

**Town of Chester  
Official Town Election  
May 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Town of Chester election for officers and zoning amendments was held on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The election was held at the Chester Multi-Purpose Room. The polls were opened at 7:00am and closed at 7:00pm.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00am on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The Supervisors of the Checklist had appointed Assistant Moderator Andrew Hadik as Moderator Pro Tempore per NH RSA 669:62 in the absence of Town Moderator Michael Scott. Mr. Hadik will serve as Moderator Pro Tempore until the conclusion of the Board of Recount meeting on the evening of Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Article #1:** To choose the necessary Town Officials for the ensuing year.

498 ballots were cast. The results of the election were as follows:

Board of Selectmen for 3 years:  
(Vote for not more than 2)

Stephen D'Angelo	-	276	*
Stephen O. Landau	-	263	
Jeremy Owens	-	267	*
Write-Ins	-	8	

Due to the closeness of the vote, a recount was requested by Mr. Landau. This was conducted on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00pm by the Board of Recount, which consisted of Town Clerk Erin Newnan, Selectmen Cass Buckley, Jack Cannon, and Dick Trask, Karl Knudsen as Selectman Pro Tempore to replace Chairman Stephen Landau, and Moderator Pro Tempore Andrew Hadik, with the public welcome to attend. The results varied from the original count only by one more vote for Mr. Owens and one fewer vote for Mr. D'Angelo. Mr. D'Angelo and Mr. Owens were confirmed as Selectmen-elect.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector for 3 years:  
(Vote for no more than 1)

Erin Newnan	-	466	*
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Road Agent for 2 years:  
(Vote for no more than 1)

Michael Oleson	-	333	*
Jerome Gesel (write-in)	-	125	

Town Treasurer for 3 years:  
(Vote for no more than 1)

Rhonda L. Lamphere	-	414	*
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Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years:  
(Vote for no more than 1)

Dianna Charron	-	446	*
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Budget Committee Member for 2 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Write-Ins	-	33
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Although there were no candidates for this position, there were write-in votes, with four residents receiving more than one. Residents should see Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik at the break to indicate if they are interested in the open position.

Budget Committee Member for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 3)

Rebecca Owens	-	366	*
Michael A. Weider	-	295	*
Write-Ins	-	20	

As there are three openings and only two candidates, residents should see Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik at the break to indicate if they are interested in the open position.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for 1 year:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Write-Ins	-	23
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Although there were no candidates for this position, there were write-in votes, with Colin Costine receiving two. Residents should see Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik at the break to indicate if they are interested in the open position.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for 2 year:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Write-Ins	-	16
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Although there were no candidates for this position, there were write-in votes, with two residents receiving two. Residents should see Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik at the break to indicate if they are interested in the open position.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 year:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Write-Ins	-	13
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Although there were no candidates for this position, there were write-in votes, with Colin Costine receiving four. It was suggested that Mr. Costine be elected to this position rather than to the one-year term.

Library Trustee for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Mary G. Jennings	-	259	*
Melissa Juchniewicz	-	121	

Great Hill Cemetery Trustee for 2 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Mark Elliott Keddy	-	403	*
Write-Ins	-	1	

Great Hill Cemetery Trustee for 5 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Penny J. Henderson	-	414	*
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Village Cemetery Trustee for 2 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Write-Ins	-	19	
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Although there were no candidates for this position, there were write-in votes. Residents should see Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik at the break to indicate if they are interested in the open position.

Village Cemetery Trustee for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Aaron Mansur	-	408	*
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School Board Member for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 2)

Darlene Gustavson	-	166	
Thomas J. Paton III	-	72	
Kimberly Peterson	-	281	*
Michael Romick	-	254	*
Write-Ins	-	3	

School District Treasurer for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Rhonda L. Lamphere	-	390	*
Write-Ins	-	2	

At this point, School District Moderator David Scott took control of the Meeting to report the results from the School elections.

School District Clerk for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Robert S. Grimm	-	407	*
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School District Moderator for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

David L. Scott	-	408	*
Write-Ins	-	2	

School Moderator Scott moved to close the School portion of the Meeting; this motion was seconded. The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **The School portion of the Meeting is closed.**

Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik congratulated all newly elected officials, who he will swear in during the break. Anyone interested in discussing the write-in votes may see him during the break as well.

Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik then read Articles #2 through #5, and announced the results.

## **Article #2**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment # 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town's zoning ordinance as follows?

**Amend:** Article 4 by adding Section 4.15 – Fences.

**Purpose:** To define and regulate fences to prevent line-of-sight impediments adversely affecting pedestrian/traffic safety and snow plowing; to protect abutters from "spite" fences; and, to prohibit the use of razor wire in all zoning districts.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

**Yes 311/ No 159      Article #2 carries.**

## **Article #3**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment # 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town's zoning ordinance as follows?

**Repeal:** Delete Section 6.9.4, the 10% unit count bonus incentive given for public access to the open space of Open Space subdivisions in Article 6.

**Adopt:** Add Section 6.8.4.6 to Article 6 to preserve existing trails in the open space of Open Space subdivisions for public access.

**Purpose:** To repeal the 10% unit-density bonus incentive for public access in Open Space subdivisions and to add a provision to preserve pre-existing trails in Open Space subdivisions when possible.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

**Yes 339/ No 105      Article #3 carries.**

## **Article #4**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment # 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town's zoning ordinance as follows?

**Amend:** Delete Section 10.2.2.2, and amend Section 10.2.2.3, Section 10.4 and Section 10.5.

**Purpose:** To delete a public posting period for building applications and to make the review and approval

periods in this ordinance compliant with NH RSA 676:13, III and the 2009 International Residential Code R105.5.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

**Yes 305 / No 133      Article #4 carries.**

## **Article #5**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment # 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town's zoning ordinance as follows?

**Amend:** Amend Sections 14.1, 14.5, 14.9 and 14.12 of Article 14 – Fair Share Contribution.

**Purpose:** To ensure all new construction is subject to Fair Share Contributions (impact fees). The proposed amendments also include a provision for the waiver of School impact fees for qualified elderly housing units; clarifies when impact fees are determined and assessed; and, clarifies who is entitled to reimbursement of unused impact fees.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

**Yes 358 / No 97      Article #5 carries.**

## **Article #6 - Budget**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended amount of \$4,323,811 for the operating budget for the support of Town government, for the payment of salaries, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the Town. Tally vote - 6 yes / 2 absent. The Board of Selectmen recommends \$4,323,811 by a Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no.

This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

	<b>BOS</b>	<b>BC</b>
<b>General Government</b>	\$ 1,840,181	\$ 1,840,181
<b>Public Safety</b>	\$ 1,185,346	\$ 1,185,346
<b>Highways, Streets, Bridges</b>	\$ 686,734	\$ 686,734
<b>Sanitation</b>	\$ 190,405	\$ 190,405
<b>Health &amp; Welfare</b>	\$ 43,962	\$ 43,962
<b>Culture &amp; Recreation</b>	\$ 249,824	\$ 249,824
<b>Conservation &amp; Eco. Dev.</b>	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
<b>Debt Service</b>	\$ 125,859	\$ 125,859
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 4,323,811</b>	<b>\$ 4,323,811</b>

Article #6 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion.

Bob Grimm moved that the Operating Budget be amended to increase line 01-4585-1-622 by \$4,250; the motion was seconded. Mr. Grimm explained that this line covered live streaming of the Cable Access TV channel, and as a two-year price, was less than last year.

Budget Committee Vice-Chair Rhonda Lamphere asked the Board of Selectmen to explain why this

amendment was being made; it was pointed out that Mr. Grimm had every right to amend the Operating Budget and that the Board of Selectmen was not involved.

Discussion being ended, the question was called as to the Amendment. The voice vote was inconclusive; a hand vote was requested. The hand vote was in the affirmative. **The Amendment to Article #6 carries**, and the Article now reads, in part:

	<b>BOS</b>	<b>BC</b>
<b>General Government</b>	\$ 1,840,181	\$ 1,840,181
<b>Public Safety</b>	\$ 1,185,346	\$ 1,185,346
<b>Highways, Streets, Bridges</b>	\$ 686,734	\$ 686,734
<b>Sanitation</b>	\$ 190,405	\$ 190,405
<b>Health &amp; Welfare</b>	\$ 43,962	\$ 43,962
<b>Culture &amp; Recreation</b>	\$ 249,824 \$254,074	\$ 249,824 \$254,074
<b>Conservation &amp; Eco. Dev.</b>	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
<b>Debt Service</b>	\$ 125,859	\$ 125,859
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<del>\$ 4,323,811</del> <b>\$ 4,328,061</b>	<del>\$ 4,323,811</del> <b>\$ 4,328,061</b>

Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for further discussion, but there was none.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #6 carries.**

At this point, Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik recused himself and School District Moderator Scott took control of the Meeting.

### **Article #7 – CIP Funding**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) to be added to the capital reserve fund known as the Town's Municipal Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2013 Town Meeting.

Tax Impact: \$1.09

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #7 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. School District Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Planning Coordinator Andrew Hadik noted that for many years the Town has spent ~\$720k annually on capital projects, and until relatively recently this was done via Bonds and Warrant Articles, not a CIP. The amount being spent has not changed, merely the funding vehicle. He is of the opinion that more should be raised and appropriated for the CIP.

Discussion being ended, the question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #7 carries.**

### **Article #8 - CIP Projects**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seven hundred sixty-eight thousand, four hundred seventy-three dollars (\$768,473) for the following projects:

General Government/Administration - Rewire Municipal Buildings - VOIP Phones	\$20,000
General Government/Administration - Utility Mowing Tractor and Accessories	\$28,800
Library - Replace Thirteen Windows	\$9,958
Police Department – Cruiser with Outfitting	\$50,715
Police Department – Police Protective Equipment	\$5,000
Police Department – Space Needs Assessment Study	\$15,000
Fire Department – Structural Tanker	\$392,000
Fire Department – Command SUV	\$60,000
Fire Department - Forestry (F-450) Truck with Outfitting	\$62,000
Highway – Town-wide Road Pavement Evaluation	\$75,000
Highway – Annual Surveying & Engineering Services	\$10,000
Highway – Class 8 Plow Truck with Plow and Sander, Used	\$40,000

and withdraw Seven hundred sixty-eight thousand, four hundred seventy-three dollars (\$768,473) from the Municipal Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #8 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. School District Moderator received a request to amend the article, as the Fire Department had negotiated better prices on the three items they were requesting.

The amendment called for the Structural Tanker for \$392,000 to be reduced by \$7,000 to \$385,000; the Command SUV for \$60,000 to be reduced by \$7,500 to \$52,500, and the Forestry Truck for \$62,000 to be reduced by \$4,000 to \$58,000. This would bring the total to be raised and appropriated down by \$18,500 from \$768,473 to \$749,973. This amendment was moved and seconded. School District Moderator Scott asked for discussion. Board of Selectmen Chairman Landau expressed thanks to Fire Chief Greg Bolduc and Deputy Fire Chief Ben Clark for their work in lowering the prices of these vehicles; the Legislative Body applauded.

The question was called as to the amendment; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **The Amendment to Article #8 carries**, and it now reads:

*Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ~~Seven hundred sixty-eight thousand, four hundred seventy-three dollars (\$768,473)~~ Seven hundred forty-nine thousand, nine hundred seventy-three dollars (\$749,973) for the following projects:*

<i>General Government/Administration - Rewire Municipal Buildings - VOIP Phones</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
<i>General Government/Administration - Utility Mowing Tractor and Accessories</i>	<i>\$28,800</i>
<i>Library - Replace Thirteen Windows</i>	<i>\$9,958</i>
<i>Police Department – Cruiser with Outfitting</i>	<i>\$50,715</i>
<i>Police Department – Police Protective Equipment</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Police Department – Space Needs Assessment Study</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>
<i>Fire Department – Structural Tanker</i>	<i>\$385,000 <del>\$392,000</del></i>
<i>Fire Department – Command SUV</i>	<i>\$52,500 <del>\$60,000</del></i>
<i>Fire Department - Forestry (F-450) Truck with Outfitting</i>	<i>\$58,000 <del>\$62,000</del></i>
<i>Highway – Town-wide Road Pavement Evaluation</i>	<i>\$75,000</i>
<i>Highway – Annual Surveying &amp; Engineering Services</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>Highway – Class 8 Plow Truck with Plow and Sander, Used</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>

*and withdraw ~~Seven hundred sixty-eight thousand, four hundred seventy-three dollars (\$768,473)~~ Seven hundred forty-nine thousand, nine hundred seventy-three dollars (\$749,973) from the Municipal Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes.*

School District Moderator Scott received a request to further amend the article to add an additional \$10,000 in funds to complete the VOIP phone project. This amendment was moved and seconded. School District Moderator Scott asked for discussion.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chairman Trask explained that an IT Committee had been formed approximately seven months ago with the goal of updating the Town's computer and telephones. The original figure of \$20,000 for the telephone project had been an estimate, but now actual bids were available and that figure was insufficient.

Andrew Hadik added that this project would update all of the Town's buildings and Departments, and would lead to improved efficiency.

The question was called as to the amendment; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **The Amendment to Article #8 carries**, and it now reads:

*Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ~~Seven hundred forty-nine thousand, nine hundred seventy-three dollars (\$749,973)~~ Seven hundred fifty-nine thousand, nine hundred seventy-three dollars (\$759,973) for the following projects:*

<i>General Government/Administration - Rewire Municipal Buildings - VOIP Phones</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i><del>\$20,000</del></i>
<i>General Government/Administration - Utility Mowing Tractor and Accessories</i>	<i>\$28,800</i>	
<i>Library - Replace Thirteen Windows</i>	<i>\$9,958</i>	
<i>Police Department – Cruiser with Outfitting</i>	<i>\$50,715</i>	
<i>Police Department – Police Protective Equipment</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	
<i>Police Department – Space Needs Assessment Study</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	
<i>Fire Department – Structural Tanker</i>	<i>\$385,000</i>	
<i>Fire Department – Command SUV</i>	<i>\$52,500</i>	
<i>Fire Department - Forestry (F-450) Truck with Outfitting</i>	<i>\$58,000</i>	
<i>Highway – Town-wide Road Pavement Evaluation</i>	<i>\$75,000</i>	
<i>Highway – Annual Surveying &amp; Engineering Services</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	
<i>Highway – Class 8 Plow Truck with Plow and Sander, Used</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>	

*and withdraw ~~Seven hundred forty-nine thousand, nine hundred seventy-three dollars (\$749,973)~~ Seven hundred fifty-nine thousand, nine hundred seventy-three dollars (\$759,973) from the Municipal Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes.*

Discussion being ended, the question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #8 carries.**

## **Article #9 – Highway CIP Funding**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred thirty-nine thousand two hundred sixty-seven dollars and eighty-three cents (\$139,267.83) to be added to the capital reserve fund known as the Highway Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2015 Town Meeting with One hundred thirty-nine thousand two hundred sixty-seven dollars and



eighty-three cents (\$139,267.83) from the New Hampshire Highway Block Grant to be used to offset this appropriation.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #9 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. School District Moderator Scott called for discussion.

This figure is calculated by the State using the Town's population and length of roads.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #9 carries.**

### **Article #10 – Highway CIP Projects**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for road improvements in the Town of Chester and withdraw Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the Highway Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #10 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. School District Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Budget Committee Vice-Chair Lamphere asked Road Agent Michael Oleson if there were any projects planned for these funds. Road Agent Oleson stated that he had recommended one road for reclaim, and various others for wear coursing; however, he defers to the Planning Board to determine which specific roads are chosen.

Planning Coordinator Hadik stated that roads were not identified in order to avoid politics. The CIP Projects Warrant Article is funding a Town-wide road pavement evaluation, and roads that can be saved with just a wear course will have that done in order to avoid the extra cost of reclaiming.

Mat Stover asked for the balance of the CIP accounts, as he is concerned that more is being spent than is available or being appropriated. Budget Committee Chair Weider stated that there was \$262,215 in the Highway CIP not including this year's Block Grant, and \$1.4M in the Town CIP not including this year's appropriation. Budget Committee Vice-Chair Lamphere added that information about funds in the Trust Funds was public knowledge, and members of the Legislative Body should feel free to request reports.

Terry Fitzgerald asked what the point was of spending the money, if there was no plan, and wasn't it true that the longer you wait to do the work, the more it costs? How were the funds invested; were they making 5%?

Road Agent Oleson stated that once the CIP was put into place, his plan was no longer relevant; this was the way the Town had chosen to fund road work. Budget Committee Chair Michael Weider added that due to the CIP, the Highway, Police, Fire, and Recreation Departments were all eligible to receive Impact Fees. Highway Block Grant funds were also going directly into the Highway CIP rather than into the Highway budget, and as such those funds could only be used on roadwork. The Road Agent had been

unable to keep up with the Town's road needs in the past as each year the Warrant Article for roadwork was voted down by the Legislative Body.

Planning Coordinator Hadik noted that the CIP is basically a funding solution. Documentation is available on the Planning Board page of the Town website, and meetings to update it are all noticed in the Municipal Complex, on the Town's webpage, in the Tri-Town Times, etc. The Town has spent \$5.7M on capital projects since 2009. An additional \$15m had been requested for roadwork, but denied. The Town's roads need approximately \$25m worth of work, and the CIP is the most economical way of funding this, as there are no bond fees, no interest, etc. involved.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked where vehicle registration fees go; they go directly into the General Fund, not specifically into roadwork.

Selectman Hagan noted that the "zero tax impact" designation was spurious; the funds in the CIP had been raised and appropriated by taxation of previous years, so there was a tax impact at that point in time. The CIP is an attempt to level taxation so that there are no large spikes for bonds, etc., and to compel developers to pay in order to build in Chester.

Jean Methot asked how the funds would be spent; would the Board of Selectmen manage them, would there be a public hearing? Planning Coordinator Hadik explained that after the Legislative Body authorizes the funds, the assessment will be done, and that assessment reviewed by the Road Agent and the Planning Board at a meeting of the Planning Board. Their suggested roads will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for approval, and then the Selectmen and the Road Agent will oversee the spending of the funds. Insofar as the Town CIP is concerned, the process is much the same; the Planning Board turns the projects over to the Department Heads, who justify their expenditures to the Board of Selectmen.

Web Anderson asked that the question be called; all were in agreement.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #10 carries.**

### **Article #11 – Creation of LUCT Fund**

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 79-A:25-a to account for revenues received from the land use change tax in a fund separate from the general fund, to be known as the Land Use Change Tax Fund. Any monies in the Land Use Change Tax Fund shall not be part of the general fund until such time as the legislative body shall have had the opportunity at an annual meeting to vote to appropriate a specific amount from the Land Use Change Tax Fund for any purpose not prohibited by the laws or by the constitution of this state. After an annual meeting, any unappropriated balance of the land use change tax revenue received during the prior fiscal year shall be recognized as general fund revenue for the current fiscal year.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain*

Article #11 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. School District Moderator Scott called for discussion. Per RSA 79-A:25-b, this Warrant Article must be voted on by ballot.

Chuck Myette, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, stated that the Conservation Commission does not support this Warrant Article. The Conservation Commission has a very small amount in the Operating Budget; LUCT monies going in the Conservation Fund is the only way that open space is preserved in Chester. The Conservation Fund has helped pay for the Wason Pond Dam and Bridge; it was used to

purchase Wason Pond itself. Funds are used to map trails, and to help pay legal and surveying costs when landowners donate land to the Town, or allow a Conservation Easement to be placed on it.

Mr. Myette continued by saying that if these monies were to go into a LUCT fund, they could be used for anything, and as such divert monies away from conservation, which is an investment in the Town's future. Chester currently has ~3,000 acres, or 15% of the Town's total acreage, in conservation; the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission recommends 20%. Open Space exists at few, if any, costs to the Town. The Town voted in 1997 and 1999 to put 100% of the Land Use Change Tax income into the Conservation Fund. Open space is an investment in the Town's future, and is needed; the Conservation Commission urges a "NO" vote on Article #11.

Jean Methot agreed; the Conservation Fund was almost depleted when the Wason Pond Dam was repaired.

Royal Richardson asked how much was in the Conservation Fund at this point in time, and how much is added annually? Currently it totals ~\$552k. In the last three years ~\$180k has been added; it was less in previous years, but there is a building boom going on. Mr. Richardson then asked what the Selectmen planned to do with the funds if this Warrant Article and #12 passed. Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Trask stated that any expenditures were the choice of the Legislative Body. He stated that the last time the Town had the opportunity to vote on this subject was 18 years ago and that currently the LUCT monies automatically fund the Conservation Fund; no other entities receive automatic funding.

Baron Richardson stated that he had been a member of the Conservation Commission since 1999. He noted that when land is diverted to development, there is a negative effect to the Town. Each new house has a tax impact on the Town; the Town spends more on services for each house (school, police, fire, etc.) than it takes in. Current Use is a way of protecting open space, and it is important to use those monies towards Conservation. He urged a "NO" vote on Article #11.

Ted Broadwater reiterated the 3000 acre, 15% figure and added that for each tax dollar that the Town receives from a house, it pays out \$1.15 in services. The Town made its choice 18 years ago when it voted to send 100% of Land Use Change Tax revenue to the Conservation Fund. The Conservation Commission is not anti-development; it simply offers balance.

Planning Coordinator Hadik agreed, stating that opportunities to purchase land or easements do not come along on a regular schedule; the Conservation Commission needs to be prepared with available funds when opportunities arise. If the Conservation Commission has to wait until Town Meeting to receive their funding, the landowner may move on.

BOS Vice-Chair Trask stated that this Article did not defund the Conservation Fund; it only created a fund to hold revenue. Warrant Article #12 would change the funding structure.

BOS Chairman Landau stated that when DES insisted that the Town repair the Wason Pond Dam, the Legislative Body declined to pass the Warrant Article. When DES persisted, the next year the Conservation Fund paid for over 50% of the job; this is your tax dollars at work. Secondly, recently a landowner had been offered \$5,100 to log the standing timber on his property; instead he donated the land to the Town for \$5,100 from the Conservation Fund. Chairman Landau is of the opinion that this would become a method to allow the Board of Selectmen to balance the tax bill without telling the Legislative Body what services actually cost; he urges a "NO" vote.

Dennis Maloney stated that Chester is a diverse and beautiful small New England Community, and that the current method is a good way to fund conservation. He thanked Mr. Myette for his focus on conservation.

David Veale opined that the current method allows for more flexibility – if the Conservation Fund wishes to use funds, they can call a public hearing on a moment's notice. If the Town switches to a LUCT fund, they will have to wait for Town Meeting.

Mr. Stover added that apparently both the Town and the Conservation Commission believe that this process works well, and any change would simply be a power grab by some members of the Board of Selectmen. Vice-Chairman Trask disagreed that it was a power grab, stating that he just believes that the Legislative Body should have the opportunity to vote each year on the use of these funds.

Ted Scott stated that he believed that the Town had put this issue to rest 18 years ago, and would like to call the question.

The top ballot will be used and the ballot box will remain open for one hour, until 12:12pm. Article #12 will not be discussed until the results of Article #11 are known.

**Yes 27 / No 140      Article #11 fails.**

Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik again took control of the Meeting at 11:27am.

### **Article #12 – Placing LUCT monies into LUCT Fund**

Shall the Town vote to rescind the action of the 1997 and 1999 Town Meetings to place 100% of the Land Use Change Tax revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A into the Conservation Fund (established by Warrant Article #13 at the 1997 Town Meeting), and instead place 25% of said funds into the Land Use Change Tax Fund and the remaining 75% into the Conservation Fund. Any such action to rescind or change the percentage or amount shall not take effect before the tax year beginning April 1 following the vote.

Tax Impact:                      \$0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain*

As Article #11 had failed, it was moved that this Article be tabled; the motion was seconded.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #12 will be tabled.**

### **Article #13 – Town Administrator, Full Time – Petition Warrant Article**

Shall the Town vote to instruct the Board of Selectmen, by simple majority, to hire a qualified full-time Town Administrator to serve as the chief administrative officer of the Town and further to raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) for wages and benefits.

Tax Impact:                      \$0.23

*Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 1 yes / 3 no / 1 abstain*

*Recommended by the Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #13 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. A request was made, with the necessary five signatures, that a paper ballot be used. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion.

Vice-Chair Trask noted that this Article was for a Town Administrator, not a Town Manager; a Town Manager's duties are guided by RSA 37, but a Town Administrator is subordinate to the Board of Selectmen.

Brian Shankey, speaking as a resident, stated that he believes that creating this position would be a good investment in the Town's future, providing efficiency and centralized leadership. He urges a "YES" vote on Article #13.

Janet Boyden stated that she has worked for the Town for 22 years. She believes that a Town Administrator would not be independent, but essentially a sixth Selectman. She urges a "NO" vote on Article #13.

Charlotte Lister disagreed, stating that the person would do the administrative work that the Selectmen do not have the time to do.

Sandy Clark stated that a few years ago, this position was floated at a cost of \$100k. Now it's \$125k. She would be in favor if it were an RSA-governed position, but not as a Town Administrator.

Budget Committee Chair Lamphere stated that the reason the Selectmen don't want a Town Administrator is because employees are doing a job and a half – IT, telephones, policy writing, for example. The Town needs a full time person to work with the Department Heads.

Road Agent Oleson opined that unless all five Selectmen agree to the creation of this position, it is not time.

Discussion being ended, the question was called. Ballot #1 and the silver Ballot Box will be used.

**Yes 45 / No 104      Article #13 fails.**

#### **Article #14 - Recreation Director, Full Time**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$17,700) to change the Recreation Coordinator from a part-time to a full-time position with benefits.

Tax Impact:                      \$0.03

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 3 yes / 1 no / 1 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 4 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #14 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. A request was made, with the necessary five signatures, that a paper ballot be used. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion.

Selectman Hagan stated that Recreation Coordinator Corinna Reishus currently works more than the part-time hours she's paid for, as the Town has an active, progressive Recreation Department. He urges a "YES" vote on Article #14.

Richard Pike, a member of the Recreation Commission, noted that the Recreation Department has grown, and it's no longer just "kids' soccer". There are programs for children, adults, seniors, there is the Town Fair, etc. There will be 30 new employees hired for the Summer Program. Someone has to manage the Department, and Recreation Coordinator Reishus cannot continue working full-time in a part-time position.

Selectman Cannon asked if there was any risk to less supervision and oversight; Mr. Pike stated that it would be necessary to offer fewer programs.

Melinda Mafera, a member of the Recreation Commission, noted that the Recreation Coordinator is also

responsible for First Aid and CPR Certification, accident reports, incident handling, etc. Maria Oakley, a member of the Recreation Commission, added that someone needs to be on site for open gym and other programs that the residents want.

Beth Swanson stated that she used to be on the Recreation Commission, and that the Commission only supports things they feel strongly about. Insofar as the Summer Program is concerned, the 30 new employees are older children who act as "Counselors in Training", gaining skills at their first job; the Recreation Coordinator needs to be there to oversee these employees.

Royal Richardson asked if the position would be salaried or hourly; it will be salaried. The \$17,700 is the additional figure needed to bring the already-budgeted part-time position up to full-time, and includes the benefits buy-out figure and retirement as the current Recreation Coordinator does not require the Town's medical benefits.

Budget Committee Vice-Chair Lamphere stated that this Warrant Article was about a position, not a specific person. If someone who needs benefits fills the position in the future, the \$17,700 will become \$40,000.

Marie Davies stated that her family has participated in both the children and the adults programs, and that the quality has improved since Recreation Coordinator Reishus took over the program. Oversight of the Summer Program is important to ensure engaged and active children; recreation programs might help children stay off of drugs and alcohol. She urges a "YES" vote on Article #13.

Jay Rowden, treasurer of the Chester Baseball & Softball Association, stated that the Recreation Department and Coordinator are both supportive of his organization; he urges a "YES" vote on Article #13.

David Veale, member of the Chester Charitable Foundation, stated that his Recreation Coordinator goes above and beyond her hours and duties, and is always available when needed. He urges a "YES" vote on Article #13.

Royal Richardson wished to clarify that he is in favor of this position; he believes a full-time salaried employee is a good idea. He just thinks the Article is unclear.

Discussion being ended, the question was called. Ballot #2 and the silver Ballot Box will be used.

**Yes 122 / No 25      Article #14 carries.**

At this point, the Board of Selectmen took control of the meeting.

- Selectman Cannon thanked Chairman Landau for his 15 years of service to the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Landau thanked those in attendance today and those who voted on Tuesday.
- Selectman Cannon thanked Selectman Hagan for his six years of service to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Hagan is also a State Representative.
- Selectman Hagan asked for a moment of silence in honor of recently passed State Representative and Chester resident Bill Polewarczyk.
- Vice-Chairman Trask thanked Town Clerk Erin Newnan for her leadership of the IT Committee, and Deputy Town Clerk Barbara Cannon for stepping up and managing the Town Clerk's office in Town Clerk Newnan's absence.

At the conclusion of this section, Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik again took control of the Meeting.

### **Article #15 – Police Department Equipment**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the following projects:

Communications Equipment	\$10,000
Police Protective Equipment	\$5,000
Heavy Duty Safety Road Cones	\$5,000

and withdraw Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) from the Police Detail Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

A motion was made to waive re-reading of entire articles; this motion was seconded. The voice vote was in the affirmative; so moved. **Warrant Articles will only need to be read in their entirety once.**

Article #15 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion, but there was none.

The voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #15 carries.**

### **Article #16 – Fire Department Equipment**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the following project:

Thermal Imaging Camera	\$10,000
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and withdraw Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the Fire Department Detail Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

Article #16 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion, but there was none.

The voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #16 carries.**

### **Article #17 - Winter Road Maintenance Fund**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town increase the total amount in the expendable trust fund known as the Winter Road Maintenance Fund established at the 2006 Town Meeting for the purpose of plowing, salting, sanding and general winter road maintenance in the Town of Chester from Eighty-five thousand Dollars (\$85,000) to One hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000) and further raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000) to be added to this fund. The Winter Road Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund shall not exceed One hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000).

Tax Impact: \$0.19

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*  
*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*  
*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #17 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion, but there was none.

The voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #17 carries.**

### **Article #18 - Revaluation**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2009 Town Meeting in order to prepare for the next Town revaluation in 2021.

Tax Impact: \$0.02

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*  
*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain*  
*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #18 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion, but there was none.

The voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #18 carries.**

### **Article #19 - PACT**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen thousand eight hundred twenty-seven dollars and eleven cents (\$18,827.11) for the purpose of providing public, educational, and governmental access television in the Town of Chester. Said funds to be withdrawn from the Special Revenue Fund known as the "PACT" Fund established at the 2003 Town Meeting, separate from the General Fund and funded by Comcast subscribers in the Town of Chester. If passed, this article will have no tax impact.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*  
*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain*  
*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #19 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion.

Joe Castricone moved that Article #19 be amended to reduce the figure to be raised and appropriated by \$4,250 to \$14,577.11, as the Operating Budget had been increased by that amount; the motion was seconded. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion, but there was none.

The voice vote as to the amendment was in the affirmative. **The Amendment to Article #19 carries,** and it now reads:

*Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ~~Eighteen thousand eight hundred twenty-seven dollars and eleven cents (\$18,827.11)~~ Fourteen*



*thousand five hundred seventy-seven dollars and eleven cents (\$14,577.11) for the purpose of providing public, educational, and governmental access television in the Town of Chester. Said funds to be withdrawn from the Special Revenue Fund known as the "PACT" Fund established at the 2003 Town Meeting, separate from the General Fund and funded by Comcast subscribers in the Town of Chester. If passed, this article will have no tax impact.*

Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #19 carries.**

### **Article #20 – 300th Anniversary**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the capital reserve fund known as the 300th Anniversary Celebration Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2013 Town Meeting.

Tax Impact: \$0.01

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #20 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion.

Jean Methot drew attention to pages 163 and 164 of the Town Report, where one can read about the activities of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and the Logo Contest it is holding. The 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is partnering with the Historical Society and the Scenic Byway Committee to sell daffodil bulbs for Town beautification. The bulbs can be planted by businesses, on one's own property, or funds can be donated to allow the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee to plant bulbs in public spaces. He thanks the residents who have supported the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee with funding over the past few years.

Discussion having ended, the question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #20 carries.**

### **Article #21 - Veterans' Property Tax Credit**

Shall the town adopt the "all veterans' property tax credit" under RSA 72:28-b. If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or was an officer honorably separated from service, and (2) is not eligible for and not receiving the credit for veterans who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict or for veterans with a service-connected disability. If adopted, the credit will be in the amount of Five Hundred dollars (\$500.00), which is the same amount as the credit for a veteran who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict. If the credit is adopted, any person desiring to claim the credit will be required to file an application with the assessor's office by April 15 of the tax year.

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain / 2 absent*

Article #21 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik called for discussion.

Dave Anderson stated that there were periods between World War II and present-day where veterans were not in combat. These veterans, however, signed the same contract, and should be eligible for the same credit.

Selectman Hagan agreed, stating that, for example, Red Dolloff never qualified for a Veterans' Property Tax Credit due to these restrictions; the Town could honor him by voting in favor of this Article.

Discussion having ended, the question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #21 carries.**

## **Article #22 – Reports**

To hear the reports of Agents, Auditors, and Committees of Officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating hereto.

To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

Article #22 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded.

Moderator Pro Tempore Hadik thanked all of the Town's volunteers; a number of committees have openings, and more volunteers are always welcome. He directed residents to the Town Website where there is much information available, and added that residents should always feel free to call or visit Department Heads. Any newly elected officials may come to the front of the room after the meeting concludes to be sworn in by Town Clerk Newnan.

Selectman Buckley asked that a straw poll be conducted: were people in favor of moving Town Meeting back to Wednesday night? A hand count was taken, with the results of 37 in favor and 46 opposed.

There were no other reports, no other business to be transacted, and no vote needed.

As there was no further business, it was moved to adjourn the Meeting; this motion was seconded. The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. The 2017 Chester Town Meeting was adjourned at 12:53pm.

A True Copy.

Attest:

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Erin Newnan, Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra H. Doda