

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, August 10th, 2017
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call
Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman’s Additions and Deletions
Public Comment
Approval of Minutes
Items for Signature
New Hires – Police Department
Roundtable
Non-Public Sessions
Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Cannon called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Cass Buckley
Jack Cannon
Steve D’Angelo
Jeremy Owens

Selectmen absent:

Dick Trask

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
John Gilbert
Kimberly Layne
Nancy Myette
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times
And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chairman Cannon led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Chairman’s Additions and Deletions

Vice-Chairman Cannon added one non-public session on Pending Litigation.

1.5 Public Comments

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:01pm.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

An approval sheet for the previous week’s meeting minutes is in the signature folder. Vice-Chairman Cannon urged all members to read the minutes and indicate their approval.

2.2 Items for Signature

Vice-Chairman Cannon noted that also in the signature folder for tonight there is a request for vacation time.

III. New Business

3.1 New Hires – Police Chief Aaron Berube

Police Chief Berube appeared before the Selectmen along with John Gilbert and Kimberly Layne, two prospective new hires for the Police Department.

Police Chief Berube stated that they had received ~60 resumes from candidates for both the full and part time positions, and after general aptitude and physical ability tests, oral boards, one-on-one interviews, and a review of each remaining candidate’s credentials, they had identified Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Layne as the best candidates for the full time and part time positions, respectively.

Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Layne were given conditional offers at this point and a background check began, which took 6-8 weeks, and which was followed by a medical examination and a psychological evaluation. At this point Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Layne have met all the requirements for hiring and are here to be presented to the Selectmen.

Mr. Gilbert is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute; he spent five years in the Army as a Medical Services Corps Officer and Platoon Leader for the 10th Mountain Division. He has had EMT training. After the Army, he worked in the Boston Field Office for Homeland Security and is now in the process of retiring from that position. He will attend the full-time academy from August 28th through December 14th, 2017.

Ms. Layne holds a Bachelor’s Degree and works full time as a Registered Nurse, performing home care in the Merrimack Valley. She was formerly employed as an EMT. She will attend the part-time academy for 16 weeks starting on Saturday, August 12th, 2017.

Current part-time officer Todd Crumb is the second full-time candidate. He is fully field trained and will begin as a full-time officer on October 1st, 2017.

Selectman Buckley noted that he prefers to see the Police Department servicing Chester’s residents rather than being heavy-handed; Police Chief Berube agreed.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to appoint John Gilbert as a full-time member of the Chester Police Department; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Trask absent; motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to appoint Kimberly Layne as a part-time member of the

Chester Police Department; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Trask absent; motion carried.

Police Chief Berube, Mr. Gilbert, and Ms. Layne departed the meeting at 7:15pm.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Selectman Buckley:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Owens:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman D’Angelo:

- Nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Cannon:

- He re-addressed the subject of the Town Clerk’s vault dehumidifier, which had been discussed last week. He would prefer not to spend an unbudgeted ~\$4,400 to replace it this year and instead recommended having it repaired at ~\$1,600 (which is still more than is budgeted for Vault Maintenance). This would allow time to procure additional bids and ensure that the unit that is bought is appropriate for the requirements; the purchase could then be added to next year’s budget. The remainder of the Selectmen agreed with this plan.
- A request was received from Conservation Commission Chair Chuck Myette to utilize the Town’s Lowe’s account to order supplies to rebuild the failing bridges at Wason Pond. The bill would be paid out of the Conservation Fund, and work done by volunteer labor. **Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to have Maintenance Supervisor Amato place the Lowe’s order for the bridge repair at Wason Pond.** Selectman D’Angelo objected, stating that the decision to do this work is being made by Commission members that are not properly appointed. Selectman Buckley did not think this was an impediment; Vice-Chairman Cannon stated that now that all Board/Commission Chairs had been notified about the lack of appointments, they should be granted a few weeks to correct the issue. **Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Selectman D’Angelo abstaining and Chairman Trask absent; motion carried.**
- Vice-Chairman Cannon apologized for neglecting to announce at last week’s meeting that there was a Special Election Primary on Tuesday, August 8th, 2017. However, three Selectmen were present to sign off at the end of the day.

4.2 Public Comment

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:26pm.

4.3 Non-Public Sessions

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Pending Litigation; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Trask absent; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 7:26pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 7:37pm.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Trask absent; motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the minutes to the non-public session on Pending Litigation be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Trask absent; motion carried.

V. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, August 17th, 2017.

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Buckley seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Trask absent; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda
Recording Secretary