

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 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 Consent Agenda
Clothes Closet Status
Conservation Commission
Budgets
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
Stephen Landau
Jeremy Owens

Selectmen Absent:

Steve D’Angelo
Steve Couture

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Victor Chouinard, Conservation Commission
Duane Demeritt
Chris Hadik, Wason Pond Commission
Terry Kennett, Clothes Closet
Nancy Myette
Nick Tranquillo, Conservation Commission

Mike Weider, Budget Committee

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 has one employment nonpublic.

Spring Hill Farm budget review has been deleted from the agenda.

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. Consent Agenda

2.1 Approval of Minutes

2.1.1 September 22, 2022

2.1.2 September 29, 2022

2.2 Rate Change

Chairman Myette explained the rate change request is for Officer Gacek completing field training.

Chairman Myette motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Selectman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens –aye, Couture –absent, Landau – abstained. With two in favor, the motion passed with Couture and D’Angelo absent and Landau abstaining.

III. New Business

3.1 Clothes Closet Status

Ms. Kennett has concerns with how the Clothes Closet is being treated. The Clothes Closet has been in its present location for twelve years and is seeing a large increase in people. She presented a timeline of events since the Fire Department did an inspection of the Annex Building. The Clothes Closet has fixed the items in the report, however the town has not fixed a few of their items such as tires and items in another room. Ms. Kennett is still waiting for an answer on when the police cruiser tires will be removed as she believes that they are a fire hazard in the building.

Ms. Kennett mentioned the Clothes Closet volunteers can take over the cleaning again from the maintenance department. Also, she is requesting town employees not to shop in the Clothes Closet when they are not open. Some items that were on hold were taken and a mannequin was broken.

Ms. Kennett advised the Clothes Closet is in need of more room. She requested to utilize the tire room after the tires have been removed to help with space issues. Chairman Myette understands the Clothes Closet is being utilized by a lot of people and needs additional space.

Selectman Landau pointed out the Boy Scouts had items on the fire inspection to be fixed and the oven belongs to the town and the market is not great for that item. Town Administrator Doda mentioned the oven is listed for sale.

Selectman Landau and Mr. Demeritt will work on finding a conex box to store the tires. Chairman Myette inquired if the town is saving money by buying the cruiser tires in bulk. Town Administrator Doda advised it is a savings to the town.

Chairman Myette thanked Ms. Kennett for coming in this evening.

3.2 Conservation Commission (moved to later in the meeting)

3.3 Budgets

3.3.1 Conservation Commission (moved to later in the meeting)

3.3.2 Budget Committee

Mr. Weider presented the Budget Committee budget with a flat increase. The educational line is used for paying seminar fees.

Town Administrator Doda inquired if the Budget Committee had a full board. Mr. Weider replied yes if they all show up for the next meeting on Monday.

3.3.3 PACT

Mr. Grimm presented the PACT Budget. There is one dollar in the budget in case of an emergency. The warrant article will be the same as the previous budgets. Mr. Grimm mentioned the microphones for Town Meeting were purchased.

3.3.4 Spring Hill Farm (deleted from the agenda)

3.3.5 Trustees of the Trust Funds

Selectman Landau mentioned the increase in the budget is usually the amount the investment company is paid.

3.3.6 Wason Pond Commission, WP Caretaker Cottage, WP Bath House

Mr. Hadik presented a flat budget but will need to increase the electricity budget due to the increase in electricity. Selectman Landau inquired if the caretaker’s cottage was being utilized. Mr. Hadik advised it is used by the summer recreation program.

The sand for the beach was originally a one-time request; however, the permit is \$400.00 so the Commission is requesting that it stay on the budget another year. Chairman Myette mentioned some erosion happening on the beaches at Wason Pond. Mr. Hadik stated that can only be fixed with sand.

Selectman Landau suggested moving the dam inspections budget into the maintenance budget.

Mr. Hadik inquired if the town would like to keep a few of the banner brackets from the 300th. Selectman Landau asked if the banners came with the brackets. Most of the sponsors requested their banners.

3.3.1 Conservation Commission (moved from earlier in the meeting)

Mr. Chouinard presented the Conservation Commission budget with a 23% increase. This is largely due to the increase in dues and training for new members.

3.2 Conservation Commission (moved from earlier in the meeting)

Mr. Chouinard presented Mr. Tranquillo for appointment as a regular member of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Tranquillo has been an alternate for a year and has taken on the task of easement monitoring.

Chairman Myette read the appointment paperwork:

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy for a regular member of the Conservation Commission (term to expire May 31st, 2025), and

WHEREAS, We, the undersigned, have confidence in your ability and integrity to perform the duties of said office, we do hereby appoint you, the said Nick Tranquillo, and upon your taking the oath of office, and having this appointment and the certificate of said oath recorded by the Town Clerk, you shall have the powers, perform the duties, and be subject to the liabilities of such office, until another person shall be chosen and qualified in your stead.

Selectman Landau motioned to appoint Nick Tranquillo as a regular member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire on May 31st, 2025. Selectman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens –aye, Couture – absent, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with Couture and D’Angelo absent.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette thanked Chester Academy for the reverse car parade to celebrate the Veterans. There were about 25 -30 vehicles in the parade.

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Friday, November 11, 2022 Conservation Commission Meeting at 7:00 PM

Monday November 14, 2022 Winterfest Working Group Meeting at 6:30 PM

Monday November 14, 2022 Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee Meeting at 7:00pm
(main meeting room)

Monday November 14, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting at 7:00pm (Rangeway Meeting
room)

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 ZBA Meeting at 7:00pm

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 Planning Board Meeting at 7:00 PM

Thursday, November 17, 2022 Board of Selectman Meeting at 7:00 PM. During roundtable
the time was moved to 6:00 PM.

Chairman Myette announced the US Marine Corps is celebrating its 247th birthday.

Friday, November 11, 2022 Celebration for Veterans Breakfast at the Legion 8:30 AM to
10:30 AM followed by a small service at 11:00 AM in front of
the Legion by the flagpole.

Friday, November 11, 2022 Town Hall, Library, and schools are closed for Veteran’s Day.
A heartfelt Thank You to all our Veterans for your service.

4.2 Roundtable

Chairman Myette mentioned moving the Board of Selectmen’s meeting to 6:00pm on Thursdays as
discussed last week. Town Administrator Doda pointed out this was discussed at a previous
meeting and the board members absent this evening were in agreement. Selectman Owens agreed
to changing the meeting time. Chairman Myette announced the Board of Selectmen meeting will be
at 6:00 starting on November 17th.

Chairman Myette advised the retired cruiser is at the shop having the police equipment removed.
Selectman Landau mentioned the old maintenance vehicle that was taken off the road should be up
for sale.

***Selectman Landau motioned to keep the vehicle and transfer the vehicle to the Maintenance
Department. Selectman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye,
D’Angelo – absent, Owens –aye, Couture –absent, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion
passed with Couture and D’Angelo absent.***

Town Administrator Doda reported Ms. Manfrates (not present) has asked to close the swap shop
ten minutes early both Wednesdays and Saturdays, and the burn pile early on Wednesdays now
that it is dark. Selectman Landau feels that the decision is up to the Transfer Station Foreman.
Having the brush pile closed on Wednesday night could deter dropping non-brush material in the
brush pile.

Town Administrator Doda mentioned the Planning Board was unable to talk about the release of impact fees for the card readers in the Town Hall. It will be discussed at the next Planning Board meeting. She is asking for the Board to approve the release pending Planning Board approval.

Chairman Myette motioned to approve the release of impact fees for the card readers pending Planning Board approval. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens –aye, Couture –absent, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with Couture and D’Angelo absent.

Selectman Landau pointed out the Town needs to plan for the future. With the appointed Supervisor of Roads and the purchase of more equipment the town will need a place to store items. Currently the CIP does not have a building for highway equipment or sleeping quarters for the plow drivers and employees during long storms.

Chairman Myette suggested a committee could help with the planning but essentially planning is part of the job. Mr. Demeritt mentioned the state is cracking down on sleeping in vehicles and the town should be looking into a bunkhouse.

Selectman Owens:
Nothing to report

Chairman Myette
Nothing to report

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

The New England Bible Church (formerly Livestone) is willing to host the tree lighting and holiday caroling at Stevens Hall. Town Administrator Doda asked for suggestions on where to get a tree. Chairman Myette will contact Dick Lewis.

4.4 Action Items *None*

3.2 Conservation Commission (Continued)

Mr. Chouinard mentioned the Conservation Commission is looking at which town-owned properties are protected with conservation easements and which ones are not. The Commission has a desire to protect some of the town-owned land with conservation easements. Selectman Landau stated the problem with having easements will not allow changes. Some of the town owned property may have to utilized in the future.

Chairman Myette suggested further details on which properties are being looked at and the reasoning behind the requested easement on the property. Mr. Chouinard will gather all the information.

4.5 Non-Public Session(s)

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

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

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:33 PM. Mr. Chouinard and Mr. Tranquillo remained in the meeting room.

Mr. Chouinard and Mr. Tranquillo departed the meeting room at 9:06 PM.

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:45 PM.

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

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

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

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

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

V. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

346 Respectfully submitted,
347
348 Janis A. Jalbert
349 Recording Secretary