

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, September 9, 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
East Derry Road
Maintenance Department Update
FD Needs Assessment Questions
Stevens Hall Restoration Working Group Update
NHMA Virtual Workshops: “A Hard Road to Travel”
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 D’Angelo
Stephen Landau
Jeremy Owens

Selectmen Absent:

Steve Couture

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Chris Carolan, Great Hill Cemetery Trustees
Paul Cavanaugh, Maintenance Director
John Colman, Great Hill Cemetery Trustees
Phil Gladu, Acting Fire Chief

Mark Keddy, Great Hill Cemetery Trustees
Stacy Manfrates
Nancy Myette
Mike Oleson, Road Agent (Remotely)
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director
Darrell Quinn, Great Hill Cemetery Trustees

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

None

1.5 Public Comment

Selectman Landau noted the local paper mentioned the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting would be on the 23rd of September not tonight.

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

As no 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.

III. New Business

3.1 East Derry Road

This agenda item was moved to later in the meeting.

3.2 Maintenance Department Update

Maintenance Director Cavanaugh presented Stacy Manfrates who will be filling the 25-30 hour a week housekeeping position in the town. Her responsibilities during the probationary period will be cleaning the Municipal Building, Annex and Police Department.

Selectman Landau motioned to hire Stacy Manfrates into the part-time housekeeping position. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo –

aye, Owens – aye, Couture – absent, Landau –aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with Couture absent.

3.3 FD Needs Assessment Questions

Chairman Myette stated Acting Fire Chief Gladu has asked to participate in the process.

Selectman D’Angelo has done research and found ICMA Center for Public Safety Management in New York. This company goes all over the country and works on strategic planning for both police and fire.

Chairman Myette mentioned the strategic plan was recommended by MRI a few years ago. He researched about a dozen strategic plans and essentially, they were assessments. A strategic plan will answer what our strengths and weaknesses are. This will also allow us to see where we are and where we need to be.

Selectman D’Angelo reached out to the National Fire Department Administration and learned there are set standards for rural communities. They were very helpful, and some questions arose from the conversation.

Chairman Myette suggested having a list of comprehensive questions for the next meeting and possibly having more companies that do strategic planning.

3.4 Stevens Hall Restoration Working Group Update

Selectman Landau has been in contact with a few people about being on the Stevens Hall Restoration Working Group and will continue to get a few more individuals. The first meeting will be in October.

Selectman Landau pointed out many people want to know what the plan is for the building. It was suggested to show what the building is used for and what we will do with it in the future.

Chairman Myette suggested setting goals and have timelines for the working group.

3.5 NHMA Virtual Workshops: “A Hard Road to Travel”

Town Administrator Doda mentioned some NHMA virtual workshops that may be of interest, A Hard Road to Travel, Right to Know Law- Government Records and public meetings, and Right to Know Law for Law Enforcement. Town Administrator Doda will register interested individuals.

3.1 East Derry Road (Continued)

Town Administrator Doda reported the Police Chief has had no complaints on East Derry Road. Road Agent Oleson stated he has not received complaints or had issues on East Derry Road.

Anne MacDonald of East Derry Road indicated the road is unsafe since being repaved. There are only two 25 mile per hour signs on the road and no crosswalks. She estimated the speed of most vehicles to be 45-47.5 miles per hour. Every morning around 6:30 am commercial vehicles are constantly speeding down the road.

Ms. MacDonald questioned if a study was done prior to the road being repaved. Selectman Landau pointed out the Board of Selectman have 62 miles of roadways. If studies were done for every road people would not be able to afford to live in the town. Based on accidents and the work that was done there will be no other work being done on East Derry Road.

Ms. MacDonald advised the road is being used as a cut thru, so the traffic has significantly increased and there are no crosswalks to make it safer for the people that walk the street. Selectman Landau stated crosswalks are not being done on other roads in town, so they are not an option for East Derry Road. The Police Department can monitor the road for speeders, but they cannot put an officer on East Derry Road for 8 hours a day.

Ms. MacDonald suggested not having commercial trucks on the road and possibly making a portion of it one way. The heavy trucks are doing harm to the road in her opinion.

Chairman Myette pointed out there is more traffic all over the town. East Derry Road is a cut thru just like some other roads in town. Chairman Myette mentioned if anything would be done it would have to be done with cooperation from Derry as part of the road is in their town.

Chairman Myette indicated conversations regarding Ms. MacDonald’s concerns will be addressed with both the road agent and police department.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

Selectman D’Angelo inquired about the state not having sufficient manpower to keep the state roads plowed this winter. Road Agent Oleson advised plow drivers and trucks are hard to find. If there is an emergency and our trucks are out, we will drop a plow on a state road. During a storm we all work together as a team. The Fire Department knows how to reach us if they need help getting to an emergency.

Road Agent Oleson feels everything is in order for the season other than not being able to find one more wing truck.

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following events:

Saturday, September 11, 2021	Town Fair, parade kicks off at 11:00 am, Midway is open from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm with entertainment and fireworks in the evening.
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Saturday, September 18, 2021	Legion Car Wash 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Transfer Station
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Saturday, September 25, 2021	Spring Hill Farm Fall Fest
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Sunday, September 26, 2021	Derry Trail Riders Trail Ride
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Chairman Myette announced the following meetings for next week:

Monday, September 13, 2021	Budget Committee Meeting at 7:00pm
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Monday, September 13, 2021 Wason Pond Commission Meeting at 7:00pm

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting at 7:00pm

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 300th Anniversary Committee Meeting at 7:00pm

Thursday, September 16, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting at 7:00pm

4.2 Roundtable

Chairman Myette stated the painter is doing a great job on the MPR mural.

Chairman Myette questioned if the town had the manpower or possible volunteers to help paint the front and side of the Annex building blue with white trim. Selectman Landau feels the town should purchase the paint.

Selectman Landau motioned to purchase the paint for the annex. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – absent, Landau –aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with Couture absent.

Selectman Landau mentioned the Eagle Scout project is almost finished asked that people stay off the wood walkway until completed.

Selectman D’Angelo indicated multiple calls were received from townspeople trying to get projects done and the Building Inspector being on vacation.

Town Administrator Doda explained there was a conversation about the Building Department Administrative Assistant skipping the permit technician certification and going straight to Assistant Building inspector. There is no timeframe, but she has been going on inspections to gain hands on experience. Chairman Myette advised this should be built into the budget.

Selectman D’Angelo wanted to remind people of the 20th Anniversary of the Twin Towers this weekend. Recreation Director announced a town observance will be held at the town fair at 11:45 am.

Vice Chairman Owens:
Nothing to report.

4.3 Non-Public Session(s)

Chairman Myette announced there are four non-publics on reputation and financial information.

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

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:00 PM.

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:40 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Financial Information, for a period of thirty (30) days. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – absent, Landau –aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with Couture absent.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Reputation, for a period of thirty (30) days. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – absent, Landau –aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with Couture absent.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the third non-public session, on Reputation, for a period of forty (40) days. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Couture – absent, Landau –aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with Couture absent.

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

V. Adjournment

Selectman Landau 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 – absent, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with Couture absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis A. Jalbert
Recording Secretary