

**2020-2021 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 tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day of March 2020, 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 Saturday, the fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) day of March 2020, at 9:00 AM in the Chester Multipurpose Room. Article 9 through Article 32 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 4.5.2 - Parking Lot Requirements – by amending Subsections 4.5.2.2 and 4.5.2.5.

**Purpose:** To change the word “handicapped” to “accessible”, and to update the reference to the federal and state regulations governing Accessible Parking.

**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 4.9.2 - Home Business – by adding Subsection 4.9.2.8.

**Purpose:** To allow for optional Site Plan Review for some Home Business permit applications.

**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 5.3.5 – Dimensional and Area Requirements.

**Purpose:** To add a simple cross-reference to Article 5.3.5 - Dimensional and Area Requirements to Subsection 5.7.5.2 - Lot Size Determinations (already existing).

**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 5.7.2 – Definitions.

**Purpose:** To add a definition for “Basal Area,” and amend the definition of No Clearing Buffer Zone.

**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 6 - Open Space Subdivision.

**Purpose:** To eliminate the unit-density incentive bonus for age-restricted housing, and increase the unit-density incentive bonus for workforce housing, in order to help the Town accomplish its fair-share obligation to address the State's critical shortage of workforce housing.

**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 11.2.2.3 – Public Hearing and Notice.

**Purpose:** To amend Subsection 11.2.2.3 to extend the time period, from 30 to 45 days for scheduling an administrative appeal hearing, to comply with the statutory change to NH 676:7,II.

**Article #8 -**

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

**Amend:** Article 11.5 – Expiration of Special Exception and Variance.

**Purpose:** To provide for the expiration of unexercised special exceptions and variances approved prior to August 19, 2013 as authorized by RSA 674:33, I-a(b) and RSA 674:33, IV(c).

## Article #9 – Road Bond

Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee.

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for road improvements; and to authorize the issuance of not more than three million dollars (\$3,000,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rates of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept any aid or funds from the State of New Hampshire, the Federal Government, and private sources, if any, as they may become available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto; and further to raise and appropriate thirty-seven thousand seven hundred eight dollars and thirty-three cents (\$37,708.33) for the first year's interest payment. This Article must pass by a 2/3 ballot vote.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.05 (first year only)
<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 – 1 yes / 5 no / 0 abstain</i>

## Article #10 – Two New Fulltime Firefighters

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred ninety-two thousand four hundred ninety-one dollars (\$192,491) for the purpose of hiring and outfitting two (2) fulltime career firefighter/EMTs in order that the Town may have coverage twelve hours a day, seven days a week. One hundred five thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$105,250) is for wages, one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) is for outfitting, and eighty-five thousand seven hundred forty-one dollars (\$85,741) is for benefits.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.27
<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 / 0 abstain</i>

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

Shall the Town 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 March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and Town Meeting of March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The amount donated will not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.04
<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 – 4 yes / 0 no / 2 abstain</i>

### **Article #12 - Optional Tax Credit for Combat Service**

Shall the Town adopt the Optional Tax Credit for Combat Service per RSA 72:28-c in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) per year. To qualify, a person shall be a resident of this Town engaged at any point during the taxable period in combat service as a member of the New Hampshire National Guard or a reserve component of the United States armed services, called to active duty. This credit would be in lieu of and not in addition to the standard and optional Veteran's credits. The service member would be eligible for the credit in each tax year in which the combat service occurs. If passed this credit would be effective as of April 1, 2020.

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 / 0 abstain</i>

### **Article #13 - Establish PACT Revolving Fund**

Shall the Town vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of funding the Town of Chester's Public Access Community Television related costs and to enable purchase of cable TV equipment, as may be approved from time to time by the governing board, and to raise and appropriate from the Town's unassigned fund balance the amount of forty-five thousand four hundred fifty-three dollars (\$45,453) for deposit into said revolving fund. This sum to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2020 and no amount to be raised by taxation. All future revenues received from cable franchise fees shall be deposited into the Revolving Fund for Public Access Cable Television Fund and money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered to be part of the general fund unassigned fund balance. The treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the PACT Committee and Board of Selectmen and no further legislative body approval is required to expend. These funds may be expended only for the purpose of providing public, educational, and governmental access television. Ballot vote required. If this Article passes, Warrant Article #15 shall be tabled.

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 – 0 yes / 5 no / 1 abstain</i>

### **Article #14 – Rescind PACT Special Revenue Fund**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict 100% of revenues from the cable franchise fees paid by Comcast under the Cable

Television Renewal Franchise between Comcast and the Town of Chester to expenditures for the purpose of providing public, educational, and governmental access television in the Town of Chester. This Article must pass by a 2/3 ballot vote. If Article 13 does not pass, this article shall be tabled.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.00
<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 – 0 yes / 5 no / 1 abstain</i>

## Article #15 - PACT

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-six thousand nine hundred twenty-five dollars (\$36,925) 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. If Article #13 passes, this Article shall be tabled.

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 – 5 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

## Article #16 – Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended amount of four million nine hundred ninety-eight thousand six hundred fifty-five dollars (\$4,998,655) 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 - 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain. The Board of Selectmen recommends four million nine hundred ninety-eight thousand six hundred fifty-five dollars (\$4,998,655) 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>	\$ 2,215,913	\$ 2,215,913
<b>Public Safety</b>	\$ 1,420,030	\$ 1,420,030
<b>Highways, Streets, Bridges</b>	\$ 758,823	\$ 758,823
<b>Sanitation</b>	\$ 218,638	\$ 218,638
<b>Health &amp; Welfare</b>	\$ 42,212	\$ 42,212
<b>Culture &amp; Recreation</b>	\$ 289,812	\$ 289,812
<b>Conservation &amp; Eco. Dev.</b>	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,205
<b>Debt Service</b>	\$ 52,022	\$ 52,022
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 4,998,655</b>	<b>\$ 4,998,655</b>

### Article #17 – CIP 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.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.98
<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 / 0 abstain</i>

### Article #18 - CIP Projects

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred eighty-four thousand two hundred five dollars (\$784,205) for the following projects:

Library	Computer Upgrades
PACT	Equipment Upgrades
Police Department	Evidence Room Ventilation
Fire Department	Radios
Fire Department	Personal Protective Equipment
Highway Department	Asphalt Hotbox
Highway Department	Surveying & Engineering Services
Highway Department	Roadwork
Building Department	Zero-Turn Gas Lawnmower

and withdraw seven hundred eighty-four thousand two hundred five dollars (\$784,205) from the Municipal Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes.

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 / 0 abstain</i>

### Article #19 – Highway CIP Funding

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty-one thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$751,365) 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 fifty-one thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$151,365) which is the anticipated grant amount this year from the New Hampshire Highway Block Grant to be used to offset this appropriation and the remaining six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) to be raised through taxation.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.84
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*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*  
*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*  
*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

## **Article #20 – Highway CIP Projects**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty one thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$751,365) for roadwork in the Town of Chester and withdraw seven hundred fifty one thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$751,365) from the Highway Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund created for these purposes.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*  
*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*  
*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

## **Article #21 – Petitioned Warrant Article – SB2**

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the legislative body of the Town of Chester on the second Tuesday of March.

This Article must pass by a 3/5 ballot vote.

## **Article #22 – 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

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*  
*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*  
*Tally Vote – 6 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain*

## **Article #23 – Roadside Tree Removal**

Special Warrant Article. 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 removal of 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 further 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 from this fund.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.07

*Recommended by Board of Selectmen*  
*Recommended by Budget Committee*

*Tally Vote – 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain*  
*Tally Vote – 0 yes / 5 no / 1 abstain*



#### Article #24 - Ortho Rectifying Maps

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of Orthorectifying our town tax maps. This will align (i.e., rectify) flat property lines with the topography of the land to fully utilize the Town's new GIS mapping system.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.02
<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 – 1 yes / 5 no / 0 abstain</i>

#### Article #25 - 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:	\$0.15
<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 / 0 no / 1 abstain</i>

#### Article #26 - Town Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Town Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2019 Town Meeting.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.03
<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 / 0 abstain</i>

#### Article #27 – Historic Building Capital Reserve Fund

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35 in order to fund the repair and restoration of the Town's historic buildings, and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in this fund. Further to authorize the transfer of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 unassigned fund balance and fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from any surplus remaining from Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for this purpose with no amount to be raised from taxation. Further to authorize the Board Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend any grants for these projects that may be available. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.



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 / 0 abstain</i>

### **Article #28 - Transportation Improvement Capital Reserve Fund**

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 261:153 VI to collect an additional fee of a maximum of five dollars (\$5.00) for the purpose of supporting a municipal and transportation improvement fund, which shall be deposited into a capital reserve fund established for the purpose of supporting Town transportation improvement; and shall the Town authorize the establishment of this Capital Reserve Fund (pursuant to RSA Chapter 35) to be known as the “Transportation Improvement Capital Reserve Fund” for the purpose of funding said improvements; and further to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. Ballot vote required.

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 – 0 yes / 5 no / 1 abstain</i>

### **Article #29 – Great Hill Cemetery Maintenance Fund**

Shall the Town vote to establish a trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289:2-a to be known as the Great Hill Cemetery Maintenance and Expansion Fund for the general maintenance and capital expansion of said cemetery, and to raise and appropriate one dollar (\$1.00) to be placed in this fund, and further to appoint the Great Hill Cemetery Board of Trustees or the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

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 – 1 yes / 5 no / 0 abstain</i>

### **Article #30 – Historical Document Digitization**

Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of eleven thousand five hundred dollars (\$11,500) for the purpose of beginning the digitization of the Town’s historical records collection, and further to authorize the Board Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend any grants for this project that may be available.

Estimated Tax Impact:	\$0.02
<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 / 0 abstain</i>

**Article #31 – Petitioned Warrant Article – Indigenous Peoples Day**

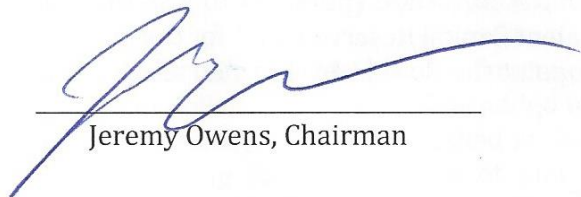
To see if the Town will vote to change our national holiday called Columbus Day and rename it Indigenous Peoples Day in the Town of Chester in order to honor Native Americans, our country's first inhabitants.

**Article #32 – Reports**

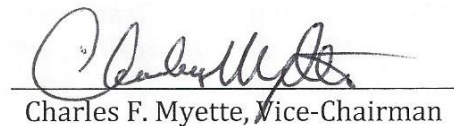
To hear the reports of Agents, Auditors, and Committees of Officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating hereto.

To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

**Chester Board of Selectmen**



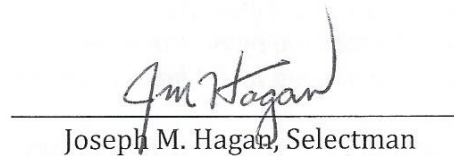
Jeremy Owens, Chairman



Charles F. Myette, Vice-Chairman



Stephen D'Angelo, Selectman



Joseph M. Hagan, Selectman



Stephen O. Landau, Selectman

Date: February 20, 2020