

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, June 28th, 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
Appointment to Wason Pond Commission
Roadwork Bond
Part-Time PACT Position
Police Space Needs Study RFP
Wason Pond Safety
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 7:00pm.

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:

Aaron Berube, Police Chief
John Dalrymple, Groundskeeper
Bob Grimm, PACT
Chuck Myette
Nancy Myette
Michael Oleson, Road Agent
Duane Provencher
Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director
Terry Traynor, PACT
Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times
John Wright
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

Selectman Landau has one additional encumbrance request.

1.5 Public Comments

As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:01pm.

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. Items include a three-month extension to the Assessing contract with MRI while the new contract is being drawn up as well as a new deed transfer procedure for the Assessor’s office.

III. New Business

3.1 Appointment to the Wason Pond Commission

When the Wason Pond Commission was created in 2007, the Warrant Article mandated that one member be a Selectman. Selectman Landau is acting as their liaison this year, and is also willing to be appointed as a regular member.

Selectman D’Angelo moved to appoint Stephen O. Landau to the Wason Pond Commission as a regular member for a one-year term to expire May 31st, 2019; Selectman Hagan seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.

3.2 Roadwork Bond – Road Agent Oleson

Road Agent Oleson appeared before the Selectmen to discuss a proposed \$7m roadwork bond, as well as other Highway Department updates.

He has received a number of calls from residents concerned that little roadwork is being done, and asking why a bond has not been proposed. He then broached the subject of a bond before the Budget Committee’s last meeting, but according to Budget Committee Vice-Chair Rhonda Lamphere, the subject did not garner much support and it had been tabled. He would like to know what the Selectmen think of the idea before putting any more time into it.

Selectman D’Angelo stated that the Budget Committee had tabled the question due to no clear picture of what would be done; Chairman Owens stated that he would like to understand the Town’s roads needs before making any major investment into them. A working group could be formed, and those residents who are most interested in seeing a bond proposed could be asked to join. If the Legislative Body wishes a bond, the Selectmen may be willing to support it.

Road Agent Oleson’s plan for the bond would be to spread the work out over two years, specifically concentrating on older roads. One of the issues is the fact that there is often no documentation on how the older roads were built, which necessitates more engineering work. He referred again to an organization named “Street Scan” which would come to Town and, using various methods including infrared scanning, would be able to index all of the Town’s roads in order that he has something from which he could plan his roadwork. This would be likely to cost \$50-\$60k. Selectman D’Angelo inquired about the SNHPC’s pavement evaluation project that was funded from the CIP at the 2017 Town Meeting; apparently this is being held up by DOT at this point.

Road Agent Oleson also reminded the Selectmen that the contractor that had repaired Cole Road during its catastrophic failure in April 2018 is still owed \$34k from that work, which they had generously offered to defer until the end of the Fiscal Year. BOS AA Doda will confirm that Finance Director Smith still has the invoice and that this will be paid before any encumbrance requests are granted.

Road Agent Oleson departed the meeting table at 7:30pm.

3.3 Part-Time PACT Position – Bob Grimm & Terry Traynor

Mr. Grimm and Mr. Traynor appeared before the Selectmen to discuss the part-time studio coordinator position they expected to fund via Warrant Article #19 at this year’s Town Meeting, which had passed.

Mr. Grimm distributed a job description and wording for an employment ad to be run in the Union Leader as well as other publications and web sites. Selectman Landau suggested that if they had someone in mind for the position that they not spend money on running an ad in the Union Leader, as there are a number of places where it can be posted at no charge (such as the Town website, the New Hampshire Municipal Association website, etc.). BOS AA Doda can assist with this.

The Selectmen mandated that this coordinator will be a contractor, not a Town employee, and added that if the funding for the position (which is from Franchise Fees) ever goes away, the position will as well. PACT has put together a hiring committee consisting of the PACT Committee members, Selectman D’Angelo (as their liaison) and Mike Romick (as their liaison from the School Board).

Selectman D’Angelo moved to approve the PACT Studio Coordinator job description; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.

The next PACT meeting will be on Saturday, July 14th, 2018 at 10:00am.

Mr. Grimm and Mr. Traynor departed the meeting at 7:40pm.

3.4 Police Space Needs Study RFP – Police Chief Berube

Police Chief Berube appeared before the Selectmen to finalize the Police Department Space Needs Study RFP.

Police Chief Berube would like the Selectmen to know two things: one, that some of the information in the RFP that had been deleted by Vice-Chairman Buckley had been specifically included by an engineering firm, and two, that he had been conservative in his estimates – they might be surprised at how much space will be needed.

Selectman Landau inquired about the reference to a 24/7 communications center with four dispatchers; was Rockingham County Dispatch going away? Apparently this is the plan; Rockingham, which currently has 18-20 dispatchers, will be closing down and going to regional dispatch centers, staffed locally. These

new dispatchers would be Town employees. As the Town does not pay Rockingham County for dispatch services, this will be an added expense.

The RFP has been made as open as possible in order that bidders can choose whether renovation, building on the existing footprint, or complete new construction is the most effective plan for the Department. The deadline for submittal will be Friday, August 31st, 2018 at 4:00pm; bids will be opened at the next Selectmen’s meeting. Selectman Landau suggested the formation of a committee to review the bids, much like the committee that was formed to interview the new Maintenance Supervisor, consisting perhaps of a Selectman, a member of the Budget Committee, and some Department Heads and residents.

Selectman D’Angelo moved to allow Police Chief Berube to send out the Police Space Needs Study RFP, and to amend it during this timeframe if necessary, with a deadline of 4pm on August 31st, 2018; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.

3.5 Wason Pond Safety – Police Chief Berube

A Summer Program counselor had found drugs on the Wason Pond Beach on Monday, June 25th, 2018. She handled it quickly and appropriately, thanks to training provided by Recreation Coordinator Corinna Reishus during the counselors’ orientation program.

There have been concerns expressed about Wason Pond, including overuse by non-residents, the large number of remote areas available for illicit activities, and now the drugs. The Police Department has an active presence there, with walk-throughs on a daily basis, ~five driving visits per night on 2nd shift, and even more on 3rd shift. Most activity takes places over the four “good weather” months, with less during the other eight. Over the past year there were over 300 property checks, over 100 calls for service, and 18 arrests.

Due to the property purchase being partially funded with federal grant money, the Town may not exclude non-residents from the property. Various solutions have been suggested, such as requiring parking permits, charging to park, gating the property, and repaying the federal funds (which may not be allowed). It was suggested that an ‘open session’ be held, with residents invited to share their ideas.

The Police Department began advertising for a ‘Park Ranger’ this Spring, and brought in a candidate to introduce to the Selectmen.

John Wright is a Chester resident and Vietnam veteran who has recently retired from his career as an over the road trucker for Walmart. He is familiar with the Wason Pond property, having ridden horses there, and is interested in giving back to the community. Police Chief Berube plans to hire him with a start date of July 1st, and have him train in communications, first aid, etc. for one week with Sgt. Loveless. He will work 30 hours a week, weather dependent and outside of Monday-Friday 8am – 5pm, as the Recreation Summer Program is the ‘eyes and ears’ during that timeframe. He will be uniformed and carry a communications device, either a cell phone or a walkie-talkie, with which he can contact the Police Department if his presence and intervention is not sufficient to deter issues.

Selectman Landau moved to hire John Wright as a Park Ranger for Wason Pond, conditional upon clean background check and proper training; Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.

Police Chief Berube and Mr. Wright departed the meeting table at 8:27pm.

IV. Selectmen’s Business

4.1 Roundtable

Selectman Landau:

- He has one item to be discussed in non-public session.
- He is liaison to the newly authorized CIP Committee, and plans to work on organizing it in August.
- The Village Cemetery Trustees have requested to encumber the \$5,750 remaining in their FY2017-2018 budget, as they do much of their work in good weather and have been unable to finish the tasks for which they budgeted. The Selectmen agreed to add their requests onto the Encumbrance list in positions 6 (Fencing, \$3,000), 7 (Rock Wall Repairs, \$2,000) and 8 (Trees, \$750). A brief discussion ensued about the auditors’ advice to merge the Village Cemetery Trustees and the Great Hill Cemetery Trustees. However, no-one at the State appears interested in pursuing this.

Selectman D’Angelo:

- Nothing to report.

Selectman Hagan:

- Nothing to report.

Chairman Owens:

- After some discussion, it was decided that the Selectmen’s meetings of Thursday, July 5th, and Thursday, July 12th, 2018 will be cancelled.
- As the work on Edwards Mill Dam has been finished, Dubois & King and Busby Construction plan a site visit some day in the next few weeks, and would like any interested Selectmen to attend. BOS AA Doda will publish the date when it is decided upon. Selectman Landau thanked Busby for stepping up and completing this work a number of years after their original bid.
- The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission had originally planned to designate Route 102 from Raymond to Derry as a ‘Critical Urban Freight Corridor’ (a/k/a a major trucking route). Fortunately, Planning Coordinator Andrew Hadik had convinced them at Tuesday’s meeting to remove it from the list. Selectman Landau would like to contact Governor Sununu’s office about this list, as truck traffic should be kept off of Route 102 as much as possible.
- The next payday will be on Tuesday, July 3rd, as the 4th is a holiday. Selectmen should be sure to come into the office over the weekend to sign the manifest.

4.2 Non-Public Sessions

Selectman D’Angelo moved that the Board go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Employment and (c) Reputation; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.

The meeting room was closed at 8:42pm. Police Chief Berube, Groundskeeper Dalrymple, Road Agent Oleson, Recreation Director Reishus, and Mr. Provencher remained in the meeting room.

Mr. Provencher departed the meeting at 9:01pm.

Groundskeeper Dalrymple, Road Agent Oleson, and Recreation Director Reishus departed the meeting at 9:15pm.

Police Chief Berube departed the meeting at 9:41pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:47pm.

Chairman Owens 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 D’Angelo moved that the minutes to the first non-public session, on Employment, be sealed for a period of three (3) months; 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 Employment, be sealed for a period of six (6) months; Chairman Owens seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Buckley absent; motion carried.

Selectman D’Angelo moved that the minutes to the third non-public session, on Reputation, be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Landau 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, July 19th, 2018.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda
Recording Secretary