

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, May 6, 2021
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
Road Acceptance Hearing Request
Field Usage: re masks
Masks at Town Elections & Town Meeting
BOS – In Person Meeting
American Tower
Fire Department
Dental Coverage & Life Insurance proposed changes
Roundtable
Potential Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Myette called the meeting of the Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:01pm.

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 (Present Remotely):

Chuck Myette
Steve D’Angelo
Stephen Landau
Joseph Hagan

Selectmen absent:
Jeremy Owens

Town Administrator Debra Doda (Present Remotely)

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

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
Phil Gladu, Fire Department Captain
Liz Lufkin, Town Clerk/ Tax Collector
Mike Oleson, Road Agent
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director
Penny Williams, Raymond Area News
PACT

and other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Myette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

None

1.5 Public Comment

Vice-Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 7:02pm.

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:03pm.

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 Road Acceptance Hearing Request

Vice-Chairman Myette mentioned that the road acceptance was brought up at the Planning Board Meeting. Town Planner Hadik had thought about an extension. This topic will be discussed more in nonpublic this evening.

3.2 Assign Warrant Article Support Duties

Town Administrator Doda confirmed the chairman fields a lot of the questions but advised it would be helpful if someone could speak to each warrant article. Below are the assignments for the articles.

Article #8 – CIP Funding – Selectman Landau

Article #9 – CIP Projects – Vice-Chairman Myette and Selectman Landau

Article #10 – 300th Anniversary – Chris Hadik, 300th Committee Member

Article #11 – Steeple Repair at Chester Congregational Church – Representative from the church

Article # 12 – Historic Building Capital Reserve Fund – Selectman Landau

Article # 13 – Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund – Phil Gladu, Fire Captain

Article #14 – Highway CIP Funding – Road Agent Mike Oleson

Article #15 – Highway CIP Projects – Road Agent Mike Oleson

Article #16 – Revaluation – Vice-Chairman Myette

Article #18 – Police Department OHRV – Police Chief Aaron Berube

Article #19 – Master Plan – Town Planner Andrew Hadik

Article #20 - Winter Road Maintenance Fund – Road Agent Oleson will table this at Town Meeting.

Article #21 – Discontinuance of North Pond Road Capital Reserve Fund – Road Agent Mike Oleson

Article #22 – Discontinuance of Carkin Street - Road Agent Mike Oleson and possibly the petitioner. Mr. Oleson questioned if the house on the left understands that if this passes the property will no longer have a driveway on town roads. The driveway will end on the neighbor’s property. This could be an issue in the future if they want to sell the property.

Article #23 – Rescinding of 2013 WA #20 – Selectman Landau

Article #24 – Restating of 2013 WA #20 - Selectman Landau will answer questions on this article.

Article #25 – Change in Town Meeting Date – Selectman Landau

Article #26 – 78 Raymond Road – Vice-Chairman Myette

3.3 Field Usage: re masks

Recreation Director Reishus advised a letter, about masks on the fields, was sent from the Principal at Chester Academy. The very first away game played the town had a mask mandate and some of the parents did not wear them. The school is requesting permission to place signs on town fields recommending masks and social distancing for spectators.

The signs recommended by the school would say “Spectators please wear a mask and social distance.” Captain Gladu advised the wording on the signs is suggesting masks are optional.

3.4 Masks at Town Elections and Town Meeting

Vice-Chairman Myette questioned where the voters that do not want to wear a mask will be voting; for example, a separate room with separate ballot box. Town Administrator Doda advised a consensus by three board members was to allow masks to be optional in the MPR for the town elections; and only to allow all voting to take place in one area.

Tax Collector / Town Clerk Lufkin advertised one room with a mask only voting booth set up that will be cleaned regularly, and no congregating of voters allowed in the MPR. All doors will be open and town officials and employees will be required to wear a mask if they are in the room for an extended amount of time.

Vice-Chairman Myette motioned to lift the mask mandate inside the MPR for Town Elections on May 11th only to recommend voters to wear a mask and to follow all the state and CDC recommendations. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – absent, D’Angelo – abstain, Landau – abstain, Myette – aye and Hagan – aye. The motion passed with Owens absent.

Vice-Chairman Myette asked for a recommendation for either a requirement or a recommendation for wearing a mask outdoors.

Selectman Hagan motioned to not require a mask when outdoors at the town meeting or on town property except Transfer Station. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – absent, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Hagan – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens absent.

Selectman Landau motioned to continue with the mask mandate in all town buildings including the Transfer Station until June 1st. Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – absent, D’Angelo – abstain, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Hagan – aye. The motion passed with Owens absent.

Tax Collector/ Town Clerk Lufkin reiterated that with this motion no one is exempt from the mask mandate inside the buildings.

3.5 BOS – In Person Meetings

Selectman D’Angelo inquired if the in-person BOS meetings could resume soon. With all the members vaccinated it should not be an issue. Vice-Chairman Myette noted we have a possibility of having new members and we are unsure of their vaccination status.

Selectman Hagan suggested delaying until at least June but having a non-vaccinated person is not a reason to not return to in-person meetings. This subject will be up for discussion again after the election, but in-person could start as soon as the first week in June.

3.6 American Tower

American Tower is asking for a revision for first refusal on the tower lease should the Town decide to sell its interest in the tower. Selectman Landau emphasized there is no benefit to the town. Vice-Chairman Myette asked Town Administrator Doda to inform American Tower the town is not interested in changing the contract at this time.

3.7 Fire Department

Vice-Chairman Myette announced the Fire Chief has announced his resignation. Town Administrator Doda is writing a press release and will hopefully have that ready tomorrow.

3.8 Dental Coverage & Life Insurance proposed changes

Town Administrator Doda inquired if the board would like to offer the employees a new dental plan that would include orthodontia coverage and a higher plan year maximum with a minimal increase. The budget is submitted prior to the insurance company giving the new rates so the increase would not be budgeted for in this fiscal year.

This matter will be further discussed in non-public.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Selectman Landau spoke to Charters Brothers and emphasized the roof price is needed by Monday and if that is not feasible, it should be in by Saturday’s Town Meeting. With the current pandemic, the cost of building supplies has increased, and the availability of a contractor has decreased. Charters Brothers has given us the paint quote but is recommending that the roof repairs will need to be done first so the paint will be protected.

Selectman Hagan:
Nothing to report.

Selectman D’Angelo:
Nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Myette reported the Conservation land purchase closing was this past Monday. The fishing line receptacles at Wason Pond have been installed just in time for the Fishing Derby on June 5th. Spring Hill Farm was not chosen for the grant they applied for.

Vice-Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and events are coming up:

Monday May 10, 2021	Budget Committee- 7:00pm Recreation Commission – 7:00pm
Tuesday May 11, 2021	Conservation Commission- 7:00pm 300th Anniversary Committee – 7:00pm Town Elections from 7:00am to 7:00pm at 84 Chester Street
Wednesday May 12, 2021	Planning Board – 7:00pm
Saturday May 15, 2021	Town Meeting starting at 9:00am at Chester Academy Parking lot

4.2 Non-Public Session(s)

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

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:19 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the fourth non-public session, on Public Employees, for a period of six (6) months. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – absent, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Hagan – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens absent.

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

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

V. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM.

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300 Respectfully submitted,

301

302 Janis A. Jalbert

303 Recording Secretary