

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 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
Post Office Offer
Town Meeting Assignments
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 7:01pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen Present:

Chuck Myette
Jeremy Owens
Steve Couture
Steve D’Angelo (Remotely)
Stephen Landau

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
Phil Gladu, Fire Chief
Bob Grimm
Liz Lufkin, Town Clerk / Tax Collector (Remotely)
Stacy Manfrates (Remotely)
Nancy Myette
Russ Norman
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director (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

None

1.5 Public Comment

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

Russ Norman, Raymond Road, advised that the town voted for Chester to have its own state representative and no one has a status update on this. The maps have been redrawn but not approved and Chester is now paired with Fremont. Mr. Norman feels the town is owed an answer from the Legislature.

Selectman Landau suggested writing a letter to the Speaker of the House. Chairman Myette will also follow up with a letter and a call to Representative Ford.

Selectman Couture mentioned there is hope as the redistricting has not yet been approved. The Senate passed their version and sent it back to the House of Representatives for approval.

As no other Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:06pm.

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 Post Office Offer

Selectman Landau mentioned offers to purchase the post office building and land have come before the Board many times. He advised there is no advantage or benefit for the town. Additionally, Stevens Hall, Chester Library and the Post Office are on one lot and would need to be subdivided.

Selectman Couture inquired if there had been thoughts of leasing the second floor. Selectman Landau advised there is serious work that would be needed prior to leasing in order for the building to meet code. There have been thoughts of connecting the second floor to the library for either a meeting area or offices.

Town Administrator Doda will send a letter to the requestor advising that the Board of Selectmen are not interested at this time.

3.2 Town Meeting Assignments

The Board discussed who would speak on the warrant articles.

Chairman Myette and Mr. Stover will speak and answer any questions on Warrant Article #8 - Recission of the Road Agent Position.

Article #9 - Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund happens every year and revaluations are a statutory requirement for the town.

Selectman Couture will do the background on the solar array and the either table or modify article #10 – Solar Array. ReVision Energy would like to continue to work with the town if there is another property.

Selectmen Landau will review article # 11 – Discontinuance of Hart Roberts Road since he knows the history.

It was suggested the Budget Committee will speak on article 12 – Operating Budget.

Selectman D’Angelo has knowledge on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process and will answer any questions on articles #13 and #14 – CIP Funding and projects and articles #15 and #16 – Highway CIP funding and projects.

Town Administrator Doda will contact Fire Chief Gladu to speak on article #17 – Funding Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman D’Angelo advised this would be a great time to introduce the Fire Chief to the town.

Article 18 – PACT happens every year and Mr. Grimm (not present) will be available for questions.

Selectman Landau advised this will be the last year to raise and appropriate funds for article 19 - 300th Anniversary.

Town Planner Hadik (not present) can answer any questions on article #20 – Master Plan.

Selectman Landau mentioned article #21 – Winter Road Maintenance Fund is capped at \$105K. The Selectmen will be unable to answer if the fund will need to be replenished with the Town Meeting in March.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings for next week:

Monday, February 28, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting at 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm

Thursday, March 3, 2022 Board of Selectman Meeting cancelled unless something needs the Board’s attention. The next meeting will be March 17th, 2022

Chairman Myette announced the following upcoming events:

Saturday, February 26, 2022 Spring Hill Farm Winterfest from 2:00pm to 7pm. Many events are planned; the event will end with a bonfire from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau has one non-public.

Selectman Couture advised a change in guidance was announced at the governor’s press conference. The town should be ready to open all the buildings and programs. Town Administrator Doda will work with Recreation Director Reishus on following the guidelines once released.

Recreation Director Reishus announced the family open gym would be opening soon. Chairman Myette advised the CDC and state guidelines need to be followed.

Vice Chairman Owens

Nothing to report

Selectman D’Angelo made an observation when the Board shuffles paperwork it can be loud for the viewers on ZOOM.

Chairman Myette mentioned that Town Planner Hadik is researching grants and funding for projects in the town.

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

Road Agent Oleson (not present) suggested closing the municipal building due to the snowstorm lasting all day. All agreed in closing the building.

4.4 Action Items

Nothing to report

4.5 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 –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:04PM

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 –aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 8:33 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Reputation, for a period of sixty (60) days. Vice-Chairman Owens 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.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Pending Litigation, for a period of one (1) year. Vice-Chairman Owens 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.

V. Adjournment

Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Couture 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis A. Jalbert
Recording Secretary