



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

TOWN OF CHESTER

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

HAMPDEN, SS.

To any of the Constables in the Town of Chester in the County of Hampden:

GREETINGS

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Chester qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the **Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Rd, Chester MA on Monday, the 29th day of June, 2020, A.D. at 7:00 P.M.** then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1:

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint such other Town Officials as are not required to be chosen by ballot, or take any other action relative thereto.

Majority vote required

ARTICLE 2:

Compensation

To see if the Town will vote to fix the annual salaries of all elected officials for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 as indicated below; or to take any other action relative thereto:

Majority vote required

Elected Official's Salary	FY2020	Proposed
		FY2021
Selectman	\$2,150.64	\$2,248.33
Selectman	\$2,150.64	\$2,248.33

Selectman	\$2,150.64	\$2,248.33
Assessor Chair	\$1,970.55	\$1,000.00
Assessor Vice Chair	\$1,970.55	\$1,000.00
Assessor	\$538.44	\$1,000.00
Town Moderator	\$200.00	\$200.00
Health Board	\$1,366.00	\$1,401.00
Health Board	\$1,366.00	\$1,401.00
Health Board	\$1,366.00	\$1,401.00

ARTICLE 3

FY2021 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$3,432,673.00 to defray the charges and expenses of the Town, including debt service (principal and interest) and to provide a Reserve Fund, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, as set forth in the attached budget sheet and further, to hear the report of the Finance Committee and act thereon, or to take any other action relative thereto. (please see attached budget sheet)

Majority vote required

ARTICLE 4

Revolving Funds

To see if the Town will vote to set FY2021 spending limits for each of the Town's previously established revolving funds that have been authorized by Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the Massachusetts General Law as indicated below; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Health	\$3,000.00
Plumbing Inspector	\$1,000.00
Wiring Inspector	\$1,000.00
Tax Collector	\$2,000.00
Deputy Collector	\$1,000.00
Police	\$15,000.00

Majority vote required

ARTICLE 5: **Alternative Assessment method for Gateway Regional School District**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,612,008.00 for the Gateway Regional School District as determined using the "Alternative Assessment Method" as set forth in the regional school district agreement for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30,2021; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Last year's figure \$1,581,065.00).

Majority vote required

ARTICLE 6: **Vocational Tuition and Transportation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$249,900 to pay for vocational tuition (\$209,000.00) and transportation (\$40,3000.00) for Chester students for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30,2021; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Last year's figure \$253,985.00).

Majority vote required

ARTICLE 7: **Acceptance of Chapter 90 Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to accept and appropriate funds being provided by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, under the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 90. Such funds to be used to pay costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges; and provided that any unspent funds shall carry over from year to year until expended by the Town or to take any other action relative thereto.

Majority vote required

ARTICLE 8: **CMELD Operations**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the income from the sale of electricity to private consumers, municipal building and jobbing for the Municipal Electric Light Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and to authorize that the whole be expended under the direction and control of the Board of Electric Light Commissioners and Manager:or to take any other action relative thereto.

Majority votes required

ARTICLE 9: **Hilltown Ambulance Replacement Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,825.00 to the Hilltown Ambulance replacement fund or to take any action relative thereto.

Majority vote required

ARTICLE 10: **Fire Truck Replacement Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000 to the Fire Truck Replacement Stabilization Fund, or to take any action relative thereto.

Majority vote required

ARTICLE 11 : **GIS Mapping Services**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,500.00 to upgrade the GIS mapping system in the Assessor's office, provided that any remaining funds will be closed out to the undesignated fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2022; or to take any action relative thereto.

Majority Vote required

ARTICLE 12: **Town Hall Maintenance Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to the Town Hall Maintenance Stabilization Fund; or to take any action relative thereto.

Majority Vote required

ARTICLE 13: **Town's Sanitary Survey**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$45,000.00 to cover the costs for technical assistance with the Town's Sanitary Survey for the Water Department, provided that any remaining funds will be closed out to the undesignated fund balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2022 or to take

Majority vote required

ARTICLE 14:

Highway Truck Replacement

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money not to exceed \$100,000 to fund the purchase of a 2019 F550 Truck with a plow to determine whether to do so by authorizing the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow under Chapter 44, Sec. 7 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority; or to take any other action relative thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE 15:

Quill FY2019 invoice

To see if the Town will vote to authorize payment of an invoice from June 2019 in the amount of \$205.95, or to take any other action relative thereto.

4/5 vote required

ARTICLE 16:

William Street-Acceptance of Public Way

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way, as laid out and reported by the Board of Selectmen, the extension of William Street shown as "Parcel A" on a "Plan of Land to Be Gifted to the Inhabitants of Town of Chester, Massachusetts" by Salvini Associates dated May 9, 2016, and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Plan Book 388, Page 108, a copy of which is on file with Town Clerk; or take any other action in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE 17:

Education Stabilization account

To see if the Town will vote to create a Education Stabilization Fund pursuant to G.L.c.4,ss5B for the purpose to assist of funding assessments made by regional school districts of which the Town is a member community: to appropriate thereto a sum not to exceed \$82,784; and to determine whether to do so by raising and appropriating some or all of said amount from tax levy or by transfer from available funds; or to take any other action relative thereto.

2/3 Vote required

Town of Chester Annual Town Meeting

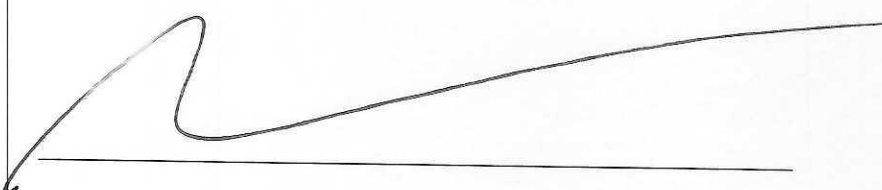
June 29, 2021

7:00 p.m.

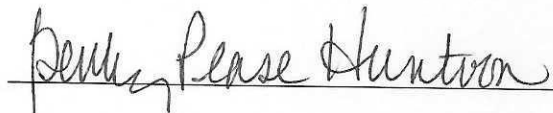
You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting true and attested copies thereof, in three public places within the Town of Chester, seven (7) days at least, before the day and hour of holding said meeting.

Therefore, Fail Not and make due return, of said Warrant with your doing thereon to the Town Clerk of the Town of Chester, at or before the day and hour of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands at Chester, this 19th day of June, 2020



John Baldasaro, Chair

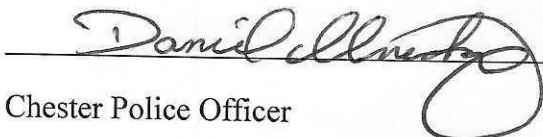


Barbara Pease Huntoon, Vice Chairman



Richard Holzman, Clerk

As per instruction in this Warrant, I have posted same, this 19th day of June 2020 in three public places, Chester Town Hall, Chester Post office, Chester Center.



Chester Police Officer

6/19/2020 10:30a

Date & time

Town of Chester - FY 2021 Budget

6/18/2020

Account:

Line Item

App.
FY 2019

App.
FY 2020

Request
FY 2021

\$ Inc

% Inc

Fincom/SB
FY 2021

Fincom/SB
vs Req.

Moderator	Moderator	\$200	\$200	\$200				\$200	
Finance Comm.	Finance Committee	\$100	\$100	\$100				\$100	
	Reserve Fund	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$10,000		\$7,500	300.0%	\$10,000	
	Total Finance Comm.	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$10,100		\$7,500	288.5%	\$10,100	
Selectmen	Selectboard Salaries	\$6,452	\$6,581	\$6,745	\$164		2.5%	\$6,745	
	Town Administrator	\$38,256	\$39,350	\$52,000	\$12,650		32.1%	\$45,675	-\$6,325
	Assistant Administrator	\$22,013	\$4,000	\$6,656	\$2,656		66.4%	\$6,656	
	Selectmen's Expenses	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000				\$2,000	
	Town Counsel Service	\$7,000	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$1,500		27.3%	\$7,000	
	General Office Expense	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000				\$3,000	
	Town Report	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$750				\$750	
	Inspectors certification costs	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500		100.0%	\$500	
	Total Selectmen	\$80,221	\$61,431	\$78,651	\$17,470		28.4%	\$72,326	-\$6,325
Accounting	Accountant's Salary	\$15,427	\$16,427	\$17,525	\$1,098		6.7%	\$17,525	
	Accounting expenses	\$750	\$750	\$1,225	\$475		63.3%	\$1,225	
	Audit expense	\$0	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$1,000		6.3%	\$0	-\$17,000
	Software expense	\$2,500	\$2,940	\$2,785	-\$155		-5.3%	\$2,785	
	Total Accounting	\$18,677	\$36,117	\$38,535	\$2,418		6.7%	\$21,535	-\$17,000
Assessors	Board of Assessors	\$4,480	\$4,480	\$4,480				\$3,000	-\$1,480
	Principal Assessor	\$26,474	\$0						
	Assessor's Clerk	\$7,164	\$11,164	\$14,000	\$2,836		25.4%	\$14,000	
	Assessor's Clerk Assistant			\$4,000	\$4,000		100.0%	\$4,000	
	Assessors maps	\$1,875	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$1,000		33.3%	\$4,000	
	Consultant/Services	\$3,000	\$33,000	\$33,825	\$825		2.5%	\$33,825	
	Assessors expenses	\$3,500	\$1,750	\$1,750				\$1,750	

