

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, February 12th, 2009
Town Hall
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 6:57pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Robert Brown
Jack Cannon
Mark Harris
James Hassam
Stephen Landau

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Rich Antoine, Fire Chief	Michael Oleson, Road Agent
Bill Burke, Police Chief	Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
John Coleman	Carolyn Scott
Barbara Dolloff	Leroy Scott
Midge Gould	Angela Sherwood, Finance Manager
Charlotte Lister	And other persons unknown to the
Tom Malley, Building Inspector	Recording Secretary
Kim Misco	

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Hassam led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Vice-Chairman's Statement

Vice-Chairman Cannon informed the citizens in attendance that they were aware of an audio problem during the live broadcast of the Board meetings, but that Dick Godfrey was working on it. Apparently, the audio works fine during meeting replay.

1.5 Public Comment

Kim Misco stood and was recognized. She stated that she had read an article in the latest Tri-Town times that referenced a member of the Budget Committee who had spoken

insultingly of the Police and Fire departments, and believes that the Budget Committee member should resign.

Barbara Dolloff stood and was recognized. She stated that the Budget Committee member's comments were caustic and sarcastic, and believes that Mr. D'Angelo, as he was now identified, should be addressed.

John Coleman stood and was recognized. He stated that he had been on the fire department for more than half of his life, and the remarks in question were wrong. He would be glad to take Mr. D'Angelo for a ride around Chester to show him people who have devoted long hours to the Fire Department, and houses that the Fire Department has saved. He believes that Mr. D'Angelo should be sanctioned, and resign.

Vice-Chairman Cannon stated that he had spoken with both Chief Antoine and Chief Burke, and that although they are upset, they will not react in anger. They would like to have the next meeting of the Budget Committee (Thursday, February 19th, 2009) televised, and in order that this may occur, the Board is willing to offer to the Budget Committee that the Board move to Room 20, and the Budget Committee move to the Meeting Room.

Chairman Hassam removed himself from the Board in order to speak as a citizen of the Town of Chester and a member of the Fire Department. He stated that the comments were unprofessional, and hurtful. He stated that Chief Antoine works very hard for the Town, and also asked for Mr. D'Angelo's resignation. He stated that the Fire Department would prefer that Mr. D'Angelo no longer serve as their liaison.

John Coleman stood and was recognized. He addressed another topic – the cuts made to the "Other Health" (Welfare) budget in a previous meeting. He believes that cutting funds to those agencies would be a mistake. He plans to say the same thing to the Budget Committee.

Vice-Chairman Cannon stated that there are many direct welfare requests that need to be responded to, and the agency requests were only lowered, not removed entirely.

Mr. Coleman stated that if people who request help from those agencies are turned away, they will come to Mrs. Dolloff for assistance anyway, so the Town will be paying either way. Chairman Hassam stated that the agencies will not turn people away simply because the Town didn't pay the requested amount; Mr. Coleman stated, however, that it was not nice to use their services without paying for them.

Barbara Dolloff stood and was recognized, and stated that she, also, would like those funds reinstated.

Michael Oleson stood and was recognized. He agreed with the previous speakers.

Selectman Brown stated that the funds were reallocated in order to free up more money for Mrs. Dolloff's department, but that if Mrs. Dolloff herself objects, the subject could

be revisited.

As no other members of the Public wished to speak, the Board closed Public Comment at 7:14pm.

II Appointments

2.1 Angela Sherwood, Finance Manager

Finance Manager Sherwood would like to go into non-public session in order to discuss Town Employee raises, but addressed some public items first.

- She contacted the NH Bond Bank, and determined that the 10-year rate is 5%. Selectman Landau stated that he believes that the non-bond bank rate was much lower, and will investigate.
- She is also investigating unemployment insurance, but will not have the answer until tomorrow (Friday, February 13th, 2009). The Health Insurance plan runs through June 30th, 2009. She is researching the location of all phones in Town Hall, and those unneeded will be cancelled.
- The FEMA representative was in Chester today. The Town expects to receive about \$67k (75% of \$89k). The Town will get bids in the spring for debris removal.
- She has put together a revenue forecast for the next fiscal years. The Town is currently trending about a \$93k loss. She is concerned that the State will be eliminating some shared revenue sources next year. Vice-Chairman Cannon asked for monthly updates. Selectman Landau stated that he had attended the Municipal Association meeting, and he concurs – the Town is likely to lose meals and room tax, but may receive a higher share of the gas tax. The next meeting is in early March.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the Board go into non-public session with Finance Manager Sherwood under RSA 91-A:3 II (a), Compensation; Selectman Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved. The meeting room was closed at 7:28pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 8:14pm. Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Harris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved. Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the minutes be sealed for a period of three (3) months; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Before the meeting continued, Mr. Coleman stood and was recognized. He asked that non-public sessions be held at the very end of the Board meeting rather than in the middle.

- Finance Manager Sherwood stated that there will still some allocation problems on the oil and propane lines. These commodities were prepaid to be allocated later. Dead River was taking fuel from the Town's prepaid amount to fuel the Post Office, and the Post Office should be billed for that fuel. As the accounting software doesn't have a billing

module, however, it has been a while since they were billed. Vice-Chairman Cannon stated that he would add this subject to the lease negotiations.

Finance Manager Sherwood departed the meeting at 8:20pm.

2.2 *Rich Antoine, Fire Chief*

Fire Chief Antoine appeared before the Board to give them an update on the Fire Truck with the broken pump and transmission. It is currently in the shop in Manchester. The gentleman who was fixing the pump only charged for parts; as a result, Fire Chief Antoine estimates that it will take approximately \$8k to get the truck on the road, and ready to last a couple more years. He believes that it is money well spent. Selectman Landau again suggested that Fire Chief Antoine think about a bond to pay for a new truck. Fire Chief Antoine stated that he would, but not in this economy; with this truck now lasting a couple more years, he has time to plan.

Fire Chief Antoine departed the meeting at 8:25pm.

III Meeting Business

3.1 *Approval of Minutes*

January 29th, 2009: Selectman Landau would like the minutes of this meeting to be amended to clarify that Town Clerk Barbara Gagnon is the only person who has the combination to the Vault in Stevens Hall because of a vote of a previous Board of Selectmen.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the minutes be approved as amended; Selectman Harris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

3.2 *Roundtable*

Selectman Landau

- He had some paperwork for a Welfare situation to be signed.
- He attended the New Hampshire Municipal Association meeting. The subjects addressed were giving guidance to lobbyists and the DOT budget. The next meeting will be during the day on March 3rd; he will attempt to attend. Other Board members are also welcome to attend.
- He has received communication from the Department of Environmental Services about a Brownfields technical services grant. LeClairs has been accepted, starting in April 2009. DES and the EPA are moving ahead, which is good news.
- He has a deed that needs to be rewritten.

Selectman Brown

- He has an update on Stevens Hall. BK Electric is done; they came in under their quote. Pepper still needs to fix the alarm, and the building will need to be professionally

cleaned after all the work is done. They are hoping to reopen the building by the end of next week.

Chairman Hassam

- The drug & alcohol policy needs to be readopted after a change was made to indicate that all employees need to sign to indicate their receipt. Selectman Harris moved that the drug & alcohol policy be adopted; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Selectman Harris

- Nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Cannon

- He asked Selectman Brown for the job description and duties for Steve Moltenbrey as the maintenance supervisor; Selectman Brown stated that he would have it for next week's meeting.
- He would like files to be prepared of all major town suppliers/contractors, with rate sheets, executed contracts, waivers of liability, insurance coverage, etc. He would like the Board to be able to adjust a contractor's insurance requirements based on the type of work he or she performs.

3.2 Public Comment

Leroy Scott stood and was recognized. He stated that he had read through the Town's alcohol and drug policy, and asked if it applied to the Board of Selectmen. They agreed that yes, it did. Carolyn Scott asked if the policy applied to the members of all Town boards. Vice-Chairman Cannon suggested that the Town get a legal opinion on the matter; Chairman Hassam will ask Diane Gorrow.

John Coleman stood and was recognized. He asked if the attorney who had been planning to attend a Board meeting to discuss the issue with registering commercial vehicles in Town was going to be attending any time soon. The Board will attempt to get him onto the agenda.

As no other members of the Public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 8:47pm.

3.3 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda