

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, August 1st, 2013
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

7:00 PM Call the Meeting to Order

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

Public Comment (10 minutes)

Approval of Minutes

Evan Sederquist – Planning Board Appointment

Richard Antoine, Fire Chief

Oil & Propane Bid Awards

Roundtable

Public Comment (10 minutes)

Non-Public Sessions

Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Landau called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:05pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Joe Castricone

Jack Cannon

Stephen Landau

Selectmen absent:

Joseph Hagen

Richard LeBlanc

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Richard Antoine, Fire Chief

RJ Child

Colin Costine

Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times

Leroy Scott

Evan Sederquist

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

There were three non-public sessions added, two on Reputation and one on Pending Litigation.

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1.5 *Public Comment*

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Leroy Scott stood and was recognized. He wished to confirm that the Dump Truck was back in service; it is, and has been for several weeks.

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He also referenced the activities at Wason Pond that he mentioned last week – people sitting in or jumping/diving from the bridge openings as well as the poured cement abutments. He believes that this is getting out of control, and that something needs to be done – perhaps signage, or gating. Selectman Castricone suggested that Chairman Landau, as liaison, pass these concerns along to the Wason Pond Commission.

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Mr. Scott asked for the status of the skid steer. Chairman Landau stated that it was expected the first or second week of September. There is only one plant building these, so all orders are backed up. Chairman Landau has asked for a used loaner in the meantime, and the representative is attempting to locate one.

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Mr. Scott asked why, if an ambulance contract with Derry is in effect, did the Tri-Town Times publish an article this week stating that the Town is considering taking the service in-house? Chairman Landau suggested that Mr. Scott ask Matt Rittenhouse that question, as it has nothing to do with the Board of Selectmen. The Town currently has a five-year ambulance contract with the Town of Derry. Mr. Scott asked if there was an escape clause in the contract; there is.

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As no members of the public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 7:10pm.

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II. Old Business

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2.1 *Approval of Minutes*

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This subject was not addressed tonight.

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III. New Business

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3.1 *Evan Sederquist - Planning Board Appointment*

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Evan Sederquist appeared before the Board for his reappointment to the Planning Board.

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Mr. Sederquist has been on the Planning Board for almost twenty years. The Board thanked him for his service to the Town.

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Chairman Landau moved to reappoint Evan Sederquist to the Planning Board; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Selectman LeBlanc and Vice-Chairman Hagan absent; so moved.

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Mr. Sederquist departed the meeting at 7:13pm.

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3.2 *Richard Antoine, Fire Chief*

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Fire Chief Antoine and RJ Child appeared before the Board to introduce Mr. Child to the Board and ask that he be appointed to the Fire Department. Mr. Child has been an Explorer for ~4 years, and is now 18. He has passed his EMT Practical and plans to take the written test. He has met all of the requirements set by the Fire Department and just needs the Board’s blessing.

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108 Chairman Landau moved to appoint RJ Child to the Chester Volunteer Fire Department; Selectman
Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Selectman LeBlanc and Vice-
Chairman Hagan absent; so moved.

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The Board thanked and congratulated Mr. Child, who departed the meeting at 7:15pm.

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114 Fire Chief Antoine updated the Board on his search for an Administrative Assistant. He had received 18
applications, and interviewed 5 applicants; unfortunately the strongest applicant wanted \$20/hour and
to be full-time. He plans to re-advertise the position.

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118 Marianne, who helped out with the interview process, has been lending a hand at the Fire House when
possible, as well as some of the members. They may need to hire a temp, for which funds are available;
Administrative Assistant Martin will be asked to let Fire Chief Antoine know how to contact the Temp
Agency.

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122 Selectman Castricone made reference to a party being held in honor of a resident that the Police and
Fire Departments saved; members have been invited to attend. This is a nice example of acclaim for the
Departments.

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126 Fire Chief Antoine departed the meeting table at 7:19pm.

128 *3.3 Oil & Propane Bid Awarding*

130 Selectman Cannon performed an analysis of the bids that were opened last week. He noted that Bidder
#6 had some surcharges mentioned, plus their bid had expired at 4:00pm on the day that it was
132 opened, although in general prices only fluctuate pennies a day.

134 He asked if the other Selectmen preferred to award both contracts to the same vendor, in which case #4
would be the choice, or split them between the two lowest bidding vendors for each type of fuel, in
136 which case #2 and #3 would be the choices. The difference between the two scenarios would be
~\$600; is there any advantage to combining them?

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140 Chairman Landau stated that he preferred Bidder #4, who has done a great deal of work for the Town;
Selectman Castricone agreed, stating that they had been the chosen oil/propane vendor before.

142 Chairman Landau moved that the Oil and Propane contracts go to Bidder #4; Selectman Cannon
seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Selectman LeBlanc and Vice-Chairman Hagan
144 absent; so moved.

