

**Town of Chester
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, May 7th, 2009
Municipal Complex
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order

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

1.2 Roll Call

Selectmen present:

- Robert Brown
- Jack Cannon
- Mark Harris
- James Hassam
- Stephen Landau (arrived 7:09pm)

Members of the Public present, at various times:

- Geoff Barnett, Cemetery Trustee
- Steve Childs, Cemetery Trustee
- Barbara Dolloff
- Midge Gould
- Andrew Hadik, Planning Board
- Aaron Mansur, Cemetery Trustee
- Steve Moltenbrey, Recreation Coordinator
- Elizabeth Richter, Planning Board
- Matt Rittenhouse, Tri-Town Times
- Warren Roberts, Cemetery Sexton
- Carolyn Scott
- Leroy Scott
- Brian Sullivan, Planning Board
- Steve Tunberg
- Michael Weider
- Gary Welch
- And other persons unknown to the Recording Secretary

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Hassam led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Additions and Deletions

An appointment with Gladys Nichols was deleted; appointments with the Planning Board and Steve Moltenbrey were added.

1.5 *Public Comment*

As no members of the Public wished to speak, the Board closed Public Comment at 7:05pm.

II Appointments

2.1 *Steve Tunberg*

- Chester's Emergency Operations Plan should be updated every five years. It was last updated in 2002, so it is a little overdue.
- He has located a 50/50 grant that can bring the town \$5000; the town will need to raise their share in-kind. It is not known yet whether or not the grant will be available before the end of the Fiscal Year.
- A course may be held in a surrounding community on Incident Command. He wished to know if the Board was interested; they are.
- During the Ice Storm in December, Chester Academy was used as an emergency shelter. He would like the Town to consider reimbursing Chester Academy out of the FEMA funds for the money spent running the generator. The Academy is also considering running hot water out of their generator; it has the capacity. Selectman Landau stated that there was the possibility of getting a "Water Buffalo" 250 gallon portable water tank, if Mr. Tunberg would be interested. They will discuss this further between themselves.

Mr. Tunberg departed the meeting at 7:13pm.

2.2 *Planning Board*

Brian Sullivan, Liz Richter, and Andrew Hadik appeared before the Board to discuss their membership. Camilla Lockwood has submitted her resignation; they are now down to three members and one alternate. They would like to move the alternate, Ms. Richter, into a membership spot, and then appoint Michael Weider (who was present by this time) as an alternate, each for a three-year term.

Selectman Harris moved to accept Liz Richter as a full member of the Planning Board for a three-year term; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Selectman Harris moved to accept Michael Weider as an alternate member of the Planning Board for a three-year term; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Ms. Richter and Mr. Weider were advised to present themselves before Town Clerk Barbara Gagnon in order to be sworn in.

The Planning Board members departed the meeting at 7:19pm.

2.3 *Cemetery Trustees*

Geoff Barnett, Steve Childs, Aaron Mansur, and Warren Roberts appeared before the Board to discuss cemetery matters.

- FEMA did not give much money towards cemetery cleanup; the Trustees have been doing the work themselves, and have spent ~125 hours so far. The large trees have not been cut and the hangers have not been removed, but other than that they are ready to mow.
- They will be mowing a few other places in town (Stevens Hall, Monument Common, Post Office, Library); they expect for two men to spend 3 hours a week at this, and they will procure another gas can in order to keep this work totally separated from cemetery mowing. Finance Director Sherwood will figure out the other finances. There was some discussion about the 121/121A intersection; is that state-owned land or not?
- The Trustees have appointed Warren Roberts as sexton.
- They have their own portable toilet.
- The Town currently has seven cemeteries; the Trustees maintain five of them. They will be able to maintain the other two once they have some work done.
- There was some discussion about the Trustee wages. Apparently no-one ever received a check at the disputed \$15/hour rate. They are currently receiving \$10.50/hour; they would prefer \$12/hour. They drew up their budget with that rate in mind. Selectman Brown stated that as the Trustees do most of the work themselves rather than hiring contractors, they save the Town quite a bit of money. Selectman Harris was not in favour of any raises being given out other than those that were already approved by the Board. Vice-Chairman Cannon stated that it might set a bad example, as it hadn't been done for any other part-time employees. Selectman Landau stated that the Trustees were an elected board and able to set their own rates.

As this was acknowledged to be true, the Board agreed to pay the Trustees \$11/hour for the upcoming Fiscal Year, and they will set their own rates in the future. Their Budget will need to be discussed with the Board each year.

The Trustees departed the meeting at 7:45.

III Meeting Business

3.1 *Approval of Minutes*

This subject was not discussed tonight.

3.2 *Roundtable*

Selectman Landau

- Wason Pond bids were opened today at 3:30pm with Bob Durfee from Dubois & King. Eleven

companies had paid for the bid package at \$50/each; three called Dubois & King thereafter to decline bidding; four bids were received. All bids were complete. The following bids were received:

1. \$277,500
2. \$314,095
3. \$237,500 (low bid; however, Town is not obligated to accept)
4. \$259,500

Dubois & King will analyze all proposals; Administrative Assistant Martin will keep a copy of each bid for perusal by the Board at their convenience.

- There is an issue with stimulus funds. Apparently the state must have involvement in projects in order for them to qualify for funds; however, the State only has a program to remove dams, not to repair them. Wason Pond is still #12 on the list, but funds are now not available.
- The Moose Plate grant of \$10k for copper gutters on Stevens Hall has been completed. The vendor took pictures and made a CD for the Town; a copy of this will be sent to the state Historical Society. The Town is also searching for additional funds to repair the porch, if available.
- He has one item for non-public session.

Selectman Brown

- He has two items for non-public session.

Chairman Hassam

- He has edited Selectman Brown's Maintenance Supervisor document and asked the Board to read it and be prepared to discuss in two weeks.

Selectman Harris

- Nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Cannon

- Nothing to report.

3.3 *Town Elections*

The Board needs a presence all day at the Elections; however, it is unknown whether or not Vice-Chairman Cannon and Selectman Brown can go inside, as they are each running for an office. Town Clerk Gagnon will be asked for her opinion; Administrative Assistant Martin will be asked to call Diane Gorrow.

Selectman Landau will be speaking to the Wason Pond Dam and Boilers articles; Vice-Chairman Cannon and Police Chief Bill Burke will be speaking to the additional Police Officers article; Road Agent Oleson will be speaking to all road-related articles; Fire Chief Rich Antoine will be speaking to the Rescue Truck and Defibrillators articles; Chairman Hassam will be speaking to the Generator article as well as the Defibrillators article with Fire Chief Antoine. Department Heads who requested Warrant Articles should be prepared to speak to them.

Finance Director Sherwood has a one-page roll-up of the Board's budget; Selectman Landau would like copies of that to be made available at Town Meeting for those who would like to see it. This also needs to be spoken to.

3.4 Public Comment

Leroy Scott stood and was recognized. He asked if there was 100% employee participation in the Employee Identification Badge program, as voted upon at the April 16th Board of Selectmen's meeting. As nobody on the Board knew offhand, he asked that they look into it.

As no other members of the Public wished to speak, Public Comment was closed at 8:05pm.

3.5 Non-Public Session

Vice-Chairman Cannon moved that the Board go into two non-public sessions under RSA 91-A:3 I I (c), Reputation, one with Recreation Coordinator Moltenbrey and one without; Selectman Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm; the Board will come out of non-public session only to seal the minutes and adjourn the meeting. Recreation Coordinator Steve Moltenbrey remained in the meeting room; the doors were closed at 8:09pm.

Recreation Coordinator Moltenbrey departed the meeting room at 9:02pm.

The meeting room was re-opened at 9:22pm. Selectman Harris moved that the Board come out of non-public session; Vice-Chairman Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Selectman Landau moved that the minutes to the first non-public session with Recreation Coordinator Moltenbrey be sealed indefinitely; Selectman Harris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Selectman Landau moved that the minutes to the second non-public session be sealed for one year; Selectman Harris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

3.6 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda