

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, May 4th, 2017
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call
Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman's Additions and Deletions
Public Comment
Approval of Minutes
Maintenance Update
IT/Telephone Project
Election Day Presence and Warrant Article Support
Items for Signature
Roundtable
Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Landau called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:04pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Jack Cannon
Joseph Hagan
Stephen Landau
Dick Trask

Selectmen absent:

Cass Buckley

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Tony Amato, Maintenance Supervisor
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Landau led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman's Additions and Deletions

There were neither additions nor deletions.

1.5 Public Comments

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:05pm.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

An approval sheet for previous weeks' meeting minutes is in the signature folder.

III. New Business

3.1 Maintenance Update – Tony Amato

Maintenance Supervisor Amato appeared before the Selectmen to provide an update on maintenance activities.

Wason Pond

- Seven beavers have been observed at Wason Pond and have done much damage. Trees that were felled and not taken by the beavers were cut up in order to prevent them from ending up in the dam; brush went to the Transfer Station. The Wason Pond Commission has spoken with a trapper who will be addressing the issue.
- Two bridges are in poor repair. The Maintenance Department has made sufficient repairs in order that one may be used during the Wason Pond Pounder; the other is not part of the route. A decision needs to be made whether to rebuild the bridges with pressure treated lumber, or replace them with graveled-over culverts. The lumber solution will cost less, but will most likely last only another ~10 years. The culvert solution will require a dredge & fill permit and cost more, but will most likely solve the problem permanently. Wason Pond Commission Chair Chuck Myette was given those options for the WP Commission to discuss. Maintenance Supervisor Amato has recommended to the Commission and the Selectmen that both bridges be closed after the Pounder until a repair plan can be put into place. It was queried: is it only the water that causes the bridges to deteriorate, or is the weight on them part of the issue?
- The beach has been graded and raked; water for the fountain at the playground has been tested and the fountain activated. Tru-Green has fertilized the fields.

Exterior

- Spring clean-up has begun; mowing, thatching, and bark mulching. There are no plans to fertilize French Field, and no money in the budget.
- John Dalrymple will be back taking care of the fields this summer. He is very knowledgeable in his field of expertise and an asset to the Town.

Stevens Hall

- Bathroom floors in Stevens Hall have been replaced.
- Stevens Hall chimneys will begin when the temperature is reliably over 50 degrees. The chimneys project will cost less than originally estimated.

Municipal Complex

- Outdoor painting will begin when the temperature is reliably over 50 degrees
- Lighting in Town Hall offices, the Library, and the Salt Shed has all been replaced with LEDs, using retrofit kits.
- Three hot water tanks have been installed at the Municipal Complex. They will be run on a

rotating basis – 4 months at a time each – unless the building needs to be used as an emergency shelter. At that point all three can be turned on at the same time. This project cost \$500 more than originally estimated.

- The County Workers will be available the penultimate week of May, and a list of both inside and outside jobs for them has been created.

Maintenance Supervisor Amato departed the meeting at 7:23pm.

3.2 IT/Telephone Project Discussion

There had been some concern earlier this week that the Town would be unable to switch to VOIP due to Granite State Communications' assertion that they were protected under the "Rural Exemption"; this has since proven to be false.

The Selectmen continue to work on determining how to fund the three IT projects: Wiring, VOIP telephones, and Managed IT. Chairman Landau suggested that as the Server contract with Boston Systems is expiring soon, the Selectmen could vote to move forward with the wiring project and the server replacement as of July 1st. That would allow more time to continue to discuss the VOIP telephones, which could be voted on after Town Meeting and put into place later on during the summer or early fall.

Chairman Landau moved to accept the bid of Alarm Systems Plus to rewire the building, and to accept the bid of Block 5 to replace the server prior to the expiration of the contract; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion.

Some discussion ensued about the proposal to move the server into the Police Department, and whether the wiring needs to be done before the server can be moved; Mike Ebbett of Block 5 will be asked to attend next week's Selectmen's meeting.

The question was called. **The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

The Town is able to retain its current leased PCs by paying Boston Systems ~\$2,000 as a buyout. Future plans would be to replace PCs on a 3-year rotation. This would be the easiest and most reasonable way to move forward.

Selectman Trask moved to pay up to \$2,000 to purchase the computers currently being leased from Boston Systems; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.

3.3 Election Day Presence and Warrant Article Support Discussion

Vice-Chairman Trask, Selectman Hagan, and Selectman Buckley are all available to be at the elections starting at 7am; Selectman Cannon is available at 10am. Chairman Landau, as a candidate, may not be inside.

It was decided that there would be no assignments as to who would speak to each Warrant Article; those who felt moved to speak in support or in opposition, as long as the view was consistent with how the Selectmen had voted, was free to speak.

3.4 *Items for Signature*

There were a number of items to be signed, including one to be discussed in Non-Public Session.

The Police Department has received a letter of resignation from part-time Officer Nicholas McLellan, who is taking a position with the Rockingham County Sherriff’s office. Selectman Hagan stated that he would be sorry to see Officer McLellan go, as he has served the Town well; Vice-Chairman Trask added that with the additional Police Officer recently added to the Budget, the Police Chief will now be looking for three new officers.

Selectman Cannon moved to accept Officer Nicholas McLellan’s letter of resignation; Vice-Chairman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.

A request has been received from two Town employees to roll over 24 hours of vacation each to be used in July.

Selectman Hagan moved to approve Town Clerk Erin Newnan and Fire Lieutenant Scott Newnan’s requests to roll 24 hours of vacation each over into FY 2017-2018 to be used in July; Chairman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.

Building Inspector Myrick Bunker will be joining the Fire Department; he was formerly a Deputy Fire Chief in another Town. Town Counsel Gorrow has drafted an agreement to ensure that his compensation is correctly handled.

IV. **Selectmen’s Business**

4.1 *Roundtable*

Selectman Cannon:

- Nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Trask:

- Chester Cable TV Station has been airing a program on the history of Chester, “Remembering When”.

Selectman Hagan:

- Nothing to report.

Chairman Landau:

- Friday, May 5th is the last day for the Supervisors to post the final corrected and certified checklist. Two copies will be provided to the Town Clerk.
- Tuesday, May 9th is Election Day from 7am to 7pm at the Multi-Purpose Room. One may register to vote at the polls. The Town Clerk may also accept absentees= ballots up until 5pm; her office will be open.
- A newsletter was received from ESP, LLC, which is a benefit provider for the Town. This will be in the Selectmen’s office for anyone who would like to read it.
- Road Agent Oleson will be attending next week’s meeting to discuss his budget.

4.2 *Public Comment*

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:52pm.

4.3 Non-Public Sessions

Chairman Landau moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 7:53pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 7:56pm.

Chairman Landau moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.

Chairman Landau moved that the minutes to the non-public session on Reputation be sealed for two (2) months; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.

V. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, May 11th, 2017.

Chairman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda
Recording Secretary