

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting  
Thursday, May 7, 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  
Highway Department Update  
ZBA Appointment  
PD Candidate Presentation  
Property Tax Interest Abatement  
Wason Pond Parking  
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):

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

Present: Town Administrator Deb Doda (Remotely)

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

47 Police Chief Aaron Berube  
48 Road Agent Michael Oleson  
49 Michael Kehoe  
50 Planning Coordinator Andrew Hadik  
51 Town Clerk/Tax Collector Elizabeth Lufkin  
52 BOS Administrative Asst. Janis Jalbert  
53 Jack Cannon  
54 Recreation Director Corinna Reishus  
55 Leslie Hammond  
56 Penny Williams  
57 Elizabeth Casey  
58 Kim Moore  
59 Joe Parsons  
60 Corey Young  
61 Eric Emerson  
62 Chester CTV

63

64 *1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

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66 Chair Owens led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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68 *1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions*

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70 Chair Owens added Town Hall RFP and tabled ZBA appointment.

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72 None

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74 *1.5 Public Comment*

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76 Chair Owens opened the meeting to public comment at 7:02 PM and being none closed public  
77 comment at 7:02 PM.

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79 **II. Old Business**

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81 *2.1 Approval of Minutes*

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

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85 *2.2 Items for Signature*

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

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**III. New Business**

*3.1 Highway Department Update*

Road Agent Oleson reported paving on East Derry Road would be next week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The guardrails are up. The shoulder gravel will go down and then the project will be complete other than addressing complaints about excessive speed.

Road Agent Oleson noted he met with the concerned resident and addressed his four-step plan which is to first reduce the speed to 25 MPH; which he has done, then to order and reinstall stop signs so there will be a three-way stop. If there are still complaints, he is willing to entertain flashing “going too fast” signs which can be portable, solar powered and placed where there is ample sunlight. The last steps will be to consider the speed tables and law enforcement.

Road Agent Oleson gave a brief history of the proposal for speed tables which was not part of the original project. When visiting Dartmouth he first noticed them and suggested they could be put into the plan but only on the straight away. Road Agent Oleson measured the sight distance at the particular property who was requesting the speed tables and noted 275’ in one direction and 600’ of driveway visibility in the other. Road Agent Oleson noted he can do nothing to control people who speed in excess of 50-60 MPH.

Vice-Chair Myette asked if there were something less aggressive that could be considered and Road Agent Oleson noted another large property owner on the road was in favor of rumble strips but the water gets in and cracks the roadway lessening the life of the road. Road Agent Oleson noted East Derry Road was built to last for a long time. East Derry Road is not a neighborhood or cul-de-sac, it is a main road.

Selectman Landau noted Road Agent Oleson did a wonderful job on this road. There were major problems with culverts as with other roads in Town. These are feeder roads. When Candia Road was paved it became a highway. He observed 6 18-wheelers using it in one hour. People are buying cars low to the ground and speed worthy and opening them up on these roads once a road is smoothed out. Selectman Landau noted this is a perfect example of thinking ahead that these things come up. Many residents were reluctant for the work to get underway, for 8-12 years, because they did not want it to become a speedway.

Road Agent Oleson indicated for now the stop signs would be going back up and were shown to reduce speeds by 6 MPH.

*3.2 ZBA Appointment - Tabled*

*3.3 Police Department Candidate Presentation*

Chief Berube presented Michael Kehoe to the Board of Selectmen for consideration to be appointed as a full-time officer. Chief Berube noted Mr. Kehoe took the general aptitude test, the oral board and interviewed with Office Sable, the Rec. Department and Ed Karjala. Mr. Kehoe scored well and excelled on the physical fitness test as well. His background check was flawless. He has a Bachelors’ degree in Sociology from UNH and has done humanitarian work

with his church abroad. He started as a summer reserve officer in York, ME where he went to the Academy full-time and become a full-time officer. Mr. Kehoe has family nearby and wants to relocate.

Chief Berube indicated he would not have to go through training in NH as well and believes there will be no problem testing out to have his full-time certification transferred over.

Selectman D’Angelo asked if there were funds in the budget for this year and next and whether the Department was still searching, and how many officers were there and Chief Berube indicated the Department had seven and were still searching which he would discuss in non-public at the end of the meeting.

Selectman Landau asked Mr. Kehoe where he saw himself in five years and Mr. Kehoe noted he saw himself in the community near his family in New Hampshire.

Selectman Landau asked about overseas travel, purpose and whether that interest would continue, and Mr. Kehoe noted his interest will continue. He first got involved at UNH through the Christian program CREW and visited Yellowstone, and out of the country in Turkey where he helped with African and Syrian refugees and in Cusco, Peru where he helped build a medical clinic. Once settled he may continue with similar interests but has no immediate plans for the future.

Vice-Chair Myette noted he was impressed with his background and wondered if he had any special interests he would like to continue his education in and Mr. Kehoe noted he was interested in enforcement of drunk and impaired driving and DRE which is the Drug Recognition Expert program.

Selectman Hagan asked Mr. Kehoe if he was comfortable with the possibility of having to use a firearm and Mr. Kehoe indicated he was.

Vice-Chair Myette noted he was a great candidate and thanked Chief Berube for bringing him forward.

Selectman Landau had no issue, Selectman Hagan and Vice-Chair Myette noted they had no issue and Selectman D’Angelo noted he was good.

**Selectman Landau motioned that in line with Chief of Police to offer the appointment to Michael Kehoe of the full-time officer position with the benefits that will accrue. Vice-Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.**

The Board welcomed Officer Kehoe to the Department and Chief Berube congratulated him.

182 *3.4 Property Tax Interest Abatement*  
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184 Mrs. Lufkin noted the Board had the authority to set the term, conditions and limits in  
185 accordance with Executive Order #25 to waive interest pursuant to RSA 676:16 on late  
186 payments of property taxes to ease the financial burden during the State of Emergency.  
187 However the policy must be equal and uniform and for everyone. While she sent out deed  
188 notices prior to the executive order, the second part of Executive Order #25 doesn’t allow  
189 deeding until the State of Emergency is lifted. Notice of Liens will still be recorded. This  
190 increases the interest from 8% to 14%. Attorney Buckley at NHMA drafted a template which will  
191 notify owners of this which she will send out with the letters.

192  
193 Selectman Hagan asked if Mrs. Lufkin had a rough idea of how much interest was generated  
194 each year on late real estate taxes. Mrs. Lufkin will research that and recommended the Board  
195 put together a proposal of terms, conditions and limits and send the proposal to town counsel to  
196 review.

197  
198 ***Selectman Hagan motioned to go along with the Governor’s recommendations and abate***  
199 ***all interest on unpaid taxes as of the date of the Emergency Declaration. Vice-Chair***  
200 ***Myette seconded the motion.***

201  
202 Selectman D’Angelo recommended this could be accomplished after the fact. It would be better  
203 to know more information and the total impact financially and wait until next week to make a  
204 decision. Vice-Chair Myette agreed he would prefer to hold off to get more information.

205  
206 Selectman Hagan noted he believed the good people of Chester would continue to pay their  
207 taxes, but some would be injured if interest were charged during these exigent circumstances.  
208 Selectman Hagan indicated he believed the Governor would likely cease the emergency in a  
209 month or two.

210  
211 Vice-Chair Myette indicated there would be no harm to wait if the interest were going to be  
212 waived retroactively to the date of the emergency declaration.

213  
214 ***Selectman Hagan withdrew his motion pending obtaining more details.***

215  
216 Selectman D’Angelo recommended tabling to next Thursday’s meeting.

217  
218 *3.5 Wason Pond Parking*  
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220 Vice-Chair Myette indicated he attended the meeting of the Wason Pond Conservation &  
221 Recreation Commission this week and they were surprised the Board had made the decision  
222 without consulting them, to close the parking area. They were upset to find out about it on  
223 social media. The Commission was not in favor of parking permits but did not identify another  
224 way to address parking concerns.

225  
226 Town Administrator Doda noted she had a speaker coming to Monday’s meeting from the NH  
227 Parks Program who can provide the Board with information on other options and the best  
228 direction to go.

Chair Owens indicated the Commission was notified about the drug use, criminal activity and asked to come up with a plan. Vice-Chair Myette noted they were in favor of the ranger, law enforcement and security cameras but against the permit or kiosks.

Selectman Landau noted he attended the meeting and there was some misinformation, for example who made the motion and stated that he made the motion. Security cameras need to be monitored and require manpower or technology. The community at Town Meeting created the Commission to regulate this specific property. There are other properties in town that are completely open and usable. Wason Pond has a pond and beach. Selectman Landau noted he was in favor of the June date for reopening the parking area to have time to come up with other suggestions and let WPC handle it but if they don’t then people will come to the BOS complaining. A ranger was hired, and Selectman Landau noted he had no objection to hiring a second one if necessary.

Selectman D’Angelo asked Chief Berube to speak to some of the issues during the warmer months. Chief Berube noted for 10-12 years he has been trying to get resources to deal with the issues. Two years ago after begging and pleading with the BOS he got the ranger and John is doing a great job but can’t combat drugs, alcohol and the kind of people that become overbearing to our resources during the nice weather, “he is one man.” There is no funding for other resources.

Selectman D’Angelo asked about the no parking signs for Route 102 and Road Agent Oleson noted he would put them in when he was asked.

Mrs. Reishus noted the drugs are a separate issue to address. The public and community are upset they can’t enjoy the area today and asked if the Board wanted to keep the parking closed until Monday. Parking, security and ordinances are a different conversation if COVID is not the case.

Selectman D’Angelo noted every park in the area is closed. Today he saw more cars from Massachusetts parked along the side of the road. If something happens there and first responders have to go in, they can be exposed. The beaches and Pawtuckaway are all closed and should not encourage people from out of Town. Mrs. Reishus noted the trails are open in the rest of Town. Selectman D’Angelo asked where, what about Derry – no. Mrs. Reishus indicated if it was about COVID she was 100% for it. Selectman D’Angelo noted it gives a window of opportunity to do something about the other issues that were reported by Recreation such as the needles, and the destruction of property, such as the porta toilets.

Jack Cannon asked if there were still plans in the CIP for the future for a pavilion and Vice-Chair Myette indicated there were. Mr. Cannon recommended instead of funding that, build a gate house, bring power to it and charge out of Town residents and have it free to residents with display of their driver’s licenses. There would be ongoing expenses to staff. Vice-Chair Myette indicated this is why they have invited someone coming to speak Monday night to understand what the Town can and can’t do.

Selectman Landau asked who came to the BOS and asked for the playground to be closed and Mrs. Reishus noted she had after WPC voted by email to close it because they couldn’t clean it adequately.

Selectman Landau asked Mrs. Reishus if there were a meeting between now and the deadline of the parking lot closure and Mrs. Reishus noted WPC meets the first Tuesday in June. Selectman Landau recommended if the Commission needed to, they should meet more frequently as the Selectmen have had to do. The BOS is now meeting twice a week on Monday and Thursdays because COVID is changing daily but the decision to close parking was not solely because of COVID. If the budget needs to be increased, then it can go to Budget Committee and explain why it needs to be increased but there needs to be a solution. The area is experiencing the same problems with no resolution. Mrs. Reishus noted the Commission discussed the matter at its last three meetings and will provide minutes. Selectman Landau noted it needed to be resolved before the middle of June, to come up with something sooner and vote on it.

Joe Parsons noted he has a special needs child and his family has been cooped up. Going to Wason Pond for long walks gives their family what it needs. Closing the parking inhibits the ability to use the area. The Commission was not asked. He agreed there needed to be a plan but June 15<sup>th</sup> is ridiculous. There are people with wheelchairs. He is okay with the permit process but not with using this as a scapegoat or excuse.

### 3.6 RFP Town Hall

Town Administrator Doda updated the Board that Building Inspector Bunker has determined there is no asbestos or lead paint and forwarded his sketch of the design.

Vice-Chair Myette noted the plan only calls for white primer and wondered why the finish paint wasn’t included in the RFP. Town Administrator Doda will speak with Mr. Bunker tomorrow.

Vice-Chair Myette asked about the x marked on the door near the BOS office. If it is no longer needed it should be removed from the RFP and the plans updated.

Selectman Landau noted he would like the public to be able to access the restrooms.

Mrs. Lufkin advised the grant window for funding the renovations allowed for three reimbursement periods and up to \$124,000 could be used to respond to COVID to protect the public and employees. Modifications to Town buildings are covered items with 100% reimbursement and no matching funds and the Town would have to jump on this as well as other items.

***Vice-Chair Myette motioned to move forward with the RFP to modify the foyer area. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Hagan – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Landau – nay. The motion passed 4-1-0.***

## IV. Roundtable

Selectman Landau asked Chief Berube about a police detail for when Dick Lewis begins the tree work at Wason Pond and getting some “men working” signage. He was satisfied with the insurance certificate presented to him. Selectman Landau asked if maintenance could supervise the area for three days. Chief Berube doubted he could get a detail to volunteer and deferred to the Road Agent for signage.

Selectman D’Angelo was in favor of the detail with police present and authorizing the Road Agent to put up the signage.

Selectman Landau expressed concerns with the 19% unemployment rate in the state. Funds will be returned from the school to offset taxes, but the Town needs to be prudent with spending because the economy is not going to be good.

Selectman Landau noted the library elevator is not working, but the library is closed.

Chair Owens noted the following meetings were coming up:

Monday, May 11, 2020 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting at 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 Conservation Commission Meeting at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 Planning Board Meeting at 7:00 PM.

Thursday, May 14, 2020 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting at 7:00 PM.

#### *4.1 Potential Non-Public Sessions*

**Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3 II (a), (c), and (j). Vice-Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:35 PM.

The meeting was reopened at 9:29 PM.

**Selectman D’Angelo motioned to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes. Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.**

**Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes to the first non-public session, on financial information, for an indefinite period; Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.**

**Selectman D’Angelo motioned to seal the minutes to the second non-public session, on public employees, for a period of sixty (60) days; Selectman Landau seconded the**



***motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.***

***Vice-Chairman Myette motioned to seal the minutes to the third non-public session, on reputation, for an indefinite period; Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.***

***Chairman Owens motioned to seal the minutes to the fourth non-public session, on reputation, for an indefinite period; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.***

## **V. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hoijer  
Recording Secretary