



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Town of Chester

Special Town Meeting – February 16, 2022

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 Elections and town affairs to meeting in the Chester Town Hall Auditorium, 15 Middlefield Road in said Town on Wednesday February 16, 2022, at 6:30pm in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds of Free Cash, \$936.97 to the following accounts for invoices not paid in FY2021

Water Dept. General Expense	\$386.72	USA Blue Book
Transfer Station General Expense	\$200.00	White Wolf
Board of Health Salary	\$350.25	Greg Harrison

9/10 Majority required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read and Richard Holzman seconded.

After brief discussion the article was passed 29-Yes 0-No 31 registered voters present

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Board of Health Clerk Account to the Board of Health General Expense the sum of \$7,700 to cover the set-up expense of Permit Eyes program.

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read and Richard Holzman seconded.

Majority Voted Yes

A True Copy, Attest

Tom M. Dan

2/24/22 Town Clerk



Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds of Free Cash \$3,880 to cover the remaining set-up expense of the Permit Eyes Program.

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read and Richard Holzman seconded.

Majority voted yes.

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds of Free Cash to the Police Dept. General Expense Account, \$9,279.86 to cover Firearms & In-service Training and 2018 Cruiser payment.

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read and Richard Holzman seconded.

Majority voted yes.

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds of Free Cash \$2,825.00 to cover the Hilltown Ambulance Replacement Fund assessment

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read and Richard Holzman seconded.

Majority voted yes.

Article 6

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds of Free Cash \$25,000.00 to the Fire Truck Capital Fund.

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read and Richard Holzman seconded.

Majority voted yes.

Article 7

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds of Free Cash \$10,000 to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Fund.

A True Copy, Attest

Tina M. Dan
Town Clerk 2/24/22

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read and Richard Holzman seconded.

Majority voted yes.

Article 8

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available fund of Free Cash \$10,000 to the Town Road Repair Capital Fund

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read and Richard Holzman seconded.

Majority voted yes.

Article 9

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to convey a certain land locked property located off Middlefield Road and show on the Town of Chester Property Maps on Map 406 as Lot 4, known as the Fay-Gobble Mountain Lot, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, as described in a deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 1571, Page 409, on such terms and conditions and for such consideration, as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town; and, further, to authorize the Select Board to take any other action deemed appropriate in relation thereto.

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read and Richard Holzman seconded.

Andrew Myers outlined the article for everyone. Ownership of the lot has been undetermined for years, Mass Fish and Wildlife is willing to have it surveyed and pay full appraisal value for the lot, Andy recommends voting yes.

R Duane Pease asked if the lot boarded the watershed.

Andy said it does not.

Nick Chiusano asked if it would affect the Arch trail.

Andy said this lot would not and they are negotiating an easement to connect a trail in this lot to the Arch Trail.

John Baldasaro said this lot is on the backside of the mountain it is landlocked and he feels this would be a good deal for the town.

After a little more discussion vote was taken 29-Yes 2-No 35 registered voters present

A True Copy, Attest

Tom M. Dan

Town Clerk 2/24/22

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a General Bylaw the following, which will replace the 1933 Finance Committee Bylaw, as written or to take any other action in connection therewith.

The Finance Committee

Section 1. Composition

There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of five to seven members. No member of the Selectboard shall be eligible to serve on said committee. The Moderator shall make appointments. All appointments shall be for a term of three years.

The members of the Committee shall serve without salary. The Committee shall choose its own Chairman and Clerk.

Section 2. Powers

The Finance Committee shall consider matters relating to the appropriation, the borrowing, and the expenditures of money by the town; its indebtedness; the methods of administration of its various officers and departments; property valuation and assessments; and other town affairs, and may make recommendations to the town, to any town board, officer, or committee, relative to such matters.

Section 3. The Budget Process

Beginning on January 1 of each year, the Town Administrator will request from all town officers, boards, and commissions, detailed estimates of the amounts deemed by them to be necessary for the administration of their respective offices for the ensuing fiscal year. These Budget Requests which will be collected by the Town Administrator and then forwarded to the Finance Committee for their review on or around February 1 of each year.

A True Copy, Attest

Tam M. Dan

Town Clerk

2/24/22



The Committee shall duly consider said estimates and may confer with said officers, boards, commissions, and committees, and may hold a public hearing, if deemed desirable.

After further deliberation, the committee shall issue its recommendations to the Selectboard. It is the responsibility of the Selectboard to finalize the budget and prepare the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

The committee shall issue a report detailing the matters it has considered and include the recommendations or suggestions relative to the departmental requests. The committee shall also highlight any alternate recommendations they may have in relation to the recommendations of the Selectboard.

The report shall be published and distributed at least seven days before the business session of the annual town meeting. This report shall also contain a statement of the doings of the committee during the year and may include recommendations on any matter pertaining to the welfare of the town.

The report shall also be delivered at the town meeting to either approve or disapprove the amounts requested on the Budget, in whole or in part, for all officers, boards, commissions and committees of the town.

The committee shall also consider the proposed fiscal requests of all officers, boards, commissions, and committees to be made at any special town meeting. The committee shall make a report on all said requests and issue recommendations relative thereto. Said report shall be published or distributed at least three days before any special meeting.

Any proposed article for any town meeting which