

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, March 31st, 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
CIP and Budget
Aaron Berube, Police Chief
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 7:15pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Jack Cannon
Joe Castricone
Joseph Hagan
Stephen Landau
Dick Trask (arrived at 7:33pm)

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
Greg Bolduc, Fire Department Deputy Chief
Steve D’Angelo
Chris Hadik
Chuck Heuer
Rhonda Lamphere
Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
Joanne Smith, Finance Director
Michael Weider, Budget Committee
Caroline Wilson
And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Landau led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Additions and Deletions

There were two non-public sessions added, on Reputation and Pending Litigation.

1.5 Public Comment

Deputy Fire Chief Greg Bolduc stood and was recognized. He handed the Board copies of a valuation of the Fire Department’s tanker truck, stating that there is not much market for a used tanker.

As no other Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:21pm.

II. Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

This subject was not addressed tonight.

2.2 CIP and Budget

The Budget Committee had a brief meeting at 7:00pm; Chair Michael Weider joined the Board at the Meeting Table to go over decisions made at that meeting.

The BC voted to support the following, as underlined:

Amend Operating Budget to \$4,091,574

Original Budget	4,311,537
Capital Items deleted from Budget	-220,069

Budget after debt	\$4,091,574

Put \$800k into a Warrant Article to fund the CIP

Selectman Cannon moved that the Board of Selectmen create a Warrant Article for \$800k to fund the CIP, eliminate Warrant Articles #8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 23, and revise Warrant Article #21 to only direct the Block Grant funds (\$137,300) into the CIP account; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Landau opposed; so moved.

Move the Fire Department tanker truck into the CIP for purchase in FY 17/18

Selectman Cannon asked Deputy Fire Chief Bolduc if the Department’s tanker truck would survive another year. Deputy Fire Chief Bolduc stated that he believed that it would; however, it is 26 years old and not functioning as efficiently as one might wish, plus it does not meet two parts of the NFPA standard.

Move the requested full-time Recreation Department employee from the Operating Budget into a Warrant Article

The Budget Committee is of the opinion that making this part-time position into a full-time position should be the decision of the Legislative Body, as it was last year, and would prefer that the Operating Budget itself not be opened up on the floor at Town Meeting to discuss this issue.

There was some discussion about the BOS’s original decision to leave this request in the Operating Budget, based on the Recreation Department’s offer to offset the salary for this position by providing

\$10k from its revolving account. Selectman Trask suggested instead of making the current person part-time, that the Recreation Commission could use that \$10k to hire an additional part-time person.

Chris Hadik stood and was recognized. He stated that, in the interest of transparency, the position should be removed from the Operating Budget and a Warrant Article written that would specify the raising and appropriating of ~\$38k, broken down into ~\$28k from taxation and \$10k from the Recreation Department's revolving account.

Selectman Trask moved to create a Warrant Article for the full-time Recreation Coordinator position containing the entire amount for salary and benefits that would need to be raised and appropriated, after Finance Director Smith verifies the exact figures; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Landau abstaining; so moved.

No position on writing a draw-down Warrant Article for CIP purchases

This Warrant Article would contain \$220,069 for the capital items deleted from the Operating Budget, plus ~\$80k for the Fire Department Life Packs and PPE deleted from the Warrant Articles. The BOS will need to go to the Planning Board before Town Meeting in order to ensure that all of these items are in the CIP; Selectman Castricone volunteered to speak with Andrew Hadik about this.

Selectman Cannon moved to create a Warrant Article to fund the following specific CIP items, with their values to be added once those figures are calculated: the capital items deleted from the Operating Budget, the two Fire Department Life Packs, and the Fire Department Personal Protective Equipment; at a minimum, \$300,065. Selectman Castricone seconded the motion.

Selectman Trask made a friendly amendment that the Police Department F250 (~\$35k) also be added to this Warrant Article; Selectman Cannon agreed to this amendment, Selectman Castricone seconded it, and the remainder of the Board gave their unanimous consent.

Police Chief Berube stated that as long as the F250 is a 2016, \$35k will be sufficient; the 2017 models are much more expensive. He is willing to pay the extra \$10k to equip this vehicle with lettering, emergency lighting, in-car camera, etc., out of the detail fund, as long as the Legislative Body approves.

The question was called. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Selectman Trask moved to create a Warrant Article to allow Police Chief Berube to withdraw \$10k from the Police Detail Special Revenue Fund to equip the F250; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Once Finance Director Smith has recalculated all of the figures, she will share them with the BOS and the BC. She plans to have these figures ready before Monday.

There was a brief discussion with Police Chief Berube about Warrant Article #15 for a full-time Police Officer. Police Chief Berube stated that as his requested budget containing funding for a part-time detective had been approved, this Warrant Article was no longer needed.

Selectman Cannon moved to delete Warrant Article #15; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

The following Articles are still in the Warrant: 1-7, 9, 18-22, and 24-30. 1-7 are Zoning Amendments, 9 is the Operating Budget, 28 is a Petitioned Warrant Article, and 29-30 are administrative only; no votes to support or not are needed on these articles.

Special Warrant Article #18, Winter Maintenance:

Recommended 5 yes / 0 no.

160	Special Warrant Article #19, PACT:	Recommended 5 yes / 0 no.
	Special Warrant Article #20, 300 th Anniversary:	Recommended 5 yes / 0 no.
162	Warrant Article #22, Spring Hill Farm:	Recommended 3 yes/1 no/1 abstention.
	Special Warrant Article #25, Building Improvement CIP:	Recommended 5 yes / 0 no.
164	Special Warrant Article #26, Edwards Mill Dam Phase II:	Recommended 4 yes / 1 no.
	Special Warrant Article #27, CIP (for \$800k):	Recommended 4 yes / 1 no.

166
168 Selectman Castricone has yet to procure the necessary information for the Board to vote on supporting Warrant Article #24, Competitive Employee Compensation. He will get it from LGC this week.

170 BC Chair Weider would like additional backup for Warrant Article #25.

172 Finance Director Smith departed the meeting at 8:43pm.

174 **III. New Business**

176 *3.1 Aaron Berube, Police Chief*

178 Police Chief Berube appeared before the Board to discuss a solution to the issue of staffing all shifts on
180 Easter Sunday. He requested authorization to pay overtime rates for those shifts. It was clarified that
182 this was not adding a holiday to those already recognized by the Town for all employees; it was only an
issue as the Police run a 24/7 department and staffing Easter Sunday has proven to be difficult in the
past.

184 Vice-Chairman Hagan asked if it would be preferable to give Police Chief Berube authorization to pay
overtime rates on any shifts that prove difficult to fill, not just Easter Sunday in particular. Police Chief
186 Berube replied that this would be useful, but that for today he was just focused on Easter Sunday.
Should the issue arise again, he would make another request of the Board.

188
190 Selectman Cannon spoke in favor of this request, stating that it would help to retain good employees
and show appreciation of their efforts. The other members of the Board present at that time were also
in favor; Police Chief Berube’s request was signed.

192
194 Police Chief Berube also wished to discuss the two line items removed from his requested budget and
moved to the CIP - that is, pistols and bulletproof vests. He is concerned that the CIP Warrant Article
will not pass, and he will not be able to make those purchases, which total \$3,800. The Department has
196 11 officers and 13 weapons, two of which have failed and need repair/replacement.

198 He was assured by the Board that there should be sufficient funds left over at the end of this Fiscal Year,
and that should the CIP Warrant Article fail, those funds would be used to make his purchases. There
200 was some discussion about using Detail funds to make the purchases; Police Chief Berube stated that
this would of course be possible, but that the Legislative Body would need to approve use of those
202 funds.

204 Chief Berube also noted that replacing cruisers on an annual basis was quite important to the
Department; this year’s purchase will be deferred due to the deletion of its Warrant Article and the move
206 of the requested cruiser into the CIP, but he is opposed to that being a regular practice.

208 **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

210 *4.1 Roundtable*

212 *Selectman Cannon:*

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Castricone:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Trask:

- Nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Hagan:

- He has received correspondence dated March 31st, 2016 from Dubois & King. They have reported on a culvert on Cole Road that has deteriorated and is in poor condition; it requires immediate structural repair, which could cost ~\$50k, and future replacement, which could cost ~\$350-400k. He will give copies to the other Selectmen.

Chairman Landau:

- Cindy Bortz will be holding a “Green-Up Day” on Saturday, April 23rd, 2016; this is for residents to participate in road clean-up. The necessary blue bags will be available in the foyer of the Municipal Complex starting this week, and full bags can be dropped off at the Transfer Station on April 23rd.
- The Board has recently learned that its permits to work at Edwards Mill Dam will expire on December 4th, 2016. Should all construction work not be done by that date, additional permits will be required for an additional fee.

4.2 Public Comment

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 8:45pm.

4.3 Non-Public Sessions

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

The meeting room was closed at 8:46pm. Police Chief Berube remained in the meeting room.

Police Chief Berube departed the meeting at 9:09pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:19pm.

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

V. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, April 4th, 2016 at 7pm in the

266 Meeting Room.

268 Chairman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote
was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

270

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21pm.

272

274 Respectfully Submitted,

276 Debra H. Doda