

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, January 20, 2022
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
CIP Warrant Review
Chairman’s Announcements
Roundtable
TA Report
Action Items
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 (Remotely)
Steve Couture
Steve D’Angelo
Stephen Landau

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
Nancy Myette
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director

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

Selectman Landau asked for a non-public with Police Chief Berube.

1.5 Public Comment

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.

III. New Business

3.1 CIP Warrant Review

Chairman Myette advised the Public Ways Working Group will be coming to see the Board on February 3, 2022, to present their findings about article #a- Road Agent. The Working Group has come up with a good job description, qualifications, and more. Selectman Landau feels compensation should be added to the warrant article. A decision needs to be made about the time frame for hiring if this article passes. Selectman D’Angelo suggested amending the budget on the floor if this should pass.

Selectman Landau always votes no on article #b- Revaluation. It should be by assessment and not every 5 years. Selectman D’Angelo pointed out the RSA mandates the town to do it.

Article #c- PACT and #d- Solar Lease have no tax impact for the town.

Article #e Budget was finalized, and the fireworks will stay in the budget.

Selectman D’Angelo suggested funding Article #f – Establishing Culverts and Crossings Capital Reserve Fund with interest from other capital reserve funds such as the Winter Maintenance Fund and \$50K from the unassigned fund balance.

Selectman Landau advised this is the 10th year for funding article #g1 – 300th Anniversary. Article #g2 will be renaming the fund with the intention of asking for \$1K per year for the next significant anniversary in town.

Selectman D’Angelo mentioned the CIP Capital Reserve Fund has \$1.3M and the question is how much of that does the Board want to spend. Selectman Landau pointed out article #h – CIP Funding refers to article #i – CIP Projects. The Wason Pond Well Pump and Water Line can be done using impact fees this year and not be placed on the warrant article for next year. Selectman D’Angelo suggested \$600K for article for article #h.

Selectman D’Angelo inquired why a van for the seniors is not on the CIP Projects list. Selectman Landau stated one of the issues was who would be driving the van bringing the seniors to different events and meetings in town. Selectman D’Angelo suggested adding a van to the CIP projects. CART was mentioned as an opportunity for transportation; however, an appointment is needed well in advance, and it is offered only during certain times.

Selectman D’Angelo asked how much the town wanted to fund on article #j – Highway CIP Funding. He mentioned the department will be busy with finishing Fremont Road and North Pond Road. Chairman Myette advised there is shim work and gravel needed on many roads in town totaling \$1,050,900. The total Highway CIP for this year is \$2.1M. Cole Road Culvert is on the list with the hopes of it being funded by ARPA grants.

Selectman D’Angelo asked what the priority is on the roads on the list. Cole Road should not be worked on until after the culvert is fixed. Some of the roads on the list need the overlay done and then they will disappear from the list. Selectman D’Angelo suggested funding the overlays this year on Parker Road, Rand Drive, Holman Way, North Pond Road, and Fremont Road.

Selectman Landau mentioned if the engineering is done now on Shepard Home there is a chance of funding from the infrastructure grants and the engineering will be good for five years. Selectman D’Angelo suggested the ARPA money could be used for the engineering of Shepard Home Road as well as what has already been approved for the engineering of Cole Road.

The consensus was \$600K to fund article #j - Highway CIP Funding and use \$700K of the CIP money along with the ARPA Funds to do the overlaying of the five roads mentioned above and the engineering for Cole Road and Shepard Home Road.

There are no changes to Article #l- Winter Maintenance Fund and Article #m- Master Plan.

It was requested that Article #n reads Funding Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. Funding for Article #n and Article #o- Funding Historical Building Capital Reserve Fund will stay with \$200 provided at the last Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

The rest of the articles are petitions and one non public on article #r.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings for next week:

Monday, January 24, 2022	Budget Committee Meeting at 7:00pm
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Tuesday, January 25, 2022	Spring Hill Farm Meeting at 7:00pm
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Wednesday, January 26, 2022	Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm
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Thursday, January 27, 2022	Board of Selectman Meeting at 7:00pm
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Chairman Myette announced the following events:

Sign up to run for office Wednesday, January 19th - Friday, January 28th, 2022. List available on the Town Clerk’s page.

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau mentioned the Recreation Department purchased an 8x10 projector screen with money from the revolving fund a few years again. It was placed in front of the curtain in the MPR but behind the valance so cannot be seen unless being used. The decision was to pass on the quote and utilize the screen we currently have.

Vice Chairman Owens

Nothing to report

Selectman D’Angelo

Nothing to report

Selectman Couture mentioned the first hazard mitigation plan update meeting was well attended. There will be 4-5 meetings with the consultant and the town provides in kind services for the update.

Selectman Landau directed attention to a property being cut near a road that is not town approved and next to town owned property. The town owned property has not been surveyed. Chairman Myette mentioned the town owns more than what is on the map. He will speak to the Conservation Commission about having the conservation land surveyed. Administrative Assistant Jalbert was tasked with inquiring about an updated map.

Chairman Myette reiterated the request from the Public Ways Working Group to have a meeting with the Board of Selectmen on February 3, 2022.

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

Administrative Assistant Jalbert mentioned another Covid-19 case in the MPR from an event on Monday night. Selectman D’Angelo suggested a sign on the doors stating to wear a mask in the building regardless of vaccination status. Administrative Assistant Jalbert will put up new signs on the door.

Selectman D’Angelo questioned if the seniors were meeting in the community center. Recreation Director Reishus advised until the handicap ramp is resolved the seniors are meeting in the church vestry. Chairman Myette inquired if the top deck has been rebuilt. Director Reishus explained it needs a board to be repaired but it can still be utilized. Chairman Myette requested the landing be checked on; he was told the upper landing needed to be completely repaired. Director Reishus indicated that the deck repair work will be done by the Maintenance Department.

4.4 Action Items

Nothing to report

4.5 Non-Public Session(s)

Chairman Myette announced non-public sessions on reputation and legal.

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

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:23PM

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:28 PM.

Chairman Owens left the meeting during the first non-public.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first 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 –absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With four 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 Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens absent.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the third 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 –absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens absent.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the fourth 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 –absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed unanimously with Owens absent.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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252 Janis A. Jalbert
253 Recording Secretary