

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting  
Thursday, March 5, 2020  
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  
Eagle Scout Project  
Assign Warrant Articles for Town Meeting  
Police Department Update  
Potential Non-Public Sessions  
Adjournment

*1.1 Call to Order*

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

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen Present:

Stephen Landau  
Steve D’Angelo  
Chuck Myette  
Jeremy Owens

Present: Town Administrator Deb Doda

Members of the Public Present, at various times:

Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times  
Nancy Myette  
Jackson Rowden  
Jay Rowden  
Police Chief Aaron Berube  
BOS Admin. Janis Jalbert

*1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairman Owens led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### *1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions*

Chairman Owens added Police Department Update.

#### *1.5 Public Comment*

As no members of the public wished to be heard public comment was closed at 7:10 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 Eagle Scout Project*

Jackson Rowden presented his Eagle Scout Project which was the construction of a new batting and pitching practice cage at the ballfield near Chester Academy Babe Ruth field. Mr. Rowden noted there is another batting cage and bullpen located further away and this will allow for the safety and supervision of warm-ups in this location. Mr. Rowden presented pictures of the 72’ long x 15’ wide structure which he noted is supported by poured concrete 1’ in diameter.

Mr. Rowden indicated he was asked about lighting, but lights are not allowed. Chairman Owens asked if the structure would be up year-round and how long it would be expected to last and Mr. Rowden indicated the netting, which is made of durable nylon should come down and be stored in the blue sports shed during the off-season. Selectman D’Angelo agreed that UV lighting can cause deterioration and asked if there was any warranty and Mr. Rowden will check into that. Selectman D’Angelo recommended discussing with the coaches who will be responsible for taking down and putting up the netting.

***Selectman Myette motioned to approve the Eagle Scout Project and to sign the waiver of liability. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Selectman Landau abstained. Motion passed 3-0-1.***

*3.2 Assign Warrant Articles for Town Meeting*

With the exception of Article 10 which was tabled until next week’s meeting, the following recommendations for discussions to be made at Town Meeting were made by the Board of Selectmen:

Article #9	Road Agent/BOS	Article #21	Petitioner
Article #10		Article #22	Jean Methot
Article #11	Stephen Landau	Article #23	Road Agent
Article #12	Jean Packard	Article #24	Assessing
Article #13	PACT	Article #25	Road Agent
Article #14	PACT	Article #26	Andrew Hadik
Article #15	PACT	Article #27	Stephen Landau
Article #16	BOS/Budget Com.	Article #28	Elizabeth Lufkin
Article #17	BOS/Budget Com.	Article #29	John Colman
Article #18	BOS/Budget Com.	Article #30	
Article #19	Road Agent	Article #31	Petitioner
Article #20	Road Agent		

Selectman D’Angelo recommended Road Agent Oleson discuss the reason for needing the bond, Table 10 list of roads and why maintenance is falling behind. The BOS can discuss how the selection from financing choices were made.

Town Administrator Doda advised the snowplow budget has \$30,000 left with it looking as though winter may be winding down to a close. There is \$113,000 in the Winter Road Maintenance Fund which as originally written requires \$105,000 to not be exceeded. The overage is because interest was not drawn down. Town Administrator Doda will look into whether the excess can be left and taken out during the next round.

Selectman Landau indicated he was still trying to get cost estimates for the repairs at Stevens Hall.

*3.3 Police Department Update (Chief Aaron Berube)*

Chief Berube updated the Board as to the progress of hiring personnel. Chief Berube indicated he has received more applicants; some are certified full-time officers, and some are officers interested in returning. Officer Todd Crumb has returned. The staff worked on schedules during the training meeting last evening.

Selectman D’Angelo recommended the Department be vigilant concerning COVID-19 virus which has spread to New Hampshire recently. Chief Berube assured the Board that the Department is taking every precaution to clean and disinfect the cruisers and containment/booking rooms and has a good supply of masks and gloves.

Selectman D’Angelo recommended any employee whether at Town Hall, Police or Fire be sent home or stay home if they have symptoms including fever or respiratory. The virus can remain on surfaces for up to ten days, has a 3-6’ droplet zone, and can pass through air duct work.

