

2024-2025 Warrant

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 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024, 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 Thursday, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024, at 6:00 PM in the Chester Multipurpose Room. Articles 9 through 41 will be taken up at that time.

**Article #1 - Elections**

To choose all necessary Town Officials for the ensuing year.

**Article #2 - Definitions**

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 – General Store, Frontage, and Recreation Vehicle

**Purpose:** To amend Article 2 – Definitions, to add a definition for “General Store”, and amend the definitions of “Frontage” and “Recreation Vehicle”.

**Article #3 - Signs**

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

**Amend:** Article 4.4 – Signs

**Purpose:** To amend Article 4.4 –Signs, to allow new subdivisions the option to erect one 15 sq. ft permanent sign; and one 32 sq. ft. temporary “sales” sign during construction.

**Article #4 – Recreation Vehicles**

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

**Amend:** Article 4.6 – Recreation Vehicles

**Purpose:** To amend Section 4.6 – Recreation Vehicles, to address multiple situations.

**Article #5 - Frontage**

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

**Amend:** Article 5.3.5.3 - Frontage

**Purpose:** To amend Article 5.3.5.3 – Frontage, to add explanatory language to address different development circumstances as noted by the Town’s Planning and Zoning Boards.

### **Article #6 – Fair Market Rental Housing**

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

**Amend:** Article 7B – Fair Market Rental Housing (FMR) Subdivision

**Purpose:** To add Article 7B - Fair Market Rental Housing Subdivision, and update zoning Tables 1 and 2 to reflect the addition of this article. FMR open space subdivisions are intended to allow a limited number of small and affordable homes with rents permanently restricted to the annually updated HUD Fair Market Rental Rates for one- and two-bedroom dwellings. This article is intended to provide Chester with additional options to meet its fair share of workforce housing required under RSA 674:58-61.

### **Article #7 – Accessory Dwelling Units**

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

**Amend:** Article 9.2 - Approval Process for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

**Purpose:** To simplify and reduce the expense of the approval process by no longer requiring Special Exception approvals by the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

### **Article #8 – Impervious Surfaces**

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

**Amend:** Table 1 - Table of Dimensional and Area Requirements

**Purpose:** To add impervious surface limitations for the internal lots in Article 6 and 7A open space subdivisions, and to add the dimensional requirements for Article 7B subdivisions.

### **Article #9 – Repurposing of Mosquito Abatement ETF**

Shall the Town rename and repurpose the *Mosquito Abatement Expendable Trust Fund*, established in 2007, to the *Pest Control Expendable Trust Fund* under the provisions of NH RSA 35:16, in order to fund the control of all undesirable pests, such as but not limited to mosquitos, ticks, rodents, etc. Further for the Selectboard to continue as agents to expend. Should this article pass, line 01-4194-1-4390.15, Pest Control, in the Operating Budget will be reduced to \$1. 2/3 majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:

\$0.00

*Recommended by Selectboard*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 8 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

**Article #10 – Legal Costs ETF**

Shall the Town add the Selectboard as agents to expend the *Legal Costs Expendable Trust Fund* and remove the cap of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000). Should this Article pass, line 01-4153-1-4320.01, Legal Expense, in the Operating Budget will be reduced by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:

\$0.00

*Recommended by Selectboard*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 8 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

**Article #11 – Repurposing of 300th Anniversary Celebration CRF**

Shall the Town rename and repurpose the *300th Anniversary Celebration Capital Reserve Fund*, established in 2013, to the *Celebrations Capital Reserve Fund* under the provisions of NH RSA 35:16, in order to continue accruing funds for future significant anniversaries and other celebrations. Further for the Selectboard to continue as agents to expend. 2/3 majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:

\$0.00

*Recommended by Selectboard*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 8 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

**Article #12 – Repurposing of Commemorative Monument CRF**

Shall the Town repurpose the *Commemorative Monument Capital Reserve Fund* under the provisions of NH RSA 35:16 in order to not only fund the creation of new commemorative monuments but also to fund the repair of existing monuments with all associated costs. Further for the Selectboard to continue as agents to expend. 2/3 majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:

\$0.00

*Recommended by Selectboard*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain*

**Article #13 - Petition – SB2**

Petition Warrant Article. “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 May?”

3/5ths majority vote by ballot required; ballot box must remain open for one (1) hour.

Estimated Tax Impact:

\$0.00

*Not Recommended by Selectboard*

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

**Article #14 – Municipal CIP CRF Funding**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town 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. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.95
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #15 – Municipal CIP CRF Spending

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred thirty-eight thousand four hundred dollars (\$338,400) for the following projects:

GGB	Municipal Complex Reroofing	\$176,330
GGB	IT Hardware & Software Upgrades	\$5,000
GGB	Repair Post Office Support Piers (new)	\$10,000
TC/TX	Two (2) New Ballot Counting Machines	\$15,000
Library	Repair Water Damage	\$31,500
Police	Cruiser with Outfitting	\$70,270
Fire	Personal Protective Equipment	\$20,300
Highway	Annual Surveying & Engineering Services	\$10,000

and withdraw three hundred eight thousand four hundred dollars (\$308,400) from the *Municipal Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund*, established in 2013, and thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) from the *Police Special Detail Special Revenue Fund*, established in 2001, as offsetting revenue towards the Cruiser purchase only.

This will be a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7-a, IV, and will not lapse until the work is complete, or December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, whichever comes first.

Estimated Tax Impact:	No New Tax Impact
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 3 yes / 1 no / 1 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 7 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain</i>

### Article #16 – Operating Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended amount of six million seven thousand nine hundred seventy-four dollars (\$6,007,974) for the operating budget for the support of Town government for the payment of salaries and for the payment of statutory obligations of the Town. Tally vote – 7 yes/1 no/0 abstain. The Selectboard recommends six million eight-three thousand one hundred seven dollars (\$6,083,107) by a Tally Vote – 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain.

This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

	BOS	BC
<b>General Government</b>	\$ 2,826,208	\$ 2,830,661
<b>Public Safety</b>	\$ 1,697,767	\$ 1,666,928
<b>Highways, Streets, Bridges</b>	\$ 918,348	\$ 881,207

<b>Sanitation</b>	\$ 267,073	\$ 257,073
<b>Health &amp; Welfare</b>	\$ 38,062	\$ 37,815
<b>Culture &amp; Recreation</b>	\$ 327,480	\$ 326,149
<b>Conservation &amp; Economic Development</b>	\$ 8,167	\$ 8,139
<b>Debt Service</b>	\$ 2	\$ 2
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 6,083,107</b>	<b>\$ 6,007,974</b>

### Article #17 – Town Revaluation CRF Funding

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 2029. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.02
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #18 – Town Master Plan CRF Funding

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) to be added to the *Town Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund* established at the 2019 Town Meeting to meet the statutory requirements to periodically update and amend the Town of Chester's Master Plan. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.01
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #19 - Winter Road Maintenance ETF Funding

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). Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.14
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #20 – Emergency Contingency Fund

Shall the Town establish a *Contingency Fund* for the upcoming fiscal year, in accordance with NH RSA 31:98-a, for unanticipated emergency expenses that may arise during said year. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-four thousand, five hundred thirty six dollars (\$74,536) to go into the fund, which equals one percent (1%) of the amount appropriated by the Town for Town purposes during the current Fiscal Year excluding capital expenditures and the amortization of debt. Said funds will be taken from the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount

to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will not be retained but will lapse to the general fund. A detailed report of all expenditures from the *Contingency Fund* shall be made annually by the Selectboard and published with their report. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	No New Tax Impact
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain</i>

#### **Article #21 – Establishment and Funding of Vested Vacation Benefit ETF**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town establish an expendable trust fund under the provision of NH RSA 31:19-a to be known as the *Vested Vacation Benefit Expendable Trust Fund* and to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in this fund. Further to authorize the transfer of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) from the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation and to appoint the Selectboard as Agents to Expend. The purpose of this fund is to provide a one-time payment of accrued vacation leave for full-time non-elected employees who retire or leave employment with the Town. Majority vote required.

The *Vested Vacation Benefit Expendable Trust Fund* shall not exceed sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000). No additional tax impact.

Estimated Tax Impact:	No New Tax Impact
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 3 no / 0 abstain</i>

#### **Article #22 – Municipal Complex Roof Replacement**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy-six thousand, three hundred thirty dollars (\$176,330) to replace the roof over the Municipal Complex. Should this expenditure be approved in Warrant Article 15, this Article will be tabled. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.24
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #23 – Highway CIP CRF Funding**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,750,000) 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-six thousand two hundred two dollars (\$146,202) which is the anticipated grant amount this year from the New Hampshire Highway Block Grant to be used to offset this appropriation, two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 unassigned fund balance to be used to offset this appropriation, and the remainder of one million four hundred three thousand seven hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$1,403,798) to be raised through taxation. Should the actual amount of the Highway Block Grant deviate from what is anticipated, the amount withdrawn

from the unassigned fund balance will increase or decrease by that same amount. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$1.90
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain</i>

#### **Article #24 – Highway CIP CRF Spending**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one million fifty thousand dollars (\$1,050,000) for roadwork in the Town of Chester and withdraw one million fifty thousand dollars (\$1,050,000) from the *Highway Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund* created for these purposes. Majority vote required.

This will be a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7-a, IV, and will not lapse until the work is complete, or December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, whichever comes first.

Estimated Tax Impact:	No New Tax Impact
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #25 – Fire Department Apparatus CRF Funding**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) 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 one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	No New Tax Impact
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #26 – Fire Department Apparatus CRF Spending**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$645,000) for the purchase of an E-One Spartan FC-94 Pumper and associated upfitting to replace the Fire Department's 2003 Engine #2 Pumper, and withdraw six hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$645,000) from the *Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund* created for these purposes. Majority vote required.

This will be a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7-a, IV, and will not lapse until the work is complete, or December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, whichever comes first.

Estimated Tax Impact:	No New Tax Impact
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #27 – Municipal Property Improvement CRF Funding**



Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the *Municipal Property Improvement Capital Reserve Fund* established in 2006 and renamed in 2023. Further to authorize the transfer of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	No New Tax Impact
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #28 – PACT Fund SRF Spending**

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. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #29 – Conservation Easements**

Shall the Town place Conservation Easements on the following Town-owned properties:

Map and Lot 009-080-001, 2.79 acres with frontage on Shepard Home Road,  
 Map and Lot 005-031-000, 5.12 acres with frontage on North Pond Road, and  
 Map and Lot 007-029-001, 8 acres with frontage on Candia 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 Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>

#### **Article #30 – Complete Road Discontinuance**

Shall the Town completely discontinue, pursuant to RSA 231:43, the extension of Ledge Road being that portion that runs from Lane Road northerly to the Raymond Town line, bounded on the west by Tax Map 12 Lot 3 and the east by Tax Map 12 Lots 5 & 5-1, and further to authorize the Selectboard to convey the discontinued portion of the road to the abutting landowners.

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



### Article #31 – Solar Array

Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to enter into a long-term option and lease agreement with ReVision Energy Inc., or its successors or assignees, to lease a portion of Town-owned property for the construction, installation, and operation of a solar array, on such terms and conditions as determined by the Selectboard and to authorize the Selectboard to take any other actions necessary to carry out this vote.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 3 yes / 1 no / 1 abstain</i>

### Article #32 – Post Office Lease

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to enter into a five-year lease with two five-year renewal options with the United States Postal Service for 1,862 square feet on the first floor of the Ruth Ray Building with appropriate curtilage on such terms and conditions as the Selectboard determines are in the best interests of the Town. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand two hundred dollars (\$5,200) to pay a one-time brokerage commission fee to the United States Postal Service's Broker. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.01
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #33 – Establishment and Funding of Bridge Repair and Replacement CRF

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town establish a *Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund* under the provisions of RSA 35:1 (II) for the purpose of funding the repair or replacement of bridges in the Town of Chester which have been determined to be structurally deficient. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to be placed in this fund and to authorize the transfer of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation. Further to appoint the Selectboard as agents to expend. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	No New Tax Impact
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

### Article #34 - Elderly Tax Exemptions Modification

Shall the Town modify the Elderly resident property tax exemption amounts pursuant to RSA 72:39-a due to the increased assessment/re-evaluation that is being completed for the 2025 tax year.

The Elderly Exemptions, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, shall change as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, from \$110,000 to \$154,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, from \$140,000 to \$196,000; and for a person 80 years of age or older, from \$170,000 to \$238,000.

To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such a person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000 or if married, a combined net income of less than \$60,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$300,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. Majority vote required.

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

### **Article #35 - Disabled/Blind Tax Exemptions Modification**

Shall the Town modify the Disabled and Blind resident property tax exemption amounts pursuant to RSA 72:37 and RSA 72:37-b due to the increased assessment / re-evaluation that is being completed for the 2025 tax year.

The Disabled and Blind Exemptions, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, shall change as follows: for a disabled person, from \$110,000 to \$154,000; and for a blind person, from \$30,000 to \$42,000.

To qualify for the disabled exemption the person must be eligible under the Federal Social Security Act for benefits for the disabled, have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such a person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000 or if married, a combined net income of less than \$60,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$300,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

To qualify for the Blind Exemption, the resident must be legally blind as determined by the Administrator of Blind Services of the vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Education. There is no income and asset threshold to receive the blind exemption. Majority vote required.

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

### **Article #36 – Petition - Land Use Change Tax Funds Reallocation**

Petition Warrant Article. “Shall the Town rescind the action of the 1997 and 1999 Town Meetings to place 100% of the Land Use Change Tax revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A into the Conservation Fund, established in 1997, and instead place fifty percent (50%) of said funds into the *Capital Improvements Plan – Highway Capital Reserve Fund*, established in 2015, and the remaining fifty percent (50%) into the Conservation Fund. This action will become effective on July 1<sup>st</sup> following the vote.”

Simple majority vote by ballot required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Not Recommended by Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 1 yes / 3 no / 1 abstain</i>
<i>Recommended by Budget Committee</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 6 yes / 1 no / 1 abstain</i>

### Article #37 – Petition – Ban Voting Machines

Petition Warrant Article. “To see if the town will vote to ban the use of voting machines in local, state and federal elections.”

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Not Recommended by Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 0 yes / 5 no / 0 abstain</i>

### Article #38 – Petition - Paper Ballots Only

Petition Warrant Article. “Shall the following provisions pertaining to elections be adopted? All voting shall be by paper ballot and all ballots shall be hand counted only, rather than by use of optical scanning or any other types of programmable electronic counting devices. This shall constitute a return to hand counting ballots and the immediate discontinuance of all electronic voting machines and electronic devices authorized for use by trial in RSA 656:40. Shall this article be passed, it shall be enacted by the town of Chester, NH immediately.”

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Not Recommended by Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 0 yes / 4 no / 0 abstain</i>

### Article #39 – Petition – Hand Count Ballots on November 5<sup>th</sup>

Petition Warrant Article. “To see if the town will vote to hand count on November 5<sup>th</sup> the election ballots for the office of President of the United States.”

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<i>Not Recommended by Selectboard</i>	<i>Tally Vote – 0 yes / 4 no / 1 abstain</i>

### Article #40 – Establishment of Hand Counted Ballots ETF

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town establish an expendable trust fund under the provision of NH RSA 31:19-a to be known as the *Hand Counted Ballots Expendable Trust Fund* and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in this fund. Further to appoint the Selectboard as Agents to Expend. The purpose of this fund is to ensure that funds will be available to cover the additional costs that will be incurred if and/or when ballots are required to be hand, rather than machine, counted. Should Warrant Articles 37, 38, and 39 fail or be tabled, this Article will be tabled. Majority vote required.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.02
<i>Recommended by Selectboard</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 #41 – 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.

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Charles F. Myette, Chairman

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Steven M. Couture, Vice-Chairman

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Stephen O. Landau, Selectman

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Dana Theokas, Selectwoman

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Richard S. Trask, Selectman