

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, April 7th, 2016
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

Call the Meeting to Order

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman’s Additions or Deletions

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

Cole Road

Greg Bolduc, Deputy Fire Chief and Phil Gladu, Emergency Management Director

Roundtable

Public Comment

Non-Public Sessions

Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

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

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Jack Cannon

Joe Castricone

Joseph Hagan

Stephen Landau

Dick Trask

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief

Greg Bolduc, Deputy Fire Chief

Janet Boyden

Rob Brown

Jason Coulter

Steve D’Angelo

Leslie Edwards

Staci Frazier

Barbara Gagnon

Phil Gladu, Emergency Management Director

David Haverty

Rhonda Lamphere

Richard LeBlanc

Justin Lemay

Timothy Loveless

Hunter McGee, Union Leader

Cheryl Manning

Michael Oleson, Road Agent

54 Mary Peters
Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
56 Leroy Scott
Chris Sheley
58 Michael Weider
Kevin Wunderly
60 And others unknown to the Recording Secretary

62 1.3 *Pledge of Allegiance*

64 Chairman Landau led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

66 1.4 *Additions and Deletions*

68 One Non-Public Session with Road Agent Oleson was added to the agenda.

70 1.5 *Non-Public Sessions*

72 Chairman Landau moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Pending
Litigation; Selectman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so
74 moved.

76 The meeting room was closed at 7:01pm.

78 The meeting room was re-opened at 7:07pm.

80 Chairman Landau moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Vice-Chairman Hagan
seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

82 Chairman Landau moved that the minutes to non-public session #1, on Pending Litigation, be sealed for
84 an indefinite period; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the
affirmative; so moved.

86 1.6 *Public Comment*
88

Kevin Wunderly of Epping stood and was recognized. He stated that he was a former member of the
90 Chester Fire Department and had worked with Mr. Antoine for a decade before leaving the department in
2015. He was concerned that he was not contacted when MRI held interviews to prepare their report on
92 the Fire Department, and urged Mr. Antoine to reconsider his resignation.

94 Mary Peters of Haverhill Road stood and was recognized. She stated that Mr. Antoine and Mr. Wunderly
had saved her six years ago when her house was on fire. She stated that Mr. Antoine has made a
96 difference to the Town and she would like this resignation to be reconsidered.

98 Chris Sheley of Cardinal Drive stood and was recognized. He stated that when his wife had an accident,
Mr. Antoine accompanied her to the hospital so that Mr. Sheley could take care of their children.

100 Rob Brown of Fremont Road stood and was recognized. He stated that he and Mr. Antoine had worked
together and that Mr. Antoine was a huge asset to the Town. He urged the Board of Selectmen to put
102 their personal beliefs aside and do what the Town wanted them to do.

104 Janet Boyden of Halls Village Road stood and was recognized. She stated that Mr. Antoine had
106 supported her when her husband passed away, and that he goes out of his way to take care of the

Town.

Cheryl Manning of Whitetail Lane stood and was recognized. She stated that Mr. Antoine had always been very helpful when responding to her daughter’s special health needs. She has heard a rumor that his resignation ‘was personal with the Board of Selectmen’”, and urged them to put aside their personal agendas and ‘do the right thing’ for the Town.

Leroy Scott of Route 102 stood and was recognized. He wished to thank whoever it was that installed Porta-potties at the ballpark and at Wason Pond. He also wished to thank the Board for hiring MRI to conduct the report on the Fire Department, as that would guarantee that any findings would not be ‘personal’.

Staci Frazier of Shaker Heights Lane stood and was recognized. She would like to see MRI’s report, as she, as a taxpayer, had paid for it.

Leslie Edwards of Wason Road stood and was recognized. She would also like to read this report, and queried why good employees of the Town would want to resign.

Jason Coulter of Londonderry stood and was recognized. He stated that he had been a full-time Firefighter in the Chester Fire Department since November and is disturbed that its leader left with such short notice and no answers. He would like to know where the Department stands.

Justin Lemay of Sandown stood and was recognized. He does not understand why a Fire Chief would choose to resign when he is the reason that firefighters are proud to belong to the Fire Department.

Mrs. Manning returned to the microphone. She stated that she had spoken with a member of the Sandown Fire Department who informed her that Sandown considered Mr. Antoine to be desirable and committed, and that they would like to hire him.

David Haverty of Croft Lane stood and was recognized. He stated that the Board must have had serious concerns to initiate a report, and must have found something serious. He would like everyone to know what this is.

Mr. Scott returned to the microphone. He stated that the people in attendance didn’t realize that every time that Mr. Antoine had appeared before the Board recently, it was always in non-public session; therefore, the public will never know.

As there were no other Members of the Public who wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:39pm.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

This subject was not addressed tonight.

2.2 Cole Road

Road Agent Oleson appeared before the Board to continue discussions on Cole Road, as originally mentioned last month. Dubois & King has identified a culvert issue; last week the Board voted to have Road Agent Oleson post to restrict traffic on the road to what he considered an appropriate weight limit.

Road Agent Oleson noted that after reviewing the Dubois & King report further, simply posting the road

was not sufficient; it must either be closed, or repaired to build a temporary concrete ‘bridge’ over the two rotting culverts. This could cost ~\$40k-\$50k. Replacement of the culverts completely, with a new box culvert, could cost ~\$450-\$500k.

It is unknown how much time the temporary ‘bridge’ would buy the Town; the town of Raymond did the same thing, and it bought them ‘a couple years’. It was also reported that the Edwards Mill culvert is beginning to separate. These are not the only culverts in Town with issues.

Road Agent Oleson has sufficient funds in his plow line to build the temporary ‘bridge’. As bids must be solicited for jobs over \$25k, he will ask Dubois & King to draw up an RFP. In the meantime, he should post to restrict the road to 6 tons, the weight of a pick-up truck, and notify the Police Department of same. The Board should notify the School.

Selectman Cannon moved to restrict Cole Road to six tons, to have Road Agent Oleson post it, to notify the Police and Fire Departments and the School, and to ask Dubois & King to prepare an RFP to build a temporary bridge; Vice-Chairman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Road Agent Oleson departed the meeting at 7:50pm.

III. New Business

3.1 Greg Bolduc, Deputy Fire Chief and Phil Gladu, Emergency Management Director

Deputy Fire Chief Bolduc and Emergency Management Director Gladu appeared before the Board to discuss coverage at the Fire Department in the wake of Mr. Antoine’s resignation.

Deputy Fire Chief Bolduc, Emergency Management Director Gladu, and Captain Ben Clark are serving as a Management Team for the Fire Department; they will work to make sure all open shifts are covered. The Board will handle compensation

Deputy Fire Chief Bolduc has lived in Chester for eleven years, and has served on the Chester Fire Department for ten. He has been a full-time Fire Fighter for 23 years, working in Manchester for 17 of those years and before that in Massachusetts. He has also been an Instructor at the Fire Academy for 16 years and owns his own training company. He wished to reassure the Public that Mr. Antoine had appointed the Department’s officers, and that there should be no safety concerns.

Emergency Management Director Gladu has lived in Chester since 2008, and joined the Fire Department at the same time. He is retired military. He stated that the Chester Fire Department will continue to operate at the same high standards.

Selectman Trask stated that he has the utmost confidence in Deputy Fire Chief Bolduc to run the Fire Department, and hoped that the citizens of Chester would stand behind him as much as they did Mr. Antoine.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Selectman Cannon:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Castricone:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Trask:

- Nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Hagan:

- Nothing to report.

Chairman Landau:

- There was a hearing today on a lawsuit that the Town is currently involved in; no update is available.

4.2 Public Comment

Staci Frazier returned to the microphone. She stated that she did not doubt that the Fire Department would protect the Town; her concern was the unexpected resignation of Mr. Antoine. She supports the Fire Department 100%. Chairman Landau agreed that the Board has no concerns and also supports the Fire Department.

As there were no other Members of the Public who wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 8:02pm.

4.3 Non-Public Sessions

Chairman Landau moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation for one item and under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Pending Litigation for two items; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

The meeting room was closed at 8:03pm. Deputy Fire Chief Bolduc, Emergency Management Director Gladu, and Police Chief Berube remained in the meeting room.

Deputy Fire Chief Bolduc, Emergency Management Director Gladu, and Police Chief Berube departed the meeting room at 9:04pm.

Budget Committee Chairman Weider entered the meeting room at 9:10pm.

Budget Committee Chairman Weider departed the meeting room at 9:16pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:18pm.

Selectman Trask moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Chairman Landau moved that the minutes to the second non-public session, on Pending Litigation, be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Chairman Landau moved that the minutes to the third non-public session, on Pending Litigation, be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Chairman Landau moved that the minutes to the fourth non-public session, on Reputation, be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the

266 affirmative; so moved.

268 Selectman Castricone moved to give Deputy Fire Chief Greg Bolduc the title of Acting Fire Chief and
270 authority to operate the Fire Department; Selectman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was
unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

272 **V. Adjournment**

274 The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, April 14th, 2016 at 7pm in the
Meeting Room.

276 Chairman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was
278 unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

280 The meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm.

282
Respectfully Submitted,

284 Debra H. Doda

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