

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 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
Emergency Management Update
Transfer Station – Jack Cannon
Air Conditioning Repair
Spring Hill Farm
Roundtable
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 7:00 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
Steve D’Angelo
Chuck Myette
Joseph Hagan

Present: Town Administrator Deb Doda (Remotely)

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

Police Chief Aaron Berube
Fire Chief Greg Bolduc
BOS Admin. Janis Jalbert
Transfer Station Foreman Jack Cannon
Recreation Director Corinna Reishus
Michael Willinsky

Penny Williams
Chester CTV

and other persons unknown to the minute taker.

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 indicated a notice of closure for North Pond Road would be added to the agenda.

1.5 Public Comment

Vice-Chair Myette 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 Emergency Management Update

Chief Bolduc noted all is going well. The School is figuring out reopening. Town Administrator Doda added there were two meetings with the School Board and Administration at 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM today.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated the Tax Collector’s Office has been open since June 22nd to register dogs. Masks and social distancing guidelines should be followed. The offices at Town Hall are open by appointment so please call and make an appointment and someone will meet with you.

Selectman Landau would like to allow one or two people into the Historical Society in light of 300th Anniversary preparations so that they can work with the collection that is there.

Selectman Landau motioned to open that portion of Stevens Hall to the Historical Society for one or two people at a time. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion.

Mrs. Reishus indicated she reached out to maintenance about changing the locks and the locksmith will be there today, tomorrow or Monday. An email has gone out as well as new paperwork asking to contact Mrs. Reishus to let people in so she can coordinate with maintenance for cleaning afterward.

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

3.2 Transfer Station – Jack Cannon

Mr. Cannon thanked the Board for their time and updated the operations at the swap shop. Mr. Cannon indicated very little swapping was happening. Residents are cleaning out their attics and basements and disposing of unusable junk because there is nowhere they can get rid of stuff. Places like Goodwill ceased accepting items, not because of COVID but because people are home with time on their hands and are cleaning out their homes and garages. Mr. Cannon reported he went to the Derry transfer station and asked the manager why they don’t have a swap shop and she indicated they would not consider it.

Mr. Cannon indicated concerns with COVID and some of the items that are not cleaned and sanitized. The shelves are full. Boxes line the floor full of unusable items which could cause a serious safety hazard if someone trips over it and falls. There is no lighting other than natural light. Selectman D’Angelo reminded it gets dark in that building on Wednesday nights.

Mr. Cannon noted with five employees including himself there is a steady stream of vehicles dropping things off and three young adults with a low comfort level when people are told no and become argumentative.

Mr. Cannon had considered formally requested that the swap shop be shut down forever but has reconsidered and would like to instead request limited hours in order that it can be monitored and kept tidy.

Selectman Hagan reported there is an app where you can dispose of usable items.

Selectman D’Angelo noted he was over there a few weeks ago after hiring a dumpster to clean out his own basement and left some books there which he noted is worthwhile. With COVID no one is doing yard sales. Selectman D’Angelo recommended a moratorium rather than closure.

Mr. Cannon noted he can see the benefit and out of the respect to the Scouts who built it, he would consider reducing the hours on Wednesday from 6 PM to 8 PM and limit the hours on Saturdays from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM so they can staff and police items being dropped off and keep things stored in an orderly manner. Mr. Cannon will post signs. Selectman Landau indicated he would help monitor the swap shop. The idea is to take things out of the stream to reduce the amount of trash. For years the Town has had an award-winning transfer station. Selectman Landau recommended limiting the number of people to one at a time. Vice-Chair Myette indicated he would help also and noted cross contamination is an issue, even with recycling. Vice-Chair Myette recommended getting the word out in social media to let people know the reason why these steps are being taken and revisit the issue in a couple of weeks or a month.

Mr. Cannon asked if it were sustainable for Selectman Landau to volunteer his time and Selectman Landau indicated there will be a Scout meeting in a week or two and the Scout Master will bring it up.

Selectman Hagan recommended signage recommending people not bring material that relates to eating or drinking as the staff can’t be responsible for decontaminating it.

Selectman Hagan asked if the staff would like to close the last Saturday of the month for respite and be open longer on Wednesday that week. Selectman Hagan recommended building up the size of the staff so they can rotate out. Mr. Cannon will speak with the staff and get going on the hours and signs tomorrow. Town Administrator Doda will update the webpage.

3.3 Air Conditioning Repair

Town Administrator Doda indicated there were quotes provided to the Selectmen for the air conditioning repair in the Finance Office, Administrator’s Office and the BOS Office. The three quotes had a significant range. Vice-Chair Myette asked if one of the vendors was not providing something and Town Administrator Doda indicated that whereas all three vendors had provided a quote for the original request, the first and second vendors also provided quotes for alternate scenarios. The second and third vendors were not in favor of mini-splits.

