

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, April 23rd, 2015
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

- Call the Meeting to Order
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Chairman’s Additions or Deletions
- Public Comment (10 minutes)
- Approval of Minutes
- Barbara L. Gagnon - Proposed Non Public
Planning Board Appointment – Rick Snyder
- Emily Bradley – Library Trustee Appointment
- Discussion of Warrant Articles
- MPR Floor Repairs
- Roundtable
- Public Comment
- Non-Public Sessions, including Compensation and Tax Deeds
- Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Landau called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:07pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

- Jack Cannon
- Joe Castricone
- Joseph Hagen
- Stephen Landau
- Richard LeBlanc

Members of the Public present, at various times:

- Emily Bradley
- John Colman
- Mary Beth Ditoro, Library Trustee
- Barbara Gagnon, Town Clerk
- Deb Munson, Library Trustee
- Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
- Leroy Scott
- Rick Snyder
- And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Landau led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Additions and Deletions

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Two non-public sessions, on Reputation, were added to tonight’s agenda.

1.5 Public Comment

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:08pm.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

March 26th, 2015: On line 173/174, Chairman Landau asked that the phrase “for example, cost wise” be added to the discussion about the building. Vice Chairman Hagan moved to accept the minutes of March 26th, 2015 as amended; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

April 2nd, 2015: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the minutes of April 2nd, 2015 as drafted; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Cannon abstaining due to absence from the meeting in question; so moved.

April 9th, 2015: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the minutes of April 9th, 2015 as drafted; Vice Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Castricone abstaining due to absence from the meeting in question; so moved.

April 16th, 2015: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the minutes of April 16th, 2015 as drafted; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

III. New Business

3.1 Planning Board Appointment – Rick Snyder

Rick Snyder appeared before the Board in order to be appointed as an Alternate to the Planning Board. Mr. Snyder had been on the Planning Board previously, until 2008; he recently received a call from Liz Richter asking him to serve as an alternate. Brian Sullivan, who could not attend tonight’s meeting, sent a letter requesting the appointment.

Chairman Landau noted that he had served on the Planning Board with Mr. Snyder in the past, and highly recommends him as a tremendous asset to the Town. Selectman Cannon agreed, citing his leadership qualities. Selectman LeBlanc, liaison to the Planning Board, is pleased to see more people stepping forward to serve.

Chairman Landau moved to reappoint Rick Snyder as an Alternate to the Planning Board for a term of three years; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Mr. Snyder departed the meeting at 7:12pm.

3.2 Barbara L. Gagnon - Proposed Non Public

Chairman Landau moved to go into non-public session with Town Clerk Gagnon under RSA 91A:3 II (a), Compensation; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

108 The meeting room was closed at 7:14pm.

110 The meeting room was re-opened at 7:46pm.

112 Chairman Landau moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

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116 This non-public session will resume, without Town Clerk Gagnon, at the end of the public meeting; minutes will be sealed at that time.

118 Selectman Castricone moved to allow the Town Clerk’s Office to be closed on Fridays in July and August, 2015 for vacation usage purposes; Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

122 Town Clerk Gagnon will post this information in her office as well as including it on any correspondence sent out in the next few months.

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126 Friday, May 1st, 2015 is the final day for the Town Clerk to accept voter registrations as the Supervisors of the Checklist will be meeting on Saturday, May 2nd, 2015. Tuesday, May 12th, 2015 is the final day for the Town Clerk to accept completed absentee ballots.

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130 Town Clerk Gagnon departed the meeting at 7:50pm.

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3.3 Emily Bradley – Library Trustee Appointment

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136 Mary Beth Ditoro and Deb Munson, Library Trustees, and Emily Bradley appeared before the Board to request Ms. Bradley’s appointment as a Library Trustee.

138 Ms. Bradley belongs to the Friends of the Library and has performed volunteer work there. This appointment will fill the spot formerly held by Kandace Knowlton, who has been hired as Library Director; this took place after the filing period had closed. The term will last until the 2016 elections.

140 Selectman Castricone moved to appoint Emily Bradley as a Library Trustee until the elections of May 2016; Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

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144 Ms. Ditoro asked about library roof repairs; she had been under the impression that a Warrant Article would be written, but did not see it in the Warrant. She was informed that the funds for those repairs are part of the Library line in the Budget itself.

148 Selectman LeBlanc asked the Trustees to be sure to order their replacement lettering soon, as the contractor painting the Library plans to install them.

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152 Ms. Ditoro also asked about giving small bonuses to employees who went above and beyond after former Library Director Sheehan’s departure and before current Library Director Knowlton’s hire. The funds are available in their budget; they simply do not wish to appear profligate. She was assured that the usage of Library funds is at their discretion.

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156 Ms. Bradley, Ms. Ditoro, and Ms. Munson departed the meeting at 8:00pm.

3.4 Discussion of Warrant Articles

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160 The decision as to who will speak to which article will be made at a later date.

162 3.5 MPR Floor RFP

164 An Invitation to Bid for the MPR floor repairs was available for perusal by the Board; bids are due on
166 May 5th, 2015 at 3pm. The contractor will be responsible for removing the bleachers and current floor,
168 pouring the cement, installing the new floor (four options available), and reinstalling the bleachers.
170 There was some discussion about either refinishing the old bleachers, or purchasing new ones should
the old ones prove to be unsound. The Architect will be consulted about this. The Architect is also
interested in discussing the replacement of current light fixtures with LED lights, which apparently will
not be that expensive and will save on electricity.

172 Although the site has always been damp, the moisture problem should no longer be an issue with the
174 new type of flooring materials available; these had not yet been invented when the MPR was originally
built.

176 **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

178 4.1 Roundtable

180 *Selectman Cannon:*

- Nothing to report.

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Selectman Castricone:

- 184 • The TV Studio is broadcasting an interview with Police Chief Burke; one with Road Agent Oleson
will be aired shortly. Residents should watch Channel 21.
- 186 • The Chester Baseball/Softball League has provided him with two options for repair of the
188 damaged wall in the Multi Purpose Room. Option #1 suggests the installation of what appears
to be T1-11 siding placed vertically from above the floor trim to the height of the blue paint.
190 Option #2 suggests the installation of tongue and groove boards placed vertically from above
the floor trim to the height of the blue paint. Either option would have a trim piece laid along
192 the top and painted blue to match the wall. The Board suggested that the League simply
spackle and paint for now, in order to have the room back to 100% by Town Meeting, and any
further work will be discussed at a later date.

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Selectman LeBlanc:

- 196 • Nothing to report.

198 *Vice-Chairman Hagan*

- 200 • The Legislature is currently discussing changes to the criminal prosecution process including a
shortening of time of discovery; it is likely that the Chief Justices of the Supreme and Superior
202 courts will study to see how this process works.

Chairman Landau:

- 204 • Town Counsel has been consulted as to how to handle the properties being taken by tax deed.
- 206 • The Town received a letter from the Bureau of Bridge Design, noting that the Hanson Road
208 Bridge, #170-135, is on the State’s ‘Red List’. This bridge is described as structurally deficient,
with the deck ‘poor’, the superstructure ‘satisfactory’, the substructure ‘fair’, and the Scour
critical rating as ‘stable for extreme flood’.
- 210 • The Town received a letter from the NH Municipal Association, asking for a list of persons
authorized to contact them for legal opinions. The current list includes the Board of Selectmen,
212 Building Inspector Roy, Administrative Assistant Martin, and one of the Trustees of the Trust
Funds. Administrative Assistant Martin will be asked to compile this list and answer the letter.

- 214 • He has spoken to Town Counsel Gorrow about the properties to be taken by tax deed. One is
216 1/36th of a piece of common land attached to a condo; the condo is in a bordering town. Town
218 Counsel Gorrow will handle this item. The other is an occupied house, and will need to be
insured; Town Counsel Gorrow will be consulted as to whether the residents should receive a
lease or an eviction letter.
- The Town received a letter from Ted Scott, who will be taking over the Transfer Station mowing
until June 30th at the cost of \$160 per mowing.

220 *4.2 Public Comment*

222 Leroy Scott stood and was recognized. He asked if any of the Board had looked at the Post Office
224 Porch. Both Selectmen Castricone and LeBlanc had; it does look worn, and will be addressed by the
Maintenance department when the weather is warmer.

226 As no other Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 8:37pm.

228 *4.3 Non-Public Session*

230 Chairman Landau moved to go into non-public session for one item under RSA 91-A:3, II (a),
232 Compensation and two items under RSA 91-A:3, II (c), Reputation; Selectman Castricone seconded the
motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

234 The meeting room was closed at 8:39pm.

236 The meeting room was re-opened at 9:24pm.

238 Selectman Castricone moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman LeBlanc
240 seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

242 Selectman Castricone moved to provide Employees (excepting those who received a recent \$3/hour
244 raise) with a 2.75% raise, effective July 1st, 2014 through June 30th, 2015; Selectman LeBlanc seconded
the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

246 Selectman Cannon moved that the Board seal the first non-public session, on Compensation, for an
indefinite period; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative;
248 so moved.

250 Selectman Castricone moved that the Board seal the second non-public session, on Compensation, for a
period of thirty (30) days; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the
252 affirmative; so moved.

254 Chairman Landau moved that the Board seal the third non-public session, on Reputation, for a period of
sixty (60) days; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the
256 affirmative; so moved.

258 Chairman Landau moved that the Board seal the fourth non-public session, on Reputation, for an
indefinite period; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the
260 affirmative; so moved.

262 **V. Adjournment**

264 The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, April 30th, 2015 at 7pm in the
Meeting Room.

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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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270 The meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm.

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274 Respectfully Submitted,

276 Debra H. Doda