

**Town of Chester
Official Town Election
May 14th and 16th, 2019**

The Town of Chester election for officers and zoning amendments was held on Tuesday, May 14th, 2019. 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.

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

Board of Selectmen for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Charles F. Myette	-	541	*
Richard S. Trask	-	341	
Write-Ins	-	5	

Road Agent for 2 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Robert E. Brown	-	454	
Michael Oleson	-	482	*
Write-Ins	-	1	

Town Clerk/Tax Collector for 1 year:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Elizabeth Lufkin	-	815	*
Write-Ins	-	10	

Budget Committee Member for 1 year:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Write-Ins	-	84	
-----------	---	----	--

Kathy Guilmette received the largest number of write-in votes (18); if she is interested, she will be considered elected.

Budget Committee Member for 2 years:

(Vote for not more than 2)

Write-Ins	-	63	
-----------	---	----	--

Kathy Guilmette also received the largest number of write-in votes (7); three other people received three votes each. Interested parties should contact Moderator Scott.

Budget Committee Member for 3 years:

(Vote for not more than 1)

Ephraim Dobbins	-	673	*
Write-Ins	-	7	

School Board Member for 1 year:
(Vote for not more than 1)

Lindsay Bestwick	-	243	
Kathryn M. Dircks	-	161	
Brennan Holmes	-	296	*
Write-Ins	-	7	

School Board Member for 3 years:
(Vote for not more than 2)

Jonathan Eckerman	-	463	*
Sarah Ungaro	-	351	
Valerie Weider	-	366	*
Write-Ins	-	5	

Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 years:
(Vote for not more than 1)

Thomas J. Paton III	-	718	*
Write-Ins	-	5	

Library Trustee for 3 years:
(Vote for not more than 2)

Deborah J. Munson	-	598	*
Mary L. Richardson	-	684	*
Write-Ins	-	4	

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

Genevieve Rowell	-	784	*
Write-Ins	-	3	

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

Mark Keddy	-	761	*
Write-Ins	-	5	

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

Richard Schaefer	-	744	*
Write-Ins	-	4	

Moderator Scott congratulated the newly elected officials and requested that those interested in one of the open positions contact him at the break.

A motion was made to close the School portion of the Meeting; this motion was seconded. The voice vote was in the affirmative; **the School portion of the Meeting is closed.**

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

Article #2 -

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

Amend: Article 5.3.3 - Special Exception Uses – By adding 5.3.3.9 – Agritourism and adding the definition for Agritourism to Article 2 -Definitions.

Purpose: To allow Agritourism by Special Exception in the General Residential and Agricultural District (Zone R1) and add a definition for Agritourism.

Yes 577 / No 281 Article #2 carries.

Article #3 -

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

Amend: Article 5.3.3 - Special Exception Uses – by adding 5.3.3.10 – Assisted Living Residences and 5.3.3.11 - Nursing Homes, add definitions of these uses to Article 2 - Definitions and add these uses to zoning Tables 1 and 2.

Purpose: To allow Assisted Living Residences and Nursing Homes by Special Exception in the General Residential and Agricultural District (Zone R1) and require 10-acre minimum sized lots and 100-foot perimeter buffers to screen and protect abutters from these uses.

Yes 524 / No 361 Article #3 carries.

Article #4 -

Adopt: Article 7 – Age-Friendly Subdivision and add this use to zoning Tables 1 & 2.

Purpose: To add Article 7 - Age-Friendly Subdivision to the zoning ordinance, and to update zoning Tables 1 and 2 to indicate the addition of Article 7. Age-Friendly Subdivisions are intended to enable a very limited number of small and affordable, “universal design” homes to accommodate residents, including elderly residents who wish to downsize, those with physical disabilities, and young residents seeking starter homes. These dwelling units are permanently limited to a maximum of 1,200 square feet of gross living area and two bedrooms.

Yes 534/ No 356 Article #4 carries.

Article #5 -

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

Amend: Subsection 6.12.1.2.b and zoning Table 2: Table of Setbacks and No Clearing Buffer Zones.

Purpose: To amend zoning Table 2, by replacing the word "Buildings" with "Structures" to better signify the intent of the zoning ordinance, and to add a line for "Underground Utilities". Furthermore, to increase the Town's setback for septic systems, wells and underground utilities on Open Space Subdivision lots from 50 feet to 65 feet to be consistent with NH Department of Environmental Services requirements and amend Subsection 6.12.1.2.b and Table 2 to reflect these changes. Renumber subsection "6.12.1.2 - Buffer" to "6.12.1.3 - Buffer."

Yes 571/ No 301 Article #5 carries.

Article #6 –

Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment # 5** to the Town's Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

Amend: Article 11.6 - Conditions for Granting an Equitable Waiver of Dimensional Requirements.

Purpose: To clarify the equitable waiver process by replacing the language of the article with language taken directly from NH RSA 674:33-a. This will not change the actual process.

Yes 619/ No 222 Article #6 carries.

Article #7 –

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

Amend: Article 16.6 – Performance Standards by adding Subsection 16.6.9.b.

Purpose: To ensure disturbed areas will be properly stabilized to prevent erosion and surface water and wetlands contamination prior to the issuance of certificates of occupancy.

Yes 665/ No 217 Article #7 carries.

Moderator Scott called the 2019 Town Meeting to order at 6:00pm on Thursday, May 16th, 2019; 211 voters were present.

A motion was made to forego a second reading of the Articles in their entirety before voting; this motion was seconded. The voice vote was in the affirmative; **Warrant Articles will only be read once.**

Article #8 - Purchase of Stone Property

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$495,000) for the acquisition of approximately 28.2 acres of land and buildings therein known as Tax Map 5 Lot 20 with an address of 78 Raymond Road on terms to be negotiated by the Board of Selectmen; and to authorize the issuance of not more than four hundred ninety-five

thousand dollars (\$495,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bond or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. This Article must pass by a 2/3 ballot vote.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 3 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 0 yes / 7 no / 0 abstain

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.

Chuck Myette gave a brief presentation on the Stone Property, stating that the property would be useful for both safety and growth purposes. Its central location adjoining the Fire Station and School property would allow for school expansion in the future, and a road could be cut through it for an alternate exit from Murphy Drive. The 28-acre property contains a historic and yet handicap-accessible house with a large well and septic system, updated electricity and plumbing, HVAC, fire protection, and a paved parking lot. It could be renovated and used for many purposes or sold off if not wanted. The property is on the market for \$495k, but no Purchase & Sale or even negotiations have been entered into with the seller. Many scenarios for funding the purchase had been considered, and this Warrant Article was for a five-year loan with no pre-payment penalty at an interest rate of 3.24%. No payment would be due until July 2020, so there was no tax impact in the upcoming Fiscal Year; creative financing was always possible (LCHIP grants, using the Unassigned Fund Balance, donations).

Royal Richardson stated that the School had inspected the property and calculated expected school growth; they are not pushing for the purchase.

Karen Stage asked what portion of the 28 acres is usable and what portion wetlands; Mr. Myette stated that although the Town had not surveyed the property, he estimated that approximately 2/3rds of it was wetlands which might be a challenge, although there is always the possibility of mitigation.

Kelly Massero stated that when the Town purchased the Mossman property, residents were told that the School would have plenty of room to expand. She believes that antique homes are expensive to restore and if the house needs to be torn down, that expense must be taken into consideration as well. She also believes that the asking price is twice as much as the assessed price, although Mr. Myette stated that the assessment was over \$500k.

Diane Kunelius opined that the Town doesn't need any more properties with houses; it already owns Spring Hill Farm. According to Warrant Article #17, the Church steeple is in need of repair; she would like to see funds from the Unassigned Fund Balance, which are also being considered for the purchase of this property via Warrant Article #16, used for that purpose instead as the Church is an icon of the Town. The School has enough land; the Town should maintain buildings it already owns.

Budget Committee Chair Mike Weider agreed that the School already has enough land and that they do not want the property, and that Recreation does not want it. He added that the Budget Committee received no information on this Warrant Article, there was no plan, and that they did not recommend it.

Dianna Charron stated that this was a valuable piece of property that the Town shouldn't pass up.

When the Police Department expands in the near future, the Clothes Closet and the Boy Scouts may be evicted from the Annex; where will they go? The building could be used for many purposes.

Baron Richardson inquired about the “Secondary Access Road” mentioned in Warrant Article #12; is the Stone property required for that?

Selectman Landau explained the need for an additional exit from Murphy Drive, due to the issues with emergency vehicles being able to exit during times of congestion. Jeff Adler from Dubois & King has estimated ~\$200-\$250k to build a road through the Stone property. He reiterated that the \$495k requested in the Warrant Article is the asking price only; the Town would certainly negotiate. Mr. Myette added that the only place to build an exit road on the existing property would be out to Stockman Hill Road, which would then itself need to be improved.

Budget Committee Vice-Chair Rhonda Lamphere answered Mr. Richardson’s question; the Stone property is not necessary to build the Secondary Access Road from Warrant Article #12. The secondary access road is considered to be an emergency/temporary solution.

Vikki Lessard stated that the property has been sale for over a decade and opined that it should be cheaper. She estimates a \$1 tax impact for the loan, and suggested that if the school needs to expand, it be built upwards, or built somewhere else other than on Route 102.

Kelly Massero added that the residents had been told many years ago that the State would not permit a secondary access road due to the blind spot on 102. She added that if the amount of traffic in and out of Murphy Drive is heavy, children should be taking the school buses that the Town pays for rather than being dropped off by parents; is there any way to enforce this?

Budget Committee Chair Weider agreed with Ms. Massero, stating that the Town was planning to spend money on a road rather than solving the problem by enforcing the single lane traffic in and out of Murphy Drive. He added that the Town pays quite a bit for empty buses.

Bob Packard asked to call the question; this was moved, seconded, and the voice vote was in the affirmative.

Residents were instructed to use the ballot marked “Article #8”. The ballot box was opened at 7:14pm and will remain open for one hour.

Voting ceased at 8:14pm and the ballot box was closed and counted.

Yes 45 / No 162 Article #8 fails.

Article #9 – Change to Town Meeting Date, to coincide with School

Shall the Town vote to effect a change in the date of the annual Town Meeting so that the first session for choice of Town Officers elected by an official ballot and other action required to be inserted on said official ballot shall be held annually on the second Tuesday in March, and the second session for the transaction of other business on a date set by the Selectmen, effective January 1st, 2020.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

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

Selectman Landau opined that should this Article be passed, the residents may know more about what the School is spending, but no matter when the Meeting takes place, the same residents will attend. He added, "If it isn't broken, don't fix it."

Mrs. Stage referred to the uncertain weather in March.

Dennis Maloney stated that he was concerned that the budget year would be 1/3 over before the budget was voted upon; Budget Committee Vice-Chair Lamphere noted that this would not happen as the Fiscal Year would remain as July 1st through June 30th. She is in favor of the change as she believes that it is important to consider the School and Town budgets together. The weather is a factor in May as well; graduations, sports, good weather, etc.

Discussion being ended, the question was called, and the voice vote was inconclusive. A show of hands was called for; the vote was in the affirmative. **Article #9 carries; Town Elections and Meeting will now take place in March.**

Article #10 – Operating Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended amount of four million six hundred seventy-six thousand nine hundred dollars (\$4,676,900) 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 six hundred seventy-six thousand nine hundred dollars (\$4,676,900) 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	\$ 2,063,849	\$ 2,060,599
Public Safety	\$ 1,295,239	\$ 1,295,239
Highways, Streets, Bridges	\$ 768,161	\$ 746,441
Sanitation	\$ 202,674	\$ 202,674
Health & Welfare	\$ 18,812	\$ 43,962
Culture & Recreation	\$ 274,589	\$ 274,409
Conservation & Eco. Dev.	\$ 1,554	\$ 1,554
Debt Service	\$ 52,022	\$ 52,022
Total Appropriation	\$ 4,676,900	\$ 4,676,900

Article #10 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 #10 carries.**

Article #11 – 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: \$1.06

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 #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.**

A motion was made to consider Warrant Article #13 before #12; this motion was seconded. The voice vote was in the affirmative; **Article #13 will be considered before Article #12.**

Article #13 – Highway CIP Funding

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one million three hundred forty-seven thousand six hundred fourteen dollars (\$1,347,614) 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-seven thousand six hundred fourteen dollars (\$147,614) which is the anticipated grant amount this year from the New Hampshire Highway Block Grant to be used to offset this appropriation and to authorize the transfer of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) from the June 30th, 2019 general unassigned fund balance for this purpose with the remainder of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to be raised through taxation.

Tax Impact: \$0.89

Recommended by Board of Selectmen
Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain
Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

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

Selectman D'Angelo stated that this was an opportunity for the Town to get some roadwork done. The Unassigned Fund Balance is healthy, so the Article takes \$700k from it; the School is showing a ~\$500k surplus, so that figure will offset the \$500k raised and appropriated for this Article when the tax rate is calculated.

Ted Scott Jr. wanted to confirm that the \$500k was coming from taxation, not a transfer from the School; this is correct. Budget Committee Chairman Weider explained that the School portion of the tax rate would be reduced because of the surplus, while the Town portion would go up; it should remain relatively flat. He added that the Budget Committee supports this article and would like the Town to continue funding the Highway CIP at this level in the future in order to continue roadwork.

Discussion being ended, the question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #13 carries.**

Article #12 - CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred eighty-four thousand one hundred nine dollars (\$384,109) for the following projects:

Buildings	IT Hardware & Software Upgrades	\$5,100
Fire Department	Personal Protective Equipment	\$18,400
Fire Department	Automatic External Defibrillators	\$24,260
Fire Department	Septic System Upgrade	\$22,000

Fire Department	Secondary Access Road	\$90,000
Highway	F-550 Plow Truck	\$85,000
Highway	Surveying & Engineering	\$10,000
Library	Comprehensive Renovation	\$52,000
Police Department	Cruiser with Outfitting	\$53,749
Police Department	Personal Protective Equipment	\$10,000
Police Department	Software Data Conversion	\$13,600

and withdraw three hundred eighty-four thousand one hundred nine dollars (\$384,109) from the Municipal Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes. This will be a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7-a, IV, and will not lapse until the work is complete, or December 31st, 2021, whichever comes first.

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

Budget Committee Chairman Weider referred to the Secondary Access Road; should the purchase of the Stone property pass, this item will simply be left in the CIP and not built; if the Stone property purchase fails, the road will be built. In any case, only one road would be built.

Selectman Landau stated that Road Agent Oleson had worked with the State to get permission to build the Secondary Access Road and is against removing it from consideration; any road built through the Stone property would be a few years out. Budget Committee Chairman Weider asked why two additional roads would be necessary, and opined that if Murphy Drive was used properly, no other road would be needed.

Kathy Boutin suggested that the vote on Article #12 be tabled until the vote on the Stone property was completed; a motion was made to table, and the motion seconded. The voice vote was in the negative; **Article #12 will not be tabled.** Ms. Boutin then asked if the Article could be amended; Moderator Scott requested that she put her amendment in writing.

Selectman D'Angelo noted that each item on the CIP Projects list must go through the Board of Selectmen for final approval. The Secondary Access Road had been agreed to by the Planning Board as a safety issue; Road Agent Oleson will also be striping and signing Murphy Drive this summer to assist with traffic flow.

Deputy Fire Chief Ben Clark stated that a road through the Stone property was being speculated for the future; the Secondary Access Road, which has already been designed, is a solution needed by the Fire Department for a current problem - getting first responders in and emergency equipment out.

Ms. Boutin submitted her written amendment to delete the Secondary Access Road for \$90k from Warrant Article #12; this motion was seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Dave Anderson stated that he did not believe the amendment was necessary, as the funds would lapse if not spent. He suggested that the legislative body trust the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Department.

Fire Lieutenant Scott Newnan stated that if the Secondary Access Road was removed, and the Stone

property purchase fails, the Fire Department will be without the road it desperately needs. Budget Committee Chairman Weider added that if the road was removed, the funds will not be available for the Selectmen to draw down. Fire Lieutenant Newnan urged the legislative body to defeat the Amendment.

Selectman Landau suggested that as the ballot box for Article #8 will remain open for fifteen more minutes, that there be a break now; this suggestion was not popular.

Royal Richardson stated that the School had met with the Fire Department and agreed that although plans are in place to stripe and sign Murphy Drive, the Secondary Access Road is still necessary. He also urged a vote against the amendment.

Fire Chief Greg Bolduc stated that the Secondary Access Road was needed, regardless of any other road on the Stone property; the Fire Department needed its own dedicated way out.

Discussion having ended, the question was called as to the Amendment; the voice vote was in the negative. **The amendment to Article #12 fails.**

As there was no further discussion, the question was called, and the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #12 carries.**

Article #14 – Highway CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) for road work in the Town of Chester and withdraw one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) from the Highway Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes. This will be a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the work is complete, or June 30th, 2025, whichever comes first.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 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.

Road Agent Oleson thanked the Legislative Body for voting to fund roadwork at a level that will begin to repair the bad roads; he asked for patience.

Alex Bartels asked if he planned to go out to bid or do the work in-house. Road Agent Oleson stated that engineering has already been done on East Derry Road, so that will most likely be first; he is already working on an RFP with Dubois & King and will go out to bid when that is complete. Any remaining funding will go towards the smaller roads, and he plans to work on North Pond next year.

Discussion having ended, the question was called; the voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #14 carries.**

Article #15 – 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 thirty-nine thousand dollars (\$139,000),

of which one hundred twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$129,000) is for the Town Administrator's wages and benefits and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) as a stipend for a consultant to assist with the Town's transition to a Town Administrator.

Tax Impact: \$0.25

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 2 yes / 3 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 6 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Article #15 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeremy Owens stated that a similar article had been tabled last year, as the Legislative Body had requested more information. A Working Group was formed and met often over the past year to determine what the duties of a Town Administrator would be.

Chairman Owens stated that as the Board of Selectmen are untrained volunteers with full time jobs, things that would benefit the Town are being left undone as they often do not have enough time for research or daytime meetings. Three-year terms lead to a lack of continuity. The Working Group believes that hiring a qualified, full-time Town Administrator, who would report to the Board of Selectmen and serve as liaison to Town Counsel, Department Heads, Committees, etc. would allow for consistency and add 2,080 hours of work time annually to the Town.

Jack Cannon asked if the Town could afford this; he calculated a ~\$300/year tax impact from Warrant Article #11; this position would add another \$75/\$100 to one's tax bill. As the Board of Selectmen did not totally support this Article, he believes that it is an unneeded level of management.

Budget Committee Chairman Weider stated that the Budget Committee has recommended this position many times. He stated that working on the School budget was very easy due to the presence of the School Superintendent, whereas working on the Town budget is very difficult due to ongoing changes during the process. Now that the Legislative Body has voted to move Town Meeting to March, he believes it will be impossible. He thinks that the Town needs a person who is accountable to the Selectmen, who can work with Department Heads, solicit bids, work with the State, procure grants, etc.

Royal Richardson thanked the Selectmen and the Working Group for their time. He stated that the Town is an \$8m 'business', and this position makes sense. He added that he sees opportunities for efficiencies, added revenue, etc.; there are always things that can be done better.

A resident asked how the salary was determined; Chairman Owens stated that they were expecting to pay on the low end of a \$70-\$80k range, as the person might be at the start of his or her career; the remainder was for benefits.

Vikki Lessard opined that an Administrative Assistant could do just as well for less money and asked if there was a residency requirement; she thought there should be. She referred to an Ed Barrett of Weare, stating that it had cost the Selectmen a six-month severance package to get rid of him.

Dennis Maloney asked for input from the Selectmen who had voted against supporting this position. Selectman Buckley stated that he didn't see the need for the position, plus the Town was spending quite a bit this year; he couldn't justify the expense. Mike Romick demurred, stating that it was because the Town was spending so much that it needed a Town Administrator.

Treasurer Rhonda Lamphere stated that the Town spends millions of dollars, yet there is no full-time person overseeing the process; one would not run a business that way. An overseer is needed.

Colin Costine stated that he had been on both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee and understands the Budget Committee's frustration – they do not always receive sufficient backup for budget requests.

Discussion being ended, the question was called. A request was made, with the necessary five signatures, that a paper ballot be used. Residents were instructed to use the ballot marked "Other #1". The ballot box was opened at 8:30pm.

Voting ceased at 8:59pm and the ballot box was closed and counted.

Yes 107 / No 86 Article #15 carries.

At 8:47pm, the Board of Selectmen took control of the meeting.

- Chairman Owens thanked Selectman Buckley for his three years of service to the Board of Selectmen.
- Selectman Landau thanked Custodian George Noyes for his 26 years of service to the Town. Mr. Noyes will be retiring in January 2020 when he turns 90 years old.

At the conclusion of this section, Moderator Scott again took control of the Meeting.

Article #16 - Purchase of Stone Property – Alternative Financing

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$495,000) for the acquisition of approximately 28.2 acres of land and buildings therein known as Tax Map 5 Lot 20 with an address of 78 Raymond Road on terms to be negotiated by the Board of Selectmen; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Further to authorize the transfer of four hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$495,000) from the June 30th, 2019 general unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 3 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 0 yes / 7 no / 0 abstain

A motion was made to table Article #16; this motion was seconded. The voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #16 is tabled.**

Article #17 – Steeple Repair at Chester Congregational Church

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to help defray the expense of structural work on the steeple of the Chester Congregational Church which houses the Town Clock.

Tax Impact: \$0.03

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 3 yes / 2 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.

Lynn Rockwell thanked the Selectmen for this Warrant Article, which if passed will kickstart the capital

campaign for repairs to the Church, an iconic landmark of the Town. They had had a professional assessment done last year, and although overall the building is in good shape, they were given an estimate of ~\$450k to make all repairs, and the cost to repair the steeple is half of that figure. The capital campaign is planned to take three years and it is hoped the work will be complete in time for the 300th Anniversary in 2022.

Their new website can be found at ChesterNHChurch.org.

The question was called; 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 fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2009 Town Meeting.

Tax Impact: \$0.03

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 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 thirty-six thousand, six hundred and ninety-three dollars (\$36,693) 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

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

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

A resident asked if funds were being spent on streaming, as she did not have cable tv. Briana Demers, the station coordinator, noted that Public Access Cable TV in Chester is broadcast on Channels 20, 21, and 22, as well as online streaming. She added that the Committee is looking to perform infrastructure upgrades to make it more accessible for all, not just cable tv subscribers.

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 – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

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

Selectman Landau stated that the 300th Anniversary Committee has planned a full year of events and activities, and that they could use volunteers. Rhonda Lamphere added that the Town has been generous with its donation of \$5k every year and noted that the 300th Anniversary Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month.

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

Article #21 – Roadside Tree Removal Expendable Trust Fund

Shall the Town vote to establish an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a to be known as the Roadside Tree Removal Fund for the purpose of removing any roadside tree or portion thereof in the Town's easement which is a public safety hazard and a danger to the residents of the community, and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in this fund, and further to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend these funds.

Tax Impact: \$0.09

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 2 yes / 3 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 0 yes / 7 no / 0 abstain

A motion was made to table Article #21; this motion was seconded. The voice vote was in the affirmative. **Article #21 is tabled.**

Article # 22 - Motor Vehicle Registration Fee Waived for POWs

Shall the Town vote, as authorized by RSA 261:157-a, to adopt an ordinance waiving the fee to be charged for a permit to register one motor vehicle owned by any person who was captured and incarcerated for 30 days or more while serving in a qualified war or armed conflict as defined in RSA 72:28, V, and who was honorably discharged, provided the person has provided the Town Clerk with satisfactory proof of these circumstances.

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

Selectman D'Angelo stated that Article #s 22, 23, 24, and 25 have no tax impact, but will each have a revenue impact.

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

Article #23 - Town Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund Creation and Funding

Shall the Town vote to establish a Town Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to meet the statutory requirements to periodically update and amend the Town of Chester's Master Plan, and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Chester Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

Tax Impact: \$0.04

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 6 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Article #23 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Budget Committee Chairman Weider stated that the Master Plan is the enabling document for the CIP; a Town must have a Master Plan in order to have a CIP and to collect impact fees.

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

Article #24 - Increase in Elderly Property Tax Exemption Income Limit

Shall the Town vote to modify the maximum net income limit to qualify for elderly exemptions from the property tax in the Town of Chester to increase it for a single person from the current thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000). All other provisions of the qualification remain unchanged. If passed, this increase will be effective as of April 1st, 2020.

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 #24 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 #24 carries.**

Article #25 - Increase in Veterans' Property Tax Credit

Shall the Town vote to modify the Veterans' Property Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II from its current amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) per year to seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) per year. If passed, this increase will be effective as of April 1st, 2020.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Article #25 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 #25 carries.**

Article #26 - Increase in Veterans' Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability

Shall the Town vote to modify the Veterans' Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability in accordance with RSA 72:35 from its current amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per year to four

thousand dollars (\$4,000) per year. If passed, this increase will be effective as of April 1st, 2020.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #26 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 #26 carries.**

Article #27 - Replenish Unanticipated Maintenance CRF

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand six hundred thirty dollars (\$7,630) to be added to the capital reserve fund known as the Unanticipated Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2012 Town Meeting for the purpose of unanticipated repairs, maintenance, and expenses for infrastructure including, but not limited to, its parks, grounds, bridges and roads in the Town of Chester. The Unanticipated Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund shall not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

Tax Impact: \$0.01

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #27 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 #27 carries.**

Article #28 - 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.

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 2019 Chester Town Meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.

A True Copy.

Attest:

Elizabeth Lufkin, Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Debra H. Doda