Bidder #1 - \$14,700 to replace existing condenser and air handler, utilizing existing ductwork and vents

Alternately, \$20,700 to install mini-splits

Bidder #2 - \$9,600 to replace existing condenser and air handler only; utilizing existing ductwork and vents

Alternately, \$15,900 to replace existing condenser, and install new ceiling air handlers

Bidder #3 - \$6,200 to replace existing condenser and air handler, utilizing existing ductwork and vents

Vice-Chair Myette asked the life expectancy of the system and scheduling. Town Administrator Doda noted all three should be able to be here within a couple of weeks, depending on equipment availability. Vice-Chair Myette asked if any were used before or had references and Town Administrator Doda noted Bidder #1 was used before, and excellent references were received on Bidder #2 and #3.

Town Administrator Doda noted the roof-top condenser is it is over 30 years old and no longer repairable.

Selectman Landau motioned to accept Bid #3. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Myette – aye and Hagan – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Doda will contact the three bidders tomorrow and let them know.

3.4 Spring Hill Farm

Vice-Chair Myette indicated the Chair of the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee sent a letter of resignation indicating she has no time with other commitments. Vice-Chair Myette noted she has done a great job and asked to send a thank you note.

Selectman Landau motioned to accept the resignation of Emily Kunelius from the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee effective July 17, 2020. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye and Hagan – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated Corinna Reishus was interested in taking the spot vacated by the Recreation Liaison until someone from Recreation steps up. Town Administrator Doda noted there is two years left and Mrs. Reishus will fill out her term.

Vice-Chair Myette motioned to appoint Corinna Reishus as Recreation Liaison to the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee with a term to expire May 31st 2022. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Myette reminded Mrs. Reishus to get sworn in.

Vice-Chair Myette indicated he believes the trail ride may have been cancelled as Ms. Jalbert received an email but had no knowledge of it and the Legion who is sponsoring it does not seem aware of the cancellation. The Committee meets again on Monday night and the acting chair can discuss it with the Committee so everyone is fully informed. Town Administrator Doda will let her know.

Vice-Chair Myette reported the summer staff has been helping maintenance with painting, trimming and tidying up at the Farm. The Building Inspector sent a letter concerning the potential electric wiring and due to the condition of the building and existing wiring, the original quote for ~\$1,600 has more than doubled to \$3,450 as all of the interior wiring would need to be replaced as well. This can be discussed at Monday night’s meeting along with the condition of the buildings.

3.5 North Pond Road Closure Notice

Vice-Chair Myette noted the intersection of North Pond Road and Route 102 is going to be closed tomorrow, Friday, July 24th from 7 AM to Noon, and residents should seek alternate routes. The Road Agent requested to place signs on both sides and the Selectmen agreed the electronic sign provides good visibility.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Town Administrator Doda noted an email was received concerning the GOFFER grant extension until October. The Library employees were denied their pay during the first go around but now can be submitted. It looks like the entire payroll of public safety may be reimbursable.

Town Administrator Doda reported a request was received for ten signs to be posted in front of Town Hall about absentee ballots by a private individual. Vice-Chair Myette indicated this is not a town-sanctioned request and asked about policy. Town Administrator Doda indicated the federal census signs were allowed as a government function but this by policy is not allowed. Vice-Chair Myette requested responding back to the individual that this is not allowed.

Selectman Landau acknowledged the passing of Midge Gould, Barbara Dolloff’s sister who was a long-time resident and requested an announcement be put on the Town sign for a day or two.

Selectman Landau praised the cemetery trustees for their handling of the funeral for Lenny Stein at Great Hill. They did a wonderful job. Vice-Chair Myette agreed it was sad to see the passing of two such wonderful people.

Selectman Hagan reported the Zoning Board of Adjustment’s in-person meeting on the 21st went well and there was a lot of cooperation with safety and people waiting in their cars until their appointment time. The Board has two applications for next month.

Vice-Chair Myette noted the following meetings were coming up:

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee – Monday, July 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM

300th Anniversary Committee – Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Board of Selectmen – Thursday, July 30, 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) and (c), Public Employees and Reputation. Vice-Chair Myette seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:09 PM. Police Chief Berube remained in the meeting.

Police Chief Berube departed the meeting at 8:24 PM.

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 8:30 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Public Employees, for a period of thirty (30) days. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – 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 an indefinite period. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Hagan – 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 Hagan – aye, Myette – aye, Landau – aye, D’Angelo – aye. With all in favor the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hoiyer, Recording Secretary