

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 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
LUCT – Kevin Scott
Police Department Grant Contract Authorization
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
Steve D’Angelo
Stephen Landau

Selectmen Absent:

Steve Couture
Jeremy Owens

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
Stacy Manfrates (remotely)
Nancy Myette
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director (remotely)
Kevin Scott
Ted Scott

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

A LUCT abatement request with Kevin Scott and the Truck purchase for the Highway Department has been added to the agenda. Selectman Landau has one nonpublic.

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.

III. New Business

3.1 Police Department Grant Contract Authorization (Moved to later in the meeting)

3.2 LUCT with Kevin Scott (added to the agenda)

Mr. Scott stated the discussion this evening is about a Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) Abatement request. The instructions along with the deadlines were mentioned. The deadline is ten (10) days away and Mr. Scott has not been notified of the decision made by the Board. Chairman Myette recalls conversations on the LUCT Abatement that was submitted but not the decision made.

Selectman Landau feels there should not be a change tax based on the fact there were four acres set aside for a house lot and the rest placed in current use. And the town then paid for a conservation easement on the land.

Mr. Scott read thru the abatement application. He noted two occurrences which the town was informed about, the withdrawal of 2.5 acres in 2004 and the driveway being built in 2006 that would have caused a LUCT bill being issued. He feels the municipality used an incorrect land use change date of June 11, 2021, which resulted in a land use tax invoice mailed on October 18, 2021. With the occurrences happening in 2004 and 2006, this was issued well beyond the eighteen months required in RSA 79-A.

Chairman Myette stated the money would have been owed to the town if the town had been timelier. Selectman D’Angelo feels the issue is the town failed to do their due diligence in a timely manner.

Selectman Landau motioned to approve the LUCT abatement request. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –absent, Couture – absent, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with Couture and Owens absent.

3.3 Highway Department Truck (Added to the Agenda)

Road Agent Oleson explained there is an increase of \$35K for the new truck for the Highway Department. The truck would not arrive until March of 2023 and outfitted in June if ordered now. Selectman D’Angelo stated the truck is on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the purchase can move forward. The revised invoice will be sent to Town Planner Hadik (not present).

3.1 Police Department Grant Contract Authorization (Moved from earlier in the meeting)

Chief Berube applied for an ARPA Grant and has been awarded \$24,552.00 for performing OHRV patrols; it includes personnel costs, maintenance, and equipment until June of 2023. A certificate of authority is needed to accept the grant.

Selectman Landau motioned to give Town Administrator Doda authority to sign the certificate of authority authorizing Police Chief Berube to sign all documents necessary for the OHRV Grant. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –absent, Couture – absent, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with Couture and Owens absent.

Chief Berube stated the Derry Police have provided an in-progress contract for prosecution services. When it has been completed it will be sent to the Board for review. The starting amount for their services is about \$26K with a 3% increase every year for up to 10 years. Selectman D’Angelo would like a 10-year contract like the ambulance contract.

Chief Berube mentioned training supplies, tires, cruiser maintenance items, office supplies and uniforms will be purchased prior to the end of the budget. Some vendors have sales right now and the department takes advantage of the sales every year. The Police Department budget currently has 23% of the budget left.

Chief Berube explained the department has been testing new vests and they will be purchasing the vest out of the CIP Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) line. The vest is worn over their shirts and takes some of the equipment off the duty belt. There are health benefits as well as being easy to use.

Chief Berube stated the department would also be purchasing two ballistic shields to be placed in the primary patrol cruisers. Selectman Landau inquired about where the ballistic shields would be placed. Chief Berube advised they will be placed behind the driver’s seat on the cage and in the trunk if they will be transporting two people in the cruiser.

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 300th Anniversary Committee Meeting at 7:00pm

Wednesday May 25, 2022 Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm

Thursday, May 26, 2022 Board of Selectman Meeting at 7:00pm

Saturday, May 21, 2022 Spring Hill Farm Work Day 9am-2pm
Friends of the Library Book Sale 9am-2pm
Wason Pond Pounder starting at 9am

Chairman Myette mentioned Wednesday, May 25th, the Town Clerk’s Office will be closed for training and Friday, May 27th the Town Clerk’s Office will be open 8:00am -12:00pm.

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau:
Nothing to report

Selectman D’Angelo asked when the next meeting for the cloud would be held. Town Administrator Doda stated the next meeting will be a zoom meeting on Monday, May 23rd.

Chairman Myette mentioned Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee met on Monday May 16th and confirmed the cleanup day on May 21st. The committee also received a grant check for \$12K for the Spring Hill Farm ADA renovation from an anonymous donor via Schwab Charities. Chairman Myette thanked the anonymous donor for the donation.

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

Town Administrator Doda mentioned an email from Eversource requesting access via Bridle Path. They do not have a key for the gate. Selectman Landau stated access needs to be granted. All Selectmen were in agreement.

Selectman D’Angelo mentioned Maintenance Director Cavanaugh (not present) has already implemented an age and driver license requirement for driving the skid steer. In addition, there will be safety training for the forklift.

Town Administrator Doda pointed out the water contract needs to be signed. The contract is for the testing of the drinking water at the Community Center, Stevens Hall, and Town Hall. Health Officer Dalrymple (not present) is certified and can test the water for the town, saving the town money.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to accept the contract. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –absent, Couture – absent, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with Couture and Owens absent.

4.4 Action Items
Nothing to report

4.5 Non-Public Session(s)

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

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

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

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:57 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Public Employees, until July 1st, 2022. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –absent, Couture – absent, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with Couture and Owens 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 –absent, Couture – absent, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with Couture and Owens absent.

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

Selectman Landau motioned to leave the minutes of the fifth non-public session, on Legal Advice, unsealed. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –absent, Couture – absent, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with Couture and Owens absent.

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

V. Adjournment

249 ***Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A***
250 ***roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens –absent, Couture – absent, Landau***
251 ***– aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with Couture and Owens absent.***

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253 The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 PM.

254
255 Respectfully submitted,

256
257 Janis A. Jalbert
258 Recording Secretary