

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2011
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Landau called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 8:23 pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Jack Cannon
Michael Weider
Joe Castricone
Gene P. Charron
Stephen Landau, Chairman

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Angela Sherwood, Finance Director
Hilary Hall
Bob Latham
Leroy Scott
Matt Rittenhouse
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

Selectman Cannon had one nonpublic issue on reputation. Selectman Weider had one nonpublic issue on reputation. The Conservation Commission was not present and was deleted from this agenda.

II. Public Comment

Bob Latham of Donna Street stood and was recognized. He stated he noticed there are three flags still flying without being illuminated. Selectman Castricone stated the flag at Edwards Mills was removed, and the lights for the flags at the cemetery and Town Hall are being worked on.

Mr. Latham asked what the estimated start and completion times were for the Wason Pond dam project. Chairman Landau replied that the start had been planned for Wednesday but had to be

48 postponed to Friday or Monday due to the snowstorm. The completion date is three to six weeks
50 from the start. A change order for the Leviathan weir to be changed from steel to cement has
already been put into place. The bridge is being eliminated. Chairman Landau said he believed this
would be cost saving.

52 Public comment closed at 8:26 pm.

54 **III. Old Business**

56 *2.1 Approval of Minutes*

58 Chairman Landau waived the reading of the minutes.

60 **III. New Business**

62 *3.1 Budget Reviews*

64 3.1.1 PACT/Senior Citizens

66 Hilary Hall was present to answer questions on this budget. This budget represents the
studio telephone, electricity, and heat that is paid back to the Town annually. There is an
68 increase in the telephone line item to \$1,200 to include internet access. The total budget
requested for 2011 is \$2,120 as opposed to \$1,345. The money used to pay back the Town
70 comes from franchise fees. Internet capabilities will need to be increased and a dedicated
line will be needed in order to digitize. In the near future they may need to hire a part-
72 time person to supplement the volunteer staff.

74 Comcast business and Granite State business both offer the services that will be needed.
When the services are needed the contract will go out to bid.

76
78 There was discussion of the studio having dual usage as a meeting room when two meetings
are being held. Ms. Hall stated she believes someone would have to be hired to be present
when a meeting is held in the studio to ensure everything is running properly. Ms. Hall is
80 meeting with Lenny on Monday morning. He has expressed an interest in returning to
volunteer. Ms. Hall said there is always a need for volunteers. Matt Rittenhouse was asked
82 to include Ms. Hall's contact information in his article for any potential volunteers.

84 The Board asked how the cost of heat and electricity was assessed. Ms. Hall obtained the
cost of heat and electricity for the building from the Administrative Assistant and
86 factored the square footage of the space they are using.

88 There were no further questions on this budget.

90 The Senior Citizens budget is a flat line budget with no changes. There were no questions
on this budget.

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Ms. Hall left the meeting room at 8:49 pm.

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3.1.2 Benefits

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98 Selectman Cannon was present to answer questions on benefits. Chris Hadik is working with
the representative from MVP. The representative from MVP cannot meet on Thursday or
100 Friday. Any meeting would have to be scheduled on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.
Selectman Cannon will send Pat Martin a request to canvass the Selectman and pull together
102 dates for the meeting with MVP.

102

104 The Finance Director was asked to add a 4% as an increase to those rates as of July 1st to
her analysis for the MVP proposal.

106 Earned time was discussed. Efforts to trace the origin of earned time have been
108 unsuccessful. The earned time issue can be discussed as the benefit plan is developed.

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3.2 *Warrant Articles*

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112 Michael Oleson, Road Agent, requested another Warrant Article for \$500,000, or that the budget
be amended by \$500,000 if the road bond fails. Road Agent Oleson stated the money would be
114 used to do some road work. The \$500,000 will be added as a line item to the Town budget and if
the bond passes the Town budget will be reduced by that amount.

116 Chairman Landau commended the highway department on their excellent work clearing the roads
after the recent snowstorm.

118

120 The cruiser replacement is \$16,500 from the bond. The Finance Director stated \$33,000 would be
raised and appropriated, and take \$16,500 from the CRF and the Warrant Article would state
122 \$16,500 from general taxation.

122

124 Chairman Landau introduced the subject of a possible bond for equipment such as fire engines,
highway trucks, and heavy equipment. Selectman Weider stated he would like to see an analysis
done of the actual cost of purchasing equipment, including maintenance costs. Selectman Weider
126 suggested lease agreements as an alternative to purchase. The Finance Director was asked to
compile a list of needed equipment from the fire department, police department, and highway
128 department and contact the large leasing companies to obtain costs for a five-year lease rotation.

130 A petition was presented to put a stop to the hunting within the Town boundaries of hen pheasants.
After some discussion of whether the Town had the ability to stop any type of hunting, Chairman
132 Landau stated the petition had to be put on the warrant as stated pending a review by the attorney.

134 The Conservation Commission, although not present, is working on a Warrant Article, but it does not
request money.

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138 3.3 *Conservation - Timber Bridge*

Deleted.

140 3.4 *Mike Oleson, Road Agent - Roadside Cleanup*

142 Road Agent Oleson requested clarification of roadside cleanup. He understood that to be the
144 responsibility of his department. He also understood a cleanup was done of illegally dumped debris
146 without involving his department. Road Agent Oleson stated if people are on the roadside they
148 should have the proper signage, vests, and other safety equipment. Chairman Landau explained that
cleanup was on a remote Class VI road. It was agreed that in the future, any volunteers to do
roadside cleanup should contact the Road Agent.

150 Road Agent Oleson left at approximately 9:30 pm.

152 **IV. Selectmen's Business**

154 4.1 *Roundtable*

156 *Selectman Cannon:*

- He asked permission to send a response letter to the post office regarding their request to
158 the Town to remove vegetation located at the interface of the asphalt walk-in service and
access island, clean and fill cracks greater than a half-inch long, new striping and a new sign.
160 His reply specifies each of the items and the anticipation that the above work will
commence in the spring of 2011; the anticipation that the above will be completed by the
162 end of April 2011, weather permitting. Selectman Weider stated that due to the significant
amount of work the post office is doing a permit will be required. Selectman Weider moved
164 that the Board waive the permit fees for the construction; Selectman Castricone seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

166 *Chairman Landau:*

- He would like to clarify the procedure for building closure in case of inclement weather.
168 After some discussion, Chairman Landau moved that there be a two-hour delay for municipal
office staff if the school is closed; Selectman Castricone seconded. The motion passed
170 unanimously.

172 Public Comment

174 Leroy Scott stood and was recognized. He suggested that with the changes in the post office the
176 door should be reversed to open from the left. Selectman Castricone stated he believed that would
block handicap access.

178 Public comment closed at 9:45 pm.

4.3 *Non-Public Sessions*

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Selectman Cannon made a motion to go into non-public session. Selectman Weider seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

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186 The Meeting Room was closed for Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (c), Reputation at approximately 9:46 pm.

188

Selectman Weider moved that the minutes for the non-public session regarding Reputation be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

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The Board did not return to Public Session.

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V. Adjournment

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Selectman Weider moved to adjourn the public meeting; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.

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200

Respectfully Submitted,

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204 Kathy Kropac