

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 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  
Reappointment to ZBA  
Public Hearing on SB38  
Spring Hill Farm  
Police Department Requests  
Roundtable  
Non-Public Sessions  
Adjournment

*1.1 Call to Order*

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

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen present:

Jack Cannon (remotely by telephone, due to physical inability to attend)  
Steve D’Angelo  
Jeremy Owens  
Dick Trask

Selectmen absent:

Cass Buckley

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief  
Diane Gorrow, Town Counsel  
Stephen Landau  
Cindy LeBlanc  
Rich LeBlanc  
Charlotte Lister  
Deb Munson  
Chuck Myette  
Nancy Myette  
Baron Richardson  
Kevin Scott, ZBA  
Will Sable, Sergeant, Police Department  
Angela Sweet  
Jay Sweet

Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times  
And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

*1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairman Trask led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*1.4 Chairman’s Additions and Deletions*

Chairman Trask added one non-public session on Public Employees.

*1.5 Public Comments*

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:02pm.

**II. Old Business**

*2.1 Approval of Minutes*

An approval sheet for the previous week’s meeting minutes is in the signature folder. Chairman Trask urged all members to read the minutes and indicate their approval, as they are falling behind.

*2.2 Items for Signature*

Chairman Trask urged all members to review and sign items in the Signature Folder.

**III. New Business**

*3.1 Appointment to ZBA – Kevin Scott*

Kevin Scott appeared before the Selectmen to be reappointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Mr. Scott has been on the ZBA for 14 years, and currently serves as its Vice-Chairman. His term expired in 2015; Selectman D’Angelo noted the importance of having all appointed Board members current in their terms, especially when their responsibilities included legal matters.

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to reappointed Kevin Scott as a regular member of the ZBA for a three year term to expire on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

Mr. Scott departed the meeting at 7:06pm.

*3.2 Non-Meeting with Counsel*

The Selectmen went into a non-meeting with Town Counsel Gorrow at 7:06pm; the meeting room was re-opened at 7:46pm.

**Chairman Trask moved that the Selectman authorize Selectman D’Angelo to work with Attorney Bennett on a situation of pending litigation; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

*3.3 Public Hearing – Acceptance of State Surplus Funds for Highway*

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to open the Public Hearing on accepting state surplus funds under SB38; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

Vice-Chairman Cannon asked that it be clarified that these funds must only be used on new, presently unfunded highway projects.

No Members of the Public wished to speak; the Public Hearing will remain open until the end of tonight’s public session.

### *3.4 Spring Hill Farm – Jay Sweet*

Jay and Angela Sweet appeared before the Selectmen to discuss their tenancy at Spring Hill Farm.

Mr. Sweet stated that they had received a letter on July 4<sup>th</sup>, informing them that the Selectmen were not going to renew their lease, which expires on August 31<sup>st</sup>. He asked why the Selectmen had not spoken with him first, or the trustees, and why they had not been given more notice. Chairman Trask stated that the Selectmen did not plan to rent out the Farmhouse any longer, and that they had attempted to give as much notice as possible - two months, which was twice the legal requirement of 30 days.

Mr. Sweet asked for a reason behind the plan to no longer rent; Selectman D’Angelo stated that the Town’s taxpayers had put ~\$138k into the property over the years, and have decided to put the property on hold while they decide on future plans. Chairman Trask stated that the farmhouse would cost less to maintain if there were no tenants in it. He added that the Selectmen had been asking the Trustees for various documents to do with the farm for over a year with no success; too much time and money was being spent. This meeting was an opportunity for the Sweets to produce information that would allow the Selectmen to reconsider their decision.

Mr. Sweet stated that he had a Farm Management Plan that he wished to read aloud from; when Chairman Trask asked to look at it, Mr. Sweet refused, stating that only if his lease were renewed that he’d let the Selectmen look at it. He added that the Board of Selectmen needed to come to their senses.

Mr. Sweet thanked the residents of Chester for their care and concern; he and Mrs. Sweet departed the meeting at 8:02pm.

### *3.5 Police Department Requests – Police Chief Aaron Berube*

Police Chief Aaron Berube appeared before the Selectmen to discuss a number of items.

He has found that his opportunity to make save money on purchases for the Police Department is limited due to the Town’s method of payment. If he were to have a purchasing card, he would be able to shop for the best price and save money. Vice-Chairman Cannon would like to see this card only used in an emergency, or if no other reasonable forms of payment are possible; Police Chief Berube agreed.

**Selectman Owens moved to provide Police Chief Berube with a Purchasing Card with a spending limit of \$2,500; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

Police Chief Berube also spoke about the need for a firing range. The Police Department has had to move their qualification sessions from the Chester Rod & Gun Club to Fremont due to the need to close the entire range at those times. He has identified an 18-acre parcel of Town-owned land by the salt shed that would be ideal for the construction of a 100’ x 150’, 12’ high 3-wall berm firing range that would allow for non-static training, both night and day. As there are other Rod & Gun clubs in the area, the

sound should not be an issue. Road Agent Oleson and some Town vendors have volunteered their time, equipment, and/or materials at no cost to the Town. The property would be gated and posted at all times; some funds would be needed to create signage.

**Chairman Trask moved to allow the Police Department to proceed with the firing range project; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

At Tuesday’s Highway Safety Committee meeting, the parking lot in front of the Chester General Store, which is Town-owned land, was discussed. Cars park along the fence, and when delivery trucks are onsite, it is impossible for an emergency vehicle to access. There is some consideration to creating a fire lane along the building. The Selectmen will be consulted for their approval when a plan is in place.

#### **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

##### *4.1 Roundtable*

###### *Chairman Trask:*

- Maintenance Supervisor Amato has requested that the Town rent a cart for use during Town Fair. This allows participants and their equipment, as well as guests, to be driven on and off the field without subjecting it to excessive vehicle traffic. This can be driven by any Town employee/official. **Selectman Owens moved that the Town rent a Sunbelt 6-passenger cart for the weekend of Town Fair at a cost of \$525; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**
- Town Clerk Newnan has provided a contract from Invoice Cloud, a provider that works with her new software (Avatar) for online tax payments. This contract has been reviewed and approved by the Town’s Treasurer as well as Town Counsel Gorrow. Chairman Trask will sign.
- Town Clerk Newnan has suggested adding a \$5 fee to motor vehicle registrations, with the proceeds going to transportation improvements. The Selectmen should ponder this question and be prepared to discuss it at a later date. It would need to be on the Warrant at next year’s Town Meeting before it could be implemented.

###### *Selectman Owens:*

- Nothing to report.

###### *Selectman D’Angelo:*

- At the Highway Safety Committee meeting this week, it was reported that the Fire Department has difficulty exiting the Fire Station during drop off and pick up times at Chester Academy due to the high volume of traffic. Road Agent Oleson has received DOT approval to open up and improve a currently blocked road to be used as a secondary access road; this will be put into the CIP. There was also some talk about striping Murphy Drive for turn lanes and/or installing a Police detail.

###### *Vice-Chairman Cannon:*

- Nothing to report.

##### *3.3 Public Hearing – Acceptance of State Surplus Funds for Highway, Redux*

Chairman Trask asked for comments on the Public Hearing, but none were forthcoming.

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to close the Public Hearing on accepting state surplus funds under SB38; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with**

**Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to accept the \$122,044.18 of state surplus funds under SB38; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

*4.2 Non-Public Sessions*

**Selectman D’Angelo moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Public Employees; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

The meeting room was closed at 8:30pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 8:44pm.

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

**Selectman D’Angelo moved that the minutes to the non-public session on Public Employees be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

**V. Adjournment**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Selectman D’Angelo moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Selectman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda  
Recording Secretary