

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, December 23, 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
Public Hearing Unanticipated Revenue over 10K
Appointment of Fire Chief
Conservation Commission Appointment
ZBA Appointment
Chairman’s Announcements
Roundtable
TA Report
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
Jeremy Owens
Steve D’Angelo
Stephen Landau

Selectmen Absent:

Steve Couture

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
Greg Bolduc
Myrick Bunker
Victor Chouinard, Conservation Commission
Colin Costine

51 Caelan Dunwoody
52 Eric Emerson
53 John Fitzgerald
54 Carly Gladu
55 Chase Gladu
56 Cassidy Gladu
57 Martha Gladu
58 Phil Gladu, Fire Chief
59 Beth Hanggeli
60 Alex Hodosi
61 Nancy Hoijer, ZBA Administrative Assistant (Remotely)
62 Tara Ingalls
63 Mark Keddy
64 Liz Lufkin, Town Clerk/ Tax Collector
65 Jill Moore
66 Steven Moore
67 Nancy Myette
68 Mike Oleson, Road Agent
69 Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director (Remotely)
70 Loran Sheley
71 Kristina Snyder
72 Nick Tranquillo
73 Jason Walsh

74
75 and other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary.

76
77 *1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

78
79 Chairman Myette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

80
81 *1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions*

82
83 None

84
85 *1.5 Public Comment*

86
87 Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 7:01pm.

88
89 Selectman Landau congratulated Town Administrator Doda for completing her master’s degree
90 with a 4.0 grade point average.

91
92 As no other Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:02pm.

93
94 **II. Old Business**

95
96 *2.1 Approval of Minutes*

97
98 An approval sheet for the previous meeting’s minutes was sent electronically.

99
100 *2.2 Items for Signature*

All members reviewed and signed the items in the signature folder.

III. New Business

3.1 Public Hearing: Unanticipated Revenue over \$10K

Chairman Myette opened the public hearing at 7:03pm.

Chairman Myette stated the Town is eligible for \$521,734.44. We have already received \$275,857.22. These funds may be spent to:

- Support public health expenditures
- Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency
- Replace lost public sector revenue due to the pandemic
- Provide premium pay for essential workers because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet

Tonight’s public hearing is simply to vote to accept the funds, not to determine how they will be spent.

Mr. Costine asked when the decision to spend the money will be made. Chairman Myette advised once all the funds are received the Board of Selectman will look at options.

The public hearing will be open for one (1) hour.

3.2 Appointment of Fire Chief (moved to further in the meeting)

3.3 Conservation Commission Appointment

Mr. Chouinard, Conservation Commission Chairman, introduced Mr. Tranquillo to the Board. He mentioned Mr. Tranquillo reached out showing interest in becoming a member. He has been participating in meetings and the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to bring him on as an alternate.

Mr. Tranquillo advised he is very passionate in preserving land.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to appoint Nick Tranquillo as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire on May 31, 2024. Selectman Landau 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 unanimously with Couture absent.

Mr. Tranquillo was sworn in by Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lufkin.

151
152 *3.4 ZBA Appointment*
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154 Ms. Nancy Hoijer invited Mr. Walsh to attend ZBA Meetings after he filled out an application
155 without assistance.

156
157 Mr. Walsh mentioned he moved to town a year ago and would like to give back to the community.
158

159 ***Selectman D’Angelo motioned to appoint Jason Walsh as an alternate member of the Zoning***
160 ***Board of Adjustments with a term to expire on May 31, 2024. Vice Chairman Owens seconded***
161 ***the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –aye, Couture –***
162 ***absent, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Couture absent.***
163

164 Mr. Walsh was sworn in by Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lufkin.
165

166 *3.2 Appointment of Fire Chief (Continued)*
167

168 Chairman Myette reported the vacant Fire Chief’s position has been filled by Acting Fire Chief
169 Gladu.

170
171 Chairman Myette noted he has Fire I, Fire II, and EMT and 21 years in the Navy. He joined the Fire
172 Department as a call member in 2008, became a full-time Firefighter in 2019, and has been Acting
173 Fire Chief since May.

174
175 ***Selectman Landau motioned to appoint Phil Gladu as Fire Chief for the Town of Chester.***
176 ***Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo –***
177 ***aye, Owens –aye, Couture – absent, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed***
178 ***unanimously with Couture absent.***
179

180 He was sworn in by Town Clerk and pinned by his family. The appointment paperwork was signed
181 by the Board and by Fire Chief Gladu.

182
183 The meeting resumed at 7:34 pm.
184

185 *3.1 Public Hearing: Unanticipated Revenue over \$10K (continued)*
186

187 Road Agent Oleson stated that he was told to start the process of engineering on Cole Road because
188 the money from the ARPA grant was earmarked for the Cole Road Culvert. He has already moved
189 forward with the engineering as he was directed to do by the Town Administrator. If the money is
190 not going to the Cole Road project, he will stop all the planning and engineering until a decision is
191 made.

192
193 Selectman D’Angelo stated Cole Road is the #1 priority and the town is unsure if there will be more
194 money available from the infrastructure grant. There could be a possibility of more money coming
195 to the town for other projects in the town. Selectman D’Angelo suggested getting the engineering
196 done on some of the other projects in town.

197
198 Without the engineering the total cost of the project is unknown. Selectman Landau stated the town
199 has received about \$250K of the money and everyone is in agreement that the Cole Road Culvert is
200 the priority. Chairman Myette asked Town Administrator Doda if the Cole Road Culvert project fits

into the categories of the grant. She advised that both she and Town Planner Hadik had confirmed that the ARPA money can be used for the Cole Road project.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings for next week:

Wednesday, December 29, 2021 Public Ways Working Group Meeting at 5:00pm

Monday, January 3, 2022 Wason Pond Commission Meeting at 7:00pm

Wednesday, January 5, 2022 Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm
School Board Meeting at 7:00pm

Thursday, January 6, 2022 Board of Selectman Meeting at 7:00pm

Chairman Myette announced the following events:

Friday, December 24, 2021 Santa Ride starting at 4:30pm the route is posted on the town website and Facebook.

Town Offices Closed both Friday December 24th and Friday December 31st for the holidays.

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau thanked the Boy Scouts for their assistance with shoveling after the snowstorm for a couple in town that needed assistance. He also thanked them for their assistance with breakfast with Santa.

Selectman Landau mentioned Maintenance Director Cavanaugh has been looking for people to work at the Transfer Station. He mentioned two Boy Scouts have been hired to fill the open spots. Town Administrator Doda mentioned four applications have been received. Selectman Landau suggested hiring a few extra people to use as needed at the Transfer Station.

Selectman D’Angelo inquired what the impact is on the budget with the Fire Department changes. Town Administrator Doda mentioned the Deputy Chief, Lieutenants, and Captains salaries have been brought down to one (1) dollar on the budget. And the daytime line can be decreased to one person due to Fire Chief Gladu’s salary now being carried under the Chief’s line. Selectman D’Angelo advised if the Fire Department will need people in the next budget, Fire Chief Gladu needs to update the budget now.

Selectman D’Angelo advised the budget is currently about 11% and the budget needs to be in the range of a 6% to 6 ½% increase. Town Administrator Doda mentioned the salaries and benefits are a large portion of the increase.

Chairman Myette confirmed the budget needs to be looked at again. Salaries, benefits, and insurance are where the increases are mostly and can be difficult to control.

Vice Chairman Owens pointed out the Board should look at additional help on a later shift for cleaning facilities. What would the budget look like if we were to add a person to clean at night to open up facilities to more groups. Selectman Landau indicated Maintenance Director Cavanaugh is being proactive and looking for someone to help in the evenings.

Chairman Myette feels the CDC guidelines still need to be followed. Vice Chairman Owens suggested finding money in the budget to clean at night. It would not be many hours per week.

Selectman D’Angelo questioned if a March Town Meeting would happen inside with a large amount of people.

Chairman Myette
Nothing to report

3.1 Public Hearing: Unanticipated Revenue over \$10K (continued)

Selectman Landau reread the ARPA Fund Grant.

The Town is eligible for \$521,734.44. We have already received \$275,857.22. These funds may be spent to:

- Support public health expenditures: For example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
- Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector
- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
- Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to accept the ARPA Funds in the amount of \$521,734.44.

Selectman Landau 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 unanimously with Couture absent.

Selectman Landau motioned to close the Unanticipated Funds over \$10K Public Hearing.

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 unanimously with Couture absent.

The public hearing was closed at 8:04 pm

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to authorize Road Agent Oleson to spend money on the engineering of the Cole Bridge. Selectman Landau 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 unanimously with Couture absent.

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

Town Administrator Doda
Nothing to report

4.4 Non-Public Session(s)

Chairman Myette announced non-public sessions on reputation and pending litigation.

Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II) (c) reputation and (e) pending litigation. 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 unanimously with Couture absent.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:07 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 unanimously with Couture absent.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:48 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Pending Litigation, 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 unanimously with Couture 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 Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –aye, Couture – absent, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Couture absent.

V. Adjournment

Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. 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 unanimously with Couture absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis A. Jalbert
Recording Secretary