

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Monday, June 1, 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
ReVision Energy
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
Stephen Landau
Jeremy Owens
Steve D’Angelo
Joseph Hagan

Present: Town Administrator Deb Doda (Remotely)

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

Police Chief Aaron Berube
BOS Admin. Asst. Janis Jalbert
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Elizabeth Lufkin
Recreation Director Corinna Reishus

Ned Raynolds
Kaileigh Dube
Ken Riel
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

Chair Owens opened the meeting to public comment at 7:00 PM.

Mrs. Lufkin indicated that tomorrow night is the last session with the Supervisors of the Checklist to change party registration before the Primary Election.

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 ReVision Energy

Ned Raynolds presented his proposal to lease land from the Strandells, who are long time residents of Chester, for solar energy. Mr. Raynolds indicated his company has been working with renewable and efficient energy for 20 years doing solar rooftops, ground mounts and carports without high impact, emissions, or noise. Mr. Raynolds noted the best path for interconnection would be Cunningham Lane.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated the project proposed for the Strandell property was proposed years ago and couldn’t go over Conservation property. Vice-Chair Myette asked if the plan was still to trench and Mr. Raynolds indicated they haven’t done any comparisons yet but overhead would be less intrusive with as few poles as possible. Mr. Raynolds indicated no heavy excavation

was planned but Fire Code may require improvement of Cunningham Lane. Vice-Chair Myette noted Cunningham Lane is a fairly narrow road with heavy tree cover. Mr. Raynolds indicated if all improvements are necessary then underground may well be a part of this. Vice-Chair Myette noted they didn’t object before.

Selectman D’Angelo asked the timeline for the project and Mr. Raynolds indicated if they obtain approval here, the next step would be to finalize the option on the land over the next month, then work through an interconnection application with Eversource through this year, and have it built by next summer.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated the project may be required to go before the Technical Review Committee. Mr. Raynolds noted he was aware Site Plan Review was a part of the process.

Vice-Chair Myette noted with a Class VI road access can not be maintained by the Town nor public access in the future. Selectman Hagan asked the tax improvement impact and Vice-Chair Myette indicated it would be a significant difference as a commercial property. Mr. Raynolds indicated his company would develop the project and bring capital from investment, but they would own it and we would manage it. The investor would pay to take it out of Current Use. Mr. Raynolds indicated they hope to negotiate PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) Agreement with the Town.

Selectman D’Angelo asked how many acres of panels and Mr. Raynolds indicated they are leasing up to seven acres, but five-six acres will probably be enough. Mr. Raynolds concluded that the panels are not higher than ten feet off the ground and would be a good distance from the road.

Selectman D’Angelo asked if the company did wind farms and Mr. Raynolds said they did not.

Selectman D’Angelo asked if there were other Towns that they did business with and Mr. Raynolds indicated he hasn’t done a lot of ground mounts like this and in those cases, they don’t tax them. Mr. Raynolds indicated he could look at examples in Maine if possible and is open to discussions about costs and considerations.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Selectman Landau indicated Maintenance Man Cavanaugh is waiting to hear from the contractor about the cost estimate for the renovations we agreed to.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated there was a TRC Meeting this morning concerning the school project and accepting a Town Road on Thursday.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated the Conservation Commission received over 60 very nice submissions for its Dandelion Photo Contest, picked three winners and extended thanks to all the participants and sponsors. The Commission will post on Facebook and the Town Webpage.

Chair Owens noted the following meetings were coming up:

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission at 7 PM

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM – (tentatively)

Thursday, June 4, 2020 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting at 7 PM.

4.2 Potential Non-Public Sessions

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

The meeting was closed to the public at 7:51 PM.

The meeting was reopened at 8:06 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to come out of non-public session. Selectman D’Angelo 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 from the non-public session on Public Employees for a period of thirty (30) days. Chairman Owens 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.

V. Adjournment

Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman 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 meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer
Recording Secretary