

2023-2024 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 14th day of March 2023, at 7:00 AM to act on Articles 1 through 4. The polls will close at 7:00 PM. After the ballots are counted, the Meeting will continue on Thursday, the 16th day of March 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Chester Multipurpose Room. Articles 5 through 28 will be taken up at that time.

Article #1 - Elections

To choose all necessary Town Officials for the ensuing year.

Article #2 - Frontage

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

Amend: Section 5.3.5 – Dimensional and Area Requirements – by adding 5.3.5.3 - Frontage, and amend Table 1 - Table of Dimensional and Area Requirements by adding "See Note 4" under the column heading "Minimum Frontage", and adding "(Note 4)."

Purpose: This amendment does not create a new requirement but is intended to make it easier to identify the zoning ordinance's collective requirement of minimum lot frontages along Town approved roads.

Article #3 – Setbacks

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

Amend: To amend Section 5.7.5.4 - Building Setbacks to replace the word "building" with "structure".

Purpose: To make the wording of this section consistent with a prior zoning amendment to Zoning Table 2 - Table of Setbacks and No Clearing Buffer Zones which was approved back in 2019.

Article #4 - Sprinklers

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

Amend: Section 3.1.1.1 – Sprinkler Systems of the Building Code to remove the words “all” and “and mobile homes” and add the words “not situated in a manufactured housing park as defined in RSA 205-A:1.

Purpose: To bring this section of the code into conformance with RSA 674:51, V.

Article #5 – 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 – 8 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>

Article #6 – Solar Array

Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease for a solar energy company to install a solar farm on the Town-owned parcel at 84 Chester Street, also known as Map 5 Lot 12, 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 #7 – Operating Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee and Selectmen recommended amount of five million seven hundred thirty-two thousand six hundred twelve dollars (\$5,732,612) 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	\$2,660,862	\$2,660,862
Public Safety	\$1,647,824	\$1,647,824
Highways, Streets, Bridges	\$829,853	\$829,853
Sanitation	\$235,999	\$235,999
Health & Welfare	\$41,272	\$41,272
Culture & Recreation	\$315,794	\$315,794
Conservation & Eco. Dev.	\$5,506	\$5,506
Debt Service	\$2	\$2

Total Appropriation	\$5,732,612	\$5,732,612
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Estimated Tax Impact: \$7.72
Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain
Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 8 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #8 – CIP Funding

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred thousand (\$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.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.81
Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain
Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Article #9 – CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred ninety-five thousand one hundred dollars (\$295,100) for the following projects:

GGB	Post Office Basement Steps & Bulkhead	\$9,600
GGB	Floor Scrubber	\$8,500
GGB	IT Hardware & Software Upgrades	\$6,200
Police	Personal Protective Equipment	\$10,000
Fire	Personal Protective Equipment	\$20,300
Fire	Two (2) Mobile Dispatch Terminals	\$15,000
Fire	Thermal Imagers	\$15,500
Highway	Surveying & Engineering Services	\$15,000
Highway	Loader	\$195,000

and withdraw two hundred ninety-five thousand one hundred dollars (\$295,100) 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, 2025, 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 – 7 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Article #10 – Highway CIP Funding

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000) 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-nine thousand sixty-five dollars (\$149,065) which is the anticipated grant amount this year from the New Hampshire Highway Block Grant to be used to offset this appropriation, two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the June 30th, 2023 unassigned fund balance to be used to offset this appropriation, and the remainder of five hundred thousand nine hundred thirty five dollars (\$500,935) to be raised through taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.67
<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 – 5 yes / 2 no / 1 abstain</i>

Article #11 – Highway CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred thirty-eight thousand eight hundred dollars (\$738,800) for the following roadwork in the Town of Chester:

Holman Way	\$59,400
Jennifer Drive	\$257,400
Parker Road	\$79,200
Rand Drive	\$217,800
Halls Village Road	\$125,000
Total	\$738,800

and withdraw seven hundred thirty-eight thousand eight hundred dollars (\$738,800) 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, 2025, 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 – 5 yes / 2 no / 1 abstain</i>

Article #12 – Funding Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) 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 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from the June 30th, 2023 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation.

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

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Article #13 – 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

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Article #14 – Master Plan

Special Warrant Article. 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

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 8 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #15 - 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

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 8 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #16 – Legal Costs Expendable Trust Fund

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town establish an expendable trust fund under the provisions of NH RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the *Legal Costs Expendable Trust Fund* for the purpose of funding any unanticipated increases in the cost of providing legal services over and above those budgeted for and to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in this fund from the June 30th, 2023 unassigned fund balance for this

purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation. The *Legal Costs Expendable Trust Fund* shall not exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000).

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 – 8 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>

Article #17 – Change in Town Meeting Date

Shall the Town 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, 2024.

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

Article #18 – Warfield Road Conservation Easement

Shall the Town place a Conservation Easement on the Town-owned property designated by Map and Lot 004-004-001, consisting of 7.55 acres on Warfield Road in the South Woods, in order to permanently protect said area for nature study and recreation, and to enhance and maintain the scenic, wildlife, and open space that are an intrinsic part of Chester’s valuable rural character for the benefit of the Town of Chester and its citizens.

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

Article #19 – Pomp Road Conservation Easement

Shall the Town place a Conservation Easement on the Town-owned property designated by Map and Lot 002-028-001, consisting of 66.37 acres with frontage on Pomp Road, in order to permanently protect said area for nature study and recreation, to protect the watershed and wetlands, and to enhance and maintain the scenic, wildlife, and open space that are an intrinsic part of Chester's valuable rural character for the benefit of the Town of Chester and its citizens.

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

Article #20 – Creation of Town Forest

Shall the Town designate the following Town-owned properties, comprising 151.43 acres more or less, as Town Forest per RSA 31:110: Map and Lots 8-14-1, 8-15, 8-16, 8-18-3, 8-

18-3A, 8-18-4, and 8-18-4A. Further as per RSA 31:112 to appoint the Conservation Commission as managers of the property.

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

Article #21 – Surveying of Town-Owned Properties

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of surveying the outer boundaries of the following parcels of Town-owned land: Map and Lots 8-14-1, 8-15, 8-16, 8-18-3, 8-18-3A, 8-18-4, and 8-18-4A. Further to authorize the transfer of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) from the June 30th, 2023 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation. If Warrant Article #20 passes, this article can be tabled.

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 – 7 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain</i>

Article # 22 – Funding Historic Building Capital Reserve Fund

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) 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 fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the June 30th, 2023 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>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 2 yes / 6 no / 0 abstain</i>

Article # 23 – Transportation Improvement Capital Reserve Fund

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town establish a Transportation Improvement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 261:153 for the purpose of supporting Town transportation improvement, including but not limited to roads, bridges, culverts, electric charging stations, and bike lanes, and further to impose and collect an additional motor vehicle registration fee of up to \$5.00 per vehicle, the entirety of such fees to be placed in this fund, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1 to be placed into this fund. The Board of Selectmen will be named as agents to expend from this fund. If passed, this article will have no tax impact. Ballot vote required.

Tax Impact	\$0.00
<i>Not recommended by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 2 yes / 2 no / 1 abstain</i>

Not recommended by Budget Committee

Article # 24 – Readoption of Optional Veterans Tax Credit

Shall the Town approve the readoption of the Optional Veteran’s Tax Credit (RSA 72:28 II) to allow for the expansion of the criteria needed to qualify for the Optional Veteran’s Tax Credit of \$750 to now include those service members that are currently serving and have not yet been honorably discharged from the armed services. The readoption of the Optional Veteran’s Tax Credit, if approved, would continue to offer a \$750 tax credit to all honorably discharged Veterans that qualify under the current requirements but as of April 1, 2023, it would expand the eligibility requirements to now include those individuals that have not yet been discharged from active service. If this Article does not pass the Optional Tax Credit would revert to the Standard Veteran Tax Credit under RSA 72:28-I, and as of April 1, 2023, the Standard Veteran Tax Credit would be in place and reduce the Veteran Tax Credit from \$750 to \$50 per year.

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

Article #25 – Readoption of All Veterans Tax Credit

Shall the Town approve the readoption of the All Veteran’s Tax Credit (RSA 72:28.b) to allow for the expansion of the criteria needed to qualify for the All Veteran’s Tax Credit of \$750 to now include those service members that are currently serving and have not yet been honorably discharged from the armed services. The readoption of the All Veteran’s Tax Credit, if approved, would continue to offer a \$750 tax credit to all honorably discharged Veterans that qualify under the current requirements of (RSA 72:28.b) but as of April 1, 2023, it would expand the eligibility requirements to now include those individuals that have not yet been discharged from active service. If this Article does not pass the All Veteran Tax Credit would revert to the Standard Veteran Tax Credit under RSA 72:28-I, and as of April 1, 2023, the Standard Veteran Tax Credit would be in place and reduce the Veteran Tax Credit from \$750 to \$50 per year.

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

Article #26 – Funding Municipal Improvement Capital Reserve Fund

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the *Municipal Complex Improvement Capital Reserve Fund* established in 2006. Further to authorize the transfer of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the June 30th, 2023 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
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Recommended by Board of Selectmen *Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*
Not Recommended by Budget Committee *Tally Vote – 3 yes / 5 no / 0 abstain*

Article #27 – Renaming of Municipal Complex Improvement Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town rename the *Municipal Complex Improvement Capital Reserve Fund*, established in 2006, to the *Municipal Property Improvement Capital Reserve Fund* per RSA 35:16 for the purpose of utilizing funds to improve all Town-owned properties. 2/3rds ballot vote required.

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

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.

Charles Myette

Charles F. Myette, Chairman

Steven M. Couture

Steven M. Couture, Vice-Chairman

Stephen D'Angelo

Stephen D'Angelo, Selectman

Stephen Landau

Stephen O. Landau, Selectman

Jeremy Owens

Jeremy C. Owens, Selectman