

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, June 29, 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
New Fire Department Employee
Monday Night BOS Meetings
Encumbrances
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
Jeremy Owens
Stephen Landau
Steve D’Angelo

Present: Town Administrator Deb Doda (Remotely)

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

Road Agent Michael Oleson
Transfer Station Foreman Jack Cannon
Fire Chief Gregory Bolduc

BOS Admin. Asst. Janis Jalbert
Recreation Director Corinna Reishus
EMD Phil Gladu
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Elizabeth Lufkin
Keegan Ricker
Penny Williams
Chester CTV

and other persons unknown to the minute taker.

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.

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 New Fire Department Employee

Fire Chief Bolduc introduced Keegan Ricker to the Board. Chief Bolduc indicated he is in the process of the background check, comes to us from Dover and was in a similar setup to ours. Officer Ricker is enrolled in advanced EMT class until the end of September.

Selectman Landau asked Officer Ricker where he saw himself in five years and Officer Ricker indicated he would like to get his paramedic license and spend a lot of time in Chester.

Selectman D’Angelo asked Officer Ricker why he chose fire service and Officer Ricker noted he has a long family background in fire service and likes the challenges. Officer Ricker indicated he was from Georgetown, MA.

Vice-Chair Myette asked his thoughts on fire practices today and if he had any concerns. Officer Ricker noted the biggest challenge now is vanishing volunteerism and getting young people involved.

Chair Owens asked what it was that made Chester jump out to you and Officer Ricker indicated the concern for employees and volunteering similar to his hometown.

Chief Bolduc indicated he is waiting on final background check but doesn’t see any issues.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to hire Keegan Ricker as a full-time member of the Chester Fire Department contingent upon a successful background check. Vice-Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Myette – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Monday Night BOS Meetings

Chair Owens polled the Board to see if they wanted to continue meeting on Monday evenings as well as Thursdays.

Vice-Chair Myette asked about emergency management updates and EMD Gladu indicated the EOC meetings are on Wednesday only and a very small amount of information is coming from the state, but they will continue monitoring them.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated he is seeing a downward trend in COVID but expressed concerns with keeping people safe, hopeful the Town isn’t impacted.

EMD Gladu indicated there were zero active infections and everyone is well educated.

Selectman Landau reported he passed Wason this weekend and saw a wedding on the bridge which was nice. Monday meetings could begin again if the situation calls for it but think things can be handled at this point on Thursdays.

3.3 Encumbrances

Town Administrator Doda reviewed the total encumbrances and funds available.

Chair Owens asked if a quote was received for the office and Town Administrator Doda indicated the cost to replace two desks and build the wall discussed is \$11,000 but there is no signed contract. There is \$117,000 out of the general fund, \$50,000 from warrant article. If the Board wants to encumber the \$11,000, they should be able to do it tomorrow.

Selectman Landau indicated in the past we have stopped the calendar to handle the unsigned contracts.

Road Agent Oleson indicated it is tough to plan anything. A couple of sections of road could be done with \$100,000, but the Town may not be able to get on the schedule if he must wait another month.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated he had no problem with the order of the requests.

Town Administrator Doda noted the Finance office may need to be done out of this year’s budget.

Selectman Landau indicated money coming from the CARES Act could go to the general fund.

Selectman D’Angelo noted the amount applied for reimbursement has to be used. Selectman Landau indicated the items were already paid for. Mrs. Lufkin noted funds have to be shown not to be comingled. Vice-Chair Myette noted the already expended funds will be a surplus this year or applied to next year’s budget and agree it should come back to the general fund. Selectman Landau agreed the funds already expended will be extra funds that can be encumbered and put towards roads, etc. Mrs. Lufkin noted not everything submitted will be reimbursed but we will probably see the payment within two weeks. Vice-Chair Myette questioned whether there was wording to encumber up to the maximum. Selectman D’Angelo noted the encumbrances could only be made up until the end of the fiscal year. Mrs. Lufkin noted there were a lot of uncertainties. Selectman Landau indicated this requires an answer from the attorneys whether the funds can be used for something that should have been encumbered. We have been in this position before with floods and storms. Vice-Chair Myette recommended including grants in the question to counsel.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to encumber any funds remaining from FY 2019-2020 in the following order:

Wason Pond	Community Center HP Ramp	\$ 19,894.00
Fire Department	Garage Door Openers	\$ 10,885.00
Transfer Station	Pest Control	\$ 3,140.00
Wason Pond	Pest Control	\$ 1,098.00
Planning Department	Impact Fee Contract w/SNHPC	\$ 8,560.00
Police Department	Hiring Bonus	\$ 5,000.00
Village Cemetery Trustees	Gate Rebuilding	\$ 2,000.00
Finance Department	Actuarial Services	\$ 3,000.00
Fire Department	Duct Cleaning	\$ 2,795.00
Highway Department	Roadwork	\$ 299,210.00

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

Vice-Chair Myette motioned to move the excess funds of \$9,152.76 from the Winter Road Maintenance fund to the General Fund and credit interest on investments. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Myette motioned to encumber \$14,144.40 from 2019 Warrant Article #12 CIP Projects for Personal Protective Equipment for the Fire Department. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Myette motioned to encumber \$5,000 from 2019 Warrant Article #19, PACT, to replace a converter unit for the Cable TV Station. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Myette motioned to encumber \$50,000 for 2020 Warrant Article #27 to create the new Historic Building Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Landau – aye, Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Selectman Landau asked whether Stevens Hall should move ahead. Selectman D’Angelo questioned whether estimates have been received. Selectman Landau will call NH Preservation to see if a few contractors may be available as summer quiets down. Selectman Landau would like to see it be a priority and get it done.

Selectman D’Angelo and Vice-Chair Myette agreed an inspection should be done. Selectman D’Angelo recommended taking the time to research candidates.

Vice-Chair Myette reported the beavers at Wason are active and building a dam which raises water levels. Conservation would like to turn this into an educational project by installing a piping design to prevent future damming.

Chair Owens indicated the following meetings were coming up:

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 – 300th Anniversary at 7:00 PM
Wednesday, July 1, 2020 – Planning Board at 7:00 PM
Monday, July 6, 2020 – Wason Pond Commission at 7:00 PM
Wednesday, July 8, 2020 – Planning Board at 7:00 PM
Thursday, July 9, 2020 – Board of Selectmen at 7:00 PM

Selectman D’Angelo asked about the timetable for the meeting room. Town Administrator Doda indicated the 300th Anniversary Committee will be meeting there tomorrow as approved last week.

4.2 Potential Non-Public Sessions

Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II)(a)(c) public employees and reputation. 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 closed to the public at 7:56 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, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting room was reopened to the public at 8:09 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first 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, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Reputation, for a period of one (1) day. 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.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the third non-public session, on Reputation, for a period of thirty (30) days. Chairman Owens 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.

V. Adjournment

Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Myette 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 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary