

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, January 3, 2019
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)
Approval of Minutes
Items for Signature
Ryan’s Sugar Shack Agreement Renewal Discussion
Introduction of New Fire Call Member
Town Administrator Presentation
Wason Pond Community Center Parking Lot
Fence at Center of Town
Bridle Path
Potential Non-Public Sessions
Roundtable
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Owens called this meeting of the Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:10 pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen Present:

Cass Buckley
Steve D’Angelo
Stephen Landau
Jeremy Owens

Selectmen Absent:

Joseph Hagan

Members of the Public Present, at various times:

Ben Clark, Deputy Fire Chief
Jean Methot
Nancy Myette
Ryan Neal

Kyra Stariknok
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times
And other persons unknown to the recording secretary

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Owens led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

Selectman D’Angelo would like to add a Resolution concerning legal updates.

1.5 Public Comment

As no members of the public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:30 pm.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

An approval sheet for the previous meeting’s minutes was in the signature folder.

2.2 Items for Signature

All members reviewed and signed the items in the signature folder.

III. New Business

3.1 Ryan’s Sugar Shack, Agreement Renewal Discussion

Ryan Neal appeared on behalf of Ryan’s Sugar Shack to renew his one-year lease. Selectman Buckley expressed concerns the Town should benefit from the lease. Currently Mr. Neal donates \$300-\$400 back to the Town in syrup in exchange for the lease. The Board of Selectmen agreed upon a conditional renewal of the lease based on Mr. Neal meeting with the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee.

3.2 Introduction of New Fire Call Member

Deputy Fire Chief Ben Clark introduced Kyra Stariknok who is the Fire Department’s newest on call member. Ms. Stariknok is in training on Tuesday evenings and is originally from Chester, returned after being away to attend school.

3.3 Town Administrator Presentation

Chairman Owens presented a draft of a Power Point presentation relative to the proposed Town Administrator’s position. Chairman Owens advised the working group has met regularly and done a lot of research. The presentation covered the Warrant Article process, the makeup and goals

of the working group, proposed job description, personnel and supervision, policies, functions, finance, grants, insurance, and requirements, both physical and academic. Selectman Buckley asked for more information specific to how the new position would financially benefit the public, the taxpayers and not only in improving service and assisting the town employees and the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Owens advised the goal was to prepare by making a thorough presentation to the public at Town Meeting and then find out if the Town was ready or wished to agree not to revisit the topic for a determined length of time. Selectman Buckley asked if they could get feedback from the public before then. Selectman D’Angelo asked if a copy of the presentation could be posted to the town webpage. Chairman Owens suggested cleaning up a few slides, and Selectman D’Angelo will then have the presentation put on the website so that folks could ask questions. He thanked Chairman Owens and the working group for putting together the presentation.

3.4 *Wason Pond Community Center Parking Lot*

Jean Methot advised that the parking area at the Wason Pond Community Center is unpaved and is frequently muddy and dangerous to Seniors who walk with assistance from a cane or walkers. There are currently 4-5 handicapped spaces. Mr. Methot provided pictures. Selectman Buckley stated he has observed the conditions at the WPCC. The handicapped ramp is not in compliance, and an entryway door needs to be widened. Selectman Landau suggested that it be completed in two steps: first the ramp, and then changes to the building, including dropping the steps. The parking lot could be paved this fiscal year. Chairman Owens recommended paving to the ramp. Selectman Buckley asked if anyone had discussed the matter with the Road Agent, and also asked whether paving the parking lot would be compliant with the Conservation easement. Mr. Methot recommended pervious pavers that would drain.

3.5 *Fence at Center of Town*

Selectman Landau advised that payment has been received from the Insurance Company for the most recent damage to the fence caused by a motor vehicle accident. 60 feet are currently damaged. Selectman D’Angelo stated that the fence was made of pipe and the corner takes the brunt. A welder can fix the corner. Chairman Owens asked the price, which was \$1,400. Selectman D’Angelo asked if the fence were necessary, more of a liability, if it should be reconstructed with similar or different materials, or removed altogether. The fence protects the town common and historic cannons. Selectman Buckley agreed the fence looked appropriate.

3.6 *Bridle Path*

Selectman Landau advised there had been an incident where a vehicle drove in past the posted signs and gate to the FAA tower which is usually closed and locked. The vehicle, which belonged to an out of state resident who was likely hunting there, then became locked in when the gate was closed and latched, and the Police Department had to come out. The road is a Class VI road subject to gates and bars. Selectman Buckley felt the existing sign was not only adequate but clear. Selectman D’Angelo asked if the Police Department took any action against the vehicle’s owner other than just letting him out; they did not. A Town Ordinance with penalties could be drafted. Selectman D’Angelo will speak with Police Chief Berube and ask him in to attend next week’s meeting to discuss the matter.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Non-Public Sessions

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to go into non-public session under RSA 91A:3(ii)(a) public employees. Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 8:25 pm.

The meeting room was reopened at 9:10 pm.

Selectman Landau moved that the Board come out of non-public session and seal the minutes of both sessions, indefinitely. Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau:

- The Highway Garage door sustained damage from an accident and although he does not know the total cost for repair, \$600 have been expended so far. Selectman Landau will speak to Joanne Smith in Finance.
- The Salt Shed has electrical issues due to condensation. He wanted to be sure there was money in the budget to handle deductibles and proposed having up to \$10,000 available.
- There is a project coinciding with the Town’s 300th Anniversary to rebuild the stone wall of the Town Pound on Route 121, which will take place over a period of three years at a cost of \$2,000 and include cleaning up trees and other debris surrounding the structure.
- Work is ongoing at the Chester Kitchen.

Selectman D’Angelo:

- He would like to look at the snow policy. During the last snow event, he witnessed plows sitting off to the side of the road and streets being plowed when there was only a dusting. This should be discussed with the Road Agent. Selectman Buckley agreed at the end of the winter, we could get more snow and have no money left.
- He stated that Mrs. Doda is absent due to her involvement in a play, Neil Simon’s *Plaza Suite*, for the Majestic Theatre (Route 28 and Mammoth Road) on January 4th, 5th and 6th (dinner reservations are recommended 669-7469).
- He proposed that a Resolution be made concerning legal updates so that all incoming Board of Selectmen members are made aware of pending litigation within their first month of service. **Selectman D’Angelo moved to adopt a resolution that within the first month of service in A new session, all new Board of Selectmen members will meet and discuss in non-public session all pending litigation.**

Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.

Chairman Owens:

- He has two requests for release of impact fees. The first is for \$3,908.76 for Fire Department protective gear. **Selectman Buckley motioned to authorize release of \$3,908.76 in impact fees for the Fire Department protective clothing. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**
- The second request is for \$2,000 for a portion of the cost of the emergency egress from the Fire Department. An exit road to the side of the station, due to congestion during school pick-up and drop-off times on Murphy Drive, is planned. Selectman Landau advised that the Planning Coordinator has pushed for decoupling of the two parts of the project. **Selectman D’Angelo motioned to authorize release of \$2,000 in impact fees for the Fire Department emergency exit road construction project. Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. Selectman Landau abstained from voting. Voting were three in favor, none opposed, and one abstention; motion carried.**

V. Adjournment

Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary