

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, November 19th, 2009
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 7:00pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Joe Castricone
James Hassam
Stephen Landau

Selectmen absent:

Robert Brown
Jack Cannon

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Geoff Barnett, Cemetery Trustee
Steve Child, Cemetery Trustee
Hilary Hall
Tom Malley, Building Inspector
Aaron Mansur, Cemetery Trustee
Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
Carolyn Scott
Leroy Scott
Kevin Scott
Angela Sherwood, Finance Director
Michael Trainque
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

Maintenance Supervisor Steve Moltenbrey will not be in attendance tonight.

1.5 *Public Comment*

As no members of the Public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 7:01pm.

II Appointments

2.1 *Southeast Watershed Alliance Volunteer – Michael Trainque*

Mr. Trainque appeared before the Board to indicate his interest in volunteering for the Southeast Watershed Alliance. It was formed earlier this year by the Legislature under RSA 485-E. As a Civil Engineer with 30 years experience in Wastewater, he is well qualified for this sort of work. A report from DES issued on October 30th, 2009 mentioned a decline in eelgrass in the Watershed, possibly brought on by nitrogen loading. Mr. Trainque brought a copy of the report for the Board to peruse.

The next meeting is December 4th, 2009; he plans to attend and report back with any useful information.

Selectman Castricone moved to accept Michael Trainque's request to join the Southeast Watershed Alliance and serve as Chester's "voice"; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was three in favour with Vice-Chairman Cannon and Selectman Brown absent; so moved.

Mr. Trainque departed the meeting at 7:08pm.

2.2 *Hilary Hall - Stevens Hall*

The last meeting to plan the Stevens Hall celebration was on November 9th, 2009; Vice-Chairman Cannon was in attendance. The Historical Society has voted unanimously to donate \$5,000 towards the repair of the piano; this will pay for the tripod dolly and cover. The total cost of piano restoration will be \$23,750. According to Selectman Castricone, there are several grants available that will assist with the restoration costs; they might even cover the entire cost. Selectman Landau asked if the piano was listed separately on the insurance policy; Ms. Hall did not know, but will investigate.

The program for May 21st - 22nd, 2010 has been solidified. There will be an open house each night from 5pm - 7pm, including exhibits and refreshments. Friday night's entertainment includes Rebecca Rule, a "Yankee Storyteller", a period dance performance by the Chester Dancers, and other orchestral/vocal musical performances.

Saturday there will be a parade including antique cars, period costumes, a Girl Scout project, and other musical entertainment. The rededication will include the Board of Selectmen, the State Reps, a plaque, and an ice cream social.

Ms. Rule's fee is \$225; money will be spent to rent tables and chairs for the ice cream social; all costs should be determined by January. Program ads will be sold to offset costs. Ms. Hall is working on creating pineapples for the Stevens Hall ceiling; Selectman Landau suggested selling

them as a fundraiser.

The horsehair plaster needs to be repaired; a quote for \$1,650 from JLT Painting, an expert in such work, is in hand. Selectman Landau asked about the Lions’ Club Wall. Ms. Hall suggested perhaps something moveable; Selectman Landau will investigate locating a bookcase or a glass cabinet.

The tin ceiling in the auditorium needs painting; a quote for \$3,800 is in hand, from the same vendor, for a total cost of \$5,450. The Historical Society is willing to donate \$1,000 towards this work, leaving a balance of \$4,450 for the Town to cover. Finance Director Sherwood stated that \$6,200 had been encumbered for Stevens Hall restoration. Selectman Landau suggested beginning with the plaster repair. Mr. Thompson (JLT Painting) can begin work after the holidays. They will discuss the ceiling at the next meeting.

Selectman Landau moved to expend \$1,650 for the plaster restoration in the Stevens Hall Dining Room to JLT Painting; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was three in favour with Vice-Chairman Cannon and Selectman Brown absent; so moved.

The paneling still needs to be removed around the exit signs and paint the conduit. She has contacted Maintenance Supervisor Moltenbrey about refinishing the floors. The mail wagon has been moved to Dick Noyes’ barn.

The next Stevens Hall meeting will be on January 9th, 2010.

Ms. Hall departed the meeting at 7:31pm.

2.3 *Budgets*

2.3.1 *Supervisors of the Checklist*

The budget submitted by the Supervisors of the Checklist is appreciably higher than last year’s, mostly due to the fact that there will be three elections in the upcoming Fiscal Year. This increases their salaries and expenses. They will also be training a new Supervisor and purging the checklist. They will also be purchasing a new bank of five voting booths and a new printer.

Selectman Castricone had questions about the telephone costs; this needs to be resolved before the Board votes to accept this budget.

2.3.2 *Treasurer*

There is no change to the bottom line of the Treasurer’s budget.

Chairman Hassam moved to accept this budget, pending further review; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was three in favour with Vice-Chairman Cannon and Selectman Brown absent; so moved.

2.3.3 Cemeteries

Cemetery Trustees Barnett, Child, and Mansur appeared before the Board to support their budget request. Their budget has increased by a small amount.

Contracted Services includes funds for a survey of the rear of the North Chester cemetery, and removal of stumps. Once that is done, the land can be mapped and sold as lots.

Some funds for equipment purchase were under Equipment Maintenance; this needs to be moved. Selectman Castricone would like written estimates for all equipment repairs.

Under Equipment Purchase, a small portable generator is needed at the Cemetery House in order to grind blades rather than replace them. The Town currently has some 65k portable generators; could one be assigned to the cemetery? The Trustees believe that those would be too large for the space available. They also need an adapter to trim 12' - 14' high branches.

Salaries have increased slightly, due to the need to put up some fallen stones. This does not include a wage increase, just a time increase.

Chairman Hassam moved to accept this budget, pending further review; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was three in favour with Vice-Chairman Cannon and Selectman Brown absent; so moved.

The Trustees are working on the repair of a rock wall; a State expert will be coming to town on Monday at 7:30am.

2.3.4 Principal on Loans, Bond Interest, and TAN Note

These budget costs are fixed. The costs have decreased somewhat from last year, as the Dump Truck has been paid off.

Selectman Castricone moved to accept this budget, pending further review; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was three in favour with Vice-Chairman Cannon and Selectman Brown absent; so moved.

Finance Director Sherwood stated that the FEMA monies for the remainder of the cemetery payroll reimbursement should be received by the end of the month. At that point, the process for the State portion will start.

She has an invoice for 6' green posts to finish the house numbering process; however, these monies were not encumbered last year and there are no funds under 4940. Selectman Landau stated that these funds had been raised and appropriated under a Warrant Article a few years ago, and is of the belief that these funds must remain available until the project is finished. Finance Director

Sherwood will telephone Gordon Graham and ask for his input. In the meantime, she will pay the bill and plan to do a journal entry later to allocate it to the proper account.

Finance Director Sherwood departed the meeting at 8:00pm.

III Old Business

None was raised.

IV Meeting Business

4.1 Approval of Minutes

This subject was not discussed tonight.

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau

- He has had a conversation with Town Clerk Barbara Gagnon about the use of debit or credit cards to pay registrations and taxes. The Governor has signed Title V; BMSI has worked out the program with the State. However, the Board must vote on this before January 1st, 2010 if they agree with the program. Any costs associated with this program will be borne by the vehicle owner/taxpayer, not the Town. It is unsure about fees to set up the process; Selectman Landau will research this. Town Clerk Gagnon remarked that payment by credit or debit card cannot be made remotely; those wishing to pay by mail must still use a check.
- He has been in touch with the Attorney regarding the LeClair case, which has gone in a different direction than originally thought. Selectman Castricone asked about the rental property (the trailer); apparently this is not allowed, and the Town will be going to court.
- There will be another retest at the Wason Pond Well. The new pump has yet to be hooked up; the old pump system will be removed entirely. It is possible that the old pump system is the source of the pollution.

Chairman Hassam

- He asked who was in charge of purchasing oil and propane for the winter, as it is getting close. Selectman Brown and/or Maintenance Supervisor Moltenbrey are in charge of getting bids. Selectman Castricone asked if the entire town could use the same vendors in order to negotiate lower prices. Apparently this is unlikely. For example, the Transfer Station uses a different vendor, but the service contracts for their equipment are included in the cost of the fuel. Selectman Castricone then asked why the Cemetery Trustees and the Road Agent did not use the gasoline that the Fire and Police Department share. Apparently that is because it is difficult to keep track of who uses how much, and it then runs out more quickly than is convenient. Selectman Landau asked about the Welfare Department using the Town’s chosen vendor to supply oil to Welfare recipients. There are many things to consider insofar as Town fuel is concerned.
- Powers wishes to do a walk-through before beginning the generator work; Maintenance Supervisor Moltenbrey is in charge of this.

Selectman Castricone

- Building Inspector Tom Malley has requested that people who wish to appear before the Planning Board visit him first.
- He has asked Fire Chief Rich Antoine to deliver masks to Town Hall employees.
- Per Erin Newnan, many grants are available to the Town. He will make copies of the list for the Board to peruse.

4.3 Public Comment

Leroy Scott stood and was recognized. He asked if the appointment with Maintenance Supervisor Moltenbrey which had been deleted from tonight’s schedule would be rescheduled. Chairman Hassam stated that he planned to have it on the agenda of the next scheduled meeting, the week after Thanksgiving.

As no other members of the Public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 8:19pm.

4.4 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda