

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 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
Fire Department
Deeding Review
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:

Steve D’Angelo
Stephen Landau
Chuck Myette

Selectmen Absent:

Steve Couture
Jeremy Owens

Town Administrator Debra Doda

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Barbara Cannon, Deputy Town Clerk
Justine Celentano, Assistant Clerk
Phil Gladu, Fire Chief
Elizabeth Lufkin, Town Clerk
Nancy Myette

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 6:02pm.

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

II. Consent Agenda

2.1 Abatement Request

Selectman Landau motioned to approve this abatement request; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture and Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

2.2 Rate Change Sheet

Selectman Landau motioned to approve this rate change sheet; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture and Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

2.3 Tax Penalty Waiver Request

Selectman Landau motioned to approve this tax penalty waiver request; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture and Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

2.4 NRRA Scrap Metal Agreement

Selectman Landau motioned to approve Chairman Myette signing the NRRA Scrap Metal Agreement; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture and Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

III. New Business

3.1 Fire Department – Fire Chief Gladu

Fire Chief Gladu appeared before the Selectmen to address two items.

The Civil Air Patrol has requested permission to install an antenna on the Fire Department’s tower in order to assist with communications for their mission. Fire Chief Gladu will confirm that this will neither negatively impact our tower nor interfere with our own communications; once this is determined, the Selectmen have no objection.

In the next two years, Derry will stop monitoring our building alarms in the current fashion, and new equipment will need to be installed. Mr. Gagliardi of Alarm Systems Plus has offered to provide equipment and installation at no charge to the Town, but with a monitoring fee of \$48/month per building. The Town currently has quite a few locations that would require monitoring – Town Hall, Stevens Hall, Wason Pond Community Center, Fire Department, Police Department, Library, Post Office, Highway Garage, Salt Shed, Spring Hill Farm were all mentioned - this could add up to ~\$500/month. Selectman Landau asked if it was possible for Rockingham County to do the monitoring; Fire Chief Gladu will inquire.

Fire Chief Gladu departed the meeting at 6:26pm.

3.2 Deeding Review – Town Clerk Lufkin

Town Clerk Lufkin, Deputy Town Clerk Cannon, and Assistant Clerk Celentano appeared before the Selectmen to discuss properties that will be deeded this April. The Town is permitted to take a property if the owner has not paid their property taxes for three years. These properties were levied in April 2020 and lienied in April 2021.

Of the six properties in question to be deeded, one was waived, two will be offered to have their payment plans renewed, two normally come in to pay once they receive the deeding letter, and one will have a wellness check.

Town Clerk Lufkin, Deputy Town Clerk Cannon, and Assistant Clerk Celentano departed the meeting at 6:42pm.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Saturday, March 25 th	Fire Explorers Spaghetti Dinner At the Fire Station	430pm – 730pm
Monday, March 27 th	Historical Society Meeting At Stevens Hall	7pm
Monday, March 27 th	Recreation Commission Meeting In the Meeting Room	7pm
Tuesday, March 28 th	Town Elections In the MPR	7am – 7pm
Thursday, March 30 th	Board of Selectmen In the Meeting Room	6pm

4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau:
Nothing to report

Selectman D’Angelo:

Nothing to report

Chairman Myette:

Nothing to report

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

Town Administrator Doda updated the Selectmen on the status of two grants.

The Wason Pond Causeway Bridge grant is no longer competitive due to the number of requests made adding up to a smaller sum than the amount of money available. The Town’s submission was made in December; it is expected that the local granting authority will pass the packages along to the federal granting authority on April 24th. Chairman Myette noted that the current expected cost for this bridge is ~\$320k so the Town will need to raise ~\$160k to make the 50/50 match.

The Hanson Road Bridge grant drew 21 applicants; all applicants were asked to give a brief talk on their request during a Zoom meeting with Congressman Pappas’s office on Friday, March 17th. There are no further updates to this application.

Chairman Myette mentioned that the NHDOT has put the Shephard Home Road bridge on its list for bridge aid in 2027. This is an 80/20 grant so the Town will need to raise ~\$350k of the ~\$1.750m expected cost.

There was a brief discussion about the status of a legal case involving the Town.

4.4 Action Items

None

4.5 Non-Public Session(s)

None

4.6 Adjournment

Selectman Landau motioned to adjourn the meeting; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Couture and Selectman Owens absent; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra H Doda

Recording Secretary