

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, March 30, 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
Solar Panels
Fremont Road Extension
Police Department Update
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
Steve Couture
Stephen Landau

Selectmen Absent:

Jeremy Owens
Steve D’Angelo

Debra Doda, Town Administrator

Members of the Public Present at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
Steve Demers
Nancy Myette
James Piper, Supervisor of Roads
Saul Shriber
Dick Trask

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 6:02pm.

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 6:03pm.

II. Consent Agenda

2.1 Minutes

No comments

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to approve the minutes of February 2, 2023 and February 9, 2023. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens – absent, Couture – abstained, Landau – aye. With two in favor, the motion passed with Couture abstaining and D’Angelo and Owens absent.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to approve the minutes of February 16, 2023 and February 23, 2023. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens – absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo and Owens absent.

III. New Business

3.1 Solar Panels

Mr. Shriber, 194 Jennifer Drive, thanked the voters and congratulated the unofficial winners in the elections.

Mr. Shriber stated the townspeople need to be educated on the solar panel project in the form of a presentation and it needs to start now. Vice Chairman Couture mentioned people were not in support of using the property behind the municipal building. Selectman Landau stated the residents at Town Meeting wanted answers to the following questions. Where it would be located? What is the buyout? Who owns/is responsible for the panels? What happens if the company goes bankrupt?

Chairman Myette suggested forming a committee and anyone interested can get in touch with Ms. Jalbert, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen.

3.2 Fremont Road Extension

Mr. Demers, 9 Fremont Road Extension, requested the Board to consider paving 20 feet of Fremont Road Extension to make it easier and safer for vehicles pulling onto Route 102. Mr. Piper, Supervisor of Roads, stated the funds needed for his project are not in the budget.

The Board will look into funding opportunities for this project. Mr. Demers was informed this could take some time and the Town would continue to grade as usual.

3.3 Police Department Update

Chief Berube mentioned the Sergeants position was posted internally and both CPL DiPerri and CPL Kerkman expressed interest. Both corporals have the time, experience, and training for the position. In the past few weeks Chief Berube has been giving them both exposure to what the position entails. Chief Berube is requesting permission from the Board to promote both CPL. DiPerri and CPL. Kerkman to Sergeant effective April 13th, 2023. Annual reviews were provided to the Board.

Selectman Landau motioned to approve the promotions of CPL. DiPerri and CPL. Kerkman to Sergeant effective on April 13, 2023. Vice Chairman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens – absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo and Owens absent.

Selectman Landau suggested the pinning ceremony at the April 13th Board of Selectmen Meeting. Chief Berube advised they have other commitments and will have the pinning ceremony at a department meeting. Vice-Chairman Couture requested the Board be notified of the date and time so they could attend.

Chief Berube updated the Board on the hiring process. General aptitude test and physical agility tests took place on March 20th, and tomorrow, March 31st the oral boards and Chief’s interviews will be held. Depending on the outcome tomorrow there is a possibility of giving three conditional offers for employment. The background checks will be started after the conditional offers. Once the background checks are completed the viable candidates will be brought to meet the Board. One candidate would be for the Detective Sergeant position with the understanding the schedule would be modified with a focus on patrol until the Police Department is fully staffed.

Chief Berube asked for consideration of an increase on the midnight shift differential until the department is back to full staff. Currently only two officers are working the midnights due to the open positions. Chairman Myette asked for a written proposal for the Board to review.

Chief Berube reported he is currently overspent in the fuel line. He mentioned the Board and Budget Committee continue to reduce the line every budget season. Chief Berube noted the line will be overspent for the next fiscal budget as well.

Chief Berube mentioned the Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) were taken out of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) prior to the Town Meeting and were not discussed during Town Meeting. The Police Department currently has two in service and three out of service. With the upgrade of software happening soon, the MDT’s will no longer be compatible. He explained how the officers can get information instantaneously to and from the dispatch center. These are a safety tool for the officers.

The Board will look at the budget and put this as a top priority for any surplus in the budget. Town Administrator Doda mentioned the Police Department has \$9k in impact fees, \$20K would need to

be funded by the budget for the purchase. Selectman Landau suggested purchasing them now before the town has a huge safety issue. Chief Berube will get back to the Board with a timeframe of when the computers would be available.

Chief Berube asked what the situation is with unused vacation time. Chairman Myette stated the policy is use it or lose it. Chief Berube mentioned if two officers are out on the same week it could leave an entire shift with no coverage. Vice Chairman Couture suggested if it is a public safety issue a letter can be submitted to the Board with an explanation why someone cannot use their vacation, and they will take it on a case-by-case basis.

Selectman Landau questioned the status of the pickup truck. Chief Berube advised the truck is fine and was utilized today to carry tires to the shop for one of the cruisers. He mentioned no cruisers were going to be purchased in the next budget cycle. The truck is due to be replaced in fiscal year 27-28.

Chief Berube mentioned the truck was purchased with the thought that it would be moved to either the highway or maintenance department. If the Board did decide to transfer it to another department, the Police Department could purchase a smaller pickup truck without a plow package.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Chairman’s Announcements

Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and upcoming events:

Friday March 31, 2023	Town Clerk’s office is open from 3:00pm to 5:00pm for election recount applications only.
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Monday April 3, 2023	Wason Pond Commission Meeting at 7:00pm
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Wednesday April 5, 2023	School Board Meeting at 7:00pm
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Wednesday April 5, 2023	Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm
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Thursday April 6, 2023	Board of Selectmen Meeting at 6:00pm
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4.2 Roundtable

Selectman Landau:
Nothing to report

Vice Chairman Couture:
Nothing to report

Chairman Myette:
Nothing to report

4.3 Town Administrator’s Report

Vice Chairman Couture and Selectman Landau will request a code for the doors in the Municipal Building.

Selectman Landau feels there was a closure plan for the Transfer Station, and he may possibly have a copy. Town Administrator Doda is in the process of drafting one if it cannot be found.

4.4 Action Items

The MS-232 is in the signature folder.

4.5 Non-Public Session(s)

Chairman Myette announced seven non-public sessions.

Vice Chairman Couture motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II) (b) Public Employees and (c) Reputation. Selectman Landau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens – absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo and Owens absent.

The meeting was closed to the public at 7:11 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to come out of non-public session. Vice Chairman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens – absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo and Owens absent.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 8:09 PM.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Reputation. Vice Chairman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens – absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo and Owens absent.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Public Employees. Vice Chairman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens – absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo and Owens absent.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the third non-public session, on Reputation. Vice Chairman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens – absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo and Owens absent.

Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the fourth non-public session, on Reputation. Vice Chairman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens – absent, Couture – aye, Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo and Owens absent.

V. Adjournment

250 ***Vice Chairman Couture moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Landau seconded the motion.***
251 ***A roll call vote was taken Myette – aye, D’Angelo – absent, Owens – absent, Couture – aye,***
252 ***Landau – aye. With three in favor, the motion passed with D’Angelo and Owens absent.***

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254 The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

255
256 Respectfully submitted,

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258 Janis A. Jalbert
259 Recording Secretary