

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2020
Virtual Meeting
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
Revisit Town Owned Buildings Closure
Wason Pond Parking Ordinance
Transfer Station
Road in front of General Store
Roundtable
Potential Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

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

Under the emergency provisions of RSA 91A, this meeting is being conducted electronically and will be recorded, via dial-in, (929) 436-2866, internet at <https://zoom.us/j/770832311> as well as broadcast on Channel 20 and streamed on <http://vod.chesterctv.com>

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen Present (Remotely):

Jeremy Owens
Chuck Myette
Stephen Landau
Steve D’Angelo

Present: Town Administrator Deb Doda (Remotely)

Members of the Public Present (Remotely), at various times:

Police Chief Aaron Berube
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Elizabeth Lufkin

BOS Administrative Asst. Janis Jalbert
EMD Phil Gladu
Jack Cannon
Recreation Director Corinna Reishus
Greg Bobish
Ken Biel
Penny Williams
Chester CTV

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Owens led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

None

1.5 Public Comment

Ken Biel expressed concerns about the Wason Pond parking lot closure and the number of cars parking across Route 102 and opined the Town has created an attractive nuisance.

Greg Bobish expressed concerns about the ordinance on tonight’s agenda being rushed and opined it should be presented at Town Meeting if it is still happening. Chair Owens noted the Town Moderator will determine the date and time of Town Meeting.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

An approval sheet for the previous meeting’s minutes was sent electronically.

2.2 Items for Signature

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

III. New Business

3.1 Revisit Town Owned Buildings Closure

Selectman D’Angelo indicated while there is pressure on Towns to reopen Town Halls, he would like to see the new window in place as well as the new doors before that happens.

EMD Gladu noted Selectman Landau contacted WMUR who reported Chester had six cases of COVID-19 but that is not how many current cases there are. There are three active cases in three different houses. Reporting comes from testing facilities.

Selectman Landau noted he was surprised to see the jump. He went to Derry and was surprised to see the long line outside of Moo’s Ice Cream. Selectman Landau was in favor of staying closed for another week or two for protection. Nine deaths in NH were reported over the weekend due to COVID-19.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated opening should not happen until we are comfortable and wondered when the glass would be put up.

Chair Owens indicated the Stay at Home Order was extended until May 31st but some things are opening up mid-month. Vice-Chair Myette recommended staying closed until the 31st. Chair Owens noted the Board can always re-evaluate at the meeting on the 18th. Selectman Landau agreed the Board could re-evaluate at any time and there was no need to rush anything. Town Administrator Doda indicated the Town webpage stated closed until today and will extend that until the 18th. Mrs. Lufkin noted the glass is being installed on the 15th, the door shortly after. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector office could open only. Selectman D’Angelo noted the Town could be reimbursed for things like this. Mrs. Lufkin stated that nothing is guaranteed but other communities are looking to do this as well. Vice Chair Myette indicated he wanted to get an idea of the cost and scope of the work for the other areas in Town Hall. Two doors would be installed to close off other offices and eliminate visitors wandering the building and to address where the BOS Administrative Assistant sits. Town Administrator Doda noted the Building Inspector had a plan. Chair Owens recommended that the correct things be included in the RFP.

Chair Owens recommended limiting the flow of people as well. Selectman D’Angelo recommended calling for an appointment and having one person in at a time.

3.2 Wason Pond Parking Ordinance

Chair Owens indicated the ordinance was begun a year ago. Warmer months end up with overcrowding and criminal activity. The parking ordinance is an attempt to control the overflow of people.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated he did not feel the need to change it.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated the parking permits would be free to residents and others pay a fee; perhaps removing the word “daily” from “fee”, and charge a reasonable fee. If the fee is daily an attendant would be needed there.

Mrs. Reishus indicated Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission is meeting tomorrow night and when the proposal for parking permits was brought to them last meeting it was voted against.

Vice-Chair Myette noted options were prioritized and the Commission wanted to revisit security measures along with this.

Vice Chair Myette noted the ordinance has nothing to do with the pandemic and the closing of the parking lot. The Board has been working on this and getting feedback for months. Give the ranger the authority to hand out temporary permits; maybe even change the traffic flow to one-way; have a resident only parking area and post signs.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated enforcement of the ordinance need to be discussed and discussions need to start with tomorrow evening’s Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission meeting to get their feedback.

Selectman D’Angelo noted the Board of Selectmen could set up the ordinance and work out the details for fees after. Chair Owens was not in favor of having the ordinance without knowing how to enforce it. Selectman D’Angelo recommended specifying there is a parking fee. Chair Owens recommended deleting “daily” and just leave there is a fee. Selectman D’Angelo recommended waiting until the Board has what it needs.

3.3 Transfer Station

Town Administrator Doda advised the job description for a supervisor and attendants was sent out for the Selectmen’s review. Vice-Chair Myette recommended including salary range, and full or part-time. Chair Owens noted all are part-time right now. Selectman Landau asked why they were looking at full-time and Vice-Chair Myette noted some are close to full-time hours and want to distinguish. Selectman Landau noted when the pay matrix was developed employees were put into certain categories and he could see the supervisor position being full-time but the others part-time when they are open two days per week. Chair Owens recommended pulling up the hours from past months to review and looking at the job descriptions on Thursday. Selectman D’Angelo recommended contacting Town Counsel concerning labor laws and categories.

3.4 Road in front of General Store

Vice-Chair Myette advised the owners of the General Store are leasing out one of the other properties and needed Site Plan Review and went to the Planning Board. Improving handicapped parking was discussed and potentially located in front of the building, which is actually a Town-owned road.

Selectman Landau noted the buildings predate zoning which began in the 1960s. Vice-Chair Myette noted the use changed to a different use which is why they need the Site Plan. Selectman Landau indicated the nail salon must have generated more business and need for parking than the financial office.

In any case, only Town Meeting could dispose of the property if that were the decision. Vice-Chair Myette will bring the Selectmen’s opinions back to the Planning Board that the site plan does include any features, such as parking spaces located on town property be shown on the site plan.

183
184 **IV. Roundtable**
185

186 Selectman Landau spoke with maintenance concerning the plan for the old police cruiser which
187 the Selectmen decided not to turn in. The plan is to provide it to the Building Inspector, and
188 Maintenance will take the Building Inspector’s vehicle. The Police Department’s pickup truck
189 will be retired and go to Maintenance in two years. Highway is currently utilizing the big truck
190 which they had retired and given to Maintenance last year, and it is not available for
191 Maintenance use.

192
193 Vice-Chair Myette advised Dick Lewis would be available to do the tree cutting. Conservation is
194 okay with the trees being taken down. Selectman D’Angelo recommended a police detail to
195 keep people out while the work is being done.

196
197 Chief Berube reported the refrigerator had gone out in the Police Department. John and TJ
198 went to Lowe’s and the manger donated a \$1,000 fridge to us. Chief Berube will be sending a
199 thank you letter.

200
201 ***Selectman Landau motioned to accept the refrigerator donation from Lowe’s with thanks.***
202 ***Vice-Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau***
203 ***– aye, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***
204

205 Chief Berube reported ATV use is still a problem on Pomp Road and four Fish & Game officers
206 were out there. Vice-Chair Myette recommended making use of the gates at Spring Hill Farm
207 for the gate that Road Agent Oleson is going to put up.

208
209 Eversource has done quite a bit of widening while creating their access to the power lines off of
210 Candia Road and the Selectmen were wondering if they planned to return it to its original
211 condition once they are finished. Planning Coordinator Hadik has sent them an email; it has
212 been forwarded to the Selectmen. Selectman Landau recommended asking Eversource to
213 donate an ATV for the Police Department to use in that area. Chief Berube noted they donated
214 money to public safety for COVID and is discussing an ATV with them already. Selectman
215 Landau asked if a letter from the Selectmen would help.

216
217 ***Selectman Landau motioned to have the Selectmen send a letter to Eversource in***
218 ***support of an ATV donation to the Police Department. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the***
219 ***motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, Owens – aye, D’Angelo –***
220 ***aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***
221

222 Chair Owens noted the following meetings were coming up:

223
224 Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM – Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission
225 Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM – Planning Board
226 Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM – Board of Selectmen
227

228 **V. Adjournment**
229

230 ***Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the***
231 ***motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –***
232 ***aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.***

233

234 The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

235

236 Respectfully submitted,

237

238

239 Daniel Hoijer

240 Recording Secretary