

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Municipal Complex  
Approved Minutes**

**I Preliminaries**

*1.1 Call to Order*

Chairman Hassam called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:01pm.

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen present:

Robert Brown  
Jack Cannon  
Joe Castricone  
James Hassam

Selectmen absent:

Stephen Landau

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Rich Antoine, Fire Chief  
Hilary Hall  
Rhonda Lamphere, Budget Committee  
Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times  
Carolyn Scott  
Leroy Scott  
Angela Sherwood, Finance Director  
Gary St. Croix  
Michael Weider  
And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

*1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairman Hassam led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*1.4 Additions and Deletions*

There was one appointments added to the agenda: with Fire Chief Rich Antoine, about the Building Inspector Hiring Committee and the Ambulance Contract.

*1.5 Public Comment*

As no members of the Public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 7:02pm.

## **II Appointments**

### *2.1 Budget Committee – Warrant Presentation, Budget & MS-7*

Rhonda Lamphere appeared before the Board of Selectmen to discuss a few issues.

She stated that she had perused the minutes from last year's Town Meeting, and had discovered an error/omission. She asked how this should be addressed. She was informed that there was an opportunity at each year's meeting where the Town would vote to accept the minutes from the last year's meeting. Ms. Lamphere stated that a Warrant Article that specified that action had not appeared in the Warrant since Town Meeting of 2006. The Board was not aware of why this would be.

Ms. Lamphere had been discussing with Finance Director Sherwood the Budget format for inclusion in the Town Report. There was some question about whether or not the Department's originally requested budget figures should be included. It is currently not included; Ms. Lamphere suggested that perhaps it should, as more information is better; Vice-Chairman Cannon opined that it would cause confusion. Chairman Hassam moved that the original Department Head request continue to be omitted; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was three in favour with Selectman Landau absent and Selectman Brown abstaining; so moved.

Ms. Lamphere had an issue she wished to discuss in non-public session.

Chairman Hassam moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II (c) Reputation; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was four in favour with Selectman Landau absent; so moved.

The meeting room was closed at 7:09pm.

Ms. Lamphere departed the meeting at 7:15pm. The Board remained in non-public session.

Finance Director Sherwood joined the Board at 7:21pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 7:30pm.

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

Chairman Hassam moved to seal the minutes to the non-public session for an indefinite period; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was four in favour with Selectman Landau absent; so moved.

### *2.2 Gary St. Croix – Edwards Mill Dam*

Mr. St. Croix appeared before the Board along with Fire Chief Rich Antoine to discuss flooding issues at Edwards Mill Dam. This is impacting his property; he is losing land due to erosion that began with the 2007 floods. He is not only concerned with the erosion of land, but the potential of losing his house should the erosion continue unchecked. The State inspected the dam in October of 2007, and recommended that the auxiliary spillway be repaired; this has not been done, and it has gotten progressively worse. Dubois & King has quoted a price of ~\$250k to fix the Dam.

Fire Chief Antoine stated that the Dam Inspector would be giving the Town a "must-do" list soon. The Edwards Mill Dam is an actual dam, not a waterfall; water does not flow over the top. The Dam Inspector may want to change this. Vice-Chairman Cannon is concerned about the precedence set by repairing private property, and then 'owning it forever'. Mr. St. Croix stated that he understood, but that the spillway is the Town's responsibility. However, at this point there would be no money available for any work on the Edwards Mill Dam before the next fiscal year (2011-2012).

Fire Chief Antoine stated that he only handles the Dam for dry hydrant purposes, which has become a full time job for the Fire Department. Chairman Hassam stated that opening and closing the dry hydrant is a difficult and perilous job.

Selectman Brown opined that this damage could very well be covered by FEMA; Vice-Chairman Cannon advised that they should be contacted promptly, as the deadline is April 28<sup>th</sup>. FEMA will not reimburse individuals, but they will work with the Town. Selectman Brown will get the contact information from Administrative Assistant Patricia Martin, and contact FEMA, and then Mr. St. Croix. Mr. St. Croix was asked to contact his homeowners insurance company.

Mr. St. Croix departed the meeting at 7:53pm; Fire Chief Antoine departed the meeting table but remained in the room.

### *2.3 Hilary Hall - Stevens Hall Re-dedication Ceremony Update*

Ms. Hall appeared before the Board to give an update on the Stevens Hall Re-dedication weekend. The Board of Selectmen's meeting of May 20<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Stevens Hall Auditorium. The Board has also approved the Girl Scout project. Insofar as finances are concerned, all musical entertainment has been donated, the Historical Society is paying for the Humorist, and ads will pay for the program. Chairs and tables for the Ice Cream Social are being procured from Taylor Rental, and a porcelain ornament will be sold to help defray those costs. Ms. Hall would like to do a bulk mailing to all of the Town's households using the Town Permit; the Board approved this action. The Committee will be meeting every Monday at 7pm until all the work is done.

Ms. Hall departed the meeting at 7:56pm.

### *2.4 Rich Antoine, Fire Chief*

Fire Chief Antoine reported on the progress of the Building Inspector Hiring Committee. They had 17 applications, and chose six to interview; of those six, they chose two final candidates. Vice-

Chairman Cannon suggested that the Board interview both candidates on the same night, which does not have to be a Thursday should another night be preferable to all. After some discussion, and in order to get all five Selectmen there, it was determined that the first week of May would be optimal, possibly Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Hiring Committee will check with the candidates for their availability. One candidate is out of state (Illinois), but is originally from the area and was planning to return here, so relocation would not need to be paid. The Committee will give the Board all information on the candidates, and meet with the Board before the interviews are done.

The eleven applicants not chosen to interview have received letters; letters to the candidates interviewed but not selected for the second round will not be sent until a hire is made. MRI will be asked if they can perform the reference and background checks, due to the fact that the Committee members are Town Employees and should not be checking other Town Employees.

Fire Chief Antoine also wished to discuss the Ambulance Contract. He had received some telephone calls after last week's meeting, and opined that the motion made by Selectman Castricone was inappropriate. He was not opposed, but stated that this coming at the last minute could throw a wrench into the works. He had spent over a year negotiating this contract, and had not refused to be up front or to give the Board a copy of the contract; no actual contract had existed until yesterday. The final figures are a little lower than originally thought; 1<sup>st</sup> year \$47,250; 2<sup>nd</sup> year \$49,612.50; 3<sup>rd</sup> year \$52,093; also, Derry included some training that would normally have been paid for. He gave a copy of the contract to Chairman Hassam; the Board should peruse this on their own time.

Fire Chief Antoine departed the meeting at 8:12pm.

### **III Old Business**

#### *3.1 Angela Sherwood, Finance Director*

She has been discussing the Boiler Warrant Article with Town Counsel and Jeannie Samms from DRA. Town Counsel wants the Warrant Article to specify the gross budget of \$52k, which it currently does; DRA states that it's mandatory to use the \$23.5k figure. The Public Hearing has already taken place, and it cannot be changed. Ms. Samms has suggested amending the Article on the floor at Town Meeting to the \$23.5k figure.

She wished to clarify last week's minutes on the potential new full-time Police Officer remaining in the Operating Budget as well as in a Warrant Article. The Board wished to leave these dollars figures in the Operating Budget, as they believed this was the appropriate place for this position.

She has spoken to John Garvey of the Budget Committee, and the MS7 is all set. Mr. Garvey has some questions for Jeannie Samms of DRA, which he will address. If anything needs changing after his conversation with Ms. Samms, he and Finance Director Sherwood will handle it on Tuesday morning.

Finance Director Sherwood departed the meeting at 8:17pm.

## **IV Meeting Business**

### *4.1 Approval of Minutes*

*April 8, 2010:* Two changes were requested: on page 5, paragraph 4, Warrant Article W was recommended; on page 8, Item 3.1, the vote was two opposed, not two in favour. Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to accept the minutes as amended; Selectman Brown seconded the motion. The vote was three in favour with Selectman Landau absent and Chairman Hassam abstaining due to absence from the referenced meeting; so moved.

### *4.2 Roundtable*

#### *Chairman Hassam*

- The bond hearing will be next week, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

#### *Selectman Brown*

- He spoke with Town Counsel about the potential conflict of interest he raised last week between the Budget Committee Chair and the Highway Department, and reported that Town Counsel believes that there is. Vice-Chairman Cannon asked for details; Selectman Brown stated that any work involving an elected official must be put out to bid. Vice-Chairman Cannon asked for the RSA; Selectman Brown will find out and update.

#### *Selectman Castricone*

- Nothing to report.

#### *Vice-Chairman Cannon*

- Nothing to report.

### *4.3 Public Comment*

As no other members of the Public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 8:24pm.

### *4.4 Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda