

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 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
Employee Compensation
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 6:00pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen Present:

Chuck Myette
Steve Couture
Stephen Landau
Jeremy Owens

Selectmen Absent:

Steve D’Angelo

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
Shawna Davis
Marianne Duffy, Finance Officer
Phil Gladu, Fire Chief
Alex Hodosi
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director

and other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary.

51
52 *1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*
53

54 Chairman Myette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
55

56 *1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions*
57

58 *None*
59

60 *1.5 Public Comment*
61

62 Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 6:01pm.
63

64 Ms. Davis, Opossum Drive, asked the process to petition the town to purchase land. Chairman
65 Myette advised it would depend on what the land is for, examples being recreation or conservation
66 land. Most land acquisitions are for conservation land and that would entail meeting with the
67 Conservation Commission.
68

69 If it is not conservation, a meeting can be requested with the Board of Selectmen. If there will be
70 negotiations it would be best in nonpublic and that could be requested for another meeting date.
71

72 Selectman Landau mentioned another way is to create a warrant article to be presented at Town
73 Meeting.
74

75 As no other Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 6:05pm.
76

77 Chairman Myette announced a nonpublic on reputation and employment.
78

79 ***Chairman Myette motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II), (b)***
80 ***employment and (c) reputation. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was***
81 ***taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With four in***
82 ***favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo absent.***
83

84 The meeting was closed to the public at 6:06 PM. Recording Secretary Jalbert left the room and
85 Chief Berube remained.
86

87 ***Vice-Chairman Couture motioned to come out of non-public session. Selectman Landau***
88 ***seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens –aye,***
89 ***Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo absent.***
90

91 The meeting was reopened to the public at 7:55 PM.
92

93 **II. Consent Agenda**
94

95 *2.1 Approval of Minutes October 6th and October 13th.*
96

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

101
102 **III. New Business**
103

104 *3.1 Employee Compensation: Wage Matrix, Insurance, Benefits, etc.*
105

106 Town Administrator Doda mentioned the Board needs to decide if they are going to adjust the wage
107 matrix for the budgets. She advised inflation is up 7.75% and the September CPI was 8.1%. Finance
108 Officer Duffy mentioned the insurance rates will be finalized in March and the carrier confirmed the
109 rates would not increase more than 17%.

110
111 Vice Chairman Couture suggested a 3% CPI adjustment. Selectman Owens feels 3% is fair and
112 mentioned we are getting closer to a recession. Finance Office Duffy confirmed the Board agreed to
113 adjust the pay matrix 3%.

114
115 ***Vice Chairman Couture motioned to approve a 3% CPI adjustment to the wage matrix.***
116 ***Selectman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo –***
117 ***absent, Owens –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with***
118 ***D’Angelo absent.***
119

120 Town Administrator Doda pointed out when an employee is out on short term disability the town
121 has paid the employee the difference in salary. However, when an employee gets hurt on the job the
122 town does not pay the difference. Chairman Myette asked if there was a policy in place. Town
123 Administrator Doda stated no policies are in place. Finance Officer Duffy mentioned the Board had a
124 vote in 2013 to pay the employee the difference in pay when an employee is out on short term
125 disability.

126
127 Selectman Owens asked for a written policy that the Board could approve.
128

129 Employers can offer “Paid Family and Medical Leave” to employees. This will provide employees
130 with wage replacement coverage for specific leaves of absence. More information was requested
131 before a decision is made.
132

133 Vice Chairman Couture thanked Town Administrator Doda for her work on the bonuses for the
134 employees.
135

136 ***Vice Chairman Couture motioned to accept the August 4th calculations for the bonuses.***
137 ***Selectman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo –***
138 ***absent, Owens –aye, Couture –aye, Landau – abstained. With three in favor, the motion passed***
139 ***with D’Angelo absent and Landau abstaining.***
140

141 **IV. Selectmen’s Business**
142

143 *4.1 Chairman’s Announcements*
144

145 Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:
146

147 There will be no meetings from November 21st to November 25th.
148

149 Tuesday, November 29, 2022 Chester Historical Society at 6:00pm (Stevens Hall)
150

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 Planning Board Meeting at 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 1, 2022 Board of Selectman Meeting at 6:00 PM.

Thursday, November 24, 2022 Town Offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Friday, November 25, 2022 Town Offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Chairman Myette wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau mentioned Mr. Demeritt (not present) found a 20-foot aluminum storage container for \$500.00 in Chichester, NH for the Police Department tires. While searching Selectman Landau also found a brand-new steel container for \$3500.00. The question was raised if the tires were a fire hazard in their current location. Chief Gladu will check fire code tomorrow. If the tires are a fire hazard the Board will then decide on what to purchase. It was noted the tires were not mentioned in the inspection by the Fire Department.

Selectmen Landau pointed out there are no updates on the estimates for the Police Department Roof.

Vice Chairman Couture

Nothing to report

Selectman Owens:

Nothing to report

Chairman Myette

Nothing to report

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

Selectman Landau asked if Mr. Lewis was contacted about a tree. Chairman Myette will call tomorrow.

4.4 Action Items

None

4.5 Non-Public Session(s)

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

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

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:20 PM.

Mr. Hodosi remained in the room and Recording Secretary Jalbert exited the room.

Mr. Hodosi departed the meeting room at 8:25 PM and Fire Chief Gladu entered the meeting room.

Fire Chief Gladu departed the meeting room at 8:43 PM.

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:04 PM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

V. Adjournment

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

253
254 The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

255
256 Respectfully submitted,

257
258 Janis A. Jalbert
259 Recording Secretary