**2021-2022 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 eleventh (11th) day of May 2021, at 7:00 AM to act on Articles 1 through 6. The polls will close at 7:00 PM. After the ballots are counted, the Meeting will continue on Saturday, the fifteenth (15th) day of May 2021, at 9:00 AM in the Chester Academy Parking Lot. Article 7 through Article 30 will be taken up at that time.**

**Article #1**

To choose all necessary Town Officials for the ensuing year.

**Article #2 – Internal Lots**

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 – by adding a definition for “Internal Lots”.

**Purpose:**  To add a clarifying definition of “Internal Lot” as referenced in Table 1 and Section 6.12.2 – Internal Dimensional and Design Requirements with respect to Article 6 – Open Space Subdivision and Article 7 – Age-Friendly Subdivision.

**Article #3 – Bed & Breakfasts**

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

**Amend:** Articles 2 – Definitions – by adding a definition of Bed & Breakfasts & 5.3.3 – Special Exception Uses – by adding 5.3.3.13 - Bed & Breakfasts.

**Purpose:** To allow Bed and Breakfast facilities by Special Exception in the General Residential and Agricultural District (Zone R1), and to add a definition in Article 2 -Definitions.

**Article #4 - Fences**

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

**Amend:** Article 4.14.3.1 – Fences.

**Purpose:** To clarify that fences must be located on the fence owners’ lots.

**Article #5 – Open Space Subdivision**

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

**Amend:** Article 6 - Open Space Subdivision.

**Purpose:**  To eliminate the unit-density incentive bonus for age-restricted housing, and commensurately increase the unit-density incentive bonus for workforce housing, to help the Town accomplish its fair-share obligation to address the Town’s and State’s critical shortage of workforce housing. This amendment is expected to benefit people of all ages indirectly, including seniors who wish to downsize. Workforce housing should not be confused with “low-income” housing. For example, to qualify for workforce housing in 2020, the 100% median area income limit was $98,000 for a family of four.

**Article #6 – Accessory Dwelling Units**

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

**Amend:** Article 9.4 – Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Requirements.

**Purpose:**  To amend Section 9.4.10 by adding an exemption to Article 3.1.1.1 of the Town’s Building Code, thereby removing the requirement of fire sprinkler systems for Accessory Dwelling Units.

**Article #7 – Operating Budget**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended amount of five million one hundred fifty-six thousand one hundred seventy-three dollars ($5,156,173) 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 - 8 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain.* The Board of Selectmen recommends five million one hundred fifty-six thousand one hundred seventy-three dollars ($5,156,173) by a *Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain.* This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **BOS** | **BC** |
| **General Government** | $ 2,332,072 | $ 2,332,072 |
| **Public Safety** | $ 1,487,204 | $ 1,487,204 |
| **Highways, Streets, Bridges** | $ 790,343 | $ 790,343 |
| **Sanitation** | $ 203,154 | $ 203,154 |
| **Health & Welfare** | $41,214 | $41,214 |
| **Culture & Recreation** | $300,979 | $300,979 |
| **Conservation & Eco. Dev.** | $ 1,205 | $ 1,205 |
| **Debt Service** | $ 2 | $ 2 |
| **Total Appropriation** | **$5,156,173** | **$5,156,173** |

**Article #8 – CIP Funding**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) 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: $0.55

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

*Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 6 yes / 1 no / 2 abstain*

**Article #9 – CIP Projects**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixty-six thousand nine hundred four dollars ($266,904) for the following projects:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Maintenance Department | Repaint Stevens Hall  | $68,000 |
| Maintenance Department | Replace Stevens Hall Basement Steps | $15,000 |
| Police Department | Cruiser with Outfitting | $52,456 |
| Police Department | Personal Protective Equipment | $10,000 |
| Police Department | Body-Worn Cameras | $16,885 |
| Fire Department | Personal Protective Equipment | $9,360 |
| Fire Department | Expand Secondary Access Road into Parking Lot and Repave | $40,203 |
| Fire Department | Roof Upgrade | $45,000 |
| Highway Department | Annual Surveying & Engineering Services | $10,000 |

and withdraw two hundred sixty-six thousand nine hundred four dollars ($266,904) 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, 2023, 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 / 3 abstain*

**Article #10 – 300th Anniversary**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to 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 Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 8 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain*

**Article #11 – Steeple Repair at Chester Congregational Church**

Shall the Town vote to 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 2021 and Town Meeting of 2022. The amount donated will not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000).

Estimated Tax Impact: $0.03

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

*Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 8 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain*

**Article # 12 – Historic Building Capital Reserve Fund**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund known as the *Historic Building Capital Reserve Fund* established at the 2020 Town Meeting. Further to authorize the transfer of four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) from the June 30th, 2021 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation.

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 – 4 yes / 4 no / 1 abstain*

**Article # 13 –** **Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to establish a *Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund* under the provisions of RSA 35:1 II for the purpose of funding the replacement of Fire Department Apparatus costing over $250,000, and to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) to be placed in this fund and to authorize the transfer of four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) from the June 30th, 2021 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation. Selectmen are not to be made agents to expend this fund; expenditure from this fund will require future warrant article.

Estimated 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 / 2 abstain*

**Article #14 – Highway CIP Funding**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars ($750,000) 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 five hundred ninety-seven dollars ($144,597) which is the anticipated grant amount this year from the New Hampshire Highway Block Grant to be used to offset this appropriation and the remainder to be raised through taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact: $0.84

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 6 yes / 1 no / 2 abstain*

**Article #15 – Highway CIP Projects**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars ($750,000) for roadwork in the Town of Chester and withdraw seven hundred fifty thousand dollars ($750,000) 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, 2023, whichever comes first.

Estimated Tax Impact: $0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 2 abstain*

**Article #16 – Revaluation**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000) to be added to the Town’s *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

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 2 abstain*

**Article #17 – PACT**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-six thousand dollars ($36,000) 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

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 3 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 6 yes / 2 no / 1 abstain*

**Article #18 – Police Department OHRV**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand six hundred nine dollars ($30,609.00) for the purchase of a Side-by-Side OHRV with Accessories, Upfitting, and Trailer and withdraw thirty thousand six hundred nine dollars ($30,609.00) from the *Police Special Detail Special Revenue Fund* established at the 2001 Town Meeting for this purpose with no amount to be raised by taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact:                $0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen           Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain*

*Not Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 2 yes / 6 no / 1 abstain*

**Article #19 – Master Plan**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000) to be added to the *Town* *Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund* established at the 2019 Town Meeting.

Estimated Tax Impact: $0.02

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

*Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 7 yes / 1 no / 1 abstain*

**Article #20 - Winter Road Maintenance Fund**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to 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

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

*Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 6 yes / 2 no / 1 abstain*

**Article #21 – Discontinuance of North Pond Road Capital Reserve Fund**

Shall the Town vote to discontinue the *North Pond Road and Route 102 Intersection Capital Reserve Fund* created in 2010.

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

**Article #22 – Discontinuance of Carkin Street**

Shall the Town vote to discontinue that portion of Carkin Street that abuts Donna Street and lies between Tax Map 5-71 and Tax Map 5-70, identified on the letter and petition dated March 17th, 2020 from Hamblett & Kerrigan, and containing 12,406 square feet or 0.28+ acres of land. Said property will revert to the abutters who will be responsible for any surveyors’ fees associated with the lot line adjustment.

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

**Article #23 – Rescinding of 2013 WA #20**

### Shall the Town vote to rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict 100% of revenues from the sale of cemetery lots to expenditures for the purpose of cemetery maintenance. Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the *Cemetery Maintenance Special Revenue Fund*, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of the revenue. Ballot vote required.

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain*

**Article #24 – Restating of 2013 WA #20**

Shall the Town vote to establish a *Village Cemeteries Expendable Trust Fund* pursuant to RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289:2-a, allowing all future proceeds received from the sale of cemetery lots managed by the Village Cemetery Trustees in the Town of Chester and any interest gained thereon, for the maintenance of these cemeteries; and further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

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

**Article #25 – Change in Town Meeting Date**

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 May, and the second session for the transaction of other business on a date set by the Selectmen, effective January 1st, 2022.

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen                  Tally Vote – 3 yes / 1 no / 1 abstain*

**Article #26 – 78 Raymond Road**

Shall the Town vote to accept the donation 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.

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen                  Tally Vote – 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain*

**Article #27 – Petitioned Warrant Article - Great Hill Cemetery Maintenance Fund**

Shall the town vote to establish a trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a to be known as the *Great Hill Cemetery Maintenance and Future Expansion Fund* for the general maintenance and future expansion of said cemetery. Pursuant to RSA 289:2-a, this fund is to be funded by the sale of future lots. Further to name the board of Great Hill Cemetery Trustees and the Board of Selectman as agents to expend from this trust.

**Article #28 –Petitioned Warrant Article - Indigenous Peoples Day**

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.

**Article #29 – Petitioned Warrant Article - New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting**

By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Chester to see if the town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.

Additionally, these voters ask the town to urge NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

Furthermore, as the New Hampshire State Constitution, Part 2, Article 11 allows towns of sufficient population to have their own state representatives, not share with other towns, for the town of Chester to petition the NH General Court for its own exclusive seat in the House of Representatives properly represent the town’s interests.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the selectmen to Chester’s state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

**Article #30 – 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.

Jeremy Owens, Chairman Charles F. Myette, Vice-Chairman

Stephen D’Angelo, Selectman Joseph M. Hagan, Selectman

Stephen O. Landau, Selectman