

TOWN OF CHESTER
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2016

RESULTS

Selectman Barbara Huntoon explained that as Moderator Richard Holzman was unable to attend tonight's meeting, she would ask for a motion to elect Susan Kucharski, town clerk, as the temporary Moderator for tonight's meeting.

John Baldasaro made a motion to elect Susan Kucharski as the temporary Moderator, Rene Senecal seconded. Unanimous.

Acting Moderator Susan Kucharski then called the Special town Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present. She began by asking attendees to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTICLE 1. John Baldasaro moved Article 1, seconded by Barbara Huntoon, to **Raise and Appropriate** the sum of **\$165.00** to pay for the balance of the Veteran's Agent Salary account for FY 2017. Vote taken. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 2. Barbara Huntoon moved Article 2, seconded by John Baldasaro, to **Raise and Appropriate** the amount of **\$11,375.00**, to fund the expanded position of Administrative Assistant of the Highway Department, to create the positions of Administrative Assistant to the town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen, as well as the Highway for FY 2017. Discussion held, questions were asked. John Baldasaro explained the reason for this request. All three Selectboard members agree this is a needed addition, given the burden of day to day operations that exists. This position will allow the Town Administrator to concentrate on those duties and projects that will benefit the town by freeing up some of the time expended now by the Administrator. Although not necessary, the BOS will advertise and interview candidates. The pay scale is "up to" \$17.50 per hour depending upon qualifications. After more discussion, vote was taken. **Article 2 passed.** Ayes 18. Nays 17.

ARTICLE 3. John Baldasaro moved Article 3, seconded by Barbara Huntoon, to **Raise and Appropriate** the sum of \$19,240.00 to fund the position of an additional highway employee for FY 2017. After discussion the vote was taken. **Vote did not pass.**

ARTICLE 4. John Baldasaro move Article 4, seconded by Barbara Huntoon, to **Raise and Appropriate** the sum of \$18,969.60 to pay for the benefits of the new position voted under Article 2 for FY 2017. Discussion around benefits, and cost of them. Barbara Huntoon moved to amend the figure to **\$9,484.60** to reflect the amount needed for one position, not two. John Baldasaro seconded. Vote on amendment taken. Unanimous. Question was raised about pension costs for this position. It was explained that at this time the costs are not really available to quote, since it all depends upon how long a person stays,

their age at retirement, salary, etc. Best guess is around 7% at retirement. More discussion took place about the need for benefits, etc. Vote taken. Ayes 24 Nays 14. **Article 4 passes.**

ARTICLE 5. Rene Senecal moved, Barbara Huntoon seconded, **to Raise and Appropriate** the amount of **\$2,000.00** for new computer hardware/software in the Selectmen’s office. It was explained that the computer system is approximately 8 years old, software inadequate for today’s workload, and needs to be updated. Some discussion held. Vote taken. **Article 5 passed with one nay.**

ARTICLE 6. Barbara Huntoon moved, John Baldasaro seconded, **to Raise and Appropriate** the amount of **\$3,500.00** to offset needed monies in the Board of Health for FY 2017. This is a one time request by the BOH to help them defray the costs associated with abandoned and deteriorating properties in town. The BOH at this time does not have the expertise with the Housing Court process, and would hope to learn from this temporary health agent, so that they can become able to proceed themselves in the future. More discussion involving Receivership Programs, etc., all of which are being explored. The BOH reminded voters that through their inspections, etc., the board did bring in over \$4,000 last fiscal year. Vote taken . **Article 6 passed.**

ARTICLE 7. Barbara Huntoon moved Article 7, John Baldasaro seconded, to see if the town will vote to **transfer** from the FY 2017 Assistant town Clerk salary line, to the FY2017 Town clerk’s expense Account, the amount of **\$1,576.00**. This is a one time occurrence, in part due to the “Early Voting” requirements enacted by the State this year. The original budget that was voted on for FY 2017 did not reflect any additional monies for materials or supplies that were needed for the Election, as well as office supplies that the Town Clerk felt were necessary to conduct the business of that office. She made the decision to go without an Assistant for the remainder of the FY in order to purchase the necessary items she felt were necessary. She will have the salary line back in her request for FY 2018. Question were asked about her expenditures so far. She has not deficit spent, but without this transfer, she will have to come back for more funds at some time. More discussion about legality of moving these lines around. That is the reason it is on the warrant. Only town meeting can vote to move them. Vote taken. **Article 7 passed. Ayes 20 Nays 6.**

John Baldasaro moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Barbara Huntoon seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Carlino, Temporary Assistant Town Clerk

Total from Raise and Appropriate	\$26,524.50
Total transfers	\$ 1,576.00