

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 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)
Non-Meeting with Counsel: Peter Phillips
Conservation Commission
Review Warrant
Chairman’s Announcements
Roundtable
TA Report
Action Items
Potential Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

The Selectmen and Chief Berube had a non-meeting with Counsel with Attorney Phillips prior to the meeting. The meeting room was opened to the public at 7:04pm.

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Myette called the meeting of the Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:05pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen Present:

Chuck Myette
Steve Couture
Stephen Landau
Jeremy Owens

Selectmen Absent:

Steve D’Angelo

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
Victor Chouinard, Conservation Commission
Kevin Dolan
Nancy Myette
Peter Phillips, Town Counsel

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 added an abatement to nonpublic.

1.5 Public Comment

Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 7:06pm.

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 6:06pm.

II. Consent Agenda

2.1 Minutes January 5, 2023

No comments

2.2 Rate Sheets

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 – absent, Owens – aye, Couture –aye, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo absent.

III. New Business

3.1 Non-Meeting with Counsel: Peter Phillips

3.2 Conservation Commission

Mr. Chouinard is following up on the bids for the survey on town property. Surveying of these parcels has been mentioned for many years but with recent development in the area there is a concern. Selectman Landau stated the bid from Dubois & King will be lower than what was originally sent. Vice Chairman Couture will have another bid by the next Selectmen’s meeting.

Selectman Landau inquired if some of funds could come from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Chouinard asked why the Conservation Commission should pay for the surveying of town property.

Chairman Myette confirmed a decision would be made at next Thursday’s Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

3.3 Review Warrant

Vice Chairman Couture mentioned the memo from Mr. Dalrymple (not present) advising that the field estimate might not fix the problem. The Board is waiting for a new bid for a complete rebuild of the field.

Selectman Landau spoke with Maintenance Director Cavanaugh (not present) regarding the stairs at Stevens Hall. The item will be moved further out on Table 10 of the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). Selectman Landau pointed out the floor scrubber for the Multipurpose room has been repaired. Maintenance Director Cavanaugh has asked for the new scrubber to be purchased in the next budget, keeping the old one as a backup.

The estimate for the Police Department roof was presented. The amount will be changed on the Table 10. Selectman Owens suggested investing in the current building since the quote for a new building was more money than anticipated. Selectman Landau mentioned another firm which can be called about the Police Department building. Chairman Myette recommended to fix the roof and form another committee about building a new police department. Selectman Owens suggested the new committee address all the buildings’ needs for police and highway.

Selectman Landau feels the repairs to the Police Department roof should be done now. Chairman Myette asked where the money would come from if it were fixed now. Selectman Owens inquired if Finance Director Smith (not present) could estimate what amount might be left over in the budget. Vice Chairman Couture stated the timeline for repairs would be determined by Town Meeting, however the contractor can be told what option the Town will be moving forward with.

Chairman Myette mentioned Supervisor of Roads Piper (not present) is getting quotes for renting and purchasing equipment needed for the Highway Department. Selectman Owens feels that purchasing used equipment might be a good option, seeing as some equipment might not be available when it is needed, but remember someone will need to be hired to operate some of the equipment. Selectman Landau inquired where the equipment would be stored. Vice Chairman Couture suggested inviting Mr. Piper to a meeting to understand what his needs and ideas are.

Selectman Landau questioned if there is a need for lane markings on roadways. Reflectors might be a better option as they last longer than the lines would. Selectman Owens is ok with keeping it as long as a representative from the Highway Safety Committee will speak to it at Town Meeting.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Monday January 23, 2023 Budget Committee Meeting at 7:00pm

Tuesday January 24, 2023 300th Anniversary Committee Meeting at 7:00pm

Wednesday January 25, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm

Thursday, January 26, 2023 Board of Selectman Meeting at 6:00pm

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau:

Nothing to report

Vice Chairman Couture:

Nothing to report

Selectman Owens inquired if the Town Offices would have modified hours with the pending weather. Chairman Myette explained that employees have the option of working from home or come in when it is safe to do so.

Chairman Myette:

Nothing to report

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

No report this week

4.4 Action Items

None

4.5 Non-Public Session(s)

Chairman Myette announced three non-public sessions.

Vice-Chairman Couture 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 –aye, Landau – aye. With four in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo absent.

The meeting was closed to the public at 7:50 PM.

Selectman Landau 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 8:13 PM.

Vice-Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the first 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.

Vice-Chairman Couture motioned to seal the minutes of the second 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 third non-public session, on Property. 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

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

204
205 The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

206
207 Respectfully submitted,

208
209 Janis A. Jalbert
210 Recording Secretary