

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, May 26, 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
Emergency Operations Plan Update Grant
Carkin Street
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 7:07pm.

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:

Fran Bechtold
Aaron Berube, Police Chief (remotely)
Deborah Chaze
Kim Chaze
Jeannine Gagne
Robert Latham

Stacy Manfrates (remotely)

Nancy Myette

Mike Oleson, Road Agent

Russell Quintal

Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director (remotely)

Lauren Rogers

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

Chairman Myette explained 3.1 Emergency Operations Plan Grant will be moved to another date.

1.5 Public Comment

Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 7:08pm.

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:09pm.

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 Emergency Operations Plan Grant (Moved to another meeting date)

3.2 Carkin Street

Mr. Chaze is unaware of action being taken on Carkin Street since the last meeting advising the Board there is an issue. Chairman Myette mentioned the need for engineering and easements needed on a property. He advised Road Agent Oleson has thoughts on how to fix the road and the costs associated with it.

Mr. Chaze reminded the Board this has been an issue for 20 years with countless budgets and it needs to move to the top of the list. Mr. Chaze stated the cost to repair the road is not a defense for the health and safety issue. Chairman Myette pointed out the road issue has been acknowledged, but the town cannot commit money it does not have. In order to fix the road, the drainage has to be addressed. It would not be advisable to pave the road just to rip it out in a year or two to fix the water issue.

Selectman Landau mentioned the road does need to be paved along with many other roads in town. We are concerned but there are major issues such as red listed bridges all over town.

Road Agent Oleson understands there is an issue with water, and he has done small fixes over the years when he has extra money left in the budget. Once the engineering is done, they will have a better idea on a timeframe and costs for the project. Also, the money will have to be voted on by the town.

Mr. Latham, Donna Street, mentioned Carkin Street has had a problem since 1997. A dry well was put in and the problem still remains. Chairman Myette reiterated the Town is working on engineering to find a solution to the problem.

Selectman Landau motioned to have the Town Attorneys work on a acquiring a drainage easement within the next ninety (90) days. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Owens – aye, Couture -absent, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with Couture absent.

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Wednesday June 1, 2022	Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm
Thursday, June 2, 2022	Board of Selectman Meeting at 7:00pm
Monday May 30, 2022	Memorial Day Service Town Center by Lions Club 9:00am Town Offices Closed for Memorial Day
Saturday June 4, 2022	20 th Annual Kids Fishing Derby (8:30-12:30) at Wason Pond contact Chester Recreation to register

3.2 Carkin Street (Continued)

Ms. Bechtold, Donna Street, stated the lot line adjustment with Mr. Quintal is in the works. Both parties are willing to be reasonable and accommodating with a water easement on to their properties if the engineers feel this is the best solution. Ms. Bechtold understands there is a puddle, and they go around it, but the main issue is one resident on the Donna Street has to pump their basement every storm because the water drains directly into it.

Mr. Quintal, Carkin Street, mentioned with engineering and permits FY 23-24 is a reasonable timeframe for fixing the road. He mentioned the quickest, easiest, and most cost-efficient way to fix the road is catch basins and an easement on their properties.

Ms. Gagne mentioned a drainage issue on Donna Street that has been previously fixed by the Road Agent. She pointed out she knows the issues with the road, and she accepts it. She mentioned she understands the process and how the town must vote. What everyone needs to understand is the road can be voted on at Town Meeting and the town could say no. Ms. Gagne stated Road Agent Oleson has done a great job on the road.

Ms. Bechtold advised the winters are getting worse and now Mr. Boddie (not present) has to deal with flooding on his driveway as well as his basement.

Ms. Rogers, Donna Street, mentioned the biggest concern is the freezing on the road and lawns making it a safety issue for the children walking to the bus stop. She reiterated Road Agent Oleson is doing a great job and she suggested the possibility of pumping the road prior to it freezing.

Chairman Myette thanked everyone for the suggestions for the short term and long term.

Mr. Gagne, Donna Street, mentioned the frustrating part is when we have a fast thaw the water is pumped out of the basement and into the roadway. On warm days the water runs down the road and then freezes at night. Mr. Gagne spoke to Road Agent Oleson, and they have a plan for the Highway Department to sand and or salt the road on those days.

Selectman D’Angelo mentioned the possibility of a stormwater grant that this may qualify for.

Mr. Quintal requested the town keep him and Ms. Bechtold in the loop with the proposed drainage easement.

Ms. Bechtold mentioned being co-chair of the Meeting House Preservation project. She is responsible for publicity. She thanked the Board for their support with the warrant articles and the towns support of the project.

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau suggested listing the buildings the Board would like to have alarmed. With this list Maintenance Supervisor Cavanaugh (not present) can get bids for one alarm system for the town handled by one company. Selectman D’Angelo mentioned Mr. Cavanaugh has already started the process.

Selectman Landau stated the metal roof on the Police Department continues to leak even after Grand Roofs tightened the nails. This is a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) item, and an estimate for replacing the roof is needed to place it on the CIP.

Selectman D’Angelo questioned the set-up fee for setting up traps for mice and requested the set-up fee be negotiated. The Board is in agreement the current vendor needs to be changed.

There continues to be a rodent issue at the Transfer Station. Selectman D’Angelo advised the problem needs to be addressed with the neighboring business.

Selectman Landau mentioned he may be absent for the road acceptance meeting. He suggested the Board drive all the roads being accepted prior to the meeting.

Selectman D’Angelo suggested Stamps.com for the postage for the town. All that is needed is the software download and a credit card. Town Administrator Doda will look into it.

Selectman Landau suggested waiving the certificate of insurance for the men’s pickup basketball in the multipurpose room. The Board is in agreement to waive the insurance.

Selectman D’Angelo suggested the Police Department step up patrols at Chester Academy. Selectman Owens mentioned the police presence during drop off and pick up. Selectman D’Angelo mentioned one problem at the latest school shooting was access into the building. He suggested the possibility of the Police Department giving the Fire Department some of the old bullet proof vests since they have the ability to gain access into any of the buildings in an emergency.

Chairman Myette
Nothing to report

Selectman Owens:
Nothing to report

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

Town Administrator Doda mentioned the damaged guardrail on Crawford Road has been fixed and reimbursement to the town has been requested.

Selectman Landau motioned to approve the guardrail expense to be paid by the Unanticipated Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund and reimbursed when the town has received the insurance payment. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, Owens – aye, Couture –absent, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with Couture absent.

Chief Berube requested authorization for a an OHRV patrol grant with NH Fish and Game. The Police Department has been awarded the grant in the amount of \$1.8K.

Selectman D’Angelo motioned to authorize Chief Berube to enter into a OHRV Grant contract with The State of NH Fish and Game in the amount of \$1.8K. Selectman 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.

Selectman Landau mentioned the forklift training for the Transfer Station. The Board agreed it is part of the job and everyone should get trained. Town Administrator Doda advised there are five employees signed up for the Solid Waste Certified Operator’s training.

Town Administrator Doda mentioned the culvert issue on Shattigee Road in Raymond is about to be fixed, but the land on one side belongs to Chester and permission is needed. Chairman Myette advised the Raymond DPW Director would need to submit the culvert replacement plan and wetland impacts to Town Planner Hadik (not present) and Conservation Commission.

Selectman Landau suggested asking Raymond for a stop ahead sign be placed on Mayfly Lane near Lane Road.

4.4 Action Items
Nothing to report

4.5 Non-Public Session(s)

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

Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II) (a) public employees, (c) reputation and (e) pending litigation. Selectman 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 closed to the public at 8:27 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 –aye, Couture – absent, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with Couture absent.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:25 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 with Couture absent.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Reputation, for an indefinite period. Selectman 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.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the third non-public session, on Public Employees, for an indefinite period. Selectman 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.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the fourth non-public session, on Public Employees, for a period of one (1) year. Selectman 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.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the fifth non-public session, on Reputation, for an indefinite period. Selectman 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.

V. Adjournment

Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman 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 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis A. Jalbert

300 Recording Secretary