

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018  
Municipal Complex  
Approved Minutes**

**I Preliminaries**

Call the Meeting to Order  
Roll Call  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Additions and Deletions  
Public Comment  
Approval of Minutes  
Items for Signature  
Maintenance Position  
Town Administrator  
Department Heads Meeting  
Tick Spraying  
PACT – Process for School Use of Funds  
DOT Meeting  
Spring Hill Farm Update  
Roundtable  
Non-Public Sessions  
Adjournment

*1.1 Call to Order*

Chairman Owens called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:02pm.

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen present:

Steve D’Angelo  
Joseph Hagan  
Stephen Landau  
Jeremy Owens

Selectmen absent:

Cass Buckley

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Greg Bolduc, Fire Chief  
Maryann Boulter, SHFAC  
Tiffany Coroka, SHFAC  
Bob Grimm, PACT  
Kendall Kunelius, SHFAC  
Richard LeBlanc, PACT  
Chuck Myette  
Nancy Myette  
Jay Rowden  
Maria Veale  
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times

And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

*1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairman Owens led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*1.4 Chairman’s Additions and Deletions*

*Highway Department Updates* has been moved to next week.

*1.5 Public Comments*

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:03pm.

**II. Old Business**

*2.1 Approval of Minutes*

An approval sheet for the previous weeks’ meeting minutes is in the signature folder.

*2.2 Items for Signature*

All members should review and sign items in the Signature Folder.

*2.3 Maintenance Supervisor Position*

BOS AA Doda has collected all of the resumes submitted so far; Selectman Landau, as liaison, will take the folder, review, and choose some for further consideration.

*2.4 Town Administrator*

Chairman Owens would like to form a working group consisting of both Town Employees and Chester residents to develop a detailed proposal for the hiring of a Town Administrator. Selectmen should consider this suggestion and once all are in agreement, it will be posted on the Town website and interested parties will be encouraged to apply to join.

*2.6 Department Heads Meeting*

The next Department Heads meeting will be at 9:00am on Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Selectman D’Angelo will host. The day may change after this, as Chairman Owens is never available on Thursday mornings and would be interested in hosting as well.

*2.7 Tick Spraying*

Jay Rowden joined the Selectmen at the meeting table to read a prepared statement which was read previously at a Recreation Commission meeting. Mr. Rowden is concerned that the Selectmen discussing and voting on Tick Spraying at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, which while “technically legal”, was “an obvious ploy to railroad a decision with little or no public comment” and the vote was “hastily arranged to circumvent the democratic process”. He stated that the bordering towns of Sandown, Derry, and Raymond spray for ticks/mosquitos and that these pests can carry diseases such as Lyme Disease, West Nile Virus, Triple-E, etc.

Selectman D’Angelo pointed out that the Selectmen, on May 10<sup>th</sup>, had voted to allow the Recreation

Commission to spray the fields for ticks using the revolving fund, but they had decided against doing so and sent the decision back to the Selectmen. He suggested that the Recreation Commission revisit the subject and ask the Selectmen to reconsider.

Various Selectmen spoke in favor of more natural methods and in opposition to chemicals. Chairman Owens, who is the liaison to the Recreation Commission, would like that Commission to explore all options, not just spraying.

Chuck Myette stated that the tick issue is nationwide; the Town cannot spray a couple of fields and expect it to go away. The chemicals may be safe if applied properly, but there are always unintended consequences. He suggested that education and parental supervision are key; residents could wear tick repellent clothing, check themselves and their children, use DEET, etc.

### **III. New Business**

#### *3.1 PACT – Process for School Use of Funds*

Selectman D’Angelo procured a copy of the PACT Charter, which he distributed to the other Selectmen. He is under the impression that the School wants to set up their own studio, and is glad that students are interested, but that is not covered under the charter.

Bob Grimm and Rich LeBlanc of the PACT Committee were present, and joined the Selectmen at the meeting table at 7:22pm. Mr. Grimm noted that the PACT Committee has made three requests of the School:

1. The PACT Liaison to the School, Mr. Grimm, will meet with the School IT person and inventory their equipment,
2. Mr. Grimm will repair any broken equipment, and
3. The School Board liaison will meet with the PACT Committee to share their plan.

Insofar as items #1 and #2 are concerned, the School requires that PACT Committee members be accompanied by the School IT person, Ben, for inventory and equipment repair, but they have been unable to schedule time with him. Additionally, for Item #3, the School Board has asked to defer this until after the next School Board meeting of June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, as the liaison may be changed. PACT is meeting this coming Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

There are a number of ongoing issues. If the School would allow the PACT Committee to look at the School’s existing equipment and discuss what sort of programming they want, the PACT Committee could recommend the appropriate purchases. Although the PACT Committee is purchasing used equipment for themselves, the School Board is requesting new, HD-capable equipment and yet as Comcast doesn’t air in HD, they will need another additional piece of equipment to convert the HD signal to SD. And although Mr. Grimm is the liaison to the School Board, they are not going through him but instead contacting the Chairman directly.

Selectman Landau is concerned that while the Town votes on the amount to be withdrawn from the PACT Fund at each Town Meeting, the School does not. Mr. Grimm noted that there are ~1,100 households in Chester that use Comcast, and those are the residents paying for the TV studio, not the Town or the School. The Franchise Fee has been 1% for decades and the PACT Committee is in the process of raising it to 2%. Mr. LeBlanc stated that although the Selectmen voted to allow the School to use \$5,200 of PACT funds, the Selectmen do not own that budget; the PACT Committee does.

Selectman D’Angelo noted that the PACT Committee members had been tracking their volunteer time, which is considerable.

Selectman Hagan stated that as the School year was winding down there was plenty of time for these requests to be met, but added that the animosity on both sides was not helpful. He suggested that once a plan is in place, the PACT Committee say yes to the requests – within reason.

Mr. Grimm and Mr. LeBlanc departed the meeting at 7:43pm.

### *3.2 DOT Meeting of Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

Selectman Landau attended this meeting, along with Road Agent Oleson and Deputy Fire Chief Ben Clark. The point behind this plan is to alleviate traffic on Route 102 in Derry. The new Exit 4A would come out on the east side of Route 93 in Londonderry. This project will cost a minimum of \$57M.

Apparently there are five scenarios remaining under consideration, labeled as A, B, C, D, and F. Scenario A is the favorite, and will utilize 3.4 acres of land in Derry/Londonderry; Scenario B would utilize 10 acres. Both of these would utilize Tsienneto Road to 102, which would need to be widened. Scenario F would eliminate street parking in Downtown Derry. Selectman Landau stated that ~45-50 spoke at the meeting, and only one had anything positive to say about the project.

Selectman Landau had asked if it was possible to mark this road as “No Through Trucking”, as there is no need for a truck route from J&F Farms until one reaches Wal\*Mart in Raymond. He also suggested that the intersection be lowered somewhat to allow for better visibility, but noted that it was possible that there were graves under the roadway which would be disturbed. The DOT representative stated that this was an issue for the Department of Safety, not the DOT. Selectman Landau spoke with Governor Sununu about this as well, and would like to follow up with an email.

Chester currently does not have representation on this project, and Selectman Landau volunteered to be that representative; Selectman D’Angelo is willing to be backup. The next meeting is in July.

### *3.3 Spring Hill Farm Update*

Maryann Boulter, Tiffany Coroka, Kendall Kunelius, and Chuck Myette of the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee joined the Selectmen at the meeting table.

Mr. Myette reported that the remaining Spring Hill Farm cow, Norma, had fallen ill over Memorial Day weekend with lack of interest in food or drink, a high temperature, and respiratory issues. After visits from and consultations with vets Dr. Kim and Dr. George from the Deerfield Clinic, it was determined that it was either a heart or lung infection and the vets recommended euthanasia. Norma was buried on Spring Hill Farm property on Memorial Day. Ms. Kunelius thanked the Spring Hill Farm Board of Trustees for their good care of Norma.

One additional bid for haying the fields at Spring Hill Farm was received; it is reported that one or two more are forthcoming, including a Mustang Rescue on Fremont Road. As haying is still possible through the end of June, there is no harm in extending the submittal date until mid-June; to be specific, 4pm on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The Agricultural Commission is hosting a Foodscaping Class on Spring Hill Farm property on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10:00am.

The SHFAC is also considering holding Farmers’ Markets; as the Spring Hill Farm property is not on the main road and there is limited parking, holding them at Wason Pond might be a better choice. In order that any vendors are covered under the Town’s insurance, any vendor fees should be made as donations, not charges.

The resident who had asked about renting the High Tunnel is no longer interested.

Ms. Boulter, Ms. Coroka, Ms. Kunelius, and Mr. Myette departed the meeting at 8:22pm.

#### **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

##### *4.1 Roundtable*

###### *Selectman D’Angelo:*

- There was some discussion about work done and planned at the Fire Station which was not budgeted for in the Maintenance budget. This work includes a new water heater, installation of ceiling fans in order to add to the building’s energy efficiency, replacement of broken siding, etc. Repairs to the septic system are in the CIP. Fire Chief Bolduc was asked to procure quotes for the work he’d like done and submit them to the Selectmen in order that funding for the work can be considered for encumbrance at the end of this Fiscal Year.

###### *Selectman Hagan:*

- Nothing to report.

###### *Selectman Landau:*

- Nothing to report.

###### *Chairman Owens:*

- HealthTrust has asked the Selectmen to vote on an optional provision which would allow employees participating in the Dependent Care program to spend down their own contributions after termination, which is not the current process. The Selectmen were in favor of this. **Selectman Landau moved to adopt the Dependent Care Spend Down provision; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.**
- Finance Director Smith has asked if the Selectmen plan to approve CPI increases this July 1<sup>st</sup>; they do, as long as it is budgeted. **Selectman Landau moved to authorize CPI increases to employee pay as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.**
- The Fire Department held a blood drive this past Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, and it was very popular; Fire Chief Bolduc stated that 38 pints were donated, which is higher than normal.

##### *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 and (e) Pending Litigation; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

The meeting room was closed at 8:40pm. Fire Chief Bolduc remained in the meeting room.

Fire Chief Bolduc departed the meeting room at 9:02pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:11pm.

**Selectman Landau moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

**Selectman Landau moved that the minutes to the first non-public session, on Public Employees, be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

**Selectman Landau moved that the minutes to the second non-public session, on Pending Litigation, be sealed for a period of one (1) year; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

**V. Adjournment**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda  
Recording Secretary