



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

TOWN OF CHESTER

Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Rd, Chester MA

Monday, the 29th day of June, 2020, A.D. at 7:00 P.M

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Town Moderator Melvyn Hook at 7:00pm.

Present were 31 register voters.

Bob Daley asked that tonight's meeting be dedicated to Eugene Waters. The Moderator so moved.

Paula Beck made a motion to bundle Articles 1-8, James Higby seconded the motion, vote was unanimous.

Moderator read the Articles 1 through 8.

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.

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:

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

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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
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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)

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

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).

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).

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.

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.

John Baldasaro asked that Andy Myers delivers the report of the Finance Committee. Andy said there were 6 members on the committee (Bob Daley, John Foley, Jason Forgue, Sister Judith Dalesandro and Jonathan Guilani) and that they were able to meet before the COVID 19 issues started. They met with most of the departments and were able to put together a good budget. John Baldasaro made a motion to accept the Finance Committee report, Barbara Huntoon seconds the motion Moderator calls for a vote to accept the Finance Committee report, vote is unanimous. John Baldasaro makes a motion to accept Article 1 through 8 as read Richard Holzman seconds the motion, Moderator called for a vote of Articles 1 through 8, Articles pass unanimous

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.

Barbara Huntoon makes a motion to accept article as read, Richard Holzman seconds the motion, Moderator calls for discussion, seeing none calls for a vote. Article passes unanimous.

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.

John Baldasaro makes a motion to accept article as read, Richard Holzman seconds the motion, Moderator calls for discussion, Barbara Huntoon says that this is the second year that the Town will be adding to the Fund which was set up last year. Moderator calls for a vote. Article passes unanimous.

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.

Barbara Huntoon makes a motion to accept article as read, John Baldasaro seconds the motion, Moderator calls for discussion, John Foley asks what the undesignated fund balance means. John Baldasaro says that is money that will go back to Free Cash. Jason Forgue says by putting a date on the funds, the money is put in a time frame to be spent. Moderator calls for a vote. Article passes unanimous.

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.

Barbara Huntoon makes a motion to accept article as read, John Baldasaro seconds the motion, Moderator calls for discussion, seeing none, calls for a vote. Article passes unanimous.

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 any other action relative thereto.

Richard Holzman makes a motion to accept article as read, Barbara Huntoon seconds the motion, Moderator calls for discussion, Michelle Kenney asks what is the Sanitary Survey. Barbara Huntoon asks that James Higby speak to this, James explains that it is required to be done by Massachusetts DEP every three years. It is very extensive and includes capital planning and capital asset planning. Since the Water Dept runs on a very small budget these extra funds are needed. Moderator calls for a vote. Article passes unanimous.

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.

John Baldasaro makes a motion to amend the article to include a 2016 F250 Truck with 8ft stainless plow. He explains that the 2007 F550 frame has rotted out and when the state bid came out it was much lower than the previous numbers and that is why he amends to purchase the second truck. Barbara Huntoon makes a motion to accept the amended article, John Baldasaro seconds the motion, Moderator calls for a vote on the amendment, vote is unanimous. Moderator asks if there is any discussion on the article, Mary Ann Pease asks if the sanders will fit not the new trucks, Highway Superintendent says they will. Moderator calls for a vote, Article passes unanimous

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.

Barbara Huntoon makes a motion to accept article as read, John Baldasaro seconds the motion, Moderator calls for discussion, James Higby asks what is the invoice from, Town Administrator Kathe Warden says its from a purchase made on June 30, 2020 made by the Town Clerk office, Moderator calls for a vote. Article passes unanimous.

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.

John Baldasaro makes a motion to accept article as read, Richard Holzman seconds the motion, Moderator calls for discussion, Michele Kenney asks why this is necessary. John Baldasaro explains that the property was gifted to the Town in 2015 and that the road needs to be extended to create a cul-de-sac so that emergency vehicles can turn around. Moderator calls for a vote. Article passes unanimous.

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.

Barbara Huntoon makes a motion to accept article as read, Richard Holzman seconds the motion, Moderator calls for discussion, seeing none, calls for a vote. Article passes unanimous.

John Baldasaro asks the Moderator that he may address the Meeting. Moderator allows it. John wanted to thank Shirley Wiener for her 25 years as a school committee member.

Chief Ilnicky asks the Moderator that he may address the Meeting. Moderator allows it. Chief Ilnicky explained that he would like to read a statement he prepared. (Actual statement as follows) "I just wanted to take a pause amidst everything going on and extend my appreciation to the Select Board, Administrator, other departments and the citizens of our community. As the Chief of Police, and the administrator of the Chester-Blandford Police Department I want each of you to know how much your support, words and acts of encouragement have meant to your officers and myself.

We have been through a lot together over the last year. From working through the shared police services project, the recent COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest around the world.

One thing has remained constant. That is the incredible support the police department has received. You have come to know our police services as community based, working with you to create a better environment for all to enjoy. I think by now you understand our officers to be compassionate, unbiased and to treat each person as a PERSON regardless of the situation or circumstances.

I look forward to continuing our progressive police services, elevating awareness, leading by example and demonstrating that we coexist in a collaborative and transparent police services environment. I invite everyone to be a part of our role and provide your input to enhance our operations."

John Baldasaro makes a motion to end the meeting, Barbara Huntoon seconds the motion.

Moderator Melvyn Hook declares the meeting closed at 7:31pm, June 29, 2020

A True Copy, Attest

Rosemary Daliscandro
Town Clerk