

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting  
Thursday, January 5, 2023  
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)  
Potential Non-Public Sessions  
Approval of Consent Agenda  
Recycling Initiatives  
Consultancy Agreement  
Request for Alcohol at Stevens Hall  
Lane Striping  
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  
Steve D’Angelo  
Stephen Landau  
Jeremy Owens

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Colin Costine  
Shaunna Davis  
Phil Gladu, Fire Chief  
Nancy Myette  
Ann Podlipny

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 and Selectman Landau each added one nonpublic.

### *1.5 Public Comment*

Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 6:02pm.

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 6:03pm.

## **II. Consent Agenda**

### *2.1 Approval of Minutes December 1, 2022, December 8, 2022, and December 15, 2022.*

*No comments*

### *2.2 Elderly Abatement*

### *2.3 Veteran’s Credit*

*No comments*

***Vice Chairman Couture motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Selectman 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.***

## **III. New Business**

### *3.1 Recycling Initiatives*

Ms. Podlipny is a concerned resident intending to connect the town to local, state, and federal initiatives to protect Chester’s rural landscape and its rural character. Ms. Podlipny, member of the NH Plastics Working Group, is working on reducing environmental pollution. Seventy- five percent of pollution is caused by digging up and burning coal, oil, and gas, and twenty-five percent is land use deforestation and agriculture. This is increasing pollution and global warming.

Ms. Podlipny gave examples of pollution in NH. She is a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby, who will be presenting a petition for Town Meeting. The warrant article petition is called the *Carbon Fee and Dividend Policy*. This would charge fossil fuel producers a fee to be distributed back to all residents. The more towns that accept the proposal, the governor or state representatives may sign on to the idea to charge the producers of pollution. Chairman Myette mentioned if the producers are charged a fee, they could charge more for their products.

Ms. Podlipny has been working with the schools to give kids more exposure to reducing pollution. She suggested the cafeteria not accept single use plastic by getting a dishwasher and reusable items to reduce waste. Another initiative would be to start an eco-club in the school.

Ms. Podlipny mentioned some initiatives the town could be doing, such as swap shops and community events that can address recycling and reducing pollution. Chairman Myette mentioned some of the committees in town are already doing some of the initiatives Ms. Podlipny is speaking about. Vice Chairman Couture recommended reaching out to some of the committees that are working on these initiatives, such as the Conservation Commission and School Board. Ms. Podlipny reviewed the different groups she has been in contact within the town.

Vice Chairman Couture feels a warrant article that speaks to the issue and a solution might be more effective and gain more support. Ms. Podlipny stated the proposed warrant article is being used by all the towns and cannot be modified. Forty-five other towns in New Hampshire have already approved it.

Ms. Podlipny asked that anyone interested in helping with reducing pollution and recycling initiatives in town please contact her.

### *3.2 Consultancy Agreement*

Chairman Myette presented the consultancy contract. With the Town not owning the equipment needed for the highway department, the Town needs to engage with contractors during the transition from Road Agent to Supervisor of the Roads. The Town will utilize these services as needed.

Town Administrator Doda mentioned the agreement has been reviewed by legal. Vice Chairman Couture addressed the maximum cap for the agreement. Chairman Myette explained Mr. Piper, Supervisor of Roads, (not present) has been tasked with revising the budget that was previously submitted. Selectman Owens feels a cap is not needed, the budget is the responsibility of the Supervisor of Roads, and he needs to manage it.

Chairman Myette mentioned Mr. Oleson (not present) has asked for a minimum to keep the equipment available when needed by the town.

Selectman D’Angelo feels the town is obligated to have this put out to bid and opined that there are other companies and people in town that have the equipment that is needed by the Town. Town Administrator Doda will gather information on what equipment has been hired in the past for more discussion at the next meeting, but noted that the agreement was not exclusive and was only intended as a one-year transition period. Selectman Owens pointed out the Town needs to start purchasing its own equipment.

The Supervisor of Roads will need to have a good plan for labor and equipment. Town Administrator Doda can help collect data, but the Department Heads need to run their own department.

### *3.3 Request for Alcohol at Stevens Hall*

Vice Chairman Couture recused himself from this discussion as the requestor and sat in the audience.

Selectman Owens pointed out the Board has never waived a police detail when alcohol is present on town property. This event will need to go before the Technical Review Committee. Selectman Landau pointed out the requestor is a resident and the fee for the building should be waived.

***Selectman Owens motioned to allow alcohol at Stevens Hall for this event. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Owens – aye, Landau – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed.***

The fee for the detail officer will be discussed closer to the event.

Vice Chairman Couture rejoined the Board at the table.

#### ***3.4 Lane Striping***

Town Administrator Doda presented the recommendation for lane striping from the Highway Safety Committee. The Committee proposed roads based on safety and most traveled. Other towns were contacted for information on what vendor they use and pricing. The recommendation is for a single yellow reflective line down the middle of the road. Selectman Landau feels the town cannot afford this and also the upkeep every few years.

Mr. Costine explained that 30 years ago the roads were not wide enough for lane striping. Some roads have been widened over the years, but the vehicles have also become larger.

Vice Chairman Couture suggested getting a recommendation from the Supervisor of Roads before a decision is made. Town Administrator Doda will send the information to Mr. Piper for a recommendation.

### **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

#### ***4.1 Chairman’s Announcements***

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Monday January 9, 2023	Winter Fest Working Group Meeting at 6:30pm
	Budget Committee Meeting at 7:00pm

Chairman Myette mentioned the Winter Fest will be held at Spring Hill Farm in February.

Tuesday January 10, 2023	Conservation Commission Meeting at 6:00pm
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Wednesday January 11, 2023	Planning Board will not be meeting this week.
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Thursday, January 12, 2023	Board of Selectman Meeting at 6:00pm
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#### ***4.2 Roundtable***

Selectman Landau called attention to the storm that left many residents without power for a few days. The Fire Department helped someone in town whose generator broke, Highway Department was out cleaning debris from the roads, and the Police Department were setting up detours due to falling trees and wires. Selectman Landau suggested the Board send a thank you letter to the individuals and have something placed in their files.

Selectman Landau mentioned the leaks in the municipal building. Town Administrator Doda pointed out the leaks were in places that have not leaked prior. Chairman Myette stated leaks in the roofs have been spoken about in the past. The information for repairs needs to be given to the Board in order to make a decision.

Vice Chairman Couture:

*Nothing to report*

Selectman D’Angelo:

*Nothing to report*

Selectman Owens:

*Nothing to report*

Chairman Myette mentioned the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is finished. He suggested focusing on Table 10 and if the Town can fund the items. Historically the Highway Department has been under funded.

Chairman Myette reported the Planning Board is in the final stages for the conditions of approval for the Garabedian gravel pit. The next step will be to get permission to utilize Stowe Road for commercial use.

#### *4.3 Town Administrator’s Report*

*No comments*

#### *4.4 Action Items*

*None*

#### *4.5 Non-Public Session(s)*

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

***Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II), (a) Public Employees, (b) Employment, and (d) Property. Selectman 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 closed to the public at 7:11 PM.

***Vice-Chairman Couture motioned to come out of non-public session. Selectman Landau 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 8:34 PM.

***Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Property. Selectman 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 Employment. Selectman 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 third non-public session, on Public Employees. Selectman 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 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 adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis A. Jalbert  
Recording Secretary