

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, July 8, 2021
Municipal Complex
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
Fire Department Update
Class VI Roads: Green Road, Stowe Road
Plow Contracts
Prioritize Encumbrances
Chairman’s Announcements
Roundtable
Potential Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Myette called the meeting of the Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen Present:

Chuck Myette
Steve Couture
Steve D’Angelo
Jeremy Owens

Selectmen Absent:

Stephen Landau

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Phil Gladu, Acting Fire Chief
Nancy Myette
Mike Oleson, Road Agent
Robert Pellegrino
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director –(Remotely)
Penny Williams – (Remotely)

and other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Myette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

Shelter Permits were added to the agenda.

1.5 Public Comment

Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 7:01pm.

As no other Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:02pm.

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 Fire Department Updates

Acting Fire Chief Gladu noted the department has been very busy both call wise and around the fire house. Two significant fires mentioned were Ace Hardware in Raymond and a house fire in Hampstead. Chester was on the Hampstead scene for about four hours.

Chairman Myette questioned if the call members were getting experience and being debriefed at the out-of-town fire calls. Acting Fire Chief Gladu mentioned at the Hampstead, Call Member TJ Lannan led a crew of three to fight the fire. When the fire fighters are regrouping everyone is talking about what they saw or did or what is still left to do to fight the fire.

Selectman D’Angelo asked what the coverage is in town when Chester is called for mutual aid. When calls go out usually 8-9 members show up and only 3-4 are sent to a scene out of town.

Many items that have been ordered the last few months are shipping. A battery-operated stretcher to replace the manual stretcher on the ambulance is on order.

The Lieutenant’s position has been posted internally. Interested parties have until the end of the month to apply. Selectman D’Angelo inquired if there would be a hiring committee. Acting Fire Chief Gladu and Lt. Buddy Menard will be conducting the interviews. While the criteria for the job have stayed the same, an on-the-job shadowing program will be implemented for the position.

With the lack of Fire schools, a call was made to the State Fire Academy offering Chester Fire as a possible location to host the class. Of course, all the hands-on would still be done at the Fire Academy. Chairman Myette asked if there would be a possibility of getting a free seat in the class for hosting. Acting Fire Chief Gladu will ask but feels it may be impossible.

Town Administrator Doda mentioned one more quote for Fire Department parking lot paving is coming. There is around \$75K with the current CIP and the encumbered money for the project. Acting Fire Chief Gladu stated a plan will need to be in place during the paving, so the vehicles are available for calls.

3.2 Class VI Roads: Green Road, Stowe Road

Robert Pellegrino, 655 Fremont Road, which abuts Green Road a Class VI Road, stated that a few years ago, he was told by the Building Inspector that he could not access his property from Green Road. Stowe Road, also a Class VI Road, has recently had ½ a mile of erosion stone placed and is being used to access a property.

Mr. Pellegrino stated to use a Class VI Road the Selectman have to vote to open the road for maintenance and must have bond in place according to RSA 236.9. Selectman Couture clarified RSA 236.9 refers only to Class I, II, and III.

Road Agent Oleson mentioned he was contacted and asked what needed to be done in order to access the property for logging. Road Agent Oleson requested at the owner’s expense to place erosion stone on Stowe Road to keep mud off Fremont Road.

Mr. Pellegrino asked now that the road has been upgraded, if it is maintained would the road be considered a Class V Road? Road Agent Oleson explained that is only the case when a road is maintained by the town, and this is not being maintained by the town.

Chairman Myette mentioned a house with all permits could be built on a Class VI Road and the maintenance and plowing of the road would be responsibility of the homeowner.

Selectman D’Angelo asked if the town had an inventory of all the Class VI roads and how many of the road’s lead into town-owned conservation land. Has there been any thought to convert to some Class VI roads to trails? Selectman Couture mentioned there is an RSA that would allow this.

Chairman Myette asked Town Administrator Doda to have Conservation investigate converting some Class VI roads in town to trails.

