

**Town of Chester
Official Town Election
May 8th and 10th, 2018**

The Town of Chester election for officers and zoning amendments was held on Tuesday, May 8th, 2018. The election was held at the Chester Multi-Purpose Room. The polls were opened at 7:00am. Moderator Michael Scott officially closed the polls at 7:00pm.

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

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

Board of Selectmen for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 2)

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|---|
| Joseph Hagan | - | 254 | * |
| Stephen O. Landau | - | 317 | * |
| Richard J. LeBlanc | - | 86 | |
| Richard S. Trask | - | 233 | |
| Heather Marie Bowen | - | 248 | |
| Jerome G. Gesel | - | 248 | |
| Write-Ins | - | 4 | |

Town Moderator for 2 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-----|---|
| Michael Scott | - | 622 | * |
| Write-Ins | - | 8 | |

Budget Committee Member for 1 year:

(Vote for not more than 1)

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----|---|
| Christina E. Gelinas | - | 592 | * |
| Write-Ins | - | 11 | |

Budget Committee Member for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 3)

| | | | |
|------------------|---|-----|---|
| Brian Shankey | - | 479 | * |
| Charles R. Heuer | - | 485 | * |
| Rhonda Lamphere | - | 499 | * |
| Write-Ins | - | 22 | |

Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Although there were no candidates for this position, there were 67 write-in votes. Residents should see Moderator Scott at the break to indicate if they are interested in the open position.

Library Trustee for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 2)

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----|---|
| Mary E. Ditoro | - | 532 | * |
| Barbara J. Holmes | - | 563 | * |

Great Hill Cemetery Trustee for 5 years:
(Vote for not more than 1)

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----|---|
| Donald P. Brown | - | 593 | * |
| Write-Ins | - | 3 | |

Village Cemetery Trustee for 3 years:
(Vote for not more than 1)

Although there were no candidates for this position, there were 89 write-in votes, with Bonnie Hunter receiving the majority. As a result, Moderator Scott declared Bonnie Hunter elected.

Wilcomb Townsend Trustee for 4 years:
(Vote for not more than 1)

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|---|
| Lisa A. Oleson | - | 596 | * |
| Write-Ins | - | 2 | |

Wilcomb Townsend Trustee for 5 years:
(Vote for not more than 1)

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|---|
| Cynthia N. Tunberg | - | 606 | * |
| 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 Board Member for 3 years:
(Vote for not more than 1)

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|---|
| Royal M. Richardson | - | 572 | * |
| Write-Ins | - | 16 | |

School District Moderator David Scott closed the School portion of the Meeting.

A motion was made that Moderator Michael Scott not read the Zoning Amendment Articles in their entirety before announcing the results; this motion was seconded. The voice vote was in the affirmative; **Zoning Amendment Articles will not be read in their entirety.**

Moderator Scott then announced the results of Articles #2 through #7:

Article #2

Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment # 1** as proposed by the Planning Board to the Town's Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend: Article 2 – Definitions by amending the definition of Duplex and adding a definition for

Recreation Vehicle.

Purpose: To update the definition of a “Duplex,” and add a modern definition for “Recreation Vehicle” formerly known as “Travel Trailers.”

Yes 441 / No 223 Article #2 carries.

Article #3

Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment # 2** as proposed by the Planning Board to the Town’s Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Adopt: Article 4.3 - Sanitary Protection Requirements, Section 4.3.4.6 – Setback from Lot Lines.

Purpose: To clarify that septic systems are considered structures and therefore prohibited within the front, side & rear lot line setbacks.

Yes 355 / No 315 Article #3 carries.

Article #4

Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment # 3** as proposed by the Planning Board to the Town’s Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend: Article 4.4- Signs, Section 4.2.2.1 - Zone R-1 (Residential).

Adopt: 4.4.2.2 - Zone R-1 (Agricultural) and 4.4.4.8.3.c - Allowed Temporary Signs re: seasonal agricultural commodities.

Purpose: To amend Article 4.4 - Signs to better support the Granite State Farm to Plate Food Policy and Principles, as defined in RSA 425:2-a, by increasing the allowable signage for farming and agriculture as defined in NH RSA 21:34-a and to permit signs in Zone R-1 to be within 5 feet of the public right of way.

Yes 542 / No 129 Article #4 carries.

Article #5

Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment # 4** as proposed by the Planning Board to the Town’s Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend: Article 4.6 - Manufactured Housing and Travel Trailers.

Purpose: To remove the term “Manufactured Housing” from the title and text of this article and to replace the term “Travel Trailers” with “Recreation Vehicles.”

Yes 417 / No 246 Article #5 carries.

Article #6

Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment # 5** as proposed by the Planning Board to the Town’s

Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend: Article 5.5.2 and 5.5.3 - Limited Commercial/Light Industrial Zone (C2).

Purpose: To amend and clarify permitted and prohibited uses in the Commercial/Light Industrial Zone (C2). No new uses are being proposed except for Auto Body Repair.

Yes 407 / No 238 Article #6 carries.

Article #7

Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment # 6** as proposed by the Planning Board to the Town's Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend: Article 9 - Accessory Dwelling Units.

Purpose: To remove unnecessary language under Parking, add language under Sewage Disposal to clarify when a new septic system is required; add section requiring a notice of limitations on occupancy to be recorded in Registry of Deeds; amend Residency to include ownership by entities such as trusts; add provision prohibiting the separate conveyances of principle and accessory dwelling units; and, to prohibit accessory dwelling units with multi-family dwellings and manufactured housing.

Yes 349 / No 300 Article #7 carries.

Article #8 – Crowley Woods Bond

Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee.

Shall the Town of Chester vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the acquisition of approximately 186 acres of land known as Tax Map and Lot 011/030/000 and Tax Map and Lot 011/030/007 (the property formerly known as Crowley Woods), and to further authorize the issuance of one million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33), and to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver the bonds or notes and determine the rates of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, and to authorize the withdrawal of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the Conservation Fund to offset a portion of said appropriation, and to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept any federal, state, or other aid, if any, or funds from public and private sources, as they may become available for said project, and to take any other action or pass any other vote necessary to carry out this vote, and further, to raise and appropriate the additional sum of twenty two thousand, one hundred eighty three dollars (\$22,183) for the first year payment of the bond. This article must pass by a 2/3 majority ballot vote.

Tax Impact: \$0.04

Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 2 yes / 2 no / 1 absent

Not Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 1 yes / 4 no / 4 absent

Article #8 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott noted that this Article would be voted on using a paper ballot and that it must receive 2/3rds of the vote in order to pass. He called for discussion.

Selectman Owens briefly described the purpose of the Strategic Land Protection Committee; to wit, it has broken away from the Conservation Commission in order to focus on all of the Town's long term land needs, not just those that are Conservation related. This particular property was being looked at from a cost avoidance perspective.

Chuck Myette stated that the Article was requesting a ten-year, \$1.5m bond, along with \$500k from the Conservation Fund, in order to pay the \$2M that was being asked for the property. The SLPC is also looking for other creative ways to generate revenue to offset the bond payments.

Mr. Myette explained that the developer currently plans to build a subdivision of 60 three- and four-bedroom houses on the 186-acre property, each situated on a little over one acre, leaving the remainder of the property as open space.

Among the concerns is one that this subdivision would only be accessible via Candia on Crowley Road, which is a narrow, scenic road that will be even narrower during the winter season. Roads would be impacted with an estimated additional 590 car trips each day as well as the trucks and other heavy equipment during construction. It is seven-eight miles from the Police and Fire Departments, which would add to response time and necessitate the use of mutual aid. With an estimate of 0.87 children per household, there would be over 50 new students in the schools.

There is concern about clusters of wells and septic systems as well as steep slopes impacting water quality. As it stands, it's a prime quality wetland, a wildlife corridor, part of a 'greenbelt', and contains a rare black gum swamp. The property could be used for recreation, an energy farm, etc.; any use other than residential. There are no plans to place a conservation easement on the entire property, but having protection for the Black Gum Swamp would be preferred.

A Cost Avoidance matrix was drawn up, which shows that after seven years of the ten year bond, the purchase begins to pay for itself with cost avoidance, and after that the cost avoidance is permanent. On the other hand, with the property turned into a subdivision, the tax burden for the additional houses is also permanent.

Mr. Myette concluded by requesting that the Town invest money now in order to save money later.

Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Dave Anderson asked why this request had come so late and why the developer was interested in selling the property to the Town. He had looked at the Planning Board website and saw that the houses only have ~100' of frontage, and that they are situated on 1/3 of the parcel, with ¼ to 1/3 marked as 'poor drainage'. He cannot see how more than 20-30 houses could be built and asked if the subdivision had already been approved by the Planning Board.

Mr. Myette responded that as the developer had not yet begun to build the houses, discussions began a couple of months ago on the property. He agreed that the property is poorly drained; this is part of the reason that he would prefer no additional impervious surfaces be placed there, causing additional runoff which will end up in the watershed.

Rick Snyder spoke as a citizen, not as a member of the Planning Board. He noted that the developer had engineered his way around every issue that had arisen with the property and that he indeed could build 60 houses on the property. Mr. Snyder agreed with the points raised by Mr. Myette and added that the Town has taken advantage many times over the years to purchase and protect property. The tax impact is small, and the benefit large.

Ted Broadwater stated that this was an opportunity to save the Town, and the taxpayers, money. He does not believe this is anti-development; the Town has permitted ~200 new houses over the past few years. He is in favor of strategic development.

Tim Peloquin asked how the \$2M figure was determined, and if it was negotiable. He also asked if Candia had been approached about contributing. Mr. Myette stated that the \$2M figure was arrived at by adding the amount the builder had originally paid for the land, plus what he had already spent on the parcel. Mr. Myette added that although the price was firm, the builder is also open to a land swap. He noted that he had, in fact, approached Candia's Conservation Commission about contributing to this purchase, and that they were discussing it amongst themselves.

Cynthia Herman asked if the Planning Board had considered the issues previously before approving this development, and if impact fees would be applicable. Michael Weider, speaking as a member of the Planning Board, stated that the Planning Board had done its due diligence but that the builder had engineered past all roadblocks. For example, the Planning Board had recommended a community water system rather than individual wells, but the builder had simply increased the size of the lots to just over 1 acre, as required in the Ordinance. Mr. Weider added that impact fees will total ~\$465k, plus the LUCT will be applicable when the land comes out of current use. Ms. Herman stated that she would not support this Warrant Article.

Chairman Trask asked how much of the property would be under a conservation easement, and how much of the black gum swamp would be destroyed if the property was to be developed. Mr. Weider stated that half of the property would be under an easement, and Mr. Myette added that the black gum swamp, which is ~8 acres, would be under that easement.

Lorna Hazelton asked if the builder was truly interested in a land swap; Mr. Myette stated that he was. Ms. Hazelton surmised that if the builder had put close to \$2M into the property and was willing to walk away for not much more, he probably was not going to be able to build on it.

Rick Snyder spoke again, this time as a member of the Planning Board. He stated that the plan had not yet been approved, but that it was close. He reiterated that the builder had found an engineering solution to every issue that had been raised.

Julie Sprague asked if the Chester school bus would go into Candia to access this development; this is not known.

Gene Charron stated that the purchase of the Mossman property resulted in the School and Fire Station. The purchase of the Silver Springs property resulted in the Wason Pond Conservation property. What would the Town gain if this property were purchased?

Stephen Landau stated that this property has no access from Chester and if the Town has to pay to service a development, it will be paying forever. The bond is only \$0.04 per thousand for ten years. He added that the Courts have overruled the ZBA before when they denied permission to build; this could happen again. He asked those present to carefully consider this Article.

Janet Boyden asked that the Planning Board take a careful look at the cluster developing zoning ordinances. Both very small and pie-shaped lots are allowed; if the ordinances are tightened up, builders will have to build fewer houses. She also asked how much of the land to go under a conservation easement was non-buildable in the first place.

Rhonda Lamphere, speaking as Treasurer, noted that there is ~\$800k in the Conservation Fund. She asked that the Conservation Commission agree, if this article passes, to contribute 100% of the LUCT funds received each year towards the bond payment.

Discussion being ended, the ballot box was opened at 7:20pm and will remain open for one hour. While voting is taking place, recently elected officials were invited to come to the front of the room to be scribed and sworn in. Discussions resumed at 7:38pm.

Voting ceased at 8:23pm and the ballot box was closed and counted. Moderator Scott reminded those present that a 2/3rds vote was required to pass.

Yes 107 / No 121 Article #8 fails.

Article #9 - Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended amount of Four million five hundred twenty-nine thousand three hundred ninety dollars (\$4,529,390) 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 - 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain. The Board of Selectmen recommends Four million five hundred twenty-nine thousand three hundred ninety dollars (\$4,529,390) by a Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain.

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

| | BOS | BC |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| General Government | \$1,956,326 | \$1,956,326 |
| Public Safety | \$1,244,260 | \$1,244,260 |
| Highways, Streets, Bridges | \$705,645 | \$705,645 |
| Sanitation | \$199,693 | \$199,693 |
| Health & Welfare | \$43,962 | \$43,962 |
| Culture & Recreation | \$263,149 | \$263,149 |
| Conservation & Eco. Dev. | \$1,303 | \$1,303 |
| Debt Service | \$115,052 | \$115,052 |
| Total Appropriation | \$4,529,390 | \$4,529,390 |

Article #9 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion, but there was none.

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

Article #10 – Town Administrator

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to authorize 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-nine thousand dollars (\$129,000) for wages and benefits.

Tax Impact: \$0.22

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 3 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

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

Dana Theokas asked what this employee's job duties would be, and what cuts would be made in other Departments. Selectman Buckley responded that there was not a solid job description in place as of yet, nor a complete understanding of how it would affect other Departments.

Mary Beth Ditoro recommended that should this Article pass, a committee of residents should be formed to interview candidates, rather than just the Board of Selectmen. She queried paying \$129k for 'paperwork only', noting that this position is not a Town Manager.

Dianna Charron referred to an article in the Union Leader about the Town of Wilton that had hired a Town Administrator within the past two years; the Board of Selectmen did not give him the authority to do his job and this recently resulted in his resignation as well as that of the Administrative Assistant, Bookkeeper, and Treasurer. The Town of Wilton had to shut down and hire an outside company to run the Town until new employees could be hired. She asked the Selectmen if they were willing to give this person the authority, and if they had a job description; there is not enough information available for her to vote in favor of this Article.

Selectman D'Angelo stated that Chairman Trask had been spending ~25 hours each week at Town Hall, overseeing projects and ensuring that things did not fall through the cracks, and a Selectman cannot be expected to continue doing that. He added that the Selectmen should create policy that the Town Administrator would then implement.

Lorna Hazelton asked what the difference was between a Town Administrator and a Town Manager, what portion of the \$129k would be salary, and if the Board of Selectmen would remain at five members. Selectman D'Angelo estimated that the salary portion would be ~\$80k, with the remainder being benefits, and that there was no decision on the number of Selectmen as of yet. He added that the Town was missing a number of opportunities because of the lack of a Town Administrator, both inside and outside of Town. Ms. Hazelton noted that she was not comfortable voting in favor of this Article due to the lack of the job description – what was this employee going to do, and to whom would they report? She added that she would prefer that the Town Administrator, if hired, be a non-resident with municipal experience.

Janet Boyden stated that she would prefer that the Selectmen not write the job description, but that they ask the Local Government Center to do so. She would like the Town Administrator to be independent of the Selectmen.

Town Clerk Erin Newnan thanked the Selectmen for what they have accomplished over the past year. She is currently acting not only as Town Clerk/Tax Collector, but also Chair of the IT Committee and Wellness Coordinator; she spends 10-12 hours each week on IT alone. She would like to see a Town Administrator hired to cover day to day operations, as well as move things along faster by having the authority to sign rather than waiting for signatures from the Selectmen. She is, however, disappointed that there is no plan in place, and agrees with Ms. Ditoro that a hiring committee should be formed.

Dave Anderson stated that there is no plan and no job description. A Town Administrator without a clearly defined list of duties is susceptible to pressure. He noted that a similar Article at last year's Town Meeting had failed by a vote of 45 in favor to 104 opposed.

A motion was made to table Article #10; this motion was seconded. There was a brief sidebar when a resident called for a point of order, stating that residents were still waiting to speak; Moderator Scott

stated that a procedural motion overruled speaking, and appealed to Town Counsel Diane Gorrow, who confirmed.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #10 will be tabled.**

A motion was made to restrict reconsideration of Article #10. This request was moved to the floor and seconded. There was no discussion. The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #10 may not be reconsidered.**

Article #11 – CIP Funding

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Eight hundred thousand (\$800,000) 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 and to authorize the transfer of Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the June 30, 2018 general unassigned fund balance for this purpose with the remainder of Six hundred thousand (\$600,000) to be raised through taxation.

Tax Impact: \$1.02

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #11 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion, but there was none.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #11 carries.**

Article #12 - CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Eight hundred forty thousand, eighty-one dollars (\$840,081) for the following projects:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Fire Department – Portable Radios | \$69,000 |
| Fire Department – SCBA Air Packs | \$12,000 |
| Fire Department – Personal Protective Equipment | \$17,800 |
| Government Buildings – Hardware/Software Upgrades | \$5,100 |
| Highway – Chipper | \$54,250 |
| Highway – Annual Surveying & Engineering Services | \$10,000 |
| Highway – Water Well | \$15,000 |
| Highway – Road Work | \$485,000 |
| MPR – Netting, Floor Mats, and Wall Pads | \$10,000 |
| Police Department – Cruiser with Outfitting | \$51,931 |
| Police Department – Personal Protective Equipment | \$10,000 |
| Police Department – Design Plans | \$70,000 |
| Wason Pond – Grade and Reseed Fields | \$30,000 |

and withdraw Eight hundred forty thousand, eighty-one dollars (\$840,081) from the Municipal Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain

Article #12 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Budget Committee member Chuck Heuer stated that the Budget Committee was only able to vote on recommending the entire Article, or none of it; this did not mean that they agreed with each line on the Article.

Carrie Hadik asked about the line for *Highway - Chipper \$54,250*; was this an exact price, or a ballpark figure? Road Agent Oleson stated that the Planning Board had required quotes before placing items into the CIP; therefore it was an exact figure. Mrs. Hadik also asked about the line for *Police Department – Design Plans \$70,000*. Police Chief Berube explained that the Police Department was in the process of evaluating its space needs to determine if the Police Station should be left as is, renovated, a new one built, etc. This particular line for \$70k is to create plans. They are behind in the process, however, and he would not object if this line was deleted from the Article.

Discussion being ended, the question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #12 carries.**

Article #13 - CIP Committee

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish an independent committee pursuant to RSA 674:5 to prepare and amend the recommended program of municipal Capital Improvement Projects and to make budgetary recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee. The Committee, to be known as the Capital Improvement Program Committee, will have seven (7) voting members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, and shall include at least one member of the Planning Board, the Budget Committee, and the Board of Selectmen.

The new Capital Improvement Program Committee would become effective on July 1, 2018.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #13 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Chairman Trask stated that this Committee, if approved, would focus on the CIP, which is a long term planning tool for the Town, and alleviate pressure on the Planning Board.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #13 carries.**

Moderator Scott suggested taking Article #21 out of order, as it is a ballot vote. This suggestion was moved and seconded.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #21 will be taken out of order.**

Article #21 – Keno

Shall the Town vote to allow the operation of Keno games within the Town of Chester.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 2 yes / 3 no / 0 abstain

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

Mary Beth Ditoro stated that several years ago a country club had been suggested, but had been voted down as it would bring the 'wrong kind of people' to Town. She queried whether or not Keno would also bring the wrong sort of person to Town.

Selectman Buckley noted that the Selectmen did not recommend this Warrant Article, but they believed that the Legislative Body had the right to vote on it.

Chuck Myette asked what financial benefit accrued to the Town from Keno. Chairman Trask stated that it could attract businesses to Town, and that the State would use the proceeds to fund full day kindergarten.

Dana Theokas asked if it was true that an establishment needs a liquor license to have Keno; this is true.

Budget Committee Chairman Weider stated that the Town would receive a maximum of \$1,900 per student from Keno for full time kindergarten; Chairman Trask added that the Town would receive these funds whether or not they vote in favor of Keno.

Discussion being ended, the ballot box was opened at 8:22pm. Discussions resumed at 8:31pm.

Voting ceased at 8:33pm and the ballot box was closed and counted.

Yes 49 / No 139 Article #21 fails.

Article #14 – Highway CIP Funding

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred forty-four thousand two hundred fifty-four dollars (\$144,254) 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 forty-four thousand two hundred fifty-four dollars (\$144,254) which is the anticipated grant amount this year 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 – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #14 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion, but there was none.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #14 carries.**

Article #15 – Highway CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$285,000) for road improvements in the Town of Chester and withdraw Two hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$285,000) 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 – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

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

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

Article #16 - Winter Road Maintenance Fund

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000) to be added to the expendable trust fund known as the Winter Road Maintenance Fund established at the 2006 Town Meeting and increased at the 2017 Town Meeting for the purpose of plowing, salting, sanding and general winter road maintenance in the Town of Chester. The Winter Road Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund shall not exceed One hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000).

Tax Impact: \$0.18

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #16 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Road Agent Oleson moved that Article #16 be amended to reduce the amount raised and appropriated from \$105,000 to \$45,000; this motion was seconded.

Road Agent Oleson explained that it had only been necessary to withdraw \$45,000 from the Winter Road Maintenance Fund this year, and as such only \$45,000 needed to be raised and appropriated in order to return the Fund to its \$105,000 maximum.

Discussion being ended, the question was called as to the Amendment. The voice vote was in the affirmative. **The Amendment to Article #16 carries**, and the Article now reads:

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ~~One hundred~~ forty-five thousand dollars (~~\$105,000~~ \$45,000) to be added to the expendable trust fund known as the Winter Road Maintenance Fund established at the 2006 Town Meeting and increased at the 2017 Town Meeting for the purpose of plowing, salting, sanding and general winter road maintenance in the Town of Chester. The Winter Road Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund shall not exceed One hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000).

As there was no further discussion, the question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #16 carries.**

Article #17 – Police Department Equipment

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the following project:

Purchase, Program, and Install Portable/Mobile Communications Upgrades

and withdraw Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) 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

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

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

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

At 8:40pm, a brief break was announced.

Jean Methot, Chairman of the 300th Anniversary Committee, reported that there had been four entries in the 300th Anniversary Logo contest that had been announced at last year's Town Meeting. The overall winner, whose entry was displayed on a banner above the podium, will receive a check for \$300. Dianne Kunelius was announced as the winner. The runner-up's design will be on the reverse of the commemorative coin. Louise Ouellette was announced as the runner-up.

Chairman Dick Trask thanked Jack Cannon for his years of service to the Board of Selectmen as well as the Budget Committee. Mr. Cannon thanked his family and the residents for their support and stated that serving on the Board of Selectmen was not a job but a privilege.

The meeting reconvened at 8:50pm.

Article #18 - Revaluation

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) 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: \$0.05

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

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

The question was called; 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 forty thousand, five hundred and twenty dollars (\$40,520) 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 – 4 yes / 3 no / 0 abstain

Article #19 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion, but there was none.

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
Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain
Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #20 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion, but there was none.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #20 carries.**

Warrant Article #21 was addressed previously in the meeting, q.v. after Warrant Article #13.

Article #22 – Discontinue Wason Pond Recreation Capital Reserve

Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Wason Pond Recreation Capital Reserve Fund created in 2007. Said funds with accumulated interest to the date of withdrawal (approximately \$22) are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain
Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #22 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion, but there was none.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #22 carries.**

Article #23 – 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 #23 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion, but there was none.

The question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #23 carries.**

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 2018 Chester Town Meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm.

A True Copy.

Attest:

Erin Newnan, Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra H. Doda