

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, November 20th, 2014
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
Rich Antoine, Fire Chief: Fire Association Update, Project Updates, and Proposed Non-Public, Personnel
Harold Gardner
Roundtable
Public Comment
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 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:

Richard Antoine, Fire Chief
Marie Blackstad, Fire Association
Greg Bolduc, Fire Association
Harold Gardner
Phil Gladu, Fire Association
Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
Leroy Scott
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 to the agenda: one on Public Employees, one on Reputation, and one on Pending Litigation.

54 1.5 *Public Comment*

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

58 **II. Old Business**

60 2.1 *Approval of Minutes*

62 This subject was not addressed tonight.

64 **III. New Business**

66 3.1 *Rich Antoine, Fire Chief: Fire Association Update, Project Updates, and Proposed Non-Public, Personnel*

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70 Fire Chief Antoine appeared before the Board with Mr. Gladu, Mr. Bolduc, and Ms. Blackstad; all four are the newly elected officers of the Fire Association, with Fire Chief Antoine returning as President after one year out of office. Selectman Cannon asked how officers were elected; he would be interested in seeing other members of the Department advance into leadership roles. Mr. Bolduc stated that nobody ‘runs for office’, per se; members nominate other members, who may either accept or decline the honor, and voting takes place afterwards. It was added that the Chester Fire Association is a ‘young department, with many members not yet ready to step into leadership roles.

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78 Selectman LeBlanc asked if a copy of the Association’s bylaws could be procured; Mr. Bolduc stated that they could. Fire Chief Antoine added that the bylaws dated back to ~1975, and one of the plans for this year was to update them.

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82 Purchase of the new Tanker continues to be in process. Quotes were solicited and received, and shared with the Association membership. Voting will take place thirty days after quote receipt, at the Fire Association meeting on the first Tuesday in December. Any large modifications will be done professionally; only minor mountings will be done by the Fire Department.

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86 The Fire Station addition is complete and has been signed off. The construction cost exactly what was bid (~\$80k); however, there was ~\$9k in extra spending that the Association voted to cover. The area by the fuel tanks has been paved; there is no more mud. Building Inspector Roy has not yet issued a Certificate of Occupancy, and it is not insured; this must be done within the week. Fire Chief Antoine will call the Town’s insurance carrier and provide Chairman Landau with photographs. The Public is invited to come see it.

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94 Vice-Chairman Hagan inquired about an official ‘ribbon cutting’ to thank the benefactor(s); Fire Chief Antoine intends to combine this with an ‘open house’ in the Spring.

96

Ms. Blackstad, Mr. Bolduc, and Mr. Gladu departed the meeting table at 7:17pm.

98 Fire Chief Antoine inquired about the status of Edwards Mill Dam. Chairman Landau stated that he had received a telephone call from the Town’s Engineers today; their President intends to visit the site in a day or two. He also noted that apparently the previous State Dam Engineer had left a list of unanswered questions about the Dam when he departed his position; he has been replaced, and the new State Dam Engineer cannot determine why these questions were an issue. Town Counsel has not yet sent a letter to the State about this issue.

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106 Fire Chief Antoine also wished to clarify that the headline in the Tri-Town Times (“Chester Selectmen Vote Raises Except for On Call Firefighters”) is misleading; those particular increases are a budget item

for the Fire Department, not the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen.

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Fire Chief Antoine departed the meeting table at 7:21pm.

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3.2 Non-Public Session

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Chairman Landau moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II (a) Public Employees; Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

114

116 The meeting room was closed at 7:22pm.

118 The meeting room was re-opened at 7:31pm.

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

122

Chairman Landau moved that the Board seal the first non-public session, on Public Employees, for an indefinite period; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

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Selectman Cannon moved that the Board request and await further guidance Town Counsel on a personnel matter; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

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3.3 Harold Gardner

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Chairman Landau informed Mr. Gardner that although he had requested a separation interview, that is not the purview of the Board; however, they are willing to meet with him in either public or non-public session, as he wishes. Mr. Gardner replied that he preferred to meet in non-public session.

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136

Chairman Landau moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II (c) Reputation; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

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140 The meeting room was closed at 7:34pm.

142 Mr. Gardner departed the meeting room temporarily at 7:52pm.

144 Mr. Gardner returned to the meeting room at 8:10pm.

146 The meeting room was re-opened at 8:17pm.

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

150

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

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IV. Selectmen’s Business

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4.1 Roundtable

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Selectman Cannon:

- 160 • As a follow-up to last week’s appointment with Treasurer Lamphere and Town Counsel Gorrow,
162 the Town should expect minor ‘tweaks’ to the Cash Receipt Policy to address chain of custody
164 concerns that he expects will be raised. Chairman Landau added that in his opinion, there is no
amount of cash that is too small to be concerned with – every penny belongs to the Town, and
every penny should be subject to checks and balances.

166 *Selectman Castricone:*

- 168 • According to Building Inspector Roy, permitting activity is up 16% from 2011, and right on task
for this year.
170 • The Sandown evacuation drill went well; however, it raised the concern that the Town of Chester
should have its own procedure in place to handle this sort of event should it be needed. The
172 Recreation, Police, Fire, and Maintenance Departments will work together to draw up a
procedure for schoolchildren coming to Chester in actuality, not just for a drill. It is unclear if
Chester Academy has an evacuation plan; Selectman Castricone will inquire of the School Board.

174

Selectman LeBlanc:

- 176 • He shared an email received by all Selectmen contradicting an assertion made at last week’s
meeting; specifically, the writer stated that she had never indicated that she was unwilling to
178 take charge of the Town’s deposits. He also noted that he had contacted the Town’s insurance
carrier who informed him that the Town’s employees – including the Board of Selectmen, Police
180 Department, etc. - have blanket bond protection of \$500k per loss.

182 *Vice-Chairman Hagan:*

- 184 • He thanked Dick Trask, Jean Methot, Pinkerton, Chester Academy, and Commander Kinney for
the Veterans’ Day events.
186 • He reminded residents that it is flu season, and that flu shots are available through one’s doctor,
pharmacy, Community Health organizations, etc.; Even if one is healthy, flu can be spread to
others who are not, and it can prove fatal to the elderly and immunocompromised.

188

Chairman Landau:

- 190 • Residents should be aware that while the Transfer Station is open for trash and recycling on
Wednesday nights from 6-8pm as usual, the oil barrel, book swap, swap shop, and yard waste
192 areas are closed on Wednesday nights due to the fact that they are not lit.
• Assessors may be seen in areas off of Fremont Road – Pheasant Run Drive, Quail Hill Road,
194 Green Road – handling discrepancies.
• The Town received and accepted a piece of property, via donation, on the Auburn/Chester line.
196 Research has shown that there are discrepancies between the Auburn and Chester maps of this
area. Further research showed that there are several parcels owned by the Town that are not
198 indicated as such on the Map. The Planning Board liaison should make the Planning Board
aware of this not only for the Master Plan, but also so that future maps are corrected. Is this
200 the purview of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission? Could this sort of work go
into the CIP?

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4.2 *Public Comment*

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As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 8:29pm.

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4.3 *Non-Public Session*

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Chairman Landau moved to go into non-public session for four subjects: one under RSA 91A:3 II (a)
210 Public Employees, two under (c) Reputation, and one under (e) Pending Litigation; Selectman Castricone
seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

212

214 The meeting room was closed at 8:30pm.

216 The meeting room was re-opened at 9:09pm.

218 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.

220 Chairman Landau moved that the Board seal all four non-public sessions (#s 3, 4, 5, and 6) for an indefinite period; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

224 **V. Adjournment**

226 The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, December 4th, 2014 at 7pm in the Meeting Room.

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

232 The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.

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236 Respectfully Submitted,

238 Debra H. Doda