

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 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
Liaisons
CIP Encumbrance
Roundtable
Town Administrator’s Report
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):

Stephen Landau
Chuck Myette
Steve D’Angelo
Jeremy Owens
Joseph Hagan (@7:22 PM)

Town Administrator Debra Doda (Remotely)

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

Fire Chief Greg Bolduc
Recreation Director Corinna Reishus

Eric Emerson
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 7:01 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 Liaisons

Chair Owens questioned whether the Board would like to assume their regular liaison positions or whether with the Town Administrator this was still necessary? Chair Owens noted while the Board preferred the Department Heads go to Town Administrator Doda first, it would be nice to know who to go to if TA Doda was not available.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated if anyone wanted to see the Board they could make an appointment Thursday night. Pay requests, the matrix all should go through TA Doda.

Selectman Landau indicated it could be a huge amount of work to put on the back of one person. In favor of keeping liaisons. Dropping all liaison responsibility on one person would tie up the Town Administrator entirely or shut down communications with that department. Don’t want to put the Town Administrator in that position.

Chair Owens noted bigger issues require us to be involved.

Vice-Chair Myette agreed issues should go to TA Doda first but he likes the liaison aspect, attending meetings. Asking her to attend all those meetings is too much. Vice-Chair Myette noted he is content with the liaison positions he has.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated he did not want to be the point man at the Department Heads’ meeting or the Fire Department.

3.2 CIP Encumbrance

Town Administrator Doda indicated the land near the septic system at the Fire Department, which was worked on during the Secondary Access Road project, is starting to wash out. The proposal is to scrape back the loam and add gravel to stop erosion, a fairly inexpensive fix. The Town didn’t use all the funds raised and appropriated for the project from Warrant Article #12 at Town Meeting 2019, and although the Warrant Article was designated as non-lapsing until December 31st, 2021, the auditors have requested that the necessary funds be encumbered.

Vice-Chair Myette motioned to encumber \$3,000 from Town Meeting 2019 Warrant Article #12, CIP Projects, Secondary Access Road, to repair the wash-out on the Fire Station property. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Landau – aye, Owens – aye and D’Angelo – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Landau indicated the CIP calls for a new vehicle, F-250 ¾ ton with plow. The truck that was supposed to come from the Highway Department is still being used by the Highway Department.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Selectman Landau indicated the Village Cemetery Trustees are responsible for the trees within the cemetery. The estimate for dead or dying trees in the French lot is \$4,300 provided by an established resident who has done tree work for the Town before. The contractor has stated that instead of taking four trees, he can do trim work on the third and the fourth can be saved. On a separate bill, there are two trees outside the Sanborn cemetery and one outside the North Chester cemetery (Smith Road) by the gate. The one outside Smith Road is holding the wall up but deteriorating quickly. A neighbor said the French lot ones are endangering his home. The two at Fremont are a few inches from the road. The estimate for the Sanborn and North Chester trees are \$3,700. The total is \$8,000. Selectman Landau stated that work outside the cemetery is not the purview of the Trustees, but Chair Owens noted both come out of the Town budget.

Selectman D’Angelo asked if Mr. Lewis might bid and Selectman Myette indicated Mr. Lewis did not. Selectman Landau asked if the Board wanted to put the work out to bid? Town Administrator Doda indicated there are a couple of other tree removal companies the Town has used before and that she requested Maintenance Supervisor Cavanaugh tag the trees in question and solicit two more competitive quotes by Monday.

Selectman Landau motioned to allow the Trustees to take down the trees in the French lot. Vice-Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, D’Angelo – nay, Hagan – aye, Owens – aye, Myette – aye and Landau – aye. The motion passed 4-1-0.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated the other three are under \$5,000 and the Board needs to take care of the ones that need it right now. Chair Owens agreed.

Vice-Chair Myette noted he received a quote from Farm Family Insurance to cover the Spring Hill Farm Trust and equipment and liability for \$564. Also the personal property, items in the house itself.

Selectman D’Angelo asked the policy limits? – \$1/\$2 million.

Selectman Landau motioned to accept the insurance policy and premium provided by Farm Family Insurance for \$564. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated he would like to look at the policy before voting and recommended waiting a week.

A roll call vote was taken, Landau – aye, Hagan – aye, D’Angelo – abstain, Myette – abstain and Owens – abstain. The motion failed 2-0-3.

The subject will be put on next week’s agenda.

Chair Owens noted the following meetings were coming up:

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee – Monday, August 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Planning Board – Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Board of Selectmen – Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 7:00 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, (c) reputation, and (e) pending litigation. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye and Owens - aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed to the public at 7:47 PM.

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

The meeting room was reopened to the public at 9:34 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on pending litigation, for an indefinite period. Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – Hagan – 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 public employees, for an indefinite period. Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – Hagan – 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 an indefinite period. Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – Hagan – aye, Owens - aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the fifth non-public session, on public employees, for an indefinite period. Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – Hagan – aye, Owens - aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the sixth non-public session, on public employees, for an indefinite period. Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – Hagan – aye, Owens - aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the seventh non-public session, on reputation, for an indefinite period. Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – Hagan – aye, Owens - aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the eighth non-public session, on reputation, for an indefinite period. Vice-Chairman Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – Hagan – aye, Owens - aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjournment

Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – aye, and Owens - aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

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234 Respectfully submitted,

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236 Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary