

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, September 4th, 2014
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

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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
- Police Chief & Fire Chief – Halloween Event Discussion
- Mr. Woodbury – Yard Sale Sign
- 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 7:04pm.

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:
- Richard Antoine, Fire Chief
 - Bill Burke, Police Chief
 - John Colman
 - Andrew Hadik
 - Darrell Quinn
 - Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
 - Leroy Scott
 - Dick Trask
 - Michael Weider
 - Dick Woodbury
 - 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 There will be three additional non-public sessions, two on Reputation and one on Pending Litigation.
58 Library work bids will be discussed during Old Business.

60 1.5 Public Comment

62 Leroy Scott stood and was recognized. He noticed that excavation has begun at the Firehouse, and
64 asked if the Engineers had made their decision and had the Board of Selectmen accepted the project?
He was informed that the answer was yes to both questions.

66 Mr. Scott then asked about the proposed Transfer Station roof, which has been discussed for years and
68 for which money had been appropriated; no construction has begun, and he wished to hear an update.
He was informed that this subject would be discussed tonight in non-public session.

70 John Colman stood and was recognized. He asked why the Board, or their Administrative Assistant, had
72 not gotten back to him, as he had wished to be on tonight’s agenda. Chairman Landau apologized for
his call not being returned, and informed him that the Board was unable to discuss his request at
present due to advice received.

74 As no other Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:09pm.

76 **II. Old Business**

78 2.1 Approval of Minutes

80 August 14th, 2014: Selectman Cannon moved to accept these minutes as drafted; Vice-Chairman Hagan
82 seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

84 2.2 Library Bids

86 Maintenance Supervisor Amato had solicited bids from three different companies.

88 Bidder #1	\$ 7,075
Bidder #2	\$ 15,700
Bidder #3	\$ 7,128.88

90 Selectman Cannon queried the fact that two of the bids were dated from December, and one was from
92 two weeks ago. Selectman LeBlanc stated that one of the bidders is already working in Town at
94 present, and the Town can save money by having him merely move his equipment from the Post Office
to the Library. He also mentioned a hole in the siding and sub-board of the library; cost to repair this
96 cannot be determined until it is opened up. Selectman Cannon asked about a warranty; the middle bid
has a three-year warranty included, but this is not mentioned in the lowest bid. He would like the
98 project to be bid properly, with all vendors bidding on the same amount of work at the same time.
Selectman LeBlanc will instruct Maintenance Supervisor Amato to rebid the project.

100 **III. New Business**

102 3.1 Police Chief & Fire Chief – Halloween Event Discussion

104 Police Chief Burke is seeking the Board’s direction on the subject of Halloween on Chester Street. He
106 has been accused of “looking to cancel Halloween”; this is not the case. Halloween is not a town-
sponsored event and the Town has no liability; people attend at their own risk. It has become a safety

concern, and input is welcomed.

108

As many as 2,000 people show up every year, which is a large crowd to manage and which stresses Police and Fire departments. Chester Street (Route 121) is a state highway and cannot be closed; lighting is sparse, and people walk 5-6 abreast. The Police Department lines the road with cones, puts up signage, and slows down traffic with cruisers; however, there have been many near-misses over the past 4-5 years and a distracted or impaired driver could cause a tragedy. It was suggested that attendees wear reflective materials and carry flashlights. A detour to Candia Road was suggested, but this is not allowable except for during emergencies.

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Andrew Hadik stood and was recognized. He suggested that part of the problem was that the event in Chester takes place on a different night than those in surrounding towns; perhaps if it was on the same night, people from other towns would remain there rather than coming to Chester.

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Selectman Cannon reiterated that this is not a Town-sponsored event, and opined that the residents of Chester Street should do any of the organizing.

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Selectman LeBlanc suggested that the event be scheduled to end at 7pm, perhaps from 5pm – 7pm, in order to keep people off the street after dark. Police Chief Burke stated that one is more likely to encounter “work” traffic during those times.

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Chairman Landau reiterated that no-one is trying to “ban” Halloween, but that the Town itself does not sponsor the event. That being said, three homes on Chester Street are for sale, and the College is now closed; this would cause “holes”.

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Beth Swanson stood and was recognized. She thanked Police Chief Burke and Fire Chief Antoine for their safety support over the years. She enjoys the tradition and would like to see it continue; to that end, she has a petition with ~200 signatures asking that it continue. (These petition sheets were posted in Chester in order to ensure that the majority of the signers would be residents.) She suggested that organizations might volunteer to fill the previously mentioned ‘holes’. She has drafted a letter to Chester Street residents, asking for volunteers to assist in gathering and distributing candy. She stressed that people should not feel obligated to participate. She asked Police Chief Burke if it might be possible to procure one of those blinking DOT signs to ask drivers to slow down. She also asked if it was possible to do an optional detour from Candia Road to North Pond.

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Dick Trask stood and was recognized. The American Legion is discussing setting up a Haunted House at the Legion, which might help alleviate traffic. As to parking, they can get 30-40 cars into their lot.

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Selectman Cannon asked if Police Chief Burke had considered details; Chief Burke stated that he had considered using the Explorers. He also stated that volunteers with flashlights and traffic vests might assist in slowing drivers down. The bank might be asked if cars can be parked on college property.

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Vice-Chairman Hagan suggested that the press recommend that parents supervise children, that people bring flashlights, and that drivers drive more slowly.

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Police Chief Burke and Fire Chief Antoine departed the meeting at 7:49pm.

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3.2 Legal Discussion – Non-Public

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This discussion will take place at the end of the Public meeting.

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3.3 Mr. Woodbury – Yard Sale Sign

160 Mr. Woodbury appeared before the Board to discuss an issue with Yard Sale signage.

162 He had been holding a yard sale one weekend recently, and found that business slowed down during the
164 afternoon; after a few hours he went to the center of town to remove the signs, and discovered that
166 they were gone. He stated that he was informed that Selectman Castricone, acting as a private citizen,
168 had requested the Police Department to remove the signs, as it was against RSAs and Town Ordinances
to post signage for a private event on Town property. Mr. Woodbury disputed both the RSAs and the
Town Ordinances quoted as inapplicable and referred to Selectman Castricone as a ‘loose cannon’ who
had asked a ‘young policeman’ to remove the signs.

170 Selectman LeBlanc stated that according to the Planning Board, event signage is only allowed on one’s
172 own property; he also stated that, as a veteran, he objected to the fact that the signage was posted on
the War Memorial – he found that disrespectful. Mr. Woodbury demurred, stating that he was also a
veteran, and that there was no disrespect.

174 Chairman Landau asked Mr. Woodbury to refrain from using the term ‘loose cannon’. He read aloud the
176 Town Ordinance that specified that off-premises signs are not allowed; he also noted that DOT has
178 identified the 102/121 intersection as one of the most dangerous in the state. He noted that Mr.
180 Woodbury should have been notified that his signage was removed, but that it was the correct thing to
do. Mr. Woodbury again disagreed, stating that nobody told him that signage was not allowed and due
182 to his signs being removed, he lost potential income. He stated that Yard Sale signs are up in the center
of town all the time and never removed; he then noted that he had put signs up on Sunday, and then
removed them after the sale was over.

184 Selectman Cannon noted that consistent enforcement is needed, and that the Board should not have to
look for violations.

186 Mr. Trask agreed with Selectman LeBlanc that putting signs up on the War Memorial was disrespectful,
188 and added that the Legion would be happy to put signs on their property and bulletin board.

190 Selectman LeBlanc stated that the Planning Board was going to work on tightening up the Town
Ordinance wording.

192 Mr. Woodbury departed the meeting at 8:11pm.

194 **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

196 *4.1 Roundtable*

198 *Selectman Cannon:*

- 200 • There appear to be some errors in a budgeting document; he is expecting a response from
Finance Director Smith.

202 *Selectman LeBlanc:*

- 204 • The UV water conditioner unit has been installed at the Wason Pond Community Center. The
206 next test will be at the end of the month; if this test comes back clean, it will be presumed that
the problem is solved and the water suitable for use at the Community Center. The proposed
Eagle Scout project would also be able to continue.

- 208 • PSNH was contacted to move the electrical wiring from the Post Office to a nearby pole; this will
210 cost \$480. It will cost an additional \$110 for Granite State Communications to move the
telephone lines. As a result, the Post Office painting project has now increased by \$590. Some
212 of the 29 windows need additional framing work at the cost of ~\$150 per window; this could be
as much as \$4,300 if all windows were done, which is apparently not necessary. During the

214 PSNH visit, it was discovered that there are no grounding rods at the Post Office, two “Federal”
brand electrical boxes that were recalled in the 1980s as fire hazards are still installed and in
216 use, and some illegal electrical work had been performed. Replacing these panels can cost
~\$1k - \$3k. Chairman Landau moved to spend no more than \$4,000 to repair the windows and
electrical violations; Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor
218 with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

• 220 Recreation plans to post ‘No Smoking’ signs at Town Fair; what does the Board think? Chairman
Landau stated that as Recreation is in charge of Town Fair, that is their decision; the remainder
of the Board agreed.

• 222 Field of Dreams wants to do more reseeding of the new fields at Wason Pond. Some places are
all granular rock; 4” of topsoil and reseeding is proposed. Chairman Landau suggested that
224 representatives from Field of Dreams attend the next Wason Pond Commission meeting on
September 15th, as it is their purview, they have the authority, and they must be asked.

226

Vice-Chairman Hagan:

228 • Nothing to report.

230 *Chairman Landau:*

• 232 Town Fair is on French Field on Saturday, September 6th, 2014, starting with a parade at 11am.
The Lions will be having a yard sale on the field next to the school.

• 234 Pinkerton Academy is having a 200th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 27th, 2014;
tickets are on sale now.

236 *4.2 Public Comment*

238 As no Members of the Public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 8:34pm.

240 *4.3 Non-Public Sessions*

242 Chairman Landau moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II (c) Reputation for two items
and (e) Pending Litigation for two items; Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was four in
244 favor with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

246 The meeting room was closed at 8:35pm.

248 The meeting room was re-opened at 8:59pm.

250 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.

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254 Chairman Landau moved that the Board seal the first non-public session, on Reputation, for an
indefinite period; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman
Castricone absent; so moved.

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258 Chairman Landau moved that the Board seal the second non-public session, on Reputation, for a period
of thirty (30) days; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman
Castricone absent; so moved.

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262 Chairman Landau moved that the Board seal the third non-public session, on Pending Litigation, for an
indefinite period; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman
Castricone absent; so moved.

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Chairman Landau moved that the Board seal the fourth non-public session, on Pending Litigation, for an

266 indefinite period; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman
Castricone absent; so moved.

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Chairman Landau moved that the Board accept all votes made in non-public session; Selectman LeBlanc
270 seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

272 **V. Adjournment**

274 The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, September 18th, 2014 at 7pm in
the Meeting Room.

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Chairman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote
278 was four in favor with Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

280 The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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Debra H. Doda