

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, April 6th, 2017
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call
Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman’s Additions and Deletions
Public Comment
Approval of Minutes
Warrant – Article #Q, LUCT Monies
Warrant – Vote for Recommendation
Warrant – Re-order Articles
Selection of Copier Contract
Roundtable
Non–Public Session
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Landau called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:01pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Cass Buckley
Joseph Hagan
Stephen Landau
Dick Trask

Selectmen absent:

Jack Cannon

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Landau led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions and Deletions

Two additional non-public sessions on Reputation were added.

1.5 Public Comments

As no Members of the Public were in attendance, Public Comment was closed at 7:03pm.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

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

III. New Business

3.1 Warrant – Article #Q, LUCT Monies

Vice-Chairman Trask reiterated that the purpose of this Warrant Article is to allow the Legislative Body an opportunity to vote on where the LUCT revenue is to go.

Chairman Landau is opposed to this article, stating that it is premature. He believes that the Conservation Commission has made good use of the Conservation funds over the past ~20 years, saving valuable areas from development as well as stepping up to help finance major projects such as the repair of the Wason Pond Dam. He would like more time and discussion to take place, especially with the Strategic Land Protection Committee, before the Article is put before the Legislative Body.

Selectman Hagan asked for a few clarifications, to wit: None of the monies currently in the Conservation Fund are being touched, and only the Legislative Body can vote on where the monies in the LUCT fund are allocated.

Selectman Cannon was not in attendance, but had shared his opinion that he would be in favor of a very modest diversion of monies – perhaps 25% of the LUCT Funds received - away from the Conservation Fund, and if that were the decision, he would vote to move the Warrant Article forward.

The Warrant Article will be reworded as follows to indicate the 25%/75% split, and forwarded to Town Counsel Gorrow for approval:

Shall the Town vote to rescind the action of the 1997 and 1999 Town Meetings to place 100% of the Land Use Change Tax revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A into the Conservation Fund (established by Warrant Article #13 at the 1997 Town Meeting), and instead place 25% of said funds into the Land Use Change Tax Fund and the remaining 75% into the Conservation Fund. Any such action to rescind or change the percentage or amount shall not take effect before the tax year beginning April 1 following the vote.

Chairman Landau moved to approve Warrant Article #Q, LUCT Monies; Vice-Chairman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Chairman Landau opposed and Selectman Cannon absent; motion carried.

3.2 Warrant – Vote for Recommendation

A:	300 th Anniversary	5 yes / 0 no
B:	Budget	5 yes / 0 no
C:	CIP Funding	5 yes / 0 no
D:	CIP Projects	5 yes / 0 no
E:	Highway CIP Funding (Block Grant)	5 yes / 0 no
E2:	Highway CIP Projects	5 yes / 0 no

F:	PACT	4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain
G:	Revaluation	4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain
H:	Veterans’ Property Tax Credit	5 yes / 0 no
J:	Winter Road Maintenance Fund	5 yes / 0 no
M:	Recreation Director, Full Time	3 yes / 1 no / 1 abstain

Ms. Reishus is a notary, attending grant writing classes, and is willing to back up the Welfare Director when the need arises. Should this Warrant Article pass, that information should be added to her Job Description.

P:	Creation of LUCT Fund	4 yes / 1 no
Q:	LUCT Monies	4 yes / 1 no
R:	Police Department Equipment	5 yes / 0 no

It was reiterated that these are not taxpayer funds; the money in this Special Revenue account comes from Police Department Details. Selectman Hagan added that details are normally done by full-time rather than part-time officers.

S:	Fire Department Equipment	5 yes / 0 no
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It was reiterated that these also are not taxpayer funds; the money in this Special Revenue account comes from Fire Department Details.

T:	Town Administrator, Full Time	1 yes / 3 no / 1 abstain
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Vice-Chairman Trask wondered whether it was appropriate for the Selectmen to be voting on recommending this article, as it is petitioned. Chairman Landau believes that it is, since it will impact the tax rate. According to Finance Director Smith, the increase in taxes on a \$350k house would go from \$70 (should all Articles except for #T pass) to \$150 (should all Articles, including #T, pass). Vice-Chairman Trask stated that the Selectmen have a great deal of knowledge, but fall short in efficiency and implementation; Selectman Buckley agreed that the idea has value, but added that there are not sufficient details in this Article for him to vote for recommendation at this point in time.

3.3 Warrant – Re-order

After some discussion about priorities and the number of people who tend to attend Town Meeting, the Warrant Articles were reordered.

Vice-Chairman Trask moved that the Warrant Articles be reordered as follows; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Cannon absent; motion carried.

- 6: Budget
- 7: CIP Funding
- 8: CIP Projects
- 9: Highway CIP Funding (Block Grant)

- 10: Highway CIP Projects
- 11: Creation of LUCT Fund
- 12: LUCT Monies
- 13: Town Administrator, Full Time
- 14: Recreation Director, Full Time
- 15: Police Department Equipment
- 16: Fire Department Equipment
- 17: \$105k Winter Road Maintenance Fund
- 18: Revaluation
- 19: PACT
- 20: 300th Anniversary
- 21: Veterans’ Property Tax Credit

3.4 Selection of Copier Contract

The IT Committee solicited three bids to replace the Town’s copiers. The current price is \$5,000 for the two copiers in Town Hall and an additional \$550 for the copier at the Fire Department. It was noted that there have been some complaints about the level of service received from the current vendor.

The IT Committee, in the person of Town Clerk Newnan, recommended going with Bidder #2. This bidder would provide three new copiers, service, and supplies (other than paper) for \$500 less than the Town is currently paying, these copiers are able to scan directly to a user’s desktop, and the vendor’s service technicians cover 97% of the USA. This is a five-year lease; it is unclear whether or not there is an escape clause. If there is not, the Legislative Body must be asked to approve the contract via a Warrant Article at Town Meeting.

Vice-Chairman Trask moved to award the Copier Contract to Bidder #2, contingent upon the existence of an escape clause; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Cannon absent; motion carried.

The winning bidder was revealed to be Ricoh.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Selectman Buckley:

- Nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Trask:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Hagan:

- Nothing to report.

Chairman Landau:

- The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission has begun their annual traffic count; should you see what appears to be a rubber hose stretched across the road, this is why.
- On Saturday, April 29th, 2017 from 9am to 12noon, Plaistow will be holding their Household Hazardous Waste Day at 51 Old County Road. This information will be posted on the Town website.
- Two members of the Fire Department are interested in joining the Fire Honor Guard; the only cost is for uniforms, which will be in the \$2,000 range. The Selectmen are in favor of supporting

this endeavor, but how would the uniforms be funded? **Vice-Chairman Trask moved to approve the request of Jason Coulter and Lisa DiMambro to join the Fire Honor Guard contingent on finding a funding source for the uniforms; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Cannon absent; motion carried.**

4.2 Public Comment

As no Members of the Public were in attendance, Public Comment was closed at 8:19pm.

4.3 Non-Public Sessions

Chairman Landau moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation for three items; Vice-Chairman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Cannon absent; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 8:20pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 8:50pm.

Chairman Landau moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Cannon absent; motion carried.

Chairman Landau moved that the minutes to the first non-public session on Reputation be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Cannon absent; motion carried.

Chairman Landau moved that the minutes to the second non-public session on Reputation be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Cannon absent; motion carried.

Chairman Landau moved that the minutes to the third non-public session on Reputation be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Cannon absent; motion carried.

V. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, April 13th, 2017. The Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 10th, 2017; this will be noticed as a quorum may be in attendance.

Chairman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Cannon absent; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda
Recording Secretary