richard Antoine, Fire Chief
- Aaron Berube
- Patrick Connelly, Wason Pond Commission
- Phil Gladu
- Bill Gregsak
- Andrew Hadik
- Chris Hadik, Wason Pond Commission
- Ed Karjala, Wason Pond Commission
- Patricia Martin, Board of Selectmen Administrative Assistant
- Michael Oleson
- Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
- John Sullivan, Field of Dreams
- David Veale, Field of Dreams
- Michael Willinsky
- Kevin Wunderly
- And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

54 Chairman Landau led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

56 *1.4 Additions and Deletions*

58 There were no additions nor deletions.

60 *1.5 Public Comment*

62 There was no public comment.

64 **II. Old Business**

66 *2.1 Approval of Minutes*

68 The minutes of July 11th, July 18th, July 25th, and August 1st, 2013 had been reviewed by each member
70 of the Board of Selectmen individually on their own time, and no errors or omissions had been noted.

72 Chairman Landau moved to accept the minutes of July 11th, July 18th, July 25th, and August 1st, 2013 as
74 drafted; Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

76 **III. New Business**

78 *3.1 Bid Opening – Wason Pond Athletic Fields & Driveway Relocation*

80 Tonight’s meeting is for bid opening and discussion of same by the Board of Selectmen only; no public
82 comment will be solicited. The Driveway Relocation has been approved by DOT.

Bidder Number	Proposed Athletic Fields Amount	Driveway Entrance Relocation Amount	Total Amount	Notes
#1	\$177,000	\$18,000	\$195,000	Suggests lowering the elevation 7", which will decrease their price by \$40k
#2	\$86,300	\$37,500	\$123,800	
#3	\$92,475	\$10,100	\$102,575	
#4	\$220,000	\$15,000	\$235,000	
#5	\$193,500	\$18,500	\$212,000	
#6	\$183,400	\$16,200	\$199,600	

84 Chris Hadik asked why the bidder names were not being revealed; this is on the advice of Town Counsel.
86 The winning bidder’s name will be revealed when the project is awarded.

88 Selectman Cannon requested that a bid tabulation including a detailed review of the proposals be
90 created; the Wason Pond Commission and Field of Dreams representatives are willing to undertake this project. They were reminded that they are not to discuss the bidder names with the general public.

92 Chairman Landau moved to allow the Wason Pond Commission and Field of Dreams members to review
94 the Wason Pond Athletic Fields & Driveway Relocation bids; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Administrative Assistant Martin made copies of the bids for the reviewing group.

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John Sullivan asked why bids that were higher than the amount available would need to be reviewed; Chairman Landau stated that all bidders needed to be treated equally. It is possible that the Town did not raise and appropriate sufficient funds for the project.

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The reviewing group will meet Sunday, and prepare its analysis by Monday. They will email the analysis to Administrative Assistant Martin, who will forward it to the Board. The Board of Selectmen will then meet Monday night to peruse this analysis.

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The reviewing group members departed the meeting at 6:33pm.

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3.2 *Richard Antoine, Fire Chief*

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Fire Chief Antoine appeared before the Board to discuss a concern he has.

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Three days ago he heard a rumor that the Board of Selectmen is planning on reorganizing the Fire Department and doing away with his position. He stated that he had heard this rumor from a person who stated they had heard it directly from a member of the Board of Selectmen, and now many other residents have approached him with the same rumor. Fire Chief Antoine stated that he and his family are concerned that he might be losing his job.

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Chairman Landau stated that it was unwise to listen to rumors, and that he was not interested in discussing rumors. He stated that this subject had never been discussed amongst this Board at any time, although he reminded Fire Chief Antoine that reorganization had been discussed during the previous incarnation of the Board, with Fire Chief Antoine included in the discussion. He added that one Selectman had inquired about looking into departmental organization, as an individual Selectman, as a way to save money, but that was the extent of the situation. He reminded those present that other departments had been reorganized in the past to save money.

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Selectman Cannon asked Fire Chief Antoine about whom he was speaking. Chairman Landau asked Fire Chief Antoine if he wished to go into a non-public meeting, which would be necessary if he planned to name names other than those of the Board of Selectmen; Fire Chief Antoine stated that a public meeting would be satisfactory.

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Selectman Cannon stated that no discussion had taken place and that no action had been authorized. It was possible that one Selectman had had an idea, but that person should either involve the Fire Chief or not discuss the idea with others.

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Fire Chief Antoine stated that his character and reputation had been defamed and that this rumor leads the public to believe that there is a problem in the Fire Department. He stated that this does not look good for Selectmen support of Department Heads, and that the Board of Selectmen did not support him. Chairman Landau disagreed with this statement, and in a spurious fashion, moved that the Board of Selectmen remove the Fire Chief from his position. A second was not forthcoming; Chairman Landau stated that this indicated that the Board of Selectmen does indeed support the Fire Chief.

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Selectman LeBlanc reiterated that the Board of Selectmen has not had any discussions about removing the Fire Chief from his position, added that anyone can say, "I heard..." but this does not make it true. He reminded Fire Chief Antoine of another rumor that the two of them had heard and discussed last week.

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Vice-Chairman Hagan stated that often a unilateral investigation would take place, and the results brought to the Board if they made sense. He added that the Board would not contemplate personnel or departmental action without having the stakeholders involved.

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150 Fire Chief Antoine asked why the Board was not being forthcoming, adding that “everyone knows what’s
going on”. He stated that one would understandably be concerned when this sort of rumor was started
by one’s employer.

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154 Chairman Landau stated Fire Chief Antoine’s employer was the Board of Selectmen as a whole; this
reorganization inquiry had come from one member of the Board, and therefore not his employer. He
added that should anyone’s position be affected, that person would be brought in to meet with the
Board of Selectmen. He reiterated that the Board had never had this discussion. He implored everyone
to not waste their time with rumors; to only deal with facts.

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160 Fire Chief Antoine, and the other members of the Fire Department in attendance, departed the meeting
at 7:10pm.

162 **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

164 *4.1 Roundtable*

166 *Selectman Cannon:*

- Nothing to report.

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Selectman Castricone:

- 170 • Nothing to report.

172 *Selectman LeBlanc:*

- Nothing to report.

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Vice-Chairman Hagan:

- 176 • Nothing to report.

178 *Chairman Landau:*

- Granite State Communications is holding their annual Open House/BBQ on Saturday, September
180 14th, 2013 at 425 South Stark Highway in Weare. The Hometown Hero award will be presented
to Gene Bilodeau of Weare at noon. This event is open to all residents of Chester; one may
182 RSVP by calling (603) 529-6282.

184 *4.2 Public Comment*

186 Michael Oleson stood and was recognized. He suggested that persons with a plan do their homework
first, and then speak up. Until that time they should keep quiet.

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As no other members of the Public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 7:11pm.

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4.3 Non-Public Session

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194 Chairman Landau moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e), Pending
Litigation; Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so
moved.

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The meeting room was closed at 7:12pm.

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The meeting room was re-opened at 7:18pm.

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Chairman Landau moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman LeBlanc seconded

202 the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

204 Chairman Landau moved that the Board seal this non-public session for an indefinite period; Selectman
Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

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V. Adjournment

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210 The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Monday, September 9th, 2013 at 7pm in the Meeting
Room. The bids opened today will be discussed at this meeting.

212 Chairman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote
was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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Debra H. Doda