

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday, March 29th, 2016
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call
Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman's Additions or Deletions
Public Comment
CIP Discussion
149 Candia Road
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 7:31pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

Jack Cannon
Joe Castricone
Joseph Hagan
Stephen Landau
Dick Trask

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Chris Hadik
Chuck Heuer
Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
Michael Weider
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 was one non-public session added, on Pending Litigation.

1.5 Public Comment

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:32pm.

II. New Business

2.1 *CIP Discussion*

With a full Board, discussion on the Budget Committee's proposal to move capital items out of the Operating Budget and Warrants into the CIP continued.

The conceptual plan would involve the following:

- move capital items totaling \$220,069 from the Operating Budget into the CIP,
- delete WAs #8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 23 and place requested capital items into the CIP,
- move the referenced \$220,069 from the Operating Budget into the CIP account,
- write a Warrant Article to draw funds from the existing CIP account to purchase the Operating Budget items mentioned above, as well as the LifePacks (WA#10) and PPE (WA#16),
- amend WA#21 to specify that only the Block Grant funds (\$137,300) will go into the CIP account, not the \$200k originally requested, and
- amend WA#27 to specify raising and appropriating a sum of \$800k for the CIP account, as well as moving that Warrant Article earlier in the Warrant.

Benefits of this plan included (a) eliminating the interest to be paid by procuring a bond or leasing a tanker truck, and (b) fully and properly utilizing the CIP in order to collect and retain as much in impact fees as possible.

Drawbacks of this plan included the fact that capital items currently requested in the deleted Warrant Articles, other than the LifePacks and PPE, would need to be pushed back a year.

Chairman Landau is especially troubled about this pushback insofar as the Fire Department's requested Tanker is concerned. He would prefer that the Tanker be purchased outright for \$350k, thus eliminating leasing fees, either with the \$350k being raised through taxation, or with \$50k being taken from the existing CIP account and only \$300k needing to be raised. A corresponding amount less would then be put into the CIP in WA#27.

Chris Hadik opined that going outside the CIP to purchase the Tanker could jeopardize the CIP, noting that the Town of Londonderry had been sued and compelled to return millions of dollars in impact fees, due to improper utilization of their CIP. BC Chairman Weider added that removing the Tanker from the CIP, where it is now, would mean that impact fees could not be collected on that equipment for the entire cycle of the CIP; this could potentially add up to several hundred dollars lost per housing unit.

Chairman Landau also believes that the Highway Department is getting short-changed with this process. Selectman Cannon noted that if one adds up the deferred items from the deleted WAs, other than the Tanker, the total is ~\$240k. That would leave ~\$260k available towards roadwork in next year's CIP drawdown.

Chuck Heuer stood and was recognized. He again urged the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen to go to Town Meeting with a unified front, adding that utilizing the CIP exclusively for capital purchases would not only lead to a stabilized tax rate, but also a much less cumbersome warrant. Selectman Cannon agreed with Mr. Heuer - if all Boards go into Town Meeting with a unified front, how likely is it that the Legislative Body would vote against them?

Mr. Hadik suggested that the Board and Budget Committee prepare a contingency plan for Town Meeting, should this agreement come to naught.

The Planning Board is meeting tomorrow with a representative from Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission to begin vetting the CIP table; this work is expected to be complete by the end of April, and the table will be ready by Town Meeting. The Budget Committee is meeting Thursday night and this subject will be addressed there as well.

2.2 149 Candia Road

The Town has taken the property at 149 Candia Road by tax deed, and has insured it. It would like to dispose of the property at some point. It is unclear why the company holding a mortgage on that property has not spoken up.

III. Selectmen's Business

3.1 Roundtable

Selectman Cannon:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Castricone:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Trask:

- Nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Hagan:

- Nothing to report.

Chairman Landau:

- Nothing to report.

3.2 Public Comment

As no other Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 8:53pm.

3.3 Non-Public Sessions

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 moved.

The meeting room was closed at 8:54pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:04pm.

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.

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

160 affirmative; so moved.

162 **IV. Adjournment**

164 The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, March 31st, 2016 at 7pm in the
Meeting Room.

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

170 The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

172
174 Respectfully Submitted,
Debra H. Doda