

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2021
Virtual Meeting
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
- Items for Signature
- Introduction of New Selectman and Election of Officers
- Boy Scout Yard Sale
- Fire Department Hiring
- CIP Roadwork
- Discussion of Liaisons
- Wage Matrix Update
- Indigenous Peoples Day
- Roundtable
- Potential Non-Public Sessions
- Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Chairman Owens called the meeting of the Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00pm.

Under the emergency provisions of RSA 91A, this meeting is being conducted electronically and will be recorded, via dial-in, (929) 436-2866, internet at <https://zoom.us/j/770832311> as well as broadcast on Channel 20 and streamed on <http://vod.chesterctv.com>.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen Present (Present Remotely):

- Jeremy Owens
- Chuck Myette
- Steve D’Angelo
- Stephen Landau
- Steve Couture

Selectmen absent:

Town Administrator Debra Doda (Present Remotely)

Members of the Public Present (Remotely), at various times:

51 Aaron Berube, Police Chief
52 Phil Gladu, Acting Fire Chief
53 Alex Hodosi
54 Liz Lufkin, Town Clerk/ Tax Collector
55 Mike Oleson, Road Agent
56 Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director
57 Abigail Richards
58 Jay Rowden, Boy Scout Troop Leader
59 Penny Williams, Raymond Area News
60 PACT

61
62 and other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary.

63
64 *1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

65
66 Chairman Owens led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

67
68 *1.4 Chairman’s Additions or Deletions*

69
70 None

71
72 *1.5 Public Comment*

73
74 Chairman Owens opened the meeting to public comment at 7:01pm.

75
76 As no Members of the Public wished to be heard, Public Comment was closed at 7:02pm.

77
78 **II. Old Business**

79
80 *2.1 Approval of Minutes*

81
82 An approval sheet for the previous meeting’s minutes was sent electronically.

83
84 *2.2 Items for Signature*

85
86 All members reviewed and signed the items in the signature folder submitted electronically.

87
88 **III. New Business**

89
90 *3.1 Introduction of New Selectman and Election of Officers*

91
92 Steve Couture was congratulated and introduced as the newest member of the Board of Selectmen.
93 Selectman Landau was congratulated on his reelection.

94
95 **Selectman Owens nominated Selectman Myette as Chair; Selectman Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – nay, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Couture – aye. The motion passed 4-1-0.**

96
97
98
99 **Selectman Landau nominated Selectman Owens as Vice-Chair; Selectman Myette seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.**
100

101
102 The meeting was turned over to Chairman Myette.

103
104 *3.2 Boy Scout Yard Sale*
105

106 Troop Leader Jay Rowden requested permission to use the town fields from June 19th to June 28th
107 for the Boy Scouts Yard Sale. Volunteers will adhere to both the State and Boy Scout Covid -19
108 guidelines for the event. Masks will be worn and there will be plenty of gloves and hand sanitizer
109 on hand. Captain Gladu offered the Fire Department’s sanitizing machine for extra cleaning during
110 the event.

111
112 Recreation Director Reishus mentioned the fields are in use by another group for games until the
113 end of July. She will ask if they have flexibility and get back to Mr. Rowden. Based on the cleaning
114 schedule for the Baseball Porta Potty it is advised that the Boy Scouts have one dropped for the
115 event.

116
117 ***Selectman Landau motioned to tentatively prepare for the Boy Scout yard sale on June 25 and***
118 ***26 pending games not scheduled on the field during June 19 to June 28. Vice-Chairman Owens***
119 ***seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye,***
120 ***Myette – aye and Couture – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

121
122 *3.3 Fire Department Hiring*
123

124 Captain Gladu presented Abigail Richards as a new call member for the department. She is EMT
125 Basic certified working on her advanced. She has already expressed interest in Fire 1 and Fire 2.

126
127 Jordan Perry, EMT advanced certified is also returning as a call member for the department.

128
129 Captain Gladu also introduced Alexander Hodosi as the new full timer at the department. He is
130 certified in Fire 1, Fire 2 and EMT basic.

131
132 Chairman Myette welcomed Ms. Richards and Mr. Hodosi to the department.

133
134 *3.4 CIP Roadwork*
135

136 Road Agent Oleson requested to continue with the same paving company for the upcoming year.
137 They have offered the same pricing on most of the work being performed. The only unknown for
138 the work is the asphalt pricing. Chairman Myette mentioned some past projects have come in
139 under budget and as long we continue to see the cost, quality and quantity of work being performed
140 as a benefit to the town we should continue with the same vendor.

141
142 With the CIP Funding of \$750K on July 1 the work will begin to complete North Pond Road and
143 continue to Rand Drive.

144
145 Selectman Couture agrees to continue with this vendor but would like to see the work go out for a
146 competitive bid process next year.

147
148 ***Selectman Landau motioned to continue with Busby Construction for the roadwork in FY 21-22.***
149 ***Vice-Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo –***

150 ***aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Couture – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed***
151 ***unanimously.***

152
153 *3.5 Change in Meeting Format*
154

155 Chairman Myette commented if we go back before the June 3rd mask mandate review, masks are
156 required in the building. Selectman D’Angelo is ready to transition back to meeting in person now
157 that almost all members have had the vaccine.

158
159 Selectman Couture recommended being prepared to ensure public participation in the meetings.
160 Chairman Myette has already spoken to Town Administrator Doda about getting a camera and
161 allowing the public to access the meeting via Zoom if needed.

162
163 ***Selectman D’Angelo motioned to resume in person BOS meetings on June 10th. Selectman***
164 ***Couture seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau –***
165 ***abstained, Myette – aye and Couture – aye. The motion passed with Landau abstaining.***
166

167 Recreation Director Reishus pointed out the state guidelines are recommending people wear masks
168 inside buildings, while the CDC is not recommending masks for vaccinated people. There may be
169 more guidance before the June 3rd meeting.

170
171 *3.6 Discussion of Liaisons*
172

173 Town Administrator Doda sent out the Liaisons signup sheet with the requirements for committee
174 meetings. The Department Heads will go thru the Town Administrator and in her absence could go
175 through the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. This topic will be added to the agenda next week
176 for more discussion.

177
178 *3.7 Wage Matrix Update*
179

180 Selectman Landau mentioned there needs to be changes on the wage matrix. Every year there
181 needs to be an increase for the CPI. Also, there are a few employees in lower positions that will need
182 to be realigned.

183
184 Chairman Myette commented that annual reviews are not consistent, and a job description should
185 be associated with the grades on the wage matrix. Annual reviews should be considered when
186 building the following years budget.

187
188 *3.8 Indigenous Peoples Day*
189

190 Town Administrator Doda indicated that State Representative Jess Edwards had informed her that
191 the date on the amendment to Warrant Article #28, Indigenous Peoples Day, which had been voted
192 on at Town Meeting was incorrect; it should have been August 9th, not August 19th. The town had
193 approved the Warrant Article with August 19th and this cannot be changed now. It is up to the
194 board if they would like to proclaim the celebration on the correct date this year and support a new
195 warrant article next year to correct.

196
197 The decision was made to keep the date voted upon by the town and a new warrant article can be
198 petitioned next year to correct if desired.
199

200 **IV. Selectmen’s Business**

201
202 *4.1 Roundtable*

203
204 Selectman Landau has one non-public.

205
206 Vice-Chairman Owens
207 *Nothing to report.*

208
209 Selectman D’Angelo:
210 *Nothing to report.*

211
212 Selectman Couture:
213 *Nothing to report.*

214
215 Chairman Myette has one pending litigation to discuss in non-public.

216
217 Chairman Myette announced the following meetings and events are coming up:

- 218
219 Tuesday, May 25, 2021 300th Anniversary Committee at 7:00pm
220
221 Wednesday, May 26, 2021 Planning Board Meeting at 7:00pm
222
223 Thursday, May 27, 2021 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting at 7:00pm
224
225 Saturday, May 29, 2021 American Legion Car Wash at the Transfer Station 9-2

226
227 Chairman Myette mentioned the 300th is selling Gala tickets and asked if the other members would
228 possibly want to purchase a table for the event.

229
230 *4.2 Non-Public Session(s)*

231
232 ***Selectman Landau motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II) (b)***
233 ***employment(c) reputation, (e) pending litigation, and (j) financial information. Vice-Chairman***
234 ***Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau –***
235 ***aye, Myette – aye and Couture – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

236
237 The meeting was closed to the public at 8:23 PM. Acting Fire Chief Phil Gladu remained in the
238 meeting.

239
240 Acting Fire Chief Gladu departed the meeting at 8:30 PM.

241
242 ***Selectman Landau motioned to come out of non-public session. Vice-Chairman Owens***
243 ***seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye,***
244 ***Myette – aye and Couture – aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

245
246 The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:28 PM.

247
248 ***Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the first non-public session, on Employment,***
249 ***for an indefinite period. Vice-Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken,***

250 ***Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Couture –aye. With all in favor, the***
251 ***motion passed unanimously.***

252
253 ***Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the second non-public session, on Financial***
254 ***Information, for a period of thirty (30) days. Vice-Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll***
255 ***call vote was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Couture –aye.***
256 ***With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

257
258 ***Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the third non-public session, on Pending***
259 ***Litigation, for an indefinite period. Vice-Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote***
260 ***was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Couture – aye. With all***
261 ***in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

262
263 ***Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the fourth non-public session, on***
264 ***Reputation, for an indefinite period. Vice-Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call***
265 ***vote was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Couture –aye.***
266 ***With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

267
268 ***Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the fifth non-public session, on Pending***
269 ***Litigation, for a period of one hundred fifty (150) days. Vice-Chairman Owens seconded the***
270 ***motion. A roll call vote was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and***
271 ***Couture –aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

272
273 ***Selectman Landau motioned to seal the minutes of the sixth non-public session, on Reputation,***
274 ***for a period of three (3) months. Vice-Chairman Owens seconded the motion. A roll call vote***
275 ***was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Couture –aye. With all***
276 ***in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

277
278 **V. Adjournment**

279
280 ***Selectman Landau moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Owens seconded the motion.***
281 ***A roll call vote was taken, Owens – aye, D’Angelo – aye, Landau – aye, Myette – aye and Couture***
282 ***– aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

283
284 The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

285
286 Respectfully submitted,

287
288 Janis A. Jalbert
289 Recording Secretary