

**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*

65

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

67

68 *1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions*

69

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

71

72 None

73

74 *1.5 Public Comment*

75

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

78

79 **II. Old Business**

80

81 *2.1 Approval of Minutes*

82

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

84

85 *2.2 Items for Signature*

86

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

88

89

90 **III. New Business**

91
92 *3.1 Highway Department Update*

93
94 Road Agent Oleson reported paving on East Derry Road would be next week on Tuesday,
95 Wednesday, and Thursday. The guardrails are up. The shoulder gravel will go down and then
96 the project will be complete other than addressing complaints about excessive speed.

97
98 Road Agent Oleson noted he met with the concerned resident and addressed his four-step plan
99 which is to first reduce the speed to 25 MPH; which he has done, then to order and reinstall stop
100 signs so there will be a three-way stop. If there are still complaints, he is willing to entertain
101 flashing “going too fast” signs which can be portable, solar powered and placed where there is
102 ample sunlight. The last steps will be to consider the speed tables and law enforcement.

103
104 Road Agent Oleson gave a brief history of the proposal for speed tables which was not part of
105 the original project. When visiting Dartmouth he first noticed them and suggested they could be
106 put into the plan but only on the straight away. Road Agent Oleson measured the sight distance
107 at the particular property who was requesting the speed tables and noted 275’ in one direction
108 and 600’ of driveway visibility in the other. Road Agent Oleson noted he can do nothing to
109 control people who speed in excess of 50-60 MPH.

110
111 Vice-Chair Myette asked if there were something less aggressive that could be considered and
112 Road Agent Oleson noted another large property owner on the road was in favor of rumble
113 strips but the water gets in and cracks the roadway lessening the life of the road. Road Agent
114 Oleson noted East Derry Road was built to last for a long time. East Derry Road is not a
115 neighborhood or cul-de-sac, it is a main road.

116
117 Selectman Landau noted Road Agent Oleson did a wonderful job on this road. There were
118 major problems with culverts as with other roads in Town. These are feeder roads. When
119 Candia Road was paved it became a highway. He observed 6 18-wheelers using it in one hour.
120 People are buying cars low to the ground and speed worthy and opening them up on these
121 roads once a road is smoothed out. Selectman Landau noted this is a perfect example of
122 thinking ahead that these things come up. Many residents were reluctant for the work to get
123 underway, for 8-12 years, because they did not want it to become a speedway.

124
125 Road Agent Oleson indicated for now the stop signs would be going back up and were shown to
126 reduce speeds by 6 MPH.

127
128 *3.2 ZBA Appointment - Tabled*

129
130 *3.3 Police Department Candidate Presentation*

131
132 Chief Berube presented Michael Kehoe to the Board of Selectmen for consideration to be
133 appointed as a full-time officer. Chief Berube noted Mr. Kehoe took the general aptitude test, the
134 oral board and interviewed with Office Sable, the Rec. Department and Ed Karjala. Mr. Kehoe
135 scored well and excelled on the physical fitness test as well. His background check was
136 flawless. He has a Bachelors’ degree in Sociology from UNH and has done humanitarian work

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

140
141 Chief Berube indicated he would not have to go through training in NH as well and believes
142 there will be no problem testing out to have his full-time certification transferred over.

143
144 Selectman D’Angelo asked if there were funds in the budget for this year and next and whether
145 the Department was still searching, and how many officers were there and Chief Berube
146 indicated the Department had seven and were still searching which he would discuss in non-
147 public at the end of the meeting.

148
149 Selectman Landau asked Mr. Kehoe where he saw himself in five years and Mr. Kehoe noted
150 he saw himself in the community near his family in New Hampshire.

151
152 Selectman Landau asked about overseas travel, purpose and whether that interest would
153 continue, and Mr. Kehoe noted his interest will continue. He first got involved at UNH through
154 the Christian program CREW and visited Yellowstone, and out of the country in Turkey where
155 he helped with African and Syrian refugees and in Cusco, Peru where he helped build a medical
156 clinic. Once settled he may continue with similar interests but has no immediate plans for the
157 future.

158
159 Vice-Chair Myette noted he was impressed with his background and wondered if he had any
160 special interests he would like to continue his education in and Mr. Kehoe noted he was
161 interested in enforcement of drunk and impaired driving and DRE which is the Drug Recognition
162 Expert program.

163
164 Selectman Hagan asked Mr. Kehoe if he was comfortable with the possibility of having to use a
165 firearm and Mr. Kehoe indicated he was.

166
167 Vice-Chair Myette noted he was a great candidate and thanked Chief Berube for bringing him
168 forward.

169
170 Selectman Landau had no issue, Selectman Hagan and Vice-Chair Myette noted they had no
171 issue and Selectman D’Angelo noted he was good.

172
173 **Selectman Landau motioned that in line with Chief of Police to offer the appointment to**
174 **Michael Kehoe of the full-time officer position with the benefits that will accrue. Vice-**
175 **Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Hagan – aye,**
176 **Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed**
177 **unanimously.**

178
179 The Board welcomed Officer Kehoe to the Department and Chief Berube congratulated him.

180
181

182 *3.4 Property Tax Interest Abatement*

183

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*

219

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.

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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.

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

278

279 Selectman Landau asked Mrs. Reishus if there were a meeting between now and the deadline
280 of the parking lot closure and Mrs. Reishus noted WPC meets the first Tuesday in June.

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

290

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

296

297 *3.6 RFP Town Hall*

298

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

301

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

304

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

307

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

309

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

315

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

319

320 **IV. Roundtable**

321
322 Selectman Landau asked Chief Berube about a police detail for when Dick Lewis begins the
323 tree work at Wason Pond and getting some “men working” signage. He was satisfied with the
324 insurance certificate presented to him. Selectman Landau asked if maintenance could
325 supervise the area for three days. Chief Berube doubted he could get a detail to volunteer and
326 deferred to the Road Agent for signage.

327
328 Selectman D’Angelo was in favor of the detail with police present and authorizing the Road
329 Agent to put up the signage.

330
331 Selectman Landau expressed concerns with the 19% unemployment rate in the state. Funds
332 will be returned from the school to offset taxes, but the Town needs to be prudent with spending
333 because the economy is not going to be good.

334
335 Selectman Landau noted the library elevator is not working, but the library is closed.

336
337 Chair Owens noted the following meetings were coming up:

- 338
339 Monday, May 11, 2020 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting at 7:00 PM.
340 Tuesday, May 12, 2020 Conservation Commission Meeting at 7:00 PM.
341 Wednesday, May 13, 2020 Planning Board Meeting at 7:00 PM.
342 Thursday, May 14, 2020 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting at 7:00 PM.

343
344 *4.1 Potential Non-Public Sessions*

345
346 **Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3 II (a), (c),**
347 **and (j). Vice-Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye,**
348 **Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion**
349 **passed unanimously.**

350
351 The meeting was closed to the public at 8:35 PM.

352
353 The meeting was reopened at 9:29 PM.

354
355 **Selectman D’Angelo motioned to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes.**
356 **Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye,**
357 **Hagan – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion**
358 **passed unanimously.**

359
360 **Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes to the first non-public session, on**
361 **financial information, for an indefinite period; Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A**
362 **roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye,**
363 **Owens – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.**

364
365 **Selectman D’Angelo motioned to seal the minutes to the second non-public session, on**
366 **public employees, for a period of sixty (60) days; Selectman Landau seconded the**

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

369
370 ***Vice-Chairman Myette motioned to seal the minutes to the third non-public session, on***
371 ***reputation, for an indefinite period; Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call***
372 ***vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Owens – aye.***
373 ***With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.***

374
375 ***Chairman Owens motioned to seal the minutes to the fourth non-public session, on***
376 ***reputation, for an indefinite period; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call***
377 ***vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Owens – aye.***
378 ***With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.***

379
380 **V. Adjournment**

381
382 ***Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the***
383 ***motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –***
384 ***aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.***

385
386 The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM.

387
388 Respectfully submitted,

389
390
391 Nancy Hoijer
392 Recording Secretary