

**Results from Town Meeting
May 16th, 2019**

Article #8 - Purchase of Stone Property

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$495,000) for the acquisition 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 issuance of not more than four hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$495,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bond or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. This Article must pass by a 2/3 ballot vote.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote - 3 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote - 0 yes / 7 no / 0 abstain

Yes 45 / No 162 Article #8 fails.

Article #9 – Change to Town Meeting Date, to coincide with School

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 March, and the second session for the transaction of other business on a date set by the Selectmen, effective January 1st, 2020.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote - 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote - 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #9 carries; Town Elections and Meeting will now take place in March.

Article #10 – Operating Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended amount of four million six hundred seventy-six thousand nine hundred dollars (\$4,676,900) 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 / 0 no / 0 abstain. The Board of Selectmen recommends four million six hundred seventy-six thousand nine hundred dollars (\$4,676,900) by a Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

| | BOS | BC |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| General Government | \$ 2,063,849 | \$ 2,060,599 |
| Public Safety | \$ 1,295,239 | \$ 1,295,239 |
| Highways, Streets, Bridges | \$ 768,161 | \$ 746,441 |
| Sanitation | \$ 202,674 | \$ 202,674 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Health & Welfare | \$ 18,812 | \$ 43,962 |
| Culture & Recreation | \$ 274,589 | \$ 274,409 |
| Conservation & Eco. Dev. | \$ 1,554 | \$ 1,554 |
| Debt Service | \$ 52,022 | \$ 52,022 |
| Total Appropriation | \$ 4,676,900 | \$ 4,676,900 |

Article #10 carries.

Article #11 – CIP Funding

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

Tax Impact: \$1.06

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #11 carries.

Article #12 - CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred eighty-four thousand one hundred nine dollars (\$384,109) for the following projects:

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Buildings | IT Hardware & Software Upgrades | \$5,100 |
| Fire Department | Personal Protective Equipment | \$18,400 |
| Fire Department | Automatic External Defibrillators | \$24,260 |
| Fire Department | Septic System Upgrade | \$22,000 |
| Fire Department | Secondary Access Road | \$90,000 |
| Highway | F-550 Plow Truck | \$85,000 |
| Highway | Surveying & Engineering | \$10,000 |
| Library | Comprehensive Renovation | \$52,000 |
| Police Department | Cruiser with Outfitting | \$53,749 |
| Police Department | Personal Protective Equipment | \$10,000 |
| Police Department | Software Data Conversion | \$13,600 |

and withdraw three hundred eighty-four thousand one hundred nine dollars (\$384,109) 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, 2021, whichever comes first.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #12 carries.

Article #13 – Highway CIP Funding

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one million three hundred forty-seven thousand six hundred fourteen dollars (\$1,347,614) 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-seven thousand six hundred fourteen dollars (\$147,614) which is the anticipated grant amount this year from the New Hampshire Highway Block Grant to be used to offset this appropriation and to authorize the transfer of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) from the June 30th, 2019 general unassigned fund balance for this purpose with the remainder of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to be raised through taxation.

Tax Impact: \$0.89

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #13 carries.

Article #14 – Highway CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) for road work in the Town of Chester and withdraw one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) from the Highway Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes. This will be a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the work is complete, or June 30th, 2025, whichever comes first.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #14 carries.

Article #15 – Town Administrator

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, by simple majority, to hire a qualified full-time Town Administrator to serve as the chief administrative officer of the Town and further to raise and appropriate the sum of One hundred thirty-nine thousand dollars (\$139,000), of which one hundred twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$129,000) is for the Town Administrator’s wages and benefits and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) as a stipend for a consultant to assist with the Town’s transition to a Town Administrator.

Tax Impact: \$0.25

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 2 yes / 3 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote – 6 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Yes 107 / No 86

Article #15 carries.

Article #16 - Purchase of Stone Property – Alternative Financing

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$495,000) for the acquisition 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. Further to authorize the transfer of four hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$495,000) from the June 30th, 2019 general unassigned fund balance for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation.

Tax Impact: \$0.00
Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 3 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain
Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 0 yes / 7 no / 0 abstain

Article #16 is tabled.

Article #17 – Steeple Repair at Chester Congregational Church

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to help defray the expense of structural work on the steeple of the Chester Congregational Church which houses the Town Clock.

Tax Impact: \$0.03
Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 3 yes / 2 no / 0 abstain
Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #17 carries.

Article #18 - Revaluation

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.

Tax Impact: \$0.03
Recommended by Board of Selectmen Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain
Recommended by Budget Committee Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #18 carries.

Article #19 - PACT

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-six thousand, six hundred and ninety-three dollars (\$36,693) 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.

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 / 0 abstain

Article #19 carries.

Article #20 – 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.

Tax Impact: \$0.01

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #20 carries.

Article #21 – Roadside Tree Removal Expendable Trust Fund

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 purpose of removing 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 to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in this fund, and further to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend these funds.

Tax Impact: \$0.09

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Tally Vote – 2 yes / 3 no / 0 abstain

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 0 yes / 7 no / 0 abstain

Article #21 is tabled.

Article # 22 - Motor Vehicle Registration Fee Waived for POWs

Shall the Town vote, as authorized by RSA 261:157-a, to adopt an ordinance waiving the fee to be charged for a permit to register one motor vehicle owned by any person who was captured and incarcerated for 30 days or more while serving in a qualified war or armed conflict as defined in RSA 72:28, V, and who was honorably discharged, provided the person has provided the Town Clerk with satisfactory proof of these circumstances.

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 / 0 abstain

Article #22 carries.

Article #23 - Town Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund Creation and Funding

Shall the Town vote to establish a Town Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to meet the statutory requirements to periodically update and amend the Town of Chester’s Master Plan, and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Chester Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

Tax Impact: \$0.04

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote - 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote - 6 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Article #23 carries.

Article #24 - Increase in Elderly Property Tax Exemption Income Limit

Shall the Town vote to modify the maximum net income limit to qualify for elderly exemptions from the property tax in the Town of Chester to increase it for a single person from the current thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000). All other provisions of the qualification remain unchanged. If passed, this increase will be effective as of April 1st, 2020.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote - 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote - 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #24 carries.

Article #25 - Increase in Veterans' Property Tax Credit

Shall the Town vote to modify the Veterans' Property Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II from its current amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) per year to seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) per year. If passed, this increase will be effective as of April 1st, 2020.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote - 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Tally Vote - 6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Article #25 carries.

Article #26 - Increase in Veterans' Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability

Shall the Town vote to modify the Veterans' Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability in accordance with RSA 72:35 from its current amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per year to four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per year. If passed, this increase will be effective as of April 1st, 2020.

Tax Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote - 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain

Tally Vote - 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #26 carries.

Article #27 - Replenish Unanticipated Maintenance CRF

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand six hundred thirty dollars (\$7,630) to be added to the capital reserve fund known as the Unanticipated Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2012 Town Meeting for the purpose of unanticipated repairs, maintenance, and expenses for infrastructure including, but not limited to, its

parks, grounds, bridges and roads in the Town of Chester. The Unanticipated Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund shall not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

Tax Impact: \$0.01

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

Recommended by Budget Committee

Tally Vote – 4 yes / 1 no / 0 abstain

Tally Vote – 7 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

Article #27 carries.