

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
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)  
Approval of Minutes  
2016-2017 Budget: Budget Committee  
Health Insurance  
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 7:04pm.

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen present:

Jack Cannon  
Stephen Landau  
Dick Trask

Selectmen absent:

Joe Castricone  
Joseph Hagan

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Chris Hadik  
Rhonda Lamphere  
Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times  
Leroy Scott  
Michael Weider, Budget Committee  
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, one on Public Employees and one on Pending Litigation.

*1.5 Public Comment*

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:09pm.

**II. Old Business**

*2.1 Approval of Minutes*

This subject was not addressed tonight.

**III. New Business**

*3.1 2016-2017 Budget: Budget Committee*

Budget Committee (BC) Chairman Michael Weider appeared before the Board to present the BC's thoughts on a possible change to this year's Operating Budget.

At Monday night's meeting, the BC identified \$220,069 worth of items in the Budget that should by rights be included in the CIP. The suggestion is to move those items into the CIP, and redirect the requested \$220,069 into a Warrant Article intended to fund that account. Therefore, the items would not be 'lost', just paid via the CIP rather than in the Budget. Warrant Articles containing Capital items would also be removed.

The CIP account currently contains \$380k. The BC would like to fund this account with \$800k each year for the next 5-6 years, which is the life of the CIP. This could bring the total to \$3.7m over 10 years. They also suggest that Highway Block Grant funds be directed into that account.

There was some discussion about procuring a bond to pay for various selected items from the CIP, as this would allow for more aggressive purchasing. The contrarian side pointed out that the Town has paid \$504k in interest since 2004, \$364k of which was from the \$2.1m road bond. It was also pointed out that the CIP list, which contains \$25m worth of capital items, has not been vetted and there is no determination of actual public need.

Selectman Trask stated that a CIP is basically a long-term planning vehicle that helps keep the tax rate stable.

Chuck Heuer stood and was recognized. He agreed with Selectman Trask, pointing out that although raising and appropriating \$800k this year to fund the CIP will cause a spike in the tax rate, it would remain steady thereafter, thus allowing for better long-term financial planning by taxpayers. He stated that he is concerned each year about the number of Warrant Articles for Capital items. BC Chairman Weider agreed, stating that the Legislative Body has voted to fund the Master Plan and the CIP; it should be used. Selectman Cannon is hopeful that most of the Capital items in deleted Warrant Articles could be pushed out another year without harm. It was noted that Departments can add items to the CIP each year.

Mr. Heuer would like the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee to present a united front on this subject.

The BC also suggests that the FT Recreation Director position in the Budget be deleted, and the request made into a Warrant Article, in order that the Legislative Body may make the decision to create and fund that position or not.

It must be reiterated that the figure of \$800k to be raised and appropriate for the CIP each year is only a *suggestion*, not a firm figure that must be agreed upon at the present time. The Board is only

agreeing to the concept, and to keep discussing the subject.

BC Chairman Weider departed the meeting at 8:22pm.

### 3.2 Health Insurance

The Town’s current Health Insurance policy is no longer available. Selectman Trask has researched two companies with which the Town can contract that each offer attractive packages with only minor changes from the current policy. The companies are SchoolCare (which has one type of coverage) and HealthTrust (which has three). With either company, copays and out-of-pocket-maximums will go up slightly while the Town will save money overall.

The Board agreed that having three choices of coverage was better than one.

Selectman Trask moved to approve and move forward with the HealthTrust medical plans, and offer employees an HSA deduction through the bank; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Hagan and Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

## IV. Selectmen’s Business

### 4.1 Roundtable

*Selectman Cannon:*

- Nothing to report.

*Selectman Trask:*

- The Recreation Department has ~\$17k in Impact Fees that must be used within 18 months. These are not part of the Town’s CIP as discussed earlier tonight, but require a motion from the Board of Selectmen to expend. They would like to use \$10k to purchase bleachers for the Wason Pond fields, and \$6k to build a patio and horseshoe pit. The Board was not in favor of these purchases in general. It was suggested that spectators should bring their own chairs to sporting events, and that perhaps an Eagle Scout would be interested in building some of the items that the Recreation Committee would like.
- An invoice was received from BK Electric for replacing broken switches in the MPR. It was also noted that there are small dents in the new doors. There is some concern that perhaps Baseball is causing this damage by not using the agreed-upon soft balls. The invoice should be paid from the Building account, and then the root cause determined, perhaps by viewing the surveillance videos.

*Chairman Landau:*

- **Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016** is the final day to post proposed adoptions or amendments of zoning ordinances. It is also the final day for submit petitioned Warrant Articles, which require signatures of either 25 registered voters, or 2% of the total electorate, whichever is fewer. **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016** is the final day to hold a Public Hearing on the Budget. **Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016** is the final day to submit the Budget to the Board of Selectmen in order that it may be posted with the Warrant. Elections will be held on **Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**; Town Meeting is **Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016** in the MPR.
- There are various items to be signed, including warranty deeds from the Conservation Commission, abatement forms, intent to excavate and cut forms, and a service contract of \$675/year for the Town Clerk Office’s safe. Selectman Cannon moved that Chairman Landau sign the Safe Contract; Selectman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Hagan and Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.
- The BC questioned an increase in the Transfer Station’s budget; this was caused by an increase

- in hazardous waste collection. A grant of \$6,400 was applied for; one for \$6,890 was received.
- NRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Association, which works with the Transfer Station on recyclables) is having a conference in Nashua on May 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016. They are requesting donations; the Town will send something of a nominal amount.
- The New Hampshire Municipal Association will be holding Local Officials Workshops; the closest ones are at the Hudson Community Center on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and in Concord on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- A second phone line has been added to the Town Clerk's office.

#### 4.2 *Public Comment*

Ben Clark stood and was recognized. He wished to clarify the closing date for Petitioned Warrant Articles, stating that, due to the potential of having the Fire Department's Tanker Warrant Article deleted, the Fire Association may need to draw up a Petitioned Warrant Article to replace it. Chairman Landau reiterated that the closing date is Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and that the petition must be signed by 25 registered voters, or 2% of the total electorate, whichever is fewer. He also suggested that it would be a good idea to procure more than 25 signatures, should any be disqualified upon review by the Town Clerk and/or Supervisors of the Checklist.

Leroy Scott stood and was recognized. He asked for an update on the discussion of ~1-2 months ago about a grant for a lighted sign for the Fire Department, much like the one in Auburn. Selectman Trask stated that the Emergency Management Department is currently looking into applying for a grant to purchase both a portable lighted sign and portable lights.

Mr. Scott also noted that there is much activity going on at Wason Pond, and asked about portable toilets. Chairman Landau stated that the one previously by the Playground had been removed when it began to be used as shelter; it will be returned in the Spring. This will be handled by the Recreation Department.

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

#### 4.3 *Non-Public Sessions*

Chairman Landau moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Public Employees and (e) Pending Litigation; Selectman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Hagan and Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

The meeting room was closed at 8:55pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:32pm.

Chairman Landau moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Trask seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Hagan and Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

Chairman Landau moved that the minutes to the first non-public session, on Pending Litigation, be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Hagan and Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

Chairman Landau moved that the minutes to the second non-public session, on Public Employees, be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Hagan and Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

**V. Adjournment**

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

216

Chairman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Hagan and Selectman Castricone absent; so moved.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:34pm.

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Debra H. Doda

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