146 Chairman Landau announced that the winning bidder for the Town’s Oil & Propane contracts is Palmer
Gas/Ermer Oil, with prices of \$3.249 for oil and \$1.60 for propane.

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IV. Selectmen’s Business

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4.1 Roundtable

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Selectman Cannon:

154 • Apparently the vendor that supplies gasoline to the Town’s tanks is ceasing that particular
operation as of September 1st, 2013. They will still be supplying diesel. Police Chief Burke asked
156 if he could solicit proposals; the Board agreed, and Selectman Cannon will arrange this with
Police Chief Burke.

158 • Police Chief Burke had four candidates for a police officer position. One has dropped out, but he
will be making conditional offers to the other three in order to continue the interview process.

160 Once one successful candidate is identified, s/he will be brought in front of the Board of
162 Selectmen.

Selectman Castricone:

- 164 • He noted that the policies had come back from Town Counsel. Selectman Cannon stated that he
166 had no issues with the Attorneys’ changes. The policies will be left in the Selectmen’s office for
168 all members to read and sign.
- 170 • Maintenance Supervisor Amato would like to hire as a seasonal employee a man named Mike,
172 who has performed 500 hours of community service for the Town. The ballfields are being
174 cleaned, and people are starting to pick up after themselves.
- He would like permission to start a commission to look into changes to the Ambulance Service.
Selectman Cannon asked that a five-year model be drawn up, including items such as town
growth for staffing and equipment, cost growth as needs grow, revenue, etc. Chairman Landau
suggested that the Planning Board and Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission be
consulted for growth questions. Selectman Castricone will spearhead this issue.

Chairman Landau:

- 176 • A meeting about the Spring Hill Farm Trust has been put on the agenda for the Board of
178 Selectmen’s meeting for September 12th, 2013. Terry Knowles from the Attorney General’s
180 office will be attending, as well as Town Counsel Gordon Graham, and Chuck Myette and Brad
182 Wamsley from the Spring Hill Farm Trustees.
- The Village Cemetery Trustees held a public hearing on Tuesday, July 30th, 2013; no comments
184 were made and nothing was changed.
- A 220 volt electric radial arm saw has been purchased for less than \$100 for the Maintenance
186 Department.
- He has a request from the Planning Board that Bill Gregsak be allowed to represent the Town
188 during the field leveling and road move work at Wason Pond. Selectman Cannon moved that
190 Chairman Landau be authorized to sign this request; Selectman Castricone seconded the
192 motion. The vote was three in favor with Selectman LeBlanc and Vice-Chairman Hagan absent;
194 so moved. It is hoped that the work will take place in September, but the bid packages have yet
to go out.
- The Town received a thank-you letter from the family of Jean Amato.
- He has a request from Nobis Engineering to extend their landfill monitoring agreement without
changes. This contract is for \$5,500. Selectman Castricone moved that Chairman Landau be
authorized to sign this request; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion.

196 Colin Costine stood and was recognized. He asked how many wells this agreement covered;
198 there are eight. Mr. Costine noted that the number of wells being monitored was supposed to
200 decrease over time, but they have not. Chairman Landau stated that it would be a minimal
202 reduction in cost to monitor fewer wells, plus there are other things going on in the vicinity that
make ongoing monitoring desirable, such as the composting facility, the transfer station, a new
development going on across the road, etc. Mr. Costine asked if a Direction of Flow report was
available; it is, in the Selectmen’s Office.

204 The question was called. The vote was three in favor with Selectman LeBlanc and Vice-
206 Chairman Hagan absent; so moved.

4.2 Public Comment

208 As no members of the public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 7:48pm.
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4.3 Non-Public Session

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214 Selectman Cannon moved that the Board go into non-public session for two items under RSA 91-A:3 II
216 (c), Reputation and one item under RSA 91-A:3 II (e), Pending Litigation; Selectman Castricone
seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Selectman LeBlanc and Vice-Chairman Hagan
absent; so moved.

218 The meeting room was closed at 7:52pm.

220 The meeting room was re-opened at 8:02pm.

222 Selectman Cannon moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Castricone
224 seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Selectman LeBlanc and Vice-Chairman Hagan
absent; so moved.

226 Chairman Landau moved that the Board seal all three non-public sessions for an indefinite period;
228 Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Selectman LeBlanc and
Vice-Chairman Hagan absent; so moved.

230 **V. Adjournment**

232 It is unlikely that there will be a meeting next week (August 8th, 2013).

234 Chairman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote
was three in favor with Selectman LeBlanc and Vice-Chairman Hagan absent; so moved.

236 The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.
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240 Respectfully Submitted,
242 Debra H. Doda