

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, April 2, 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
Emergency Management Update – EMD Phil Gladu
Transfer Station Recycling Update
Potential Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Vice-Chair Myette called the meeting of the Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:05 PM and read the declaration of emergency order.

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:

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

Present: Town Administrator Deb Doda

Members of the Public Present, at various times:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Liz Lufkin
Corinna Reishus (Remotely)
Rhonda Lamphere (Remotely)

Police Chief Aaron Berube (Remotely)
Emergency Management Director Phil Gladu
Chester Academy Business Administrator Sheryl Rich (Remotely)
Penny Williams (Remotely)

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Myette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

Vice-Chair Myette added a notice concerning the gravel pit near Sandown.

1.5 Public Comment

As no members of the public wished to be heard public comment was closed at 7:15 PM.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

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

2.2 Items for Signature

All members reviewed and signed the items in the signature folder submitted electronically earlier this afternoon

III. New Business

3.1 Emergency Management Update: EMD Phil Gladu

Vice-Chair Myette reminded that Town buildings are currently closed to the public and social distancing is recommended at all Town properties, Wason Pond and the area around the School. Selectman Landau supported extending the closure of Town buildings in accordance with the Governor’s recommendation until May 4, 2020.

Selectman Landau motioned to close all Town Buildings in accordance with the Governor’s recommendations until May 4, 2020. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, and Owens – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Doda asked if signs were needed to remind people who visit Town property. Mr. Gladu noted he has observed the Wason Pond Recreation area and did not witness any large gatherings and the small groups visiting observed distancing. Mrs. Reishus indicated she observed a family group of about 10 playing ball on the field and asked if there is a plan in place

for monitoring large groups. Selectman D’Angelo noted Pawtuckaway State Park was just closed and there may be an overflow of visitors from that, so it is something to watch out for.

Police Chief Berube indicated Ranger Wright plans to be at Wason Pond when the weather is nicer and will warn people about large gatherings and distancing. He has been provided with a supply of PPE gear.

Mr. Gladu noted things are going smoothly. A spike is forecast with cases of COVID-19 in the next two-three weeks. Currently Chester is listed as having 1-4 confirmed cases. The EM staff does not know who these cases are, but Mr. Gladu noted responders will be notified by dispatch if they are responding to an address with a confirmed case.

Mrs. Lufkin noted she is getting calls from people who are being told by their primary care physicians to call 911 with symptoms of COVID-19 and that is putting things onto first responders. People should call 211 with any questions unless it is a life-threatening emergency.

Mr. Gladu noted the Department has set up a decontamination team and has shown the staff at the Transfer Station how to properly put on and take off PPE gear. Mr. Gladu noted the Nitrate gloves would be more durable than latex or more durable rubber gloves could be worn over their nitrile gloves in case of puncture and washed with soap and water. Dust masks should be appropriate if they are not dealing with people who are ill and in close contact. The Public Safety Departments, who are in close contact, are using PPE on all calls now, not just those that are suspected.

Selectman D’Angelo asked about the recent recommendation that everyone should be wearing masks and gloves when out in public and whether there are enough for other employees. Mr. Gladu indicated he did not have any to share at this time. Selectman Landau will ask the Maintenance Supervisor to go out and find more equipment tomorrow morning.

3.2 Transfer Station Recycling Update

Vice-Chair Myette reported he and EMD Gladu met with Rich Czarnec, Roger and Russ at the Transfer Station and they are working on a program that could possibly be implemented Wednesday evening which will be discussed further at Monday evening’s Selectmen’s meeting. The hours could be extended to allow for entry by one vehicle at a time and eventually recycling will be reinstated. Currently the Transfer Station is accepting household trash, waste oil and brush. They have been in touch with Waste Management and ABI. Waste Management has been handling hazardous waste for years and is already trained. They may be willing to take recyclables in with the trash from the compactor in an emergency. ABI could put a vehicle onsite as early as Saturday if they were ready.

Mr. Gladu noted the Transfer Station site enjoys the benefit of having enough space to be well staged. Vice-Chair Myette indicated cardboard which has to be handled by the attendants could be put off to the side. The traffic pattern may change a bit. Vice-Chair Myette urged patrons of the Transfer Station to come in well prepared with their recyclables sorted so that people are not

139 kept waiting. Vice-Chair Myette asked those feeling unwell not to come to the Transfer Station,
140 at all.

141
142 Mr. Gladu noted people around Town have been phenomenal about helping each other out with
143 groceries and other things. Adding trash removal to aid those who are sick and quarantined
144 may be considered.

145
146 Vice-Chair Myette noted he did not want to see the Transfer Station fully operational until all of
147 the employees have proper PPE gear which currently, they do not. The new hours proposed
148 could start next Wednesday from 4-8 PM and the following Saturday from 7-4 PM. The
149 Selectmen will make a decision at Monday’s meeting.

150
151 Selectman D’Angelo recommended using the electronic signs to notify residents of changes.

152
153 ***Selectman Landau motioned to increase the hours at the Transfer Station when decided***
154 ***by the EMD and BOS. Selectman D’Angelo requested to table the motion until Monday***
155 ***evening. Selectman Landau agreed to table the motion.***

156
157 Selectman Landau requested not to lose track of the COVID-19 reimbursements which would
158 cover paying the Transfer Station employees for the additional hours.

159 160 **IV. Roundtable**

161
162 Selectman D’Angelo would like to see the Department Heads meeting more frequently during
163 the emergency. Town Administrator Doda noted they are having a second wrap-up meeting on
164 Friday and could meet weekly thereafter. Selectman D’Angelo is concerned with the possibility
165 Town Meeting could be postponed past May 16 and while the Town has looked into alternate
166 ways for the residents to vote, such as by Zoom, they were advised they could comment but not
167 cast votes this way. In a conference call with NHMA Legal yesterday, she learned that it is
168 acceptable to spend using the 20-21 budget as presented at the Public Hearing and posted on
169 the MS-737 until Town Meeting can be convened to pass it. Warrant Articles are not included in
170 this spending. Selectman D’Angelo would like feedback from Department Heads on the budget.

171
172 Chairman Owens noted next year is likely to be a slow recovery for folks financially and many of
173 the items put forth may need to be reconsidered.

174
175 Selectman D’Angelo noted it was good the Town did not have an additional bond payment
176 beyond the Quint which has one more payment next year.

177
178 Police Chief Berube indicated the new cruiser is in transit, one was removed from the upcoming
179 budget and two cruisers are ready for retirement now. As far as hiring, he is reluctant to not
180 pursue hiring of certified officers. Selectman Hagan agreed. Safety is first and foremost.

181
182 Vice-Chair Myette indicated Emergency Order #23 could be discussed on Monday evening’s
183 agenda. Selectman Landau indicated many of the legal matters including Town Meeting were
184 discussed in the legal briefing.

Town Administrator Doda advised the employees are requesting vacation roll overs since they can’t use their vacation or go anywhere now. Selectman D’Angelo asked to have Ms. Duffy put together a list and see how many have not taken vacation.

Vice-Chair Myette thanked Building Inspector Bunker for notifying the Board about the possibility of a local Building Code of Appeals. Selectman D’Angelo indicated people could still appeal building code matters at the State level and then go to court. Selectman Hagan agreed it would not be prudent to have a Board that may not meet for years at a time. Building Inspector Bunker has not had one of these appeals in several years. Chairman Owens agreed he was in favor of not moving forward with that.

Vice-Chair Myette advised the following meetings are coming up:

Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7 PM – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM – Recreation (postponed from Monday at Selectman D’Angelo’s request)
Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting

Town Administrator Doda has reached out to C-Hadik to see if Wason Pond is planning to meet and will reach out to A-Hadik to see about the Planning Board.

V. Potential Non-Public Sessions

Vice-Chair Myette indicated he had one under finance and one under reputation.

Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session at 8:13 PM pursuant to 91-A:3 II (c) and (j). Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, and Owens – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting room, teleconference and internet were closed to the public at 8:13 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to come out of non-public session at 9:19 PM and seal the minutes. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, and Owens – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting room was reopened to the public at 9:20 PM.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to seal the minutes to the first non-public session, on finance, for a period of thirty (30) days; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, and Owens – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes to the second 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, and Owens – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

Selectman Landau motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, and Owens – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary