

**Town of Chester  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Municipal Complex  
Approved Minutes**

**I Preliminaries**

*1.1 Call to Order*

Vice-Chairman Cannon called this meeting of the Town of Chester Board of Selectmen to order at 7:03pm.

*1.2 Roll Call*

Selectmen present:

Jack Cannon  
Joe Castricone  
Stephen Landau

Selectmen absent:

Robert Brown  
James Hassam

Members of the Public present, at various times:

Barbara Dolloff, Welfare Officer  
Midge Gould, Welfare Officer  
Hilary Hall  
Patricia Martin, Administrative Assistant  
Steve Moltenbrey, Maintenance Supervisor  
Michael Oleson, Road Agent  
Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times  
Bryan Remillard  
Carolyn Scott  
Leroy Scott  
And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

*1.3 Pledge of Allegiance*

Vice-Chairman Cannon led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*1.4 Additions and Deletions*

The well bids will be discussed, as well as some old business. “Old Business” should be added as an agenda item.

1.5 *Public Comment*

As no members of the Public wished to speak, the Board closed Public Comment at 7:04pm.

**II Appointments**

2.1 *Hilary Hall - Stevens Hall Rededication Update*

At the last Stevens Hall meeting, a presentation was made by East Coast Piano. They reported that the piano in Stevens Hall is a concert grand, made by Chickering & Sons sometime in the 1905 time frame. For restoration, it needs to be removed from Stevens Hall. The mahogany cabinet needs to be stripped and refinished; the music stand, sounding board, lyre assembly, and keyboard need to be repaired; it needs to be restrung. The estimate for repair, which includes the moving in and out, a tripod dolly, and a padded cover, is ~\$23,000; a comparable new piano would cost anywhere from \$75,000 to \$115,000. The Historical Society is willing to seed the restoration fund with a donation of \$5,000.

She has met with a contractor from Laconia about restoring the plaster walls. Selectman Landau also knows a local plasterer who might be able to perform this job. Vice-Chairman Cannon mentioned that the Maintenance Employee could be asked to remove the paneling to expedite this process. Administrative Assistant Martin will be asked to contact Selectman Brown, as liaison to the Maintenance Department, about this task. It was stressed that the Board did not want the Lions Club to lose their display space.

Vice-Chairman Cannon opined that renovating the first floor was a more important task at this point in time than restoring the piano. Selectman Landau stated that perhaps a grant could be found to restore the piano.

At the last Historical Society meeting on Tuesday, writing a script for a potential re-enactment of a -1910 ‘Town Meeting’ was discussed. Many organizations are getting involved with the Stevens Hall rededication.

The next Stevens Hall meeting will be on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm.

Ms. Hall departed the meeting at 7:20pm.

2.2 *Justin Kimball - Septic Design Approval*

Mr. Kimball was not present at the meeting.

2.3 *Bryan Remillard - Bid Policy*

Mr. Remillard appeared before the Board to discuss the Road Agent’s adherence to the Bid Policy. He stated that the Road Agent was directing all work to his own company, MLM, rather than putting it out to bid. He wants the Road Agent to solicit time and material rates from contractors on a yearly basis in order that any work done, whether it be equipment rental or man-hours, can be given

to the lowest bidder.

Road Agent Oleson joined Mr. Remillard and the Board at the meeting table. He stated that as the Highway budget was smaller this year than it had been in previous years, he is doing minor jobs whenever he can, using both his own and the Town’s equipment, along with the Town employees; therefore, there has been no need to bid them out. The Board concurred, stating that according to the invoices received, none of the Road Agent’s jobs were over \$5,000, which is the amount at which bidding is required.

Mr. Remillard departed the meeting at 7:48pm.

There is currently no policy in place regarding the renting of equipment by the Road Agent. The Board stated that the time and material rates idea is worth looking into, and is willing to discuss it. However, as the Road Agent is an elected official, he has the authority to decide what work is done, how it is done, and what equipment is used. They asked Road Agent Oleson if he was using MLM equipment exclusively for Town work; he stated that he was not, and that if other contractors had competitive rates for equipment, he would be willing to use them. Contractors interested in working for the Town need to contact the Road Agent.

Road Agent Oleson departed the meeting at 7:58pm.

#### *2.4 Steve Moltenbrey - Town Truck*

The Town Pickup Truck, a Ford F-150, is having issues. Londonderry Ford had said during a previous maintenance visit that they did not consider it roadworthy. The brake lines are corroded, and the estimate to repair is ~\$1,500 - \$3,000. Maintenance Supervisor Moltenbrey has pulled it off the road.

This truck was purchased at the White Farm four years ago for \$4,000. Selectman Landau suggested that the White Farm be visited again and another truck purchased.

Maintenance Supervisor Moltenbrey would prefer that the Town take a different route, stating that purchasing another used truck from the White Farm was merely a stop-gap measure. Selectman Landau stated that the previous truck had also been considered a stop-gap when it was purchased, and that it had lasted for four years. The Town is unable to afford a new truck at this time. A brief discussion ensued about the setup and purpose of the White Farm.

Selectman Landau is willing to tow the current truck back to the White Farm, where they might sell it again, and to accompany Maintenance Supervisor Moltenbrey as he looks for another one there. It still needs to be determined where the funds will be located to purchase another truck. Maintenance Supervisor Moltenbrey departed the meeting at 8:12pm.

#### *2.5 Welfare Officers - Proposed Non-Public*

Selectman Castricone moved that the Board go into non-public session with Welfare Officers Barbara Dolloff and Midge Gould under RSA 91-A:3 II (c), Reputation; Selectman Landau seconded

the motion. The vote was three in favor with Chairman Hassam and Selectman Brown absent; so moved. The meeting room was closed at 8:18pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 8:46pm.

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

Selectman Castricone moved that the minutes to the non-public session be sealed for an indefinite period; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was three in favor with Chairman Hassam and Selectman Brown absent; so moved.

### **III Meeting Business**

#### *3.1 Approval of Minutes*

This subject was not addressed tonight.

#### *3.2 Roundtable*

##### *Selectman Landau*

- A letter was received from a towns person regarding dog licensing. The dog licensing statutes are set up by the State in RSA 466 and must be followed by the Town. Selectman Landau will consult with Town Clerk Barbara Gagnon on an answer to this letter, and he will bring their draft to the next meeting for the Board to approve.
- He has met with the Trustees of the Trust Funds about the Cemetery’s Perpetual Care funds. Each year the Trustees of the Trust Funds convey all interest received on the Perpetual Care funds to the Cemetery Trustees. A line needs to be added to the Budget to account for these funds, although they are not to be considered Town funds. The Trustees of the Trust Funds do not want these funds returned at the end of the Fiscal Year; they are to be rolled over. The Cemetery Trustees are only to use interest for perpetual care; any donations received during the year need to be conveyed to the Trustees of the Trust Funds.
- According to Town Clerk Gagnon, the previous Fiscal Year books need to be settled by October 9<sup>th</sup> in order that the tax rate can be determined and the tax bills sent out for printing. Vice-Chairman Cannon asked why Town Clerk Gagnon and Finance Director Angela Sherwood are not working together on this issue; Selectman Landau stated that it was merely a heads-up.
- The bids for the Wason Pond Well need to be reviewed and a bidder chosen to recommend to the State before October 1<sup>st</sup>, which is the date of the next Selectmen’s meeting. Vice-Chairman, who had not had a chance to review these bids due to his absence from the last meeting, would like to perform some analysis on the bids before stating his opinion. All Selectmen need to review these bids and contact Selectman Landau with their opinion before October 1<sup>st</sup>.

##### *Selectman Castricone*

- Nothing to report.

*Vice-Chairman Cannon*

- Nothing to report.

### *3.3 Public Comment*

Andy Higham, chairman of the Loss Management Board, stood and was recognized. He stated that only three people were signed up for the upcoming Saturday session of the Workplace Violence seminar, and LGC would not come for such a small turnout. Selectman Landau suggested that the session be rescheduled for another date. Vice-Chairman Cannon stated that the attendance sheet should be reviewed to determine who still needs to attend.

As no other members of the Public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 9:19pm.

### *3.4 Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda