

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, February 2, 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)
Consent Agenda
Warrant
Electronic Timecards
Spring Hill Farm/ Trustees Lease
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
Jeremy Owens
Stephen Landau
Steve D’Angelo

Selectmen Absent:

Steve Couture

Debra Doda, Town Administrator

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Phil Gladu, Fire Chief
Nancy Myette
Mike Oleson, Road Agent
James Piper, Supervisor of Roads

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 *None*
58

59 *1.5 Public Comment*
60

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

63 As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 6:02pm.
64

65 **II. Consent Agenda**
66

67 *2.1 Minutes January 19, 2023*

68 *No comments*
69

70 **III. New Business**
71

72 *3.1 Warrants*
73

74 Supervisor of Roads Piper appeared before the Selectmen to confirm what Highway Department
75 items would be on the Municipal CIP Projects Warrant Article for FY23-24, what funds were
76 remaining from the FY22-23 appropriation, and what roadwork the Highway Department plans to
77 accomplish this summer via the Highway CIP Projects Warrant Article for FY23-24.
78

79 Mr. Piper would prefer that the Town purchase a Loader (\$195,000; in Table 10 for 2025-2026)
80 rather than a loader/backhoe (\$175,000; in Table 10 for 2023-2024). After some discussion about
81 the functionality of each item, the Selectmen agreed to this change. Mr. Piper will be submitting a
82 request to add an excavator to Table 10 during the next round of the Planning Board’s CIP
83 discussions.
84

85 According to Road Agent Oleson, there is currently ~\$55k left from the current year’s CIP funds to
86 finish the roadwork that was started this past summer; Selectman D’Angelo disagreed, stating that
87 there was over \$700k available and unallocated to other work. TA Doda reminded the Selectmen
88 that they had earmarked, from the Highway CIP Projects Warrant Article for FY22-23 of \$1.5m,
89 \$250k for engineering on red-listed bridges, and \$551k (the ARPA funds) for work on Cole Road,
90 leaving \$700k for roadwork, most of which had already been expended. Chairman Myette
91 requested that Finance Director Smith be consulted as to exactly what funds remain from the
92 current year and how much remains in the Highway CIP CRF in order to know how much money
93 needs to be raised and appropriated for roadwork in the upcoming warrant.
94

95 After some further discussion, the Selectmen agreed that the roadwork on the Highway CIP Projects
96 Warrant Article this year would be the wear courses on Holman, Jennifer, Parker, and Rand
97 (\$613,800), and a grind and repave of Halls Village Road from Webster to the corner (\$668,400) for
98 a total of \$1,282,200. Mr. Piper warned the Selectmen that the Halls Village Road figure is very
99 likely to increase due to the need for culvert replacements.
100

The Selectmen then went through each Warrant Article individually and determined both how much to raise and appropriate, whether or not they would remain in the Warrant, and in which order.

The operating budget was also discussed. No changes were made, but all Department Heads have been asked to review their section of the budget to see if any reductions can be made.

3.2 Electronic Timecards

TA Doda had, at the request of Selectman D’Angelo, researched various firms that provided electronic timekeeping software. There was some discussion about why it would be needed and whether or not it would be implemented right away, or simply funded in next year’s budget. Selectman D’Angelo is in favor of moving ahead immediately, but Selectman Landau asked for more information on the recommended company before making a decision and Selectman Owens would like to know how the payments would be structured. This information will be procured and the subject put back on the agenda.

3.3 Spring Hill Farm / Trustees Lease

Chairman Myette reminded the Selectmen that the purpose of this lease was so that the Spring Hill Farm Trustees were eligible to apply for grants.

Many questions about the wording in the lease were answered; the Selectmen should review it once more before it is placed into next week’s Consent Agenda.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Monday February 6, 2023	Budget Committee Meeting at 7:00pm (Meeting Room)
Monday February 6, 2023	Wason Pond Commission Meeting at 7:00pm (Rangeway)
Wednesday February 8, 2023	Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm
Thursday, February 9, 2023	Board of Selectman Meeting at 6:00pm

Chairman Myette announced the passing of Dann Batting.

Tomorrow from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in the Town Clerk's office is the last day for Registered voters to file their Intent for Candidacy for open offices. Positions are posted on the Town’s website.

Petitioned Warrant Articles must be submitted by 6pm on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, to the Town Clerk’s office.

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau has one nonpublic on employment.

Selectman D’Angelo:

Nothing to report

Selectman Owens

Nothing to report

Chairman Myette:

Nothing to report

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

With the upcoming cold weather on Saturday the Board was in favor of closing the Transfer Station on Saturday. This will be placed on the sign in the center of town tomorrow and on the town website.

4.4 Action Items

None

4.5 Non-Public Session(s)

Chairman Myette announced one non-public session.

Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II), (b) employment and (c) 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 Couture absent.

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:35 PM.

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:13 PM.

Selectman Owens motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Employment. 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 Owens motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Reputation. 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.

V. Adjournment

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

202
203 The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

204
205 Respectfully submitted,

206
207
208 Janis A. Jalbert
209 Recording Secretary