Selectman D’Angelo advised that disinfecting surfaces and wearing gloves during traffic stops is essential.

Selectman Landau recommended Town Administrator Doda be in touch with Servpro to contract with them for disinfecting before contact with someone who has tested positive or exhibits symptoms. Chief Berube indicated he will be in contact with NH Informational Services.

#### IV. Roundtable

Selectman Landau reported the cabinets are in at Stevens Hall. There was a small change to the microwave area which was a shelf hanging model which the installer will deal with. Countertops are being looked at. Selectman Landau brought in some samples of granite to replace the old linoleum but is concerned with the price and would like to talk to a couple of other vendors. Selectman Landau recommended the Board go over and look at the area.

Selectman Myette asked if there was an estimate for square feet and Selectman Landau indicated there is 76.3’ of countertop with 18’ of backsplash 6” high along the windows and a full height of 5’ approximately 100 SF.

Selectman Landau reported Sylvia Von Aulock from Southern New Hampshire Planning attended the Department Head’s meeting this week and presented a survey she would like the seniors to take concerning the CART service.

Selectman Landau asked how the Board felt about replacing the trees being removed at Stevens Hall and Spring Hill Farm with disease-resistant Elms. Elm Trees used to line Chester Street at one time, and this may be something that could be offered at a discount to residents of Chester Street. The Elm tree across from the Community Center is doing very well since it was installed with attention to some watering the first year. Selectman D’Angelo agreed and asked when the trees could be planted. Selectman Landau indicated the trees come with a 15’ height and approximately 2” caliper live for about 75-125 years and can be planted with a backhoe and a little fertilizer. The Elm trees do much better along the roadway where maples won’t tolerate salt.

Chairman Owens indicated the Town’s Deposit Policy was being modified with one small edit to be approved next week. Town Administrator Doda indicated the Town Clerk reviewed it and only the timing has been changed and is otherwise the same as presented years before.

Chairman Owens indicated Axiom was coming Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> to test the insulation in the attic and the results should be back in a week.

Chairman Owens noted the tax map maintenance renewal invoice was in for \$1,900.

**Selectman D’Angelo motioned to approve and sign the tax map maintenance renewal invoice. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all present were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.**

Selectman Landau indicated about 50 people attended the School District Meeting on Tuesday night and the \$12 million budget passed without much discussion.

Chairman Owens indicated the following meetings and events are coming soon:

- Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 10 AM – Pollinator Pathways Presentation
- Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 7 PM – Police Department Comedy Show
- Monday, March 9, 2020 – Budget Committee Meeting at 7 PM
- Tuesday, March 10, 2020 – Town Election from 7 AM – 7 PM at the MPR
- Tuesday, March 10, 2020 – Conservation Commission Meeting at 7 PM
- Wednesday, March 11, 2020 – Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- Thursday, March 12, 2020 – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting at 7 PM
- Saturday, March 14, 2020 – Town Meeting begins at 9 AM

## V. Potential Non-Public Sessions

Selectman Landau indicated he had one non-public under employment. Selectman D’Angelo indicated he had one non-public under pending litigation. Chairman Owens indicated he had two under reputation.

**Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session under 91-A:3 II (a)(c) and (e) at 7:49 PM. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Myette – aye and Owens – aye. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting room was closed to the public at 7:49 PM.

The meeting room was reopened at 8:50 PM.

**Selectman Landau motioned to come out of non-public session. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all present were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Chairman Owens moved to seal the minutes to the first non-public session, on Reputation, for an indefinite period; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Hagan absent; motion carried.**

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to seal the minutes to the second non-public session, on Pending Litigation, for a period of thirty (30) days; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Hagan absent; motion carried.**

**Selectman Landau moved to seal the minutes to the third non-public session, on Employment, for an indefinite period; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Hagan absent; motion carried.**

***Selectman Landau moved to seal the minutes to the fourth non-public session, on Reputation, for an indefinite period; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Hagan absent; motion carried.***

**VI. Adjournment**

***Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, motion carried.***

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer  
Recording Secretary