

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, February 9th, 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
Hydro Agreement/Community Power
Budget & Warrant
Impact Fees – Police Department
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 6:02pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen Present:

Steve D’Angelo
Stephen Landau
Chuck Myette, Chairman
Jeremy Owens (arrived 7:13pm)

Selectmen Absent:

Steve Couture, Vice-Chairman

Staff present:

Debra Doda, Town Administrator

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Nancy Myette
Ryan Polson, Standard Power
Dana Theokas

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

None.

1.5 Public Comment

Chairman Myette opened the meeting to public comment at 6:03pm.

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 6:04pm.

II. Consent Agenda

2.1 Minutes January 26th, 2023; February 2nd, 2023

No comments.

2.2 Items for Signature

2.2.1 SHF/Trustees Lease

2.2.2 Winter Fest Bonfire Permission

Selectman Landau moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture absent and Selectman Owens yet to arrive; motion carried.

III. New Business

3.1 Hydro Agreement/Community Power

Ryan Polson, a representative of Standard Power, appeared before the Selectmen to discuss an extension of the Town’s contract with them. The Town has partnered with Standard Power (a group net metering program) and Constellation Energy (a third party electric supplier) since 2015. Not only does this partnership allow the Town to pay less for the Municipal Buildings’ energy supply (currently 7¢ per kWh as opposed to Eversource’s 20¢ per kWh), but it also provides a benefit of (currently) \$0.00167 per kWh. Mr. Polson would like the Town to extend the agreement, which expires in November, until November of 2025. As Standard Power now has more power to sell, the Town’s benefit would increase to \$0.005, approximately triple the current rate. Standard Power’s current benefit program is only available to schools/municipalities, not individual residents, due to the limited amount of power they have to sell.

The Selectmen queried how this would work with the Town’s proposed solar array, which is being voted on at this year’s Town Meeting; they would like Vice-Chairman Couture, who has spearheaded the solar project, to be involved in any further discussions. Mr. Polson indicated that Standard Power does work quite a bit with ReVision and that he would be happy to speak with them.

The Selectman also asked about the possibility of Standard Power utilizing Chester’s dams for power generation. Mr. Polson indicated that they would be willing to look at the dams, but that it was difficult to move forward without an existing installation in place.

The hydro contract will be put back on the agenda, perhaps for February 23rd.

Mr. Polson also raised the prospect of Chester forming a Community Power Committee, as many other municipalities are doing via Warrant Article. This Committee would develop a plan, working with Standard Power, to bulk-buy electric power at a lower rate than Eversource or the New Hampshire Co-op are able to provide. This bulk-bought power would be available to all residents of the municipality who did not specifically opt out of the program. Mr. Polson would be willing to work with residents who are interested in discussing this program further.

Mr. Polson departed the meeting at 6:55pm.

3.2 Budget & Warrant

The Selectmen reviewed the Budget and Warrant as they stand and made a number of changes and suggestions.

It was necessary to fund Warrant Article #23, the Transportation Improvement Fund CRF; the Selectmen put \$1 into it. They also asked that some of the examples of projects the funds could be used for be added.

It was suggested that it wasn’t necessary this year to have Warrant Article #15, the Winter Road Maintenance Fund, increased to \$155k. ***Selectman Owens moved to revert Warrant Article #15 to previous years’ wording and only raise and appropriate a maximum of \$105k rather than \$155k; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture absent; motion carried.***

There was a lengthy discussion about Warrant Article #10, Highway CIP Funding. As the Town has ~55 miles of roads, and accepts more each year, it really can’t stint on the funding of roadwork. ***Selectman Landau moved to add one million dollars from taxation to Warrant Article #10; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture absent; motion carried.***

Selectman Landau moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture absent; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 7:55pm.

The meeting room was reopened at 8:01pm.

Selectman Landau moved to come out of non-public session; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture absent; motion carried.

The updated Budget and Warrant will be provided to the Budget Committee for Monday night’s meeting, to which the Selectmen are invited. The Public Hearing on the Budget and Warrant is scheduled for Thursday, February 16th, 2023.

3.3 Impact Fees – Police Department

The Police Department has requested to utilize up to \$8,290 of its impact fees to purchase various items of Personal Protective Equipment, as instructed by the Board of Selectmen during the FY21-22 budget cycle. The Planning Board approved this request on January 31st; all that remains is for the Selectmen to approve the purchase as well.

Selectman Landau moved to allow the Police Department to utilize up to \$8,290 of its impact fees to purchase Personal Protective Equipment; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture absent; motion carried.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Monday, February 13 th , 2023	Budget Committee Meeting	7pm
Monday, February 13 th , 2023	Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee	7pm
Tuesday, February 14 th , 2023	Conservation Commission Meeting	6pm
Thursday, February 16 th , 2023	Board of Selectmen Meeting	6pm
Saturday, February 18 th , 2023	Winter Fest at Spring Hill Farm	12pm – 5pm

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman D’Angelo:

- Nothing to report.

Chairman Myette:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Owens:

- Nothing to report.

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

Selectman Landau noted that the FY21-22 audit had been completed and all documents received, and that no deficiencies had been noted.

4.4 Action Items

200 None.

202 4.5 *Non-Public Session(s)*

204 ***Selectman D’Angelo moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation and***
206 ***(d) Property; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-***
Chairman Couture absent; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 8:32pm.

208 The meeting room was reopened at 8:59pm.

210 ***Selectman Landau moved to come out of non-public session; Selectman Owens seconded the***
212 ***motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture absent; motion carried.***

214 ***Selectman Landau moved to seal all five of tonight’s non-public sessions; Selectman Owens***
216 ***seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture absent; motion***
carried.

V. Adjournment

218 ***Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The***
220 ***vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture absent; motion carried.***

222 The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.

224 Respectfully submitted,

226 Debra H Doda
Recording Secretary