Town of Chester - FY 2021 Budget

6/18/2020

Account:	Line Item	App.		App.		Request		\$ Inc	% Inc	Fincom/SB		Fincom/SB vs Req.
		FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2021	FY 2021			FY 2021		
	Assessors schooling	\$1,000	\$500		\$500					\$500		
	Assessors software	\$500	\$3,750		\$3,750					\$3,750		
	Total Assessors	\$47,993	\$57,644		\$66,305		\$8,661	15.0%		\$64,825	-\$1,480	
Treasurer	Treasurer Salaries	\$12,127	\$14,127		\$14,494		\$367	2.6%		\$14,494		
	Training/School	\$800	\$500				-\$500	-100.0%		\$500	\$500	
	Payroll	\$1,900	\$2,100		\$2,100					\$2,100		
	Treasures expenses	\$1,800	\$2,235		\$2,500		\$265	11.9%		\$2,500		
	Software	\$2,156	\$2,221		\$2,785		\$564	25.4%		\$2,785		
	Bank charges	\$100	\$100		\$100					\$100		
	Land Court fees	\$10,000	\$10,000		\$10,000					\$10,000		
	Total Treasurer	\$28,883	\$31,283		\$31,979		\$696	2.2%		\$32,479	\$500	
Collector	Collectors Salary	\$18,650	\$19,023		\$19,500		\$477	2.5%		\$19,988	\$488	
	Software Support	\$208	\$208		\$208					\$208		
	Collectors Expenses	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$5,000					\$5,000		
	Tax Taking	\$2,000	\$2,000		\$2,000					\$2,000		
	Total Collector	\$25,858	\$26,231		\$26,708		\$477	1.8%		\$27,196	\$488	
Town Clerk	Town Clerk Salaries	\$8,063	\$10,111		\$14,000		\$3,889	38.5%		\$12,000	-\$2,000	
	Town Clerk Expenses	\$2,025	\$2,175		\$2,375		\$200	9.2%		\$2,375		
	Elections	\$5,400	\$4,000		\$5,400		\$1,400	35.0%		\$5,400		
	Registrations	\$1,270	\$1,270		\$1,000		-\$270	-21.3%		\$1,000		
	Total Town Clerk	\$16,758	\$17,556		\$22,775		\$5,219	29.7%		\$20,775	-\$2,000	
Conserv. Com.	Conservation Commission	\$300	\$300		\$300					\$300		
Planning Board	Planning Board Expense	\$200	\$200		\$200					\$200		
Zoning Board	Zoning Board of Appeals	\$200	\$300		\$300					\$300		
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		\$221,890	\$233,862		\$276,053		\$42,191	18.0%		\$250,236	-\$9,305	
PUBLIC WORKS												

6/18/2020

Page 3

Town of Chester - FY 2021 Budget

6/18/2020

Account:	Line Item	App. FY 2019	App. FY 2020	Request FY 2021	\$ Inc	% Inc	Fincom/SB FY 2021	Fincom/SB vs Req.
	Transfer Station Attend.	\$5,999	\$6,119	\$6,272	\$153	2.5%	\$6,272	
	Transfer Station Asst.		\$4,550	\$4,664	\$114	2.5%	\$4,664	
	Board of Health Exp.	\$1,300	\$1,400	\$1,400			\$1,400	
	Transfer Station Exp.	\$35,000	\$36,000	\$43,000	\$7,000	19.4%	\$43,000	
	HRMC Membership		\$7,000	\$0	-\$7,000	-100.0%	\$0	
	Total Board of Health	\$46,319	\$59,169	\$59,538	\$369	0.6%	\$59,538	
	Historical Comm.	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$2,500	\$700	38.9%	\$2,500	
	Council on Aging							
	COA Dir. Salary	\$10,034	\$10,235	\$10,491	\$256	2.5%	\$10,491	
	Van Service	\$3,500	\$1,000	\$1,000			\$1,000	
	COA Expenses	\$4,500	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	0.0%	\$7,000	
	Administrative Projects	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000			\$0	-\$1,000
	Total Council of Aging	\$19,034	\$19,235	\$19,491	\$256	1.3%	\$18,491	-\$1,000
	Veterans							
	Veterans Agent Assmt't	\$6,021	\$6,258	\$6,668	\$410	6.6%	\$6,668	
	Veteran Benefits/Serv.	\$45,000	\$47,000	\$47,000		0.0%	\$47,000	
	Total Veterans	\$51,021	\$53,258	\$53,668	\$410	0.8%	\$53,668	
	Memorial Day	\$500	\$500	\$500			\$500	
	Rec. Comm.							
	Recreation Dept.	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$500	50.0%	\$2,500	\$1,000
	Library							
	Library Salaries	\$23,916	\$24,394	\$25,004	\$610	2.5%	\$25,004	
	Library Expenses	\$13,316	\$15,058	\$15,435	\$377	2.5%	\$15,435	
	MassCat Annual Fee	\$900	\$900	\$900			\$900	
	Total Library	\$38,132	\$40,352	\$41,339	\$987	2.4%	\$41,339	
	Insp. Of Animals							
	Animal Insp. Salary	\$861	\$880	\$902	\$22	2.5%	\$902	
	Animal Expenses	\$400	\$500	\$500			\$500	
	Total Insp. Of Animals	\$1,261	\$1,380	\$1,402	\$22	1.6%	\$1,402	

Town of Chester - FY 2021 Budget

6/18/2020

Account:		Line Item	App. FY 2019	App. FY 2020	Request FY 2021	\$ Inc	% Inc	Fincom/SB FY 2021	Fincom/SB vs Req.
TOTAL HEALTH/WELEFARE/CULTURE/REC.			\$158,817	\$176,694	\$179,938	\$3,244	1.8%	\$179,938	-\$1,000
PUBLIC SAFETY									
Fire Dept.		Fire Chief Salary	\$4,918	\$5,016	\$5,144	\$128	2.5%	\$5,144	
		Fire Dept. Wages	\$1,584	\$1,584	\$1,584			\$1,584	
		Fire Dept. Expenses	\$35,500	\$35,500	\$35,500			\$35,500	
		Civil Defense/E.M.A.	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000			\$1,000	
		Turn out Gear	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$10,000			\$10,000	
		Total Fire Dept.	\$50,002	\$53,100	\$53,228	\$128	0.2%	\$53,228	
Police Dept.		Police Department Salaries	\$40,409	\$41,210	\$45,000	\$3,790	9.2%	\$45,000	
		Police Expenses	\$36,056	\$36,556	\$32,450	-\$4,106	-11.2%	\$32,450	
		Total Police Dept.	\$76,465	\$77,766	\$77,450	-\$316	-0.4%	\$77,450	
Ambulance		Total Ambulance	\$28,414	\$29,977	\$31,626	\$1,649	5.5%	\$31,626	
Bldg. Insp.		Building Insp. Salary	\$6,536	\$8,613	\$9,615	\$1,002	11.6%	\$9,615	
		Building Insp. Exp.	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$750	-\$750	-50.0%	\$750	
		Total Bldg. Insp.	\$7,536	\$10,113	\$10,365	\$252	2.5%	\$10,365	
Animal Control		Animal Control. Off.Sal.	\$1,293	\$1,319	\$1,352	\$33	2.5%	\$1,352	
		Animal Ctrl. Expenses	\$400	\$1,500	\$1,500			\$1,500	
		Total Animal Control	\$1,693	\$2,819	\$2,852	\$33	1.2%	\$2,852	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY			\$164,110	\$173,775	\$175,521	\$1,746	1.0%	\$175,521	
Debt & Int.		Water Trmt. Plant	\$29,479	\$29,479	\$29,479			\$29,479	
		Short term debt	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000			\$1,000	
		2016 Dump Truck (Last Pmt)	\$45,404	\$44,447	\$43,490	-\$957	-2.2%	\$43,490	
		Total Debt & Interest	\$75,883	\$74,926	\$73,969	-\$957	-1.3%	\$73,969	

Town of Chester - FY 2021 Budget

6/18/2020

Account:		Line Item	App. FY 2019	App. FY 2020	Request FY 2021	\$ Inc	% Inc	Fincom/SB FY 2021	Fincom/SB vs Req.
Unclassified Expenses									
Selectmen/	Town Hall Custodian		\$4,451	\$5,777	\$5,922	\$145	2.5%	\$5,922	
Town Hall	Town Hall Expenses		\$15,200	\$17,500	\$19,000	\$1,500	8.6%	\$18,000	-\$1,000
	Town Hall Rep/Maint.		\$8,000	\$18,000	\$15,000	-\$3,000	-16.7%	\$12,000	-\$3,000
	Town Hall Internet &Phone		\$11,600	\$12,055	\$16,000	\$3,945	32.7%	\$16,000	
	Total Selectmen/Town Hall		\$39,251	\$53,332	\$55,922	\$2,590	4.9%	\$51,922	-\$4,000
Street Lighting	Street Lighting		\$7,550	0				0	
Insurance/	Prop/Cas/Auto/Liab. Ins.		\$25,000	\$26,000	\$28,000	\$2,000	7.7%	\$28,000	
Retirement	Police/Fire/Accd. & Health		\$8,100	\$8,200	\$8,200			\$8,200	
	Workmen's Comp.		\$3,400	\$7,000	\$8,635	\$1,635	23.4%	\$8,635	
	Group Health Ins.		\$112,331	\$72,000	\$80,500	\$8,500	11.8%	\$80,500	
	Medicare/FICA Empl.		\$7,100	\$7,100	\$9,880	\$2,780	39.2%	\$9,880	
	Unemployment Comp.		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$5,400	\$2,400	80.0%	\$5,400	
	County Retirement		\$86,499	\$95,870	\$105,144	\$9,274	9.7%	\$105,144	
	Bonds		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000			\$1,000	
	Total Insurance/Retirement		\$246,430	\$220,170	\$246,759	\$26,589	12.1%	\$246,759	
Selectmen Misc.	Landfill Monitoring		\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500			\$3,500	
Econ. Dev.	Economic Development		\$12,300	\$14,000	\$14,000			\$14,000	
TOTAL DEBT/INT/UNCLASSIFIED/ECON			\$384,914	\$365,928	\$394,150	\$28,222	7.7%	\$390,150	-\$4,000
TOWN MEETING RAISE & APPROPRIATE			\$1,442,025	\$1,529,789	\$1,616,880	\$87,091	5.7%	\$1,570,765	-\$46,116
								\$40,976	
								2.68%	
SCHOOL BUDGET									
Gateway	Alliterative Method (2021)		\$1,522,246	\$1,581,065	\$1,612,008	\$30,943	1.96%	\$1,612,008	

Town of Chester - FY 2021 Budget

6/18/2020

Account:	Line Item	App. FY 2019	App. FY 2020	Request FY 2021	\$ Inc	% Inc	Fincom/SB FY 2021	Fincom/SB vs Req.
Vocational	Student Cost	\$145,000	\$213,985	\$209,600	-\$4,385	-2.0%	\$209,600	
	Transportation	\$5,000	\$40,000	\$40,300	\$300	0.8%	\$40,300	
	Total Vocational	\$150,000	\$253,985	\$249,900	-\$4,085.00	-1.6%	\$249,900	
TOTAL BUDGET		\$3,114,271	\$3,364,839	\$3,478,788	\$113,949	3.4%	\$3,432,673	
				2.5%	\$84,121	\$29,828	\$67,834	
						\$16,287	2.02%	-\$46,116

Vocational Student Cost = 11 students (Smith 6, Westfield 5) @ \$18,400 per student plus \$7,200 for 1 SPED student = \$209,600

Note: If Statutory Method prevails in Gateway Budget, Chester appropriation will be reduced by **\$82,784**. Recommend this amount be placed in Education Stabilization Fund to offset future Statutory increases.

Stabilization Fund 5/18/20	\$433,280	FREE CASH 4/13/20	\$120,575
		Chapter 90 (Pending)	\$52,646

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