

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019  
Municipal Complex  
Approved Minutes**

**I. Preliminaries**

Call the Meeting to Order  
Roll Call  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Additions and Deletions  
Public Comment  
Approval of Minutes  
Items for Signature  
Murphy Drive  
Budget & Warrant  
Roundtable  
Adjournment

*1.1 Call to Order*

Chairman Owens called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00pm.

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen present:

Cass Buckley  
Steve D'Angelo  
Joseph Hagan  
Stephen Landau  
Jeremy Owens

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Greg Bolduc, Fire Chief  
Ephraim Dobbins, Budget Committee  
Andrew Hadik, Planning Coordinator  
Rhonda Lamphere, Budget Committee  
Darrell Lockwood, School Superintendent  
Chuck Myette  
Nancy Myette  
Michael Oleson, Road Agent  
Royal Richardson, School Board  
Maria Veale, School Board  
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times

And potentially other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

*1.5 Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairman Owens led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*1.6 Chairman’s Additions and Deletions*

There were neither additions nor deletions.

*1.7 Public Comment*

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:01pm.

**II. Old Business**

*2.1 Approval of Minutes*

An approval sheet for the previous weeks’ meeting minutes is in the signature folder.

*2.2 Items for Signature*

All members should review and sign items in the Signature Folder.

**III. New Business**

*3.1 Murphy Drive*

Fire Chief Greg Bolduc and School Board Chairman Royal Richardson appeared before the Selectmen to continue discussions on the secondary access road solution to the Murphy Drive situation, as requested by the Highway Safety Committee.

This road has been surveyed, engineered, and quoted. Budget Committee Vice-Chair Rhonda Lamphere noted that the road had been discussed at this week’s Budget Committee meeting and that they were more in favor of it than previously.

Vice-Chairman Buckley suggested that as the road was only for emergency purposes, some gravel could be laid down in that area instead as it would be less expensive than building a road. Fire Chief Bolduc demurred, stating that fire equipment was not built for off-roading.

Planning Coordinator Andrew Hadik, Road Agent Michael Oleson, and School Board member Maria Veale joined the conversation at this time.

Road Agent Oleson noted that as the road would need to tie into the State-owned Route 102, a paved apron and a gate were both required. The area needs to be dug out, a culvert replaced, and a gravel base laid. He added that the cost of asphalt was the least expensive

part of any road project. The road has been quoted at \$82k and he is requesting another \$8k for contingency, which adds up to \$90k. The work will take two weeks and the State has approved the project; it is in the CIP.

Selectman D'Angelo added that problems at Murphy Drive are not only during School hours, but at any popular event on the property such as Town Fair. Equipment and personnel must be able to get in and out; this is a safety issue for the Town. Planning Coordinator Hadik added that Murphy Drive is not wide enough to add a third lane, and even if it were, there was no guarantee that cars would not block that lane as well.

Road Agent Oleson has put money into his budget for striping and signage on Murphy Drive; this will be done this coming summer.

Selectman Landau is opposed to the project, stating that it still leaves Murphy Drive as a dead-end road, which was never considered when the School and Fire Department were built. He believes that there are other solutions; however, as Planning Coordinator Hadik stated, those solutions will cost more in the \$1m - \$1.5m range.

School Superintendent Darrell Lockwood joined the conversation at this time. He asked if there was a Selectman willing to 'champion' the project. Both Chairman Owens and Selectman Hagan spoke in favor. Selectman D'Angelo noted that funding for the secondary access road was part of Warrant Article #C, CIP Projects, and asked if the Selectmen should consider splitting it out into a separate Warrant Article; there was general disagreement.

Fire Chief Bolduc thanked the various Departments for all working together to achieve this goal.

Fire Chief Bolduc, Planning Coordinator Hadik, Superintendent Lockwood, Road Agent Oleson, School Board Chair Richardson, and School Board member Veale departed the meeting table at 7:22pm.

### *3.2 Budget and Warrant*

Budget Committee Vice-Chair Lamphere and Budget Committee member Ephraim Dobbins appeared before the Selectmen to discuss the budget and warrant for the upcoming Fiscal Year.

Mrs. Lamphere is most concerned about road funding. It is getting late in the season to request a bond, and they are expensive, what with interest and the Bond Attorney payment. Selectman D'Angelo agreed, stating that bonds require much work and if the Town is not in favor, there is no recourse; the amount cannot be changed on the floor. He noted that at last week's BOS meeting, Budget Committee Chairman Michael Weider had suggested putting additional money into the CIP to be used for roadwork.

Vice-Chairman Buckley suggested that as the legislative body has repeatedly voted down bonds for roadwork, perhaps a committee should be formed to get public input. This

information would not be ready in time for this year’s Town Meeting, however.

Road Agent Oleson stated that if nothing is done soon, he will need to begin closing roads to local traffic only for safety purposes. He recently had to tear up 100’ of East Derry Road as the pavement was practically nonexistent. Speed limits will also need to be reduced. His responsibility is to maintain the roads, and this cannot be done without funding. Although it would be necessary to start with a large figure, perhaps \$2m, the amount needed each year would go down as the roads were returned to a decent state.

Mr. Dobbins noted that the Town has ~47 miles of paved roads. The Town needs to raise funds every year to keep them in good condition, adding that bad roads reduce property values. He added that the Town of Auburn has a specific line in its operating budget for “highway reconstruction” - \$650k, which is 12% of its budget. Selectman Landau thought that having a budget line dedicated to roads was a good idea as well, if the Selectmen were the agents to expend at Road Agent Oleson’s request.

Road Agent Oleson stated that all the Town’s roads were reviewed by StreetScan, have been indexed, and are listed in Table 10 of the CIP. The residents elected the Selectmen and him to do a job; they need to trust that their money will be spent prudently. He would prefer that any money raised and appropriated go into the Highway CIP where it can be used only for road reconstruction, not maintenance.

Fire Chief Bolduc noted that the bad roads are affecting the Fire Department’s response time and that they are often unable to use Lane Road and North Pond Road due to the conditions. He added that recently when a school bus hit a bump on Fremont Road its mirrors fell off.

Selectman Hagan suggested that funds be taken from the CIP and that the School be challenged to reduce their budget by 1% each year for the next 10 years with those savings being put towards the roads. Vice-Chairman Buckley suggested getting together with the School Board to get their buy-in. He is concerned that the School District meeting is held in March, and the Town Meeting in May; perhaps the voters wouldn’t have voted for full-time Kindergarten if they had known that the roads need funding as well.

Vice-Chairman Buckley again mentioned forming a committee, but the other Selectmen suggested that an open meeting to discuss Roadwork Funding be held instead and scheduled it to take place next Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, during the Selectmen’s Meeting.

Other articles in the draft Warrant were discussed.

#C, CIP Projects. Mrs. Lamphere suggested deleting the annex roof, the library patio, and asking the Police Department to use some of their special detail funds for the cruiser.

#F, Winter Road Maintenance Fund. Road Agent Oleson believes that there will be no need to tap into this fund this year, and as such this article could be removed.

#K, Roadside Tree Removal. Mrs. Lamphere would like to see this article removed.

#s L, N, O, and P, which are fee waivers and tax credits/exemptions, have no tax impact, but will reduce revenue.

#Q & #R are two possibilities for repair of the Church Steeple; #Q requests \$15k of taxpayer funds and #R requests \$50k out of the UFB. Mrs. Lamphere would like to know when the work is planned to begin; perhaps this could be moved to a later year.

#S, Town Administrator. Chairman Owens plans on giving the presentation at Town Meeting; Mrs. Lamphere would like the Working Group to meet once more before then.

#T, Road Bond. It was undecided whether this article should be deleted.

#W, WPCC Parking Lot. Selectman Landau stated that he was handling this through the budget; Road Agent Oleson believes that it can be completed for ~\$12k in stone and labor.

**Selectman Landau moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Property; Vice-Chairman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

The meeting room was closed at 8:46pm. Fire Chief Bolduc, Mr. Dobbins, Mrs. Lamphere, Chuck Myette, and Road Agent Oleson remained in the meeting room.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:05pm.

**Selectman Landau moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

**Selectman Landau moved that the minutes to the non-public session on Property be sealed for a period of six (6) months; Selectman D'Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

The Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00pm. At that point the Operating Budget and the Warrant need to be finalized and ordered.

Mr. Dobbins and Mrs. Lamphere departed the meeting at 9:10pm.

#### **IV. Selectmen's Business**

##### *4.1 Roundtable*

*Selectman Landau:*

- There was an electrical issue in the Boy Scout storage area; volunteers will be cleaning it up for the electrician to handle.

- The paint at Stevens Hall continues to be an issue; he is considering getting a quote from Rhino Shield. The cistern will need to be sealed off and the vents added; perhaps this will help with the moisture problem.

*Selectman D'Angelo:*

- The latest draft of the lease for the Maintenance Garage with the American Legion was discussed; they would like Paragraph 4, Use of Premises, edited to indicate that equipment stored there may either be the property of the Legion or items owned by others that are regularly used by the Legion.
- He would be interested in knowing what needs to be done to move Town Meeting from May to March. BOS AA Doda will research.
- The Democrats are sponsoring a Small Business Fair on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 10am to 3pm in the MPR.

*Selectman Hagan:*

- Nothing to report.

*Vice-Chairman Buckley:*

- The Transfer Station will be returning to its Wednesday night 'summer hours' of 6pm – 8pm as of Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

*Chairman Owens:*

- Town Elections will be Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 7am to 7pm in the MPR. After some discussion, it was agreed that Town Meeting will be on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6pm in the MPR.

#### 4.2 Public Comment

Mr. Myette stood and was recognized. He stated that the Conservation Commission will be sponsoring a program on Bears on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7pm in the MPR.

As no other Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 9:23pm.

## V. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Vice-Chairman Buckley moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman D'Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda, Recording Secretary