

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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
- Job Description – Office Assistant/Receptionist
- Electricity Supplier – Mutual Sharing Program
  - Kevin Wunderly
  - Mike Oleson, Road Agent
- Brian Sullivan, Mike Weider – Proposed Non-Public
- Lt. Aaron Berube, Proposed Non-Public
- Roundtable
- Public Comment
- Adjournment

*1.1 Call to Order*

Vice-Chairman Hagan called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:02pm. Until a quorum is achieved, the meeting will be informational only.

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen present:

- Jack Cannon (arrived at 7:30pm)
- Joe Castricone (arrived at 7:13pm; departed at 7:41pm)
- Joseph Hagen
- Dick Trask

Selectmen absent:

- Stephen Landau

Members of the Public present, at various times:

- Richard Antoine, Fire Chief
- Aaron Berube, Police Lieutenant
- John Colman
- Andy Higham
- Charlotte Lister
- Chuck Myette
- Michael Oleson, Road Agent
- Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
- Kevin Scott
- Leroy Scott
- Brian Sullivan, Planning Board
- Brad Wamsley

54 Michael Weider, Planning Board  
Kevin Wunderly, Fire Captain  
56 And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

58 *1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

60 Vice-Chairman Hagan led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

62 *1.4 Additions and Deletions*

64 There were neither additions nor deletions.

66 *1.5 Public Comment*

68 Charlotte Lister stood and was recognized. She wished to make a complaint about the Town Fair  
70 Committee. She stated that the local Democratic Party committee had requested a booth at Town Fair  
as well as the presence of a truck, but that their application had been denied today. She stated that the  
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76 that to be the pushing of a political agenda, which was inappropriate for Town Fair and thus the denial.

78 Mr. Scott wished to thank whoever it was that had cleaned up the Edwards Mill area. Selectman Trask  
noted that it was the Town’s Maintenance Department.

80 As no other Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:06pm.

82 **II. Old Business**

84 *2.1 Approval of Minutes*

86 This topic was not addressed tonight.

88 *2.2 Job Description – Office Assistant/Receptionist*

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92 **III. New Business**

94 *3.1 Electricity Supplier – Mutual Sharing Program*

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98 group of Towns and School Districts to negotiate a discount on electricity for the group members. They  
managed to negotiate a 20% discounted rate on the usage/supplier charge portion, which also includes  
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102 *3.2 Kevin Wunderly*

104 Fire Captain Wunderly appeared before the Board to discuss a matter of compensation.

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108 He had asked, in a letter to the Board, if he could cash in his three weeks’ vacation time this year to put towards the purchase of a house.

110 Fire Captain Wunderly was asked to remain at the meeting in hopes that a quorum would soon be established.

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3.3 *Mike Oleson, Road Agent*

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Road Agent Oleson appeared before the Board to update them on Highway Department projects.

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122 Selectman Trask asked for a status on the chipper. Road Agent Oleson stated that it was at the Salt Shed with a blown engine. Selectman Trask suggested allowing Lloyd Healey to take it away, but Road Agent Oleson has received an offer of \$1,500 for the scrap value of the chipper, loader, and black truck, which he would like to accept, with the funds going towards the Highway Department budget.

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126 Selectman Castricone entered the meeting at 7:13pm, and a quorum was achieved.

128 Road Agent Oleson note that the particular model of the chipper is no longer being made, and he cannot get parts for it. The loader and black truck are also broken and not worth the cost to repair them.

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132 Vice-Chairman Hagan moved to allow Road Agent Oleson to scrap the chipper, loader, and black truck for the offered \$1,500; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Chairman Landau absent and Selectman Cannon yet to arrive; so moved.

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136 There was much discussion on how Road Agents have been compensated for their work for the Town in the past. Road Agent Oleson stated that historically the Road Agent has not received any salary from the Town; they use their own equipment to maintain the roads, as the Town does not own any. His Department performs only the normal road maintenance with its two employees, and occasionally additional employees from MLM Construction when needed for safety and efficiency purposes, bidding out the large jobs to contractors in accordance with the Town’s Bid & Purchase Policy.

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142 Road Agent Oleson stated that the MLM Construction receives ~\$200-250k from the Town each year. He provides equipment and additional employees, and covers the Highway Department employees on his insurance as drivers of his equipment. He also noted that the equipment he rents to the Town is the same type of equipment that he asks the Town for every year at Town Meeting, equipment that is always voted down.

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148 Selectman Trask suggested that the Road Agent work under an annual contract, but as Road Agent Oleson pointed out, it is impossible to estimate what kinds of work will be needed each year - how can one estimate how many culverts will be blocked, or how many beaver dams built? Many jobs are weather related - how can one estimate how much snow or rain will fall?

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154 Selectman Trask inquired about using the Trustees to perform some Highway Department work; they most likely could only be used to pick up trash, as they would need to be certified to run chainsaws or flag.

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158 It was agreed that Road Agent Oleson’s invoices would now be sent from “Michael Oleson, Road Agent” rather than “MLM Construction”, with additional details on where the work was being performed.

160 Road Agent Oleson stated that Chester is starting to get too large for an elected Road Agent. An  
162 adjoining Town has an appointed Road Agent who receives a salary from that Town, including benefits,  
164 and bids out all jobs. Another option is a Public Works Department with its own equipment and  
166 additional employees. If the Board would prefer either of these methods, or any others, they should  
168 draw up a plan and present it to the Legislative Body at the next Town Meeting. For the time being,  
170 though, he remains on call 24/7 for the Town.

Road Agent Oleson departed the meeting at 7:33pm.

3.4 *Brian Sullivan, Mike Weider – Proposed Non-Public*

Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Weider preferred to conduct this meeting in public.

Mr. Sullivan informed the Board that, per statute, the Planning Board does do their own hiring  
independent of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Castricone is concerned that the Planning Board’s  
budget will not cover the salary and benefits of their new employee, and asked where the funds would  
come from. According to Mr. Weider, the breakdown is as follows:

PB Coordinator:	\$35,600
PB Secretary:	\$ 570
PB Contracted Services:	\$ 441
PB Planner:	\$ 4,125
PB Clerk:	\$ 2,500

Selectman Castricone stated that per the Employee policy, Employees not taking the Town’s health  
insurance are paid \$100 per pay period; Mr. Weider stated that there was no such policy. Mr. Weider  
again accused Selectman Castricone of inappropriately sharing non-public information with members of  
the public. Selectman Castricone departed the meeting at 7:41pm.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the Town was getting an employee who would ‘move things ahead’, and that  
there was no budgetary issue. He and Mr. Weider departed the meeting at 7:45pm.

3.5 *Lt. Aaron Berube, Proposed Non-Public*

Selectman Cannon moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a), Public Employees;  
Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Chairman Landau and  
Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

The meeting room was closed at 7:47pm. Lt. Berube remained in the Meeting Room.

The meeting room was re-opened at 8:03pm.

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

Selectman Cannon moved that the minutes to this non-public session on Public Employees be sealed for  
a period of one (1) year; Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with  
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Lt. Berube stated that the new police cruiser that the Town had voted for at Town Meeting would be  
ready in two to three weeks. One current vehicle would be traded in for it; it is undecided as of yet  
whether this vehicle will be the unmarked black, or the Building Inspector’s car. The unmarked black is

214 from 2009, has 140k miles on it, and failed its emissions test. The condition of the Building Inspector’s car is unknown.

216 He also stated that the cameras in the existing police cruisers are ~7-8 years old, and becoming unrepairable. He would like to procure new ones - specifically, the WatchGuard in-car video system -  
218 but this will put his budget over by \$5k. Selectman Cannon stated that he would simply have to absorb it. The 2015 cruiser does have the new system.

220 Vice-Chairman Hagan asked if detail monies could be used to update the old cruisers. Lt. Berube stated  
222 that they could, and he would like to apply for matching grants using those funds. Usage of those funds, however, would need to be approved at Town Meeting.

224 Lt. Berube departed the meeting at 8:09pm.

226

3.5 *Kevin Wunderly, Redux*

228

230 Fire Captain Wunderly returned to the meeting table to reiterate his desire to cash in his vacation time for this Fiscal Year.

232 He has received a conditional offer of employment from another Town’s Fire Department, and must  
234 move within 20 miles of that community. He stated that although he could wait until he leaves the  
236 Town’s employ to receive those vacation funds, he would like them earlier rather than later in order to  
238 put them towards the purchase of a new home. Selectman Cannon would like to confirm that vacation  
time is granted all at once at the beginning of the Fiscal Year rather than accrued over the Year before  
making a decision.

Captain Wunderly departed the meeting at 8:14pm.

240

**IV. Selectmen’s Business**

242

4.1 *Roundtable*

244

*Selectman Cannon:*

246

- Nothing to report.

248

*Selectman Trask:*

250

*Vice-Chairman Hagan:*

252

- The American Legion has drilled a well and arranged for external egress, so the safety issues have been addressed and it can reopen. They received grants for this work.

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- There is a Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 9am - 2pm at the Fire Station.

256

4.2 *Public Comment*

258

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 8:15pm.

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**V. Adjournment**

262

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The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7pm in the Meeting Room.

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

270 The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

272 Respectfully Submitted,

274 Debra H. Doda

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