3.3 Shelter Logic Tent Permits

Mr. Pellegrino pointed out the Building Inspector is going to fine him eventually for not having permits on two portable shelter tents on the property. The tents are 12x20 and can be picked up and moved around the property. If a permit is applied for and the tent comes down another permit will need to be obtained.

Chairman Myette advised all new regulations on tents came about after the circus tent came down and killed people.

Town Administrator Doda will communicate with the Building Inspector about the RSAs and regulations on tents as he is not present at this meeting.

3.4 Plow Contracts

Road Agent Oleson is proposing an CPI increase and changes to the plow contracts for the year. The CPI increase is 3.2% and the contract increase proposed is 3.68%. New hourly rates proposed are as follows:

6 Wheel dump truck with plow, wing, sander	\$110.00
6 Wheel dump truck with plow & sander	\$93.00
1 ton truck with plow & sander	\$80.00
1 ton truck with plow only	\$75.00
Backhoe (no guarantee, only when needed)	\$87.00

The largest increase is with the 6 Wheel dump truck with plow, wing, and sander. Currently we have three, however the town needs at least five.

Selectman Couture suggested lowering the 6 Wheel dump truck with plow, wing, and sander to \$108 per hour for a total budget increase of 3.2%. All were in favor including Road Agent Oleson.

Road Agent Oleson is also proposing to change the pay guarantee. Currently the town has a lump sum guarantee for the season. The State of NH and some towns have changed to a guaranteed stipend for each day there is no snow. The proposal is for a one-hour guarantee Monday thru Friday for no snow days.

Comparison from the last contract and proposed contract for guaranteed payment for the season if there is zero snow are as followed:

	Trucks	FY 20-21	FY 21-22 Proposed
6 Wheel dump truck with plow, wing, sander	3	\$8,000.00	\$108.00
6 Wheel dump truck with plow & sander	5	\$7,000.00	\$93.00
1 ton truck with plow & sander	1	\$6,000.00	\$80.00
1 ton truck with plow only	0	\$6,000.00	\$75.00
Total Guaranteed Nov 15 to April 15		\$65,000.00	\$95,590.00

If the town had an additional two 6 Wheel dump truck with plow, wing, sander for the season the comparison is as follows:

	Trucks	FY 20-21	FY 21-22 Proposed
6 Wheel dump truck with plow, wing, sander	5	\$8,000.00	\$108.00
6 Wheel dump truck with plow & sander	5	\$7,000.00	\$93.00
1 ton truck with plow & sander	1	\$6,000.00	\$80.00
1 ton truck with plow only	0	\$6,000.00	\$75.00

Total Guaranteed Nov 15 to April 15		\$65,000.00	\$119,350.00
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Vice-Chairman Owens motioned to accept the proposed contract with a 3.2% CPI increase. Selectman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – aye, Landau –absent. With all in favor, the motion passed Landau absent.

3.5 Prioritize Encumbrances

This subject will be discussed if needed on July 22, 2021.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings for next week:

Monday, July 12, 2021	Budget Committee Meeting at 7:00pm Wason Pond Committee Meeting at 7:00pm
Tuesday, July 13, 2021	Conservation Commission Meeting at 7:00pm
Wednesday, July 14, 2021	Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm

4.2 Roundtable

Vice Chairman Owens:
Nothing to report.

Selectman Couture mentioned the School Board considered the solar power proposal but feels it is not plausible with the condition of their roof.

Selectman D’Angelo suggested having Maintenance paint the town shed on Raymond Road.

Chairman Myette:
Nothing to report.

4.3 Non-Public Session(s)

Chairman Myette announced there are non-publics on reputation and pending litigation.

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

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:10 pm.

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:42 PM.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Pending Litigation, for a period of one (1) year. Selectman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – aye, Landau –absent. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Landau absent.

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

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

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

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

V. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis A. Jalbert
Recording Secretary