

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, October 2nd, 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
- Edwards Mill Dam Update
- Nobis Engineering – Landfill Monitoring
- November Elections
- Bid and Purchase Policy Review
- Mike Oleson, Road Agent – Plow Contracts
- Town Meeting Finance Prep
- Energy Efficiency
- Reach-the-Beach Race
- Requested Warrant Article – Webster, NH
- 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 7:00pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

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

Selectmen absent:

- Joe Castricone

Members of the Public present, at various times:

- Michael Oleson, Road Agent
- 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.

54 1.4 *Additions and Deletions*

56 Posted Agenda item 3.2, *Proposed Non-Public – Reputation*, will be held at the end of the meeting. A
58 request from a member of the Webster, NH Board of Selectmen to add a Warrant Article to next year’s
Town Meeting warrant will be discussed under New Business.

60 1.5 *Public Comment*

62 As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:01pm.

64 **II. Old Business**

66 2.1 *Approval of Minutes*

68 *September 11th, 2014:* Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept these minutes as drafted; Vice-Chairman
Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

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72 *September 18th, 2014:* Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept these minutes as drafted; Vice-Chairman
Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Selectman Cannon abstaining due to
absence from the meeting in question and Selectman Castricone absent tonight; so moved.

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2.2 *Edwards Mill Dam*

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78 Shawn Patenaude of Dubois & King has been in touch with the Wetlands Bureau about the permit.
Although NH DES’s time limit of 75 days has passed, the permit is still not ready; it is expected perhaps
this week. The pond is being drawn down, but work cannot begin until the permit is in hand.

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2.3 *Nobis Engineering – Landfill Monitoring*

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84 The Nobis Engineering Landfill Monitoring contract is up for renewal, and their proposal has been
received. The cost for this contract is \$9,334; \$9,500 has been budgeted.

86 Nobis also provided justification paperwork for the DES Water Remediation Grant, and this proposal was
sent to Town Counsel for review. Diane Gorrow had a few concerns to be addressed; one issue was that
88 the documentation called for Nobis to own all information they gather, and another is that Nobis
expected Chester to hold the insurance; Attorney Gorrow objected to both of these items. Her letter will
90 be sent to Nobis for them to change the wording of the contract.

92 2.4 *November Elections*

94 Elections are on Tuesday, November 4th, 2014. Three Selectmen need to be in attendance. Vice-
Chairman Hagan is a candidate, and will not be available. Gene Charron and Karl Knudsen both plan to
96 be present, as do Selectmen LeBlanc and Castricone.

98 2.5 *Bid and Purchase Policy Review*

100 Administrative Assistant Martin attended a “Budget & Finance” workshop, at which reference was made
to the State, in 2014, changing its requirements for Public Notices and Public Hearings for Grants from
102 under and over \$5k to under and over \$10k (respectively). Should Chester consider changing its
bid/purchase level as well? The figure currently stands at \$5k. Selectman Cannon stated that the items
104 were unrelated, but in his opinion, the figure for Highway projects should be higher. He is against
raising the limit for other Town projects similarly, in order to avoid what could attract invention of “the
106 latest and greatest mousetrap”, i.e. unnecessarily innovative and costly fixes for problems that do not

require same.

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Vice-Chairman Hagan suggested that all five members of the Board should be present to make such a change; all agreed, and this will be discussed again at a later date.

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112 **III. New Business**

114 *3.1 Mike Oleson, Road Agent – Plow Contracts*

116 Road Agent Oleson appeared before the Board to discuss setting the plow rates for the coming Winter.

118 He reported that the CPI is 1.7%, and therefore the following increases are applicable:

| | Vehicle | '13-'14 Rate | Increase | '14-'15 Rate |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 120 | 6-wheeler with plow, wing, & sander | \$86.12 | \$1.46 | \$87.58 |
| | 6-wheeler with plow & sander, no wing | \$80.87 | \$1.37 | \$82.24 |
| 122 | 1-ton with plow & sander | \$70.34 | \$1.20 | \$71.54 |
| | 1-ton with plow, no sander | \$65.08 | \$1.11 | \$66.19 |
| 124 | Backhoe/Loader | \$75.60 | \$1.29 | \$76.89 |

126 The insurance requirements and fuel surcharge will remain the same. Road Agent Oleson will provide the information, in writing, to Administrative Assistant Martin tomorrow.

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Vice-Chairman Hagan moved to approve Road Agent Oleson’s requested increases to the Plowing Rates, which will be provided to Administrative Assistant Martin in written form; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

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Road Agent Oleson departed the meeting at 7:05pm.

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136 *3.2 Town Meeting Finance Prep*

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Chairman Landau suggested a process of centralization for Warrant Articles. All draft Warrant Articles would be submitted to the Board of Selectmen’s office first, collated, and then sent to Finance (to calculate the cost to the Town) and to Town Counsel (to ensure they are written correctly). At that point, they would go to the Board of Selectmen itself to be read, discussed, and voted upon.

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142 *3.3 Energy Efficiency*

144 A few years ago, the Town voted to create an Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee. Two of its members are no longer available to serve. Selectman LeBlanc asked if perhaps the Committee had disbanded; this was unknown.

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148 This subject was raised as correspondence was recently received from PSNH, offering an energy audit and funds towards lowering the Town’s electricity bills, should the Town put into place any of the audit’s suggestions. Selectman LeBlanc noted that some suggestions made in a previous audit were not enacted, as they were cost prohibitive.

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Vice-Chairman Hagan posited that to the best of his knowledge, the audit costs the Town nothing and PSNH would pay for 50% of any suggested projects; these projects would likely need to be funded via Warrant Article. Selectman Cannon would like the audit to show the possible return. Selectman LeBlanc is willing to contact PSNH.

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158 *3.4 Reach-the-Beach Race*

160 Chairman Landau received telephone calls about this event, which went through Chester along Candia
162 Road and North Pond Road.

162 The support vans were formerly parked on the Chester College property, and this year parking was
164 provided at Chester Academy. The majority of the complaints received, however, regarded these vans
166 parking along Candia Road; they should be asked to refrain.

166 Is it unknown who paid for the police details that the Town provided; Selectman Cannon will inquire of
168 Police Chief Burke.

170 *3.5 Requested Warrant Article – Webster, NH*

172 Communication was received from Bruce Johnson, a member of the Webster Board of Selectmen, about
174 a Warrant Article he’d like Chester to put in next year’s Warrant – the subject of the Warrant Article
176 would be the State increasing its contributions to school budgets, therefore reducing property taxes.
The requested wording is as follows:

*"Resolved that the State of New Hampshire provide a comprehensive meaningful system
178 of funding for State Education needs. To see if the Town will vote to ask our governor
180 and our state legislators to reform state funding for education with that reform to be
182 directed to significant reduction of property taxes. The record of the vote approving this
184 article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Select Board to the governor and
state legislators informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days
of the vote."*

184 Vice-Chairman Hagan stated that there really is no alternative source for funding other than property
186 taxes, and that there is no interest in a broad based tax - the Governor, the Senate, and candidates from
188 both parties are against it. However, there is no fiscal impact to the Town to insert the Warrant Article.
He quoted Robert A. Heinlein’s character, Lazarus Long: “Taxes are not levied for the benefit of the
taxed”.

190 Administrative Assistant Martin will be asked to put this communication into the Selectmen’s prep folder.

192 **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

194 *4.1 Roundtable*

196 *Selectman Cannon:*

- 198 • Nothing to report.

200 *Selectman LeBlanc:*

- 202 • The “missing” septic system behind the Municipal Complex was found during the construction of
204 additional Police Department parking. It was not where it was expected; an old map of the area
206 was consulted, which directed the digging 40’ from the corner of the annex. A soil pipe was
208 uncovered, and broken in the process (this was replaced with PVC pipe, and reburied). The
septic tank was then located and uncovered; it is root-bound, and most likely not pumped in
~20 years, but it is an active septic system used by the annex. This system was pumped and
reburied, and scheduled to be pumped again in 5 years.

210 *Vice-Chairman Hagan:*

- The Firehouse addition is ongoing. Much progress has been made, but there are potential cost
overruns. Selectman LeBlanc added that Palmer Gas is plumbing the generator at the Firehouse

212 at no cost.

214 *Chairman Landau:*

- 216 • Correspondence was received from Jackie Brown; the new scarecrows are available. Chester has been featured in the October issue of New Hampshire magazine with three scarecrow photographs.
- 218 • Correspondence was received from Dennis Pavlicek, President of the Property-Liability Trust (www.pltnh.org), seeking nominations or volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors. There can be from nine to 13 Directors, four to seven from municipalities and four to seven from schools. The majority must belong to the Property-Liability Trust. Nominations are due by 220 October 31st, and elections will be held at the annual meeting on December 16th, 2014. This correspondence will be available for perusal in the Board of Selectmen’s office.
- 222 • The southern New Hampshire Planning Commission annual meeting was September 12th, 2014. 224 Frankestown has joined the Commission. An award was presented to Terry Knowles. On 226 October 30th, 2014, a meeting will be held to discuss resource sharing, chaired by Jack Munn.

228 *4.2 Public Comment*

230 As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:49pm.

232 *4.3 Non-Public Session*

234 Selectman Cannon moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II (c) Reputation; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

236 The meeting room was closed at 7:50pm.

238 The meeting room was re-opened at 8:24pm.

240 Chairman Landau moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

242 Selectman LeBlanc moved that the Board seal the non-public session on Reputation for an indefinite period; Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

248 **V. Adjournment**

250 The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, October 16th, 2014 at 7pm in the Meeting Room.

252 Chairman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

254 The meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.

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260 Respectfully Submitted,

262 Debra H. Doda