

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, September 3rd, 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 7:01pm.

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

- Robert Brown
- Jack Cannon
- Joe Castricone
- Stephen Landau

Selectmen absent:

- James Hassam

Members of the Public present, at various times:

- Richard Antoine, Fire Chief
- Patricia Martin, Administrative Assistant
- Chuck Myette, Conservation Commission
- Bryan Remillard
- Baron Richardson, Conservation Commission
- Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
- Carolyn Scott
- Leroy Scott
- Sophie Stark
- 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

A non-public meeting with Fire Chief Rich Antoine and a meeting with Administrative Assistant Pat Martin have been added.

1.5 Public Comment

Bryan Remillard stood and was recognized. He stated that during the Town's mowing of the North Pond area last Wednesday, a hydraulic hose blew and fluid spilled onto the ground. Road Agent Michael Oleson cleaned up the spill and covered it with sand; subsequently, rain washed about half of the sand into North Pond. He would like the remaining sand cleaned up and a spill report created. Road Agent Oleson will be alerted.

Sophie Stark stood and was recognized. She stated that she has lived in Chester for five years and each winter her mailbox, which is behind a guard rail, has been knocked down by a Town plow. This is the first year she has complained; in fact, she followed up on her complaint two weeks ago and as of yet she has still not been contacted. She also reported a damaged guard rail on the other side of the street from her mailbox; she has not been contacted about that, nor has it been repaired. Road Agent Oleson will be alerted. Selectman Castricone urged her to return to the Selectmen's meeting should she not be contacted.

As no other members of the Public wished to speak, the Board closed Public Comment at 7:08pm.

II Appointments

2.1 Chuck Myette & Baron Richardson - Wason Pond Dam

Mr. Myette and Mr. Richardson appeared before the Board to discuss the Wason Pond Dam. They stated that any changes to or progress with the repairs to be reported to the Wason Pond Commission; however, they have heard nothing. Selectman Landau stated that there were no changes or progress at the present time. The sandbagging that is in process right now had been discussed at previous Selectmen's meetings; they can contact Administrative Assistant Martin for copies of the minutes.

They were concerned about the fact that, at the 2009 Town Meeting, the amount on the Warrant Article that would have raised funds to perform the repairs had been lowered on the floor from \$292,000 to \$100,000 before then being tabled. Mr. Myette was concerned that tabling had prevented the Town from expressing their opinion on the Warrant Article. Selectman Landau explained that the lowering of the amount had been planned in advance in order to take advantage of expected stimulus funding, that said funding had been denied at the last minute, and that passing the article for the full amount would have violated the 10% rule; therefore, tabling was the appropriate option. Dam Engineer Grace Levergood had been notified of the situation and was not pushing for any action at this time other than the sandbagging and the removal of the freeboards.

The Wason Pond Commission would like to see a 'whole program' planned out for repairs, and grants applied for; they also suggest funding via a bond. Vice-Chairman Cannon suggested that the Commission lead the effort. The next Wason Pond Commission meeting is the first Monday in October, the 5th, at 7:00pm. They invited Selectman Landau and Shawn Patenaude from Dubois & King to attend, if possible.

Mr. Myette and Mr. Richardson departed the meeting at 7:37pm.

2.2 *Patricia Martin, Administrative Assistant - Area Selectmen's Meeting*

Administrative Assistant Martin appeared before the Board to schedule the upcoming Area Selectmen’s Meeting, which will be held in Chester. It will be on Wednesday, September 16th, 2009, at 7:00pm. Light refreshments will be provided. Vice-Chairman Cannon is unable to attend; Selectman Landau will be in charge.

2.3 *Richard Antoine, Fire Chief*

Selectman Castricone moved that the Board go into non-public session with Fire Chief Antoine under RSA 91-A:3 II (c), Reputation; Selectman Brown seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Hassam absent; so moved. The meeting room was closed at 7:41pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 7:51pm.

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

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

III Meeting Business

3.1 *Approval of Minutes*

June 18th, 2009: Selectman Castricone moved to accept the minutes as drafted; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was three in favour with Chairman Hassam absent and Selectman Brown abstaining due to absence from the referenced meeting; so moved.

June 25th, 2009: Selectman Landau moved to accept the minutes as drafted; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was two in favour with Chairman Hassam absent and Vice-Chairman Cannon and Selectman Brown abstaining due to absence from the referenced meeting; so moved.

August 27th, 2009: Selectman Castricone moved to accept the minutes as drafted; Selectman Landau seconded the motion. The vote was four in favour with Chairman Hassam absent; so moved.

3.2 *Roundtable*

Selectman Landau

- While reading the minutes of June 25th, he discovered some items under the Cemetery Budget that need discussion. This is not a change to those minutes.
- He wished to clarify that while discussing the Elm Tree Institute during the August 27th meeting, he had not actually mentioned the name of the young man in whose memory the tree would be planted. The parents of the young man had given their approval to the planting.

- He has contacted the Trustees of the Trust Fund about the Cemetery Perpetual Care Funds, and will be meeting with them on Saturday, September 12th, at 7:00am. The Cemetery Trustees would like the Perpetual Care Funds consolidated down to one line in the budget so that they can more easily see the funds; the Trustees are concerned about the MS1. It was clarified that the consolidation would be in addition to the detail, not a replacement.
- The assessment for LeClair’s junkyard needs to be completed for the engineers.
- He has an item for non-public session.

Selectman Brown

- The next Department Heads meeting needs to be scheduled; the date of Thursday, October 22nd, 2009 was suggested. Vice-Chairman Cannon will work with Administrative Assistant Martin to draw up an agenda and draft communications to the Department Heads.
- He has an item for non-public session.

Selectman Castricone

- The Chester Fire Department will be receiving the Liberty Mutual Firemark Award for the actions of Fire Chief Antoine and Lieutenant Kevin Wunderly at a house fire in May where a mother and baby were saved. This award will be presented at next week’s Selectmen’s meeting.
- The specs for the generator bids were copied from those of the Fire Department; they state that the Municipal Complex is a three-phase building. However, it is not, and the specs need to be changed. Steve Moltenbrey will be the contact for this work.
- He has an item for non-public session.

Vice-Chairman Cannon

- A number of employees have asked to be excused from the Workplace Violence Seminar due to work conflicts. Each request was reviewed; those who are supervisors or who can reschedule their work commitments will not be excused. Selectman Landau suggested that Administrative Assistant Martin ask Channel 21 to videotape the seminar (if LGC approves) so that the non-supervisory employees who cannot attend a live session may view it at a later date. The Police and Recreation Departments both have TV/VCR setups; the tape will be kept in the Selectmen’s office.

Selectman Landau moved that the Board of Selectmen require that all Employees and volunteers either attend, or see the video of, the Workplace Violence Seminar by Wednesday, September 30th, 2009; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was four in favour with Chairman Hassam absent; so moved.

- Last week the Board was asked to sign an extension request for the MS1, due to information being received quite late from a vendor; now the Board is being asked to approve a rather large bill from this vendor (over \$10k). He would like Jean Packard from the Assessing Department to meet with the vendor to understand why the information was late, and request a discount. As Chairman Hassam is liaison to the Assessing Department, Administrative Assistant Martin will contact Ms. Packard.

3.3 *Public Comment*

As no members of the Public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 8:31pm.

3.4 Non-Public Session

Selectman Landau moved that the Board go into non-public session for five items under RSA 91-A:3 II (c), Reputation; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Hassam absent; so moved.

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm; the Board will come out of non-public session to seal the minutes and adjourn the meeting. The meeting room was closed at 8:33pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:15pm.

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

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

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

Selectman Landau moved that the minutes to the third non-public session be sealed for six months; Selectman Brown seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Hassam absent; so moved.

Selectman Brown moved that the minutes to the fourth non-public session be sealed for one year; Selectman Castricone seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Hassam absent; so moved.

Selectman Castricone moved that the minutes to the fifth non-public session be sealed for six months; Selectman Brown seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor with Chairman Hassam absent; so moved.

3.5 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda