

**TOWN OF CHESTER
OFFICIAL TOWN ELECTION
MARCH 10TH AND JUNE 20TH, 2020**

Moderator Michael Scott called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and instructed the attendees to tune into 87.9 FM.

Moderator Scott read the preamble.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Chester, County of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Chester Municipal Offices in said Chester on Tuesday, the tenth (10th) day of March 2020 at 7:00 AM to act on Articles 1 through 8. The polls will close at 7:00 PM. After the ballots are counted, the Meeting will continue on Saturday, the 20th day of June, 2020 by Moderator's Order at 9:00 AM at the Chester Academy Parking Lot, (22 Murphy Drive) where Articles 9 through Article 32 will be taken up at that time.

Moderator Scott led the attendees with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Scott reviewed the guidelines for the meeting, such as the wearing of masks when out of vehicles, turning off car engines and leaving windows slightly open if engines are running, for safety. If anyone disagrees with someone to please not honk your horn. Moderator Scott instructed the participants in the use of flags and ballot collection. The ballot collectors displayed their empty boxes. Moderator Scott indicated if anyone wished to speak to come up front to the microphone or signal if assistance was needed. Amendments should be brought to the front in writing, if possible. Procedural motions should be made at the front. Please address comments to the Moderator.

Moderator Scott expressed his thanks to everyone for coming and noted this was his first drive-in Town Meeting.

Moderator Scott indicated he would read Articles #1 through #8 and the election results of the Tuesday, March 10, 2020 Town election into the record. Mr. Hadik advised the Article numbers printed on the Warrant are one number different from the Amendments numbers.

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

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

Board of Selectmen (3-year term)

(Vote for not more than 2)

Stephen D'Angelo – 284 votes *

Jeremy Craig Owens – 334 votes *

Town Clerk/Tax Collector (3-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Elizabeth Lufkin – 394 votes *

Town Moderator (2-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Michael J. Scott – 386 votes *

Town Treasurer (3-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Rhonda Lamphere – 344 votes *

Budget Committee (1-year term)

(Vote for not more than 2)

Paul Edward Murphy, Jr. - 354 votes *

Michael D’Angelo received 2 of the 13 write-in votes, and accepted the office.

Budget Committee (3-year term)

(Vote for not more than 3)

Jack Cannon – 314 votes *

Kathy Guilmette – 320 votes *

Michael Weider – 279 votes *

Library Trustees (3-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Mary Jennings – 380 votes *

Library Trustees (1-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Ronald Petrie – 72 votes

Beth Swanson – 322 votes *

Supervisors of the Checklist (6-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Leslie G. Packard – 386 votes *

Trustee of the Trust Funds (3-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Rhonda Lamphere received 13 write-in votes, but declined the office; Colin Costine received 5 write-in votes and accepted.

Wilcomb Townsend Trust (5-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Dianna Charron – 385 votes *

Great Hill Cemetery Trustees (5-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Darrell F. Quinn – 398 votes *

Village Cemetery Trustees (3-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Aaron Mansur – 386 votes *

School Moderator David Scott read the results of the School District Election:

School Board Members (3-year)

(Vote for not more than 2)

Brennan Holmes – 228 votes *

Ann Podlipny – 223 votes

Dana Theokas – 226 votes *

School District Clerk (3-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Robert Grimm – 368 votes *

School District Moderator (3-years)

(Vote for not more than 1)

David Scott – 377 votes *

School District Treasurer (3-year term)

(Vote for not more than 1)

Rhonda Lamphere – 377 votes *

David Scott adjourned the School District meeting at 9:09 AM.

ARTICLE #2 – (Amendment #1) Parking Lot Requirements *Passed*

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

Amend: Article 4.5.2 – Parking Lot Requirements – by amending Subsections 4.5.2.2 and 4.5.2.5.

Purpose: To change the word “handicapped” to “accessible”, and to update the reference to the federal and state regulations governing Accessible Parking.

VOTE: 298 YES 137 NO – ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE #3 – (Amendment #2) – Home Business *Passed*

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

Amend: Article 4.9.2 – Home Business – by adding Subsection 4.9.2.8.

Purpose: To allow for optional Site Plan Review for some Home Business permit applications.

VOTE: 217 YES 199 NO – ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE #4 – (Amendment #3) – Dimensional & Area Requirements *Passed*

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

Amend: Article 5.3.5 – Dimensional Area Requirements

Purpose: To add a simple cross-reference to Article 5.3.5 – Dimensional and Area Requirements to Subsection 5.7.5.2 – Lot Size Determinations (already existing).

VOTE: 254 YES 153 NO – ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE #5 – (Amendment #4) - Definitions *Failed*

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

Amend: Article 5.7.2 – Definitions

Purpose: To add a definition for “Basal Area,” and amend the definition of No Clearing Buffer Zone.

VOTE: 196 YES 210 NO – ARTICLE FAILED

ARTICLE #6 – (Amendment #5) – Open Space Subdivision *Passed*

Amend: Article 6 – Open Space Subdivision

Purpose: To eliminate the unit-density incentive bonus for age-restricted housing and increase the unit-density incentive bonus for workforce housing, in order to help the Town accomplish its fair-share obligation to address the State’s critical shortage of workforce housing.

VOTE: 171 YES 238 NO – ARTICLE FAILED

ARTICLE #7 – (Amendment #6) – Time for Appeal Hearing *Passed*

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

Amend: Article 11.2.2.3 – Public Hearing and Notice

Purpose: To amend Subsection 11.2.2.3 to extend the time period, from 30 to 45 days for scheduling an administrative appeal hearing to comply with the statutory change to NH 676:7, 11.

VOTE: 292 YES 128 NO – ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE #8 – (Amendment #7) – Expiration of Expired NODs *Passed*

Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #7** to the Town’s Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board?

Amend: Article 11.5 – Expiration of Special Exception and Variance

Purpose: To provide for the expiration of unexercised special exceptions and variances approved prior to August 19, 2013 as authorized by RSA 674:33, I-a(b) and RSA 674:33, IV(c).

VOTE: 232 YES 176 NO – ARTICLE PASSED

Moderator Scott indicated Article #9 will be ballot vote, open for voting until 10:20 AM.

ARTICLE #9 – Road Bond – TABLED

9:18 AM

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

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for road improvements; and to authorize the issuance of not more than three million dollars (\$3,000,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rates of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept any aid or funds from the State of New Hampshire, the Federal Government, and private sources, if any; as they may become available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or pass and other vote relative thereto; and further to raise and appropriate thirty-seven thousand seven hundred eight

dollars and thirty-three cents (\$37,708.33) for the first year's interest payment. This Article must pass by a 2/3 ballot vote.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.05 (first year only)
Recommended by Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 4 yes/1 no/ 0 abstain
<u>Not</u> Recommended by the Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 1 yes/5 no/0 abstain

Article #9 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded.

MOTION: *Road Agent Oleson motioned to table Article #9. Selectman D'Angelo seconded the motion.*

Moderator Scott indicated there was no ballot vote required to table this.

Road Agent Oleson asked to speak to his reasons for wanting to table the Article and Moderator Scott ruled there would be no discussion after a procedural motion was made.

HAND VOTE TO TABLE: 93 YES 38 NO – ARTICLE TABLED

MOTION: *Selectman Landau motioned to waive the second reading of all articles from this point forward, before each vote. Selectman D'Angelo seconded the motion.*

VOTE: YES – PASSED – TO WAIVE SECOND READING OF EACH ARTICLE

At the conclusion of the vote Road Agent Oleson explained his reasons for wanting to Table Article #9 were due to the delay of Town Meeting; as the Bond Bank closes on July 1st the Town wouldn't be able to get funding until February. Road Agent Oleson indicated he would revisit the Article in February and bring it back to the March 2021 Town Meeting.

MOTION: *Rhonda Lamphere motioned to take Article #21 out of order. Mr. Weider seconded the motion.*

VOTE: YES – TO TAKE ARTICLE #21 OUT OF ORDER

Moderator Scott indicated because Article #21 was a petitioned Warrant Article requiring a ballot vote and would remain open for voting for one hour, Article #21 would be taken up after Article #9 with a motion, out of order.

ARTICLE #21 – Petitioned Warrant Article – SB2
Failed/Not Return

9:32 AM

"Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the legislative body of the Town of Chester on the second Tuesday of March."

Moderator Scott noted this Article requires a **3/5 ballot** vote to pass.

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

Selectman Stephen Landau stated that he wanted to thank everyone that took time to come to this meeting. You are concerned with what your government does. We as Selectmen and Town Officials need to hear this. Selectman Landau stated the wisdom of SB2 was not handled properly. It allows people to come in and just vote yes or no on everything without the open discussion format that we are having here. You have shown up if you are interested. At some point I hope some of you are up here and you will understand the frustration like how SB2 was done. At one time we did have SB2 at the School District had SB2 and Chester was one of the Towns to repeal it. You want to be able to speak and debate what is necessary, not just come in and check off a box, to understand the budget and Warrant Articles. I really hope that you understand that this is put in by some people who want to shorten their time and do not want to do what is best for a democratic society. Town Meeting is the purest form of government.

Selectman Landau indicated when he moved here from New York 50 years ago he saw his first Town Meeting and was marveled and amazed. Selectman Landau noted he understood the responsibility that comes with coming out here today to voice your opinions and thanked everyone very much for being here.

Andrew Hadik – 135 Chester Street

Mr. Hadik noted that the traditional Town Meeting format to vote on articles and expenditures is the purest form of democracy. Those who are in favor of SB2 say they want to save time and it allows more people to vote. He said that it sounds great in theory, but SB2 has fatal flaws. Mr. Hadik noted articles in the Concord Monitor, the Keene Sentinel, the Nashua Telegraph, etc. that discussed this.

Mr. Hadik said the first flaw is that under SB2 is most voters do not understand what they are voting on. They did not hear any discussions, attend public hearings or the deliberative sessions. Towns are reporting only a handful of voters were attending. The undeniable fact is that many voters do not fulfill the first part of their duties by attending the public hearings and deliberative sessions to become properly informed. They want to skip this under the excuse of convenience and step badly informed into the voting booth.

Mr. Hadik noted the second big flaw is that the few people who show up at deliberative sessions have an undue influence over the process. Mr. Hadik cited one example where every dollar of a Town's budget was reduced to zero, with nothing for police and fire and ambulance. SB2 empowers the tyranny of the uninformed voter who does not want to spend a little bit of time once a year to come to Town Meeting. Another example was a \$250,000 grant with the Town of Epson where the voters did not understand what they were voting for. SB2 is proven to be a shortcut for apathetic voters around the meetings they really need to attend.

Mr. Hadik explained the third big flaw is that the Default Budgets can be similar or even higher than the budgets that were voted down. The reason is that Budget Committee and the Voters cannot amend the Default Budget. The theory and actual reality of SB2 are miles apart. There have been numerous efforts to fix this in Concord and why it does not happen I do not know. Of the 71 Towns that adopted SB2, there were 67 attempts to rescind SB2 and only three attempts have been successful.

Mr. Hadik noted that Chester has the benefit of the elected and experienced Budget Committee. The voters get to pick these folks. As an employee he can corroborate on its effectiveness is there by their lack of popularity with a few Department Heads and a few Selectmen. The Committee's reviews help trim the fat out of the budgets, and they continually fight for full public disclosure. This system works. Please do not give up the most democratic system for something that just promises the illusion of cutting taxes and convenience. It ends up not turning out that way. Anyone involved in the process long enough understands that you end up spending less money in the end if a Town is financially proactive instead of financially reactive. As an analogy, Mr. Hadik likened it to a homeowner who delays fixing their roof and then must fix way more problems.

Many Towns drank the Kool Aid of SB2 and then learned to their great dismay that their taxes still went up. Once enacted SB2 is almost impossible to rescind because of the same fatal flaws that keep it from working properly in the first place. So please vote NO on this article.

Charlotte Lister – Fremont Road

Ms. Lister indicated at one time School had SB2 and people did not show up at the meetings. There was fewer voting than going to the meetings. The Town would lose a lot. If the voters are not willing to show up at deliberate session, then it will cause more problems than now with less voting. You need to understand what is going on. There would be less voter participation. Ms. Lister strongly urged the voters to vote down this particular warrant article.

Rich LeBlanc – Freemont Road

Mr. LeBlanc indicated his experience in the past is that it does not work. It causes a few people to be able to control everybody else. It did not work then it would not work now so please vote this down.

Lindsay Bestwick – Smith Road

Ms. Bestwick stated surrounding towns have adopted SB2 and if voters are unable to attend, they can watch on Public Access Television and discuss things at deliberative session. The current process is exclusive and lacks privacy. The military, and people working would be able to vote by absentee ballot. The goal is to increase participation and give every taxpayer a voice. Ms. Bestwick urged the voters to vote yes to SB2.

Greg Bobish – Smith Road

Mr. Bobish proposed a moment of silence for all the taxpayers in Chester who could not be here today. The purest form of government gives you your personal liberty and Mr. Bobish indicated his personal liberty is by secret ballot in the ballot box. Who makes the decision of what an informed voter is? As far as personal liberty goes that is my decision. Nobody can say I am an uninformed voter.

Vicki Lessard – Jennifer Drive

Ms. Lessard encouraged support of SB2 so people who cannot attend can follow on the internet and have their voice heard and keep taxes from increasing exponentially because we cannot attend a Town Meeting. Ms. Lessard opined Deliberative Session and Town Meeting provide the same opportunity. Most read about the issues online before we got here.

Rhonda Lamphere – Budget Committee

Mrs. Lamphere indicated she was instrumental when the School needed to reverse SB2 in the past. The three voters who just spoke provided inaccurate information that is absolutely wrong. No one's rights are being taken away by keeping our town meeting traditional. SB2 restricts your rights because you cannot amend the alternative budget. It is not reviewed by the Budget Commission or DRA. There are a lot of inaccuracies in what was said.

Bob Packard – Lane Road

Mr. Packard indicated SB2 was tried before and was horrible and confusing with few votes and no representation. Mr. Packard indicated he is dead against SB2.

David Scott – Derry Road

Mr. Scott indicated SB2 was tried with the School District before and did not work and he does not want to go back.

Moderator Scott advised the ballot question will be open for voting from 9:50 AM until 10:50 AM. If your ballot has not been collected wave the white flag.

VOTE: 43 YES 113 NO - FAILED

Voting closed at 10:53 AM

MOTION: *Mrs. Lamphere motioned to restrict SB2 from being reconsidered at Town Meeting. Selectman Landau seconded the motion.*

VOTE – YES – MOTION PASSED - NOT TO BE RECONSIDERED AT TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 10 – Two New Fulltime Firefighters - TABLED

9:56 AM

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred ninety-two thousand four hundred ninety-one dollars (\$192,491) for the purpose of hiring and outfitting two (2) fulltime career firefighter/EMTs in order that the Town may have coverage twelve hours a day, seven days a week. One hundred five thousand two hundred fifty (\$105,250) is for wages, one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) is for outfitting, and eighty-five thousand seven hundred forty-one dollars (\$85,741) is for benefits.

Estimated Tax Impact:

\$0.27

Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain

Recommended by the Budget Committee Tally Vote – 6 yes/0 no/0 abstain

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

Fire Chief Gregory Bolduc indicated this Article came about due to a decline in volunteerism. The Department is not in a bad spot and has great group of volunteers.

MOTION TO TABLE: *Mr. Bolduc motioned to table Article #10, the motion was seconded.*

VOTE: YES – PASSED ARTICLE TABLED

ARTICLE #11 – Steeple Repair at Chester Congregational Church 9:59 AM

Passed

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose of helping to defray the expense of structural work on the steeple of the Chester Congregational Church which houses the Town Clock. The actual amount of said donation is to be conditioned upon the Congregational Church raising an equal amount of funding between Town Meeting of March 10, 2020 and Town Meeting of March 9, 2021. The amount donated will not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.04
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain
Recommended by the Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 4 yes/0 no/2 abstain

Article #11 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Fran Bechtold indicated she was representing the Chester Congregational Baptist Church as well as the Meetinghouse Preservation Project.

Mrs. Bechtold indicated last year when repairs were being done inside and outside the structure was evaluated and water was leaking through the steeple causing damage to the sanctuary ceiling and to the original support beams. The total estimated cost of repairs is at least \$450,000 and more than half will be needed to repair the steeple and support beams. The Town of Chester owns the clock in the structure. Funding will be matched by our continuing fund- raising efforts. The building built in 1773 is on the National Register of Historic Places. Generous pledges have been made and help is still needed. Fundraising will continue. The work is projected to begin in April 2021 and be completed intime for the Town's 300th Anniversary. The Town's support is needed and appreciated.

Jeff Dinopoulos – Jenkins Farm Road

Mr. Dinopoulos asked, with matching funds required, what happens to the funds if the Church does not raise the equal amount? Mrs. Bechtold explained if the Church only raises \$10,000 then the Town will only match it with \$10,000.

VOTE: YES - PASSED

ARTICLE #12 – Optional Tax Credit for Combat Services

10:04 AM

Passed

Shall the Town vote to adopt the Optional Tax Credit for Combat Service per RSA 72:28-c in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) per year. To qualify, a person shall be a resident of this Town engaged at any point during the taxable period in combat service as a member of the New Hampshire National Guard or a reserve component of the United States Armed Services, called to active duty. This credit would be in lieu of and not in addition to the standard and optional Veteran's credits. The service member would be eligible for the credit in each tax year in which the combat service occurs. If passed this credit would be effective as of April 1, 2020.

Estimated Tax Impact	\$0.00
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain
Recommended by the Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 6 yes/0 no/0 abstain

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

Mr. Dinopoulos asked what the standard Veteran's Credit is now and if this is in lieu of that would the Veteran's be getting less? Mrs. Packard, the Town Assessor explained the current Veteran's Real Estate Tax Exemption is \$750.00 per year. An 100% disabled veteran has a credit of \$4,000 per year. When a Veteran is on active duty, they don't get anything so this Article will allow them to receive \$500 per year.

VOTE: YES – PASSED

ARTICLE #13 – Establish PACT Revolving Fund

10:06 AM

Tabled

Shall the Town vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of funding the Town of Chester's Public Access Community Television related costs and to enable purchase of cable TV equipment, as may be approved from time to time by the governing board, and to raise and appropriate from the Town's unassigned fund balance the amount of forty-five thousand four hundred fifty-three dollars (\$45,453) for deposit into said revolving fund. This sum to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2020 and no amount to be raised by taxation. All future revenues received from cable franchise fees shall be deposited into the Revolving Fund for Public Access Cable Television Fund and money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered to be part of the general fund unassigned fund balance. The treasurer shall have custody of all monies in

the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the PACT Committee and Board of Selectmen, and no further legislative body approval is required to expend. These funds may be expended only for the purpose of providing public, educational, and governmental access television. Ballot vote required. If this Article passes, Warrant Article #15 shall be tabled.

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

MOTION: *Bob Grimm – Lane Road motioned to Table Article #13, the motion was seconded.*

VOTE: YES - TABLED

ARTICLE #14 – Rescind PACT Special Revenue Fund

10:09 AM

Tabled

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c *to restrict* 100% of revenues from the cable franchise fees paid by Comcast under the Cable Television Renewal Franchise between Comcast and the Town of Chester to expenditures for the purpose of providing public, educational, and governmental access television in the Town of Chester. This Article must pass by a 2/3 ballot vote. If Article 13 does not pass, this article shall be tabled.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 4 yes/1 no/0 abstain
<u>Not</u> Recommended by the Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 0 yes/5 no/1 abstain

Article #14 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

MOTION: *Bob Grimm – Lane Road motioned to Table Article #14, the motion was seconded.*

VOTE: YES – TABLED

Moderator Scott announced if you need water or any other type of assistance raise your white flag.

ARTICLE #15 – PACT

10:10 AM

Passed

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-six thousand nine-hundred twenty-five dollars (\$36,925) 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. If Article #13 passes, this Article shall be tabled.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
Recommended by Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 4 yes/0 no/1 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/1 abstain

Moderator Scott indicated as worded with Article #13 tabled it (Article #13) cannot pass.

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

VOTE: YES – PASSED

ARTICLE #16 – BUDGET

10:14 AM

Passed

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended amount of four million nine hundred ninety-eight thousand six hundred fifty-five dollars (\$4,998,655) 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/0 no/0 abstain. The Board of Selectmen recommends four million nine hundred ninety-eight thousand six hundred fifty-five dollars (\$4,998,544) by a Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain. This does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

	BOS	BC
<i>General Government</i>	\$ 2,215,913	\$ 2,215,913
<i>Public Safety</i>	\$ 1,420,030	\$ 1,420,030
<i>Highways, Streets, Bridges</i>	\$ 758,823	\$ 758,823
<i>Sanitation</i>	\$ 218,638	\$ 218,638
<i>Health & Welfare</i>	\$ 42,212	\$ 42,212
<i>Culture & Recreation</i>	\$ 289,812	\$ 289,812
<i>Conservation & Eco. Dev.</i>	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,205
<i>Debt Service</i>	\$ 52,022	\$ 52,022
<i>Total Appropriation</i>	\$ 4,998,655	\$ 4,998,655

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

VOTE: YES – PASSED

ARTICLE #17 – CIP FUNDING

10:15 AM

Passed

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) 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.

Estimated Tax Impact:

\$0.98

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 4 yes/0 no/1 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 6 yes/0 no/0 abstain

Article #17 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

VOTE: YES – PASSED

Moderator Scott indicated that if someone did not agree with his determination of a hand vote they could come up front and make a motion to overturn him.

ARTICLE #18 – CIP PROJECTS

10:16 AM

Amended: Passed as Amended

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred eighty-four thousand two hundred five dollars (\$784,205) for the following projects:

Article #18 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

MOTION: *Mrs. Lamphere motioned to amend Article #18 to include the amounts for each item as follows, seconded by Mr. Hadik:*

Library	Computer Upgrades	<u>\$ 7,600.00</u>
PACT	Equipment Upgrades	<u>\$ 24,590.00</u>
Police Department	Evidence Room Ventilation	<u>\$ 6,000.00</u>
Fire Department	Radios	<u>\$ 69,000.00</u>
Fire Department	Personal Protective Equipment	<u>\$ 16,415.00</u>
Highway Department	Asphalt Hotbox	<u>\$ 35,000.00</u>
Highway Department	Surveying & Engineering Services	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>
Highway Department	Roadwork	<u>\$600,000.00</u>
<u>General Government</u>		
<u>Buildings</u>	Zero-Turn Gas Lawnmower	<u>\$ 15,600.00</u>

And withdraw seven hundred eight-four thousand two hundred five dollars (\$784,205) from the Municipal Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
Recommended by Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/ 0abstain
Recommended by Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 6 yes/0 no/0 abstain

Mrs. Lamphere explained the reason for the amendment was so the voters know how it is being spent in each category and to give them the opportunity to amend and to change “Building Department” to “General Government Buildings.”

Mr. Hadik – Chester Street

Mr. Hadik agreed. The General Government buildings lines with account name and CIP should include amounts in individual categories for full disclosure. The RSA does not require this information, but this is a better format, so the voters know what they’re voting for in each category.

Mr. Weider – Budget Committee, Red Squirrel Lane

Mr. Weider noted there were a lot of Warrant Articles this year and encouraged bringing items into the CIP, not by separate Warrant Article. The CIP process saves the Town thousands of dollars and the legislative body can amend or change that and understand where the money is going to and not pay interest when we can fund them.

Craig Robie – Chester Street

Mr. Robie asked about the line item of \$600,000 for the Highway Department, who is responsible for that and what will be done? Road Agent Oleson indicated work is planned for North Pond Road from Route 102 to the second Orcutt. This is funded by the CIP. He brought the plans with him if anyone would like to look at them. This is to repair a section of roadway and if extra spread around to other streets. Last year East Derry Road was repaired, and he was able to repair sections of Fremont, Harantis and Candia.

VOTE: YES PASSED AS AMENDED

ARTICLE #19 – Highway CIP Funding
Passed

10:27 AM

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty-one thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$751,365) 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 fifty-one thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$151,365) which is the anticipated grant amount this year from the New Hampshire Highway Block Grant to be used to offset this appropriation and the remaining six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) to be raised throughout taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.84
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

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

Road Agent Oleson indicated this is for the North Pond Road project and anything else that we can get done this season.

VOTE: YES PASSED

ARTICLE #20 – Highway CIP Projects
Passed

10:29 AM

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty one thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$751,365) for roadwork in the Town of Chester and withdraw seven

hundred fifty-one thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$751,365) from the Highway Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes.

Estimated 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

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

Road Agent Oleson indicated this is the same area.

VOTE: YES PASSED

ARTICLE #22 – 300th Anniversary	10:30 AM
<i>Passed</i>	

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.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.01
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain
Recommended by the Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 6 yes/0 no/0 abstain

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

Rhonda Lamphere – 300th Anniversary Committee

Mrs. Lamphere indicated the Town's 300th Anniversary is two years away from having its 300th celebration activities. Many volunteers are needed. There will be a big parade, a proclamation in May of 2021 and other activities. The Committee meets monthly and has changed its meeting day but information is available on the webpage.

VOTE: YES PASSED

ARTICLE #23 – Roadside Tree Removal	10:32 AM
<i>Tabled</i>	

Special Warrant Article. 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 removal of 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 further to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand (\$50,000) to be placed in this fund, and further to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.07
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 4 yes/0 no/1 abstain
<u>Not</u> Recommended by the Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 0 yes/5 no/1 abstain

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

Road Agent Oleson indicated he has come up with a different way to fund this.

MOTION: *Road Agent Oleson motioned to table Article #23. Selectman Landau seconded the motion.*

VOTE: YES – TABLED

ARTICLE #24 – Ortho Rectifying Maps
Passed

10:24 AM

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of Orthorectifying our Town tax maps. This will align (i.e. rectify) flat property lines with the topography of the land to fully utilize the Town's new GIS mapping system.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.02
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 4 yes/0 no/1 abstain
<u>Not</u> Recommended by the Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 1 yes/5 no/0 abstain

Article #24 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Andrew Hadik – Chester Street

Mr. Hadik explained Chester is one of the last towns in this area to get Graphic Information or GIS on its website. The problem is that the tax maps superimposed over the aerial imagery are not correct because of angle and topography issues. The process of fixing this is a one-time cost. The GIS is a useful tool that allows homeowners, conservation organizations, Town officials and employees to research their properties. Residents can look up their setbacks before visiting the Building Inspector, which can prevent having to furnish a plot plan which can cost thousands of dollars. The GIS maps should show the lot lines correctly.

VOTE: YES PASSED

ARTICLE #25 – Winter Road Maintenance Fund
Tabled

10:37 AM

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).

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.15
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain
Recommended by the Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/1 abstain

Article #25 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded.

MOTION: *Road Agent Oleson motioned to table Article #25 as it is not needed. Mr. Weider seconded the motion.*

VOTE: YES – TABLED

ARTICLE #26 – Town Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund 10:38 AM
Passed

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Town Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2019 Town Meeting.

Estimated tax Impact:	\$0.03
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain
Recommended by Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 6 yes/0 no/0 abstain

Article #26 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Andrew Hadik – Planning Board Coordinator

Mr. Hadik listed the purposes of the Master Plan as defined in RSA 674:1. He noted the Town's Master Plan should be updated every five to ten years. The Master Plan guides growth, planning, resources and the Town's vision for the future of the Town. He also noted the Master Plan is required to adopt Zoning Ordinances, Impact Fees, Phasing of Subdivisions, Open Space Developments and Growth Management Ordinances. Mr. Hadik referenced a development boom in the 90s that impacted the Town's infrastructure, pointing to the building behind him that is now Chester Academy.

Mr. Hadik noted the Master Plan was last updated in 2014-15, and the plan is to update it again in 2021-22. The 2020 Census information will be used to do this for the first time in close proximity to the Master Plan update. Mr. Hadik said that when the time comes, he hopes the Community will participate in updating the community's vision for the future of the Town. The cost of updating the Master Plan last time was approximately \$50,000. He said the capital reserve fund for this is being funded incrementally so the total cost will not impact the taxpayers in a single year.

VOTE: YES PASSED

ARTICLE #27 – Historic Building Capital Reserve Fund

10:43 AM

Passed

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35 in order to fund the repair and restoration of the Town's historic buildings, and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in this fund. Further to authorize the transfer of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the June 30th, 2020 unassigned fund balance and fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from any surplus remaining from Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation. Further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend any grants for these projects that may be available. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund

Estimated 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

Article #27 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Selectman Landau indicated the purpose is to raise funds without taxation. These funds are already paid in. The funds will be used to repair some of the older buildings. The Town owns many structures, some are older major buildings. The first Town Hall was donated by Mr. Stevens 100-100 years ago, before that the Church was the Meeting House. Stevens Hall has some paint issues which were believed to do with issues concerning the balloon frame. The fascia boards and a portion of the slate roof at the very end is in need of repair. The Town would like to have the repairs made before the 300th Anniversary celebration. Stevens Hall is one of the only Town buildings that is used seven days a week. It houses the Historic Society and has an auditorium upstairs. Selectman Landau urged the voters to please vote yes on this.

VOTE: YES – PASSED

ARTICLE #28 – Transportation Improvement Capital Reserve Fund

10:47 AM

Tabled

Shall the Town to adopt the provisions of RSA 261:153 VI to collect an additional fee of a maximum of five dollars (\$5.00) for the purpose of supporting a municipal and transportation improvement fund, which shall be deposited into a capital reserve fund established for the purpose of supporting Town transportation improvement; and to authorize the establishment of this Capital Reserve Fund (pursuant to RSA Chapter 35) to be known as the "Transportation Improvement Capital Reserve Fund" for the purpose of funding said improvements; and further to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. Ballot vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain

Not Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 0 yes/5 no/1 abstain

Article #28 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

MOTION: *Mrs. Lufkin motioned to table Article #28. Selectman D’Angelo seconded the motion.*

VOTE: YES – TABLED

ARTICLE #29 – Great Hill Cemetery Maintenance Fund
Amended & Tabled

10:48 AM

Shall the Town vote to establish a trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289:2-a to be known as the Great Hill Cemetery Maintenance and Expansion Fund for the general maintenance and capital expansion of said cemetery, and to raise and appropriate one dollar (\$1.00) to be placed in this fund, and further to appoint the Great Hill Cemetery Board of Trustees or the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
Recommended by Board of Selectmen	Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain
<u>Not</u> Recommended by Budget Committee	Tally Vote – 1 yes/5 no/0 abstain

MOTION: *Mrs. Lamphere motioned to amend Article #29 seconded by Selectman Landau .*

Shall the Town vote to establish a trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289:2-a to be known as the Great Hill Cemetery Maintenance and Expansion Fund for the general maintenance and capital expansion of said cemetery, and to raise and appropriate one dollar (\$1.00) to be placed in this fund, and further to appoint the Great Hill Cemetery Board of Trustees and the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

VOTE: YES – AMENDED

MOTION: *Mrs. Lamphere motioned at the instruction of the Great Hill Cemetery Trustees to table Article #29 as amended, seconded by Selectman Landau.*

VOTE: YES – TABLED

ARTICLE #30 – Historic Document Digitization
Passed

10:52 AM

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of eleven thousand five hundred dollars (\$11,500) for the purpose of beginning the digitization of the Town’s historical records, collection, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend any grants for this project that may be available.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.02
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

Article #30 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

VOTE: YES – PASSED

Moderator Scott indicated voting on Article #21 is now closed and asked anyone whose ballot has not been picked up to wave their white flag.

ARTICLE #31 – Petitioned Warrant Article – Indigenous People’s Day 10:55 AM
Failed

“To see if the Town will vote to change our national holiday called Columbus Day and rename it Indigenous Peoples Day in the Town of Chester in order to honor Native Americans, our country’s first inhabitants.”

(see Petition filed with the Town Clerk for verified signatures)

Article #31 was read, moved to the floor, and seconded. Moderator Scott called for discussion.

Ann Podlipny - 98 Birch Road

Mrs. Podlipny stated that the treatment of Native Americans was a stain on our moral conscience. This country is one of the only countries that tried to wipe out its indigenous population. People are toppling Columbus statues. Columbus did not discover America, he landed in the Bahamas. Columbus was an Italian born sailing for Spain and was sent back to Spain in chains for his treatment and slavery of native Americans. Native Americans are environmentally and spiritually conscious. We are all related. UNH has done studies; many native American names are present in examples throughout New Hampshire such as Amoskeag Falls. Let truth and justice inform our decision.

Jean Van Zandt – 58 Hanson Road

Mrs. Van Zandt agreed that Columbus never set foot in North America, he landed in the Bahamas not the U.S. Columbus’ legacy of kidnapping, slavery, and torture; this country has a history of not welcoming immigrants. The indigenous people lived here for thousands of years. Black Lives Matter. Mrs. Van Zandt asked voters to vote in favor of this Article.

Russ Norman – Raymond Road

Mr. Norman indicated he had a little different view but signed the petition. Native Americans were here before us and it is time they get recognized and believe they are a part of us.

Gene Charron – North Pond Road

Mr. Charron indicated he himself has French and Indian ancestry and does not agree a holiday will make up or change how the native Americans were treated. They were not treated fairly. Mr. Charron would

rather swap the holiday in exchange for helping to improve the conditions native Americans are living under on reservations. America is watching statutes being taken down. When ISIS entered the Middle East they blew up things that were sacred. We are not going to have any history. Mr. Charron indicated he was not infatuated with Columbus but does not want to change the holiday. *Nowacka - May the great spirit bless our people.*

Mary Ellen Ormond – 38 Reed Road

Mrs. Ormond stated that no people are free until all are free. What was done to the native American people was disgusting.

Deb Frieburger – Abenaki Circle

Mrs. Frieburger stated that Columbus did not discover this land.

VOTE: NO – FAILED

ARTICLE #32 – Reports

11:19 AM

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

Mrs. Lamphere recognized the officials and employees who put Town Meeting together today and thanked everyone for coming.

The June 20, 2020 Chester Town Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

A True Copy.

Attest:

Elizabeth Lufkin, Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Nancy Hoijer