



Town of Chester  
Selectboard  
84 Chester Street  
Chester, NH 03036  
Phone: (603) 887-3636 x114  
E-mail: [ChesterBOS@ChesterNH.org](mailto:ChesterBOS@ChesterNH.org)

*Charles F. Myette, Chairman, '25*

*Steven M. Couture, Vice-Chairman, '24*

*Stephen O. Landau, '24*

*Dana Theokas, '26*

*Richard S. Trask, '26*

### **SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA**

*Date of Meeting: January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 5:30 PM – Meeting Room*

*Available via Zoom tonight: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/770832311>*

*Broadcast on Channel 6 and streamed on [Government \(cablecast.tv\)](#) – click “Watch Now”*

#### **I. PRELIMINARIES:**

- 1.1 5:30 PM Call the Meeting to Order
- 1.2 Roll Call
- 1.3 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.4 Non-public Session
- 1.5 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions
- 1.6 Public Comment (10 minutes)

#### **II. APPOINTMENTS**

- 2.1 Upcoming Primary Election (January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024)
- 2.2 NH DOT 102/121 Intersection presentation
- 2.3 Solar Working Group

#### **III. BUSINESS:**

- 3.1 Post Office Foundation
- 3.2 Transfer Station Skid Steer
- 3.3 NHMA Legislative Advocate Request

#### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 4.1

#### **V. SELECTBOARD’S ITEMS:**

- 5.1 Chairman’s Announcements
- 5.2 Roundtable
- 5.3 TA Report
- 5.4 Action Items
- 5.5 Potential Non-Public Sessions

**PLEASE NOTE:** *To be added to the next agenda, please contact the Selectboard’s office by phone, in-person, or by email by 12pm Thursday prior to the next meeting. Please include any applicable documentation at this time for the Board’s review. Agenda items may be added or deleted without notice.*



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**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

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**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



**William Cass, P.E.**  
**Commissioner**

**David Rodrigue, P.E.**  
**Assistant Commissioner**

**Andre Briere, Colonel, USAF (RET)**  
**Deputy Commissioner**

CHESTER  
41848  
X-A004(761)

Bureau of Highway Design  
Room 200  
Tel: (603) 271-2171  
Fax: (603) 271-7025

January 3, 2023

Dear Resident:

Arrangements have been made for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to present an update to the Chester 41848 intersection safety improvement project at an upcoming Chester Selectboard Meeting. The project will address the NH Route 102 and NH Route 121 intersection. Updates and revisions to the roundabout and signal design alternatives will be discussed.

The Department's presentation will be part of the regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting on **Thursday, January 18th, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Chester Town Hall, 84 Chester Street, Chester, NH.**

The purpose of this presentation is to update citizens and public officials with information regarding the proposed project and to solicit public input to ensure that project decisions meet public transportation needs and community goals and protect and enhance the environment. Accordingly, NHDOT assures that this project will be administered according to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all related statutes to ensure nondiscrimination.

This project may have an effect on cultural or historic resources that are potentially eligible for or listed on the national register of historic places. Individuals or organizations with a demonstrated interest in the potential impacts to historic resources have an opportunity to become consulting parties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Additional information will be provided at the public informational meeting.

If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding the proposed project please call the NHDOT Project Manager at (603) 271-1618. Other information about the Chester 41848 project can be found on the NHDOT Project Center web site at <https://www.dot.nh.gov/projects-plans-and-programs/project-center/chester-41848>. I hope you will plan to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy Dunn".

Timothy Dunn, P.E.  
Project Manager

Legislative Advocate Program: Happy  
New Year and Welcome to the 2024  
Legislative Session!

Aol/Old Mail ☆



Natch Greyes



Wed, Jan 3 at 9:59 AM ☆

From:

ngreyes@nhmunicipal.org

To: Natch Greyes

Cc: Katherine Heck



Natch Greyes Q

ngreyes@nhmunicipal.org

+ Add to contacts

Good morning volunteers for NHMA's Legislative Advocate Program,

I just want to reiterate my appreciation for your volunteering to come to the legislature this year. We have a record breaking year. More bills were held over from last year than ever before. Additionally, almost 45% of bills filed this year had a municipal effect. To put that in context, we have some 440 bills that our two-person full-time Government Affairs Team is following, and most of those will have hearings within the next four weeks.

Looking at our diverse group of volunteers, I know that many of you will be interested in very different subject areas, but there is one subject that I unites all of you – the ability to come speak to the legislature. Once again, we are all facing an attempt to prevent organizations that represent town managers, town clerks, libraries, police chiefs, firefighters, town planners, and every other public entity from supporting or opposing specific legislation. What's worse, that bill, HB 1479, would assign criminal penalties to those who do.

NHMA is working very hard to ensure that house members vote against that bill. To that end, I am hoping that you can have a conversation with your local representatives about the negative effects of this bill, ask your select board or council to write a letter (and send a copy to me) opposing the bill, and consider coming to testify against the bill when it is heard by the Legislative Administration Committee. I have attached a draft letter that includes a few talking points, but I suggest that you take a look at the bill, too, because it aims to steal your ability to speak at the legislature.

I am so pleased that you all represent such a diverse group of municipal officials, and I ask that you take a look at our recently updated Bill Tracker page to see what subjects and/or bills you may be particularly interested in coming to testify on and let me know. I wish that I had more time to send each of you an email or give you a call individually to welcome you aboard, but with 440 bills and legislators reaching out seemingly every hour to ask Katherine and I to help them with their legislation, we are a bit too busy at the moment.

Thank you again for your service. I look forward to working with you over the next few months and please feel free to give me a call anytime if anything catches your interest, you want more information about something, or I can help in any way,

-Natch

Cell: 603-496-0721

Natch Greyes  
Government Affairs Counsel

December XX, 2023

House Legislative Administration  
Legislative Office Building 301  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

*Re: HB 1479 and efforts to limit towns' ability to budget for legislative advocacy*

Dear Chairman Hill and Members of the Committee:

To preserve local budget control, bring the best resources to our staff, and access valuable training and education services, the BOARD OR ENTITY writes to strongly oppose any legislation intended to make it harder for towns and cities to budget for collective advocacy, like 2023's HB 51 and 2022's HB 1033.

We are members of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, a voluntary, nonprofit organization whose membership includes all 234 of New Hampshire's 234 cities and towns. For us and all its members, NHMA is a source of information, assistance, legal counsel, and legislative advocacy on local government issues. Any legislation that creates an obstacle to using our discretion as a board to maintain our membership threatens not only our access to NHMA and similar entities, but also their very existence as a member founded, member-funded organization.

***Here are three things to consider about how we use our local funds:***

First, as the only organization that provides us with legislative advocacy services, NHMA is a voluntary and member-driven organization that relies on local funds. Those funds are appropriated through the legal, transparent, local budget process led by elected officials who sit on the many boards and committees across New Hampshire. Taxpayers know where their money is going, and they are free to advocate against our membership if they would like. As a result, HB 1479 dilutes the authority of town voters as well.

Second, NHMA is far from the only specialty advocate that would be threatened by this sort of law. Many officials and employees in our town and others are members of professional organizations that provide advocacy services, including but not limited to building officials, assessing officials, town and city clerks, planners, police officers, firefighters, public works employees, and school district officials.

Third, these groups deliver valuable services outside their legislative advocacy. They provide training and educational opportunities, often with state partners, to ensure their members understand the law and best practices. Undermining their ability to exist would mean local officials will not receive explanations of the effects of legislation on themselves and their constituents and must try to make public policy without all the information they need. NHMA was founded for local officials by local officials in 1941, with a recognition that a shared voice to state leaders was more efficient and more effective than local officials from 234 cities and towns attempting to follow all legislation affecting local government.

HB 1479 threatens the core concept of local control: local voters making decisions about how local funds are spent. We therefore ask the committee to find any proposed legislation aiming to control how we spend our local budgets and pursue collective advocacy *inexpedient to legislate*.

Sincerely,

**SIGN WITH TITLE BELOW**



**Town Administrator's Report**  
**January 2<sup>nd</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

1. Administration: Heads Up: I'm on vacation during the week of January 29<sup>th</sup> through February 2<sup>nd</sup>, so will miss the February 1<sup>st</sup> BOS meeting.
2. Budgets: All budgets will be ready for the Selectboard to review starting on February 8<sup>th</sup>. We'll be meeting weekly in February to get this accomplished before the Budget Committee needs their books.
3. Building: Myrick continues on vacation until Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Carrie Rouleau-Cote from Auburn assisting with inspections. I did reach out to the surrounding Towns' TA/TMs to see if any of their BIs could help with permits and although there was some response, the BIs themselves indicated that permit issuing was very Town-specific due to zoning ordinances, etc. and they did not recommend having another BI take over. Hopefully this issue will be resolved once Myrick hires and trains a new Permit Clerk.
4. Comcast: the current contract expires this June. Bob Grimm will be checking with other Towns, and pulling together the PACT Committee, as they are the ones who have always reviewed the contract before. The Comcast representative indicated that there would be no substantive changes, but we shall see when we get a copy.
5. Conservation Commission: I've asked Victor if the ConsCom might be willing to utilize Conservation Fund monies to install pond levelers in Town-owned bodies of water that have beaver dams, rather than taxpayer dollars. He will consult with the rest of the ConsCom.
6. Elections: Moderator Scott and Town Clerk Celentano will be at the January 18<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting to discuss the upcoming Presidential Primary.
7. Electricity: The company that performed the building audit last week has requested a copy of our current electricity bills; this process is ongoing.
8. Employees: All evaluations have been done and turned in.
9. Engineering RFPs: Dubois & King is scheduled to be at the January 18<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting; I will let you know if that changes.
10. Highway: The new truck has been registered with DOT and can now use the State gas pumps.

We continue to get applications for the Heavy Equipment Operator position that is now vacant.

11. Miscellaneous: The portion of Shattigee Road in Raymond that washed out recently is still not repaired. According to the Raymond TM, repairs will start January 22<sup>nd</sup> and will take about three (3) months to complete.

A resident on Haverhill Road with a culvert problem came to see me this week – Andrew has been working on this problem for a while and will keep us updated.

- 12.** MPR: Pelmac has replaced the MPR door keypad and we await them scheduling a time to hook it up to the Feenics system so that all doors are able to be controlled by the same app.
- 13.** Right to Know: Nothing open right now as far as I know.
- 14.** Transfer Station: The skid steer remains up at Chadwich-Baross for repairs. We await a response from Gary Wagner as to its value as is/repared/cost of repair. I'd rather replace it on our own time, via the CIP, than be rushed into this as a new machine is likely to be expensive.

One member of our Transfer Station staff has switched from permanent to on-call; another on-call member has been asked to switch to permanent and will let us know.

- 15.** Wason Pond: Heard from Bill Gegas of the Land and Water Conservation Fund – the grant to replace the Wason Pond Causeway Bridge has officially been approved by the Governor's Council for a 50/50 reimbursement, maximum amount of \$240,625. We will need to gross appropriate in the Warrant Article, but will be reimbursed for 50% of all we spend. This process took almost two years (one year, nine months to be exact) to complete.





January 9, 2024

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Chester  
84 Chester Street  
Chester, NH 03036

**Re: Comcast Government Affairs – Monica Thibault**

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to share with you that we have welcomed Monica Thibault to Comcast as the Manager of Government Affairs with responsibility for your community.

By way of background, Monica is a graduate of Bates College with a BA in Political Science with a concentration on American Political Institutions. Monica previously worked for two Maine United States Senators aiding their district offices and, most recently, worked at the Dublin School, a college preparatory school in New Hampshire, where she served as an Advancement Associate with responsibility for streamlining gift processing, stewardship, budget reconciliation, reporting and prospect management. Monica comes to Comcast with a well-rounded and accomplished business acumen and is a great addition to the Comcast team.

Within the coming weeks Monica will be reaching out to you personally. However should you have any issues or concerns before then please do not hesitate to contact Monica at: [Monica\\_Thibault@comcast.com](mailto:Monica_Thibault@comcast.com) or via cell phone at 978-995-1031.

Very truly yours,

Bryan Christiansen, Director  
Government Affairs