

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2020
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
- Introduction of New Fire Dept. Call Member
- Consideration of New Police Dept. Hire and Grant Acceptance
- Highway Department Update
- CIP Projects – Library
- Finalize Budget for Budget Committee Review
- Petitioned Warrant Articles
- Roundtable
- Non-Public Sessions
- Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Owens called the meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:02 PM.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

- Steve D’Angelo
- Joseph Hagan
- Stephen Landau
- Chuck Myette
- Jeremy Owens

Staff present: Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public present at various times:

- Aaron Berube, Police Chief
- Greg Bolduc, Fire Chief
- Kandace Knowlton, Library Director
- Nancy Myette
- Michael Oleson, Road Agent

48 Ryan Ridley
Timothy Therrien
50 Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times
And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

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54 *1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairman Owens led the attendees with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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58 *1.4 Chairman’s Additions and Deletions*

There were neither additions nor deletions.

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62 *1.5 Public Comment*

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:04 PM.

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66 **II. Old Business**

2.1 Approval of Minutes

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70 Chairman Owens urged the Selectmen to sign the unapproved minutes in the Signature Folder and indicate changes or approval.

72 *2.2 Items for Signature*

74 Chairman Owens urged the Selectmen to sign the items in the Signature Folder.

76 **III. New Business**

78 *3.1 Introduction of New Police Department Hire and Grant Acceptance*

80 Police Chief Berube introduced for consideration potential new hire, Timothy Therrien. Officer Therrien has prior experience as a full-time officer for the Town of Sunapee, NH and has all his certifications, has had his background checks, physical and psychological evaluations, and good references from his supervisor. Chief Berube indicated Officer Therrien would join the full compliment of seven officers (including Chief Berube) as a full-time officer to fill the vacant full-time position.

86 The Selectmen asked Officer Therrien questions about his background, experience, military service, and experiences with interesting cases from investigation to court room testimony.

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90 Chief Berube indicated Officer Therrien can start on January 27th and requested to go into non-public session at the end of the meeting to discuss compensation.

92 *Selectman Landau motioned to hire Timothy Therrien for a full-time officer position in the Police Department. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion*
94 *passed unanimously.*

96 The Board of Selectman congratulated and welcomed Officer Therrien to the Department.
Chief Berube reviewed the grant proposal for the First Responder Comprehensive Addiction and
98 Recovery Act (FR-CARA) Cooperative which is a \$9,181.12 grant with no matching funds to implement
a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program.

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102 Chief Berube explained that currently the Department may only administer Narcan in the event of an
exposure by one of their own personnel, in which case Narcan can be administrated by one officer to
another officer. This program would enable the Department to receive the training and train others to use
104 Narcan as a first responder. The Police Department would be licensed under the Fire Department’s
insurance umbrella to administer Narcan and as part of that process would need to provide a report for
106 each instance of use.

108 ***Chairman Owens motioned to accept the terms of the First Responder Comprehensive Addiction and
Recovery Act (FR-CARA) Cooperative Agreement as presented in the amount of \$9,181.12 to
110 implement a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program pending training and EMS, Governor and
Council approval. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the
112 motion passed unanimously.***

114 Chairman Owens signed the documents on behalf of the Selectmen.

116 *3.2 Highway Department Update: Road Agent Oleson*

118 Road Agent Oleson indicated the last few months of bad weather have further damaged the roads and
fears it will get worse and the CIP is not going to cover it. Road Agent Oleson asked the Selectman to
120 consider putting forward a \$5 million dollar bond which would address the CIP list on Table 10 for
reclaiming and paving up to 21 roads. The tax impact would be less than .90 cents per thousand for a ten-
122 year bond.

124 Selectman Myette asked if \$5 million would be enough and Road Agent Oleson answered 21 roads would
cost approximately \$8 million dollars and he is unsure of the interest rate or number of years.
126 Town Administrator Doda will put together some figures for a \$5 million bond for ten years and a \$3
million dollar bond for ten years and seven years and draw up the Warrant Article. T/A Doda estimated a
128 15-year bond, which is also the lifespan of the roads, would add \$1.1 million in interest whereas a 10-year
bond would add \$687,000 in interest. Selectman D’Angelo noted he would be interested in seeing figures
130 for \$2.5 million dollar bond next year and \$2.5 million bond the following year.

132 Road Agent Oleson indicated he received a letter recently from a high school student asking him to repair
the roads, and agreed this is his job and whether or not the taxpayers want to fund the work he feels a
134 responsibility to request the Selectman bring forward the request and let the taxpayers decide. Parker and
Holman Roads are gone and those alone would cost \$2 million. The CIP projects would continue as
136 planned with North Pond Road scheduled for next year.

138 Selectman D’Angelo questioned whether vendors would be available were the bond passed so the Town
would not be paying interest on the bond while waiting for work to commence and Road Agent Oleson
140 answered that he had commitment from one vendor already. Having Town Meeting in March rather than
May will be an asset to lining up vendors to do the work.

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Selectman Myette noted the proposal would need to be addressed and brought to the Budget Committee and the voters. The bond would allow most of the roads to have work done and benefit everyone eliminating the “not my road” thought process. Selectman Landau recommended reaching out to the Budget Committee as the School budget is already up by \$2/thousand.

Selectman Landau asked about renting a hot box and Road Agent Oleson will look into that tomorrow.

3.3 CIP Projects: Library Director Knowlton

Mrs. Knowlton indicated the computer system at the Library has Windows 7 and will not continue to be supported. The upgrade will be done in July and the cost is estimated to be \$7,600. Mrs. Knowlton got another estimate from Block 5 which was \$478 higher than GSCI.

Mrs. Knowlton indicated the second handicapped ramp was no longer necessary but the concrete and asphalt lip at the entrance would need to be repaired as it has settled. The Selectman agreed this could be done in-house with assistance from the maintenance department and Road Agent Oleson. The \$7,500 estimated for the second ramp can be removed.

3.4 Finalize Budget for Budget Committee Review

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to keep the proposed budget as is and turn it over for review by the Budget Committee. Selectman Myette seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Selectman Landau abstained, the motion was approved 4-0-1.

Selectman D’Angelo noted the increase was approximately 10% and reflected the new employee pay matrix adding two firefighters and one police officer. Chairman Owens noted the amount of the operating budget was \$5,272,555.

3.5 Petitioned Warrant Articles

Town Administrator Doda indicated Petitioned Warrant Articles were due on February 4th and require 25 verified signatures by registered voters which the Town Clerk confirms. One petitioned article which has been received with the required number of signatures is to change Columbus Day to Indigenous People’s Day and with no tax impact does not require other action by the Selectmen. Town Administrator Doda noted a potential petitioned article for SB2 may be received shortly and that would be placed on the official ballot with 3/5ths required to pass.

3.6 Introduction of New Fire Department Call Member

Fire Chief Bolduc introduced Firefighter Ryan Ridley who lives in Town and has experience as a retired firefighter in Derry, NH, is a paramedic and formerly a Fire Chief in Alton.

The Selectman congratulated and welcomed Firefighter Ridley to the Department.

IV. Roundtable

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Selectman Landau asked Town Administrator Doda to summarize the the Department Head’s meeting where it was brought to their attention several members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment received accusatory emails as a result of a posting on Facebook of a design depiction of a proposed assisted living facility on Haverhill Road. Town Administrator Doda indicated the accusations were untrue and there had been no zoning changes made by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Any zoning ordinances are promulgated by the Planning Board and are then voted on by the Townspeople. The project would need to undergo approval through the Special Exception process.

Town Administrator Doda indicated she is working on a social media policy for Town employees. Chairman Owens indicated Facebook posts are not endorsed or validated and most have no data or accuracy and should be the last place one should look for information. If there are questions or concerns residents can feel free to call and ask and are encouraged to attend meetings.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated housing seems to be slowing with only 12 permits issued in 2019.

Selectman Hagan asked that Veterans consider joining the Legion which offers a gun safety program for youth working with the Scouts for the gunmanship merit badge. There are three instructors, one retired from the Marines and two from the Army. Also needed are veterans and other people with maintenance skills. Renting the legion for a nominal fee, which is often waived, is available to both veterans and others.

Chairman Owens indicated he received from the NHDES the revised landfill monitoring contract, which is asking for additional testing in November and May which will cost an additional \$1,000. Selectman Myette read the report and explained the compounds which were causing the request and noted in addition to the \$1,090 proposal to re-sample the PFOs in two wells, there would be an additional \$1,200-\$1,500 cost, totaling \$2,500 increase. Selectman Landau wondered if samples were improving over the past years why suddenly these levels were being found and whether the composting business conducted near the closed landfill may be affecting the results and if they had wells.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to sign the revised Nobis contract, and increase the landfill monitoring wells line in the FY20-21 budget by \$2,000. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A vote was taken, with all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman D’Angelo and Chairman Owens agreed review of the Rules of Procedure could be tabled until next week’s meeting to have more time to review them. Selectman Landau questioned the language for appointing liaisons by the Chairman and while he does not recommend changing the language noted the liaisons typically volunteer. Selectman D’Angelo noted the Town Administrator should be the first line of communication with Department Heads during the day. Selectman Landau noted the Board still needs to know what goes on and encourages liaisons to be present when possible.

Chairman Owens reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule:

- January 13th – Budget Committee
- January 14th – Conservation
- January 15th – 300th Anniversary Committee

236 January 16th – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting

238 Selectman Landau added one non-public. Chairman Owens indicated he had one under employment and
four under reputation other than a Board member.

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V. Non-Public Sessions under 91-A:3(II)(a) and (c)

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244 *By Roll Call Vote Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session under 91-A:3(II)(b)*
Employment, (c) Reputation, and (e) Pending Litigation. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A
246 *vote was taken: Landau – yes, D’Angelo – yes, Hagan – yes, Myette – yes and Owens – yes. Motion*
carried.

248 The meeting room was closed to the public at 8:40 PM. Road Agent Oleson remained in the meeting
room.

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Road Agent Oleson departed the meeting room at 8:55 PM and Police Chief Berube entered the meeting
252 room at this time.

254 Police Chief Berube departed the meeting room at 9:09 PM.

256 The meeting room was reopened to the public at 9:30 PM.

258 *Selectman Landau motioned to come of non-public session; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion,*
with all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

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262 *Vice-Chairman Myette motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Reputation, for*
an indefinite period; Chairman Owens seconded the motion. By Roll Call vote, with all in favor, the
264 *motion passed unanimously.*

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266 *Selectman D’Angelo motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Employment,*
for a period of thirty (30) days; Chairman Owens seconded the motion. By Roll Call vote, with all in
268 *favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

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270 *Selectman D’Angelo motioned to seal the minutes of the third non-public session, on Pending*
Litigation, for an indefinite period; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. By Roll Call vote, with all
272 *in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

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274 *Selectman D’Angelo motioned to seal the minutes of the fourth non-public session, on Pending*
Litigation, for a period of thirty (30) days; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. By Roll Call vote,
276 *with all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

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278 *Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the fifth non-public session, on Reputation, for an*
indefinite period; Chairman Owens seconded the motion. By Roll Call vote, with all in favor, the
280 *motion passed unanimously.*

282 *Selectman D’Angelo motioned to seal the minutes of the sixth non-public session, on Reputation, for a*
period of ten (10) days; Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. By Roll Call vote, with all in
284 *favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

286 *Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the seventh non-public session, on Reputation, for*
an indefinite period; Chairman Owens seconded the motion. By Roll Call vote, with all in favor, the
288 *motion passed unanimously.*

288 **VI. Adjournment**

290 The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, January 16th, 2020.

292 *Selectman Landau motioned to adjourn the meeting. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion, with*
294 *all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

296 The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM.

298 Respectfully submitted,

300 Nancy J. Hoijer,
302 Recording Secretary