

**Town of Chester
Selectboard’s Meeting
Thursday, July 13, 2023
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I. Preliminaries

Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call
Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman’s Additions or Deletions
Public Comment (10 minutes)
Fire Department Introductions
Historical Society Request
Town Road Speed Limits
Consent Agenda
Chairman’s Announcements
Roundtable
TA Report
Action Items
Potential Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Myette called the meeting of the Chester Selectboard to order at 6:00pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectboard Present:

Chuck Myette
Steve Couture
Dana Theokas
Dick Trask (Via Zoom)
Stephen Landau

Debra Doda, Town Administrator

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Doug Batty
Logan Boudreau
Phil Gladu, Fire Chief
Joseph Hagan
Nancy Myette
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director
Lynn Rockwell
Christopher Sawyer

and other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Myette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

More nonpublic items were added to the agenda.

1.5 Public Comment

Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 6:02pm.

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 6:03pm.

II. Appointments

2.1 Fire Department Introductions

Chief Gladu asked the gentlemen to introduce themselves to the Board.

Mr. Batty mentioned he worked for the Greenfield Fire Department as a Captain for eight years.

Mr. Sawyer met Chief Gladu on a gas line inspection at his new house in Chester. He is going to be a driver / operator for the Fire Department, and in the future, he would like to get EMT certified.

Mr. Boudreau will be working with Chief Gladu Wednesday to Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm during school. He is studying Fire Science.

The Board thanked the new members of the Fire Department.

Selectman Landau motioned to hire Mr. Boudreau as a per diem employee for the Fire Department. Vice Chairman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Selectman Landau motioned to hire Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Batty as call members for the Fire Department. Selectwoman Theokas seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

2.2 Historical Society Request

Ms. Rockwell presented an opportunity for the Town to host a Smithsonian traveling exhibit. If Chester is selected, they would host the event for two months. The show will be touring New Hampshire and Vermont from August of 2024 to July of 2025.

Ms. Rockwell suggested Stevens Hall first floor would be the ideal location. But other groups would be impacted. The exhibit would be open for four days per week for six hours each day. When the exhibit is not open the restrooms on the first level will not be accessible. Chairman Myette

mentioned the handicap accessibility to the building might be an issue. Selectman Landau advised the elevator is currently working and there is a current inspection good for one year for its use.

Ms. Reishus mentioned there are seven monthly users for Stevens Hall. If Chester is chosen, those users would need to be given other accommodations. She suggested the multipurpose room as a backup if more space is needed for the display. Chairman Myette stated if we want to go forth, accommodations can be made. Ms. Rockwell mentioned only three New Hampshire towns will be chosen. The Board would like to go forth with the application.

III. New Business

3.1 Town Road Speed Limit

Town Administrator Doda mentioned this topic came up at a previous meeting. She brought it up to the Highway Safety Committee meeting and they were in favor of changing the dirt roads to 25 MPH. It was suggested to send out a survey to residents. Town Administrator Doda advised if something were mailed it would cost roughly \$700.00. It could be posted online but the last survey online only received a couple hundred responses.

Selectwoman Theokas attended the meeting and stated lowering the speed limit on all roads would create an unnecessary burden on the officers.

Selectman Landau suggested a warrant article for the next Town Meeting. Town Administrator Doda will ask the Police Chief to gather data by moving the speed trailer around town. They would like data on dirt roads, newly paved, and other paved roads in Town.

IV Consent Agenda

4.1 Intent to Cut: Old Sandown Road, LLC and Strandell

Selectwoman Theokas inquired if the research had been done prior to the document coming to the Board. Chairman Myette answered yes.

4.2 Veterans Credit: Herman

4.3 Assessing Monthly Contract

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to approve items 4.1 Intent to Cut and 4.2 Veteran’s Tax Credit on the Consent Agenda. Selectwoman Theokas seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to approve 4.3 Assessing Monthly Contract. Selectwoman Theokas seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – abstained. With four in favor, the motion passed with Landau abstaining.

V. Selectmen’s Business

5.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Monday July 17, 2023	Spring Hill Farm Meeting at 7:00pm
Tuesday July 18, 2023	ZBA Meeting at 7:00pm
Tuesday July 25, 2023	Solar Working Group Meeting at 7:00pm
Wednesday July 26, 2023	Planning Board at 7:00pm
Thursday July 27, 2023	Board of Selectmen Meeting at 6:00pm.

5.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau mentioned the Post Office is having issues with the foundation. It does not look like a major issue but there will be some excavation and resetting of the foundation. Chairman Myette stated some of the foundation blocks are tipping over.

Selectman Landau mentioned that with the winter coming he suggested continuing with the same provider for the oil and propane. Every time the Town changes vendors, new tanks or equipment are needed, which is very costly to the Town. Chairman Myette pointed out that the Town should have contracts with all the vendors.

Selectwoman Theokas inquired about the post office lease. Town Administrator Doda is continuing to work on the lease.

Selectwoman Theokas mentioned the meeting held about the Wason Pond Bridge Design. Chairman Myette mentioned the bridge is designed for a 100-year flood with a cost of three hundred and twenty thousand dollars (320K). Town Administrator Doda has been working on a grant to cover half the cost of the bridge.

Selectwoman Theokas attended the luncheon for the employees on Tuesday. About thirty employees showed up for the event and every department stepped up either helping with setup and or grilling the food.

Vice Chairman Couture asked about the engineering request for proposal (RFP). Town Administrator Doda is drafting it and will have it finalized soon.

Selectman Trask:
Nothing to report.

Chairman Myette attended the Seniors picnic held in the MPR Wednesday. It was well attended, and Mr. Oleson supplied the meat and had Mr. Higham help with cooking that day.

5.3 Town Administrator’s Report

Chairman Myette mentioned the work on Shattigee Road in Raymond is not finished and the Town of Raymond has asked to extend the MOU. The Board had no objections.

Town Administrator Doda pointed out a copy of the civil forfeiture procedure is in the folders. Town Clerk Celentano (not present) was given incorrect information about the Civil Forfeiture procedure. Chief Berube (not present) was made aware of the decision to utilize the Animal Control Officer to hand deliver the civil forfeiture letters at the last Selectboard meeting. Chief Berube had a meeting with Town Administrator Doda and Ms. Celentano to correct the misinformation. A Civil Forfeiture procedure was signed, and this is what they would like to use.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to use the Civil Forfeiture procedure for dog licensing. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

4.4 Action Items

5.5 Non-Public Session(s)

Chairman Myette announced non-public sessions.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II) (a) Public Employees and (e) pending litigation. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting was closed to the public at 7:04 PM.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to come out of non-public session. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 8:16 PM.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Reputation. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Public Employees. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the third non-public session, on Reputation. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the fourth non-public session, on Pending Litigation. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the fifth non-public session, on Pending Litigation. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

251 **VI. Adjournment**

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253 *Vice Chairman Couture moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Landau seconded the motion.*
254 *A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Trask– aye, Theokas –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye.*
255 *With all in favor, the motion passed.*

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257 The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

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259 Respectfully submitted,

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261 Janis A. Jalbert

262 Recording Secretary