

2022-2023 Proposed Warrant & Budget

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 8th day of March 2022, at 7:00 AM to act on Articles 1 through 7. The polls will close at 7:00 PM. After the ballots are counted, the Meeting will continue on Thursday, the 10th day of March 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Chester Multipurpose Room. Articles 8 through 23 will be taken up at that time.

Article #1

To choose all necessary Town Officials for the ensuing year.

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 2 – Definitions – Impervious Surfaces

Purpose: To add a clarifying definition of “Impervious Surfaces” as referenced in Table 1.

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 2 – Definitions – Sign Types

Purpose: To amend the definitions of various sign types.

Article #4

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

Amend: Article 5.3.3.12 –Bed & Breakfasts

Purpose: To amend Section 5.3.3.12 – Bed & Breakfasts by adding a prohibition against the conversion of detached structures into Bed & Breakfasts.

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: Article 5.7.8 –Buffers & Setbacks

Purpose: To mitigate excessive impacts to wetlands and their buffers/setbacks by future driveway crossings.

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 11.2 – ZBA Organization

Purpose: Increase the number of appointed alternate members on the Zoning Board of Adjustment from three (3) to five (5) alternate members.

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 2 – Definitions - Educational Institutions

Purpose: To amend the definition of "Educational Institutions" and differentiate between public and business educational facilities.

Article #8 – Recission of Road Agent Position

Shall the Town rescind the action of the 1924 and 1992 Town Meetings to elect a road agent for a two-year term and authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a full-time road agent who will be the Supervisor of Roads. The term of the elected road agent will terminate at the 2023 Annual Town election. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-five thousand four hundred seventeen dollars (\$55,417) salary and benefits for the Supervisor of Roads position for six months in Fiscal Year 22-23. Salary and benefits for this position will be carried in the Operating Budget in future fiscal years.

Tax Impact:

\$0.08

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Article #9 – Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

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 in order to prepare for the next Town revaluation in 2024.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.02
<i>Recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

Article #10 – Solar Array at Landfill

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease for a solar energy company to install a solar farm at the Town’s closed landfill on Dump Road on such terms and conditions as determined by the Selectmen and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other actions necessary to carry out this vote.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>

Article #11 – Discontinuance of Hart Roberts Road

Shall the Town completely discontinue as an open highway under RSA 231:43 the following highway: the entire Hart Roberts Road from the intersection of Hart Roberts Road and Halls Village Road to the intersection of Hart Roberts Road and Jack Road. This discontinuance will take effect June 1st, 2022.

Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>

Article #12 – Operating Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee and Selectmen recommended amount of five million four hundred thirty-nine thousand six hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$5,439,657) 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. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

	BOS	BC
General Government	\$ 2,527,432	\$ 2,527,432
Public Safety	\$ 1,545,009	\$ 1,545,009
Highways, Streets, Bridges	\$ 793,138	\$ 793,138
Sanitation	\$ 227,750	\$ 227,750
Health & Welfare	\$ 41,272	\$ 41,272

Culture & Recreation	\$ 303,849	\$ 303,849
Conservation & Eco. Dev.	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,205
Debt Service	\$ 2	\$ 2
Total Appropriation	\$ 5,439,657	\$ 5,439,657

Tax Impact: \$7.37
Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain
Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Article #13 – CIP Funding

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000.00) 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: \$0.81
Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain
Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Article #14 - CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$760,000) for the following projects:

Police	Cruiser with Outfitting	\$56,250
Fire	Repaving of Parking Lot	\$35,000
Highway	Annual Surveying & Engineering Services	\$10,000
Highway	Class 8 Plow Truck, Plow & Sander	\$240,000
Recreation	WP Causeway Bridge Reconstruction & CM	\$418,750

and withdraw seven hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$760,000) 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, 2024, whichever comes first.

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 / 1 abstain

Article #15 – Highway CIP Funding

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one million forty-nine thousand three hundred seventy dollars (\$1,049,370) 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 three hundred seventy dollars (\$144,370) which is the anticipated grant amount this year from the New Hampshire Highway Block Grant to be used to offset this appropriation, three hundred five thousand dollars (\$305,000) from the June 30th, 2022 unassigned fund balance, and the remainder of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) to be raised through taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.81
<i>Recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

Article #16 – Highway CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one million five hundred one thousand seven hundred thirty-four dollars (\$1,501,734) for roadwork in the Town of Chester and withdraw five hundred fifty-one thousand seven hundred thirty-four (\$551,734) from the funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the remaining nine hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$950,000) from the Highway Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes.

This will be a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7-a, IV, and will not lapse until the work is complete, or December 31st, 2024, whichever comes first.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

Article #17 – Funding Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund known as the *Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund* established at the 2021 Town Meeting. Further to authorize the transfer of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the June 30th, 2022 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation.

Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

Article #18 – PACT

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$38,000) 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.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

Article #19 – 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.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.01
<i>Recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

Article #20 – Master Plan

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) to be added to the Town Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2019 Town Meeting.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.01
<i>Recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

Article #21 - 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).

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.14
<i>Recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

Article #22 – Petition Warrant Article: Amend Date of Indigenous Peoples Day

Shall the Town vote to amend celebration of Indigenous Peoples’ Day to August 9.

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.

Charles F. Myette, Chairman

Jeremy Owens, Vice-Chairman

Steven M. Couture, Selectman

Stephen D'Angelo, Selectman

Stephen O. Landau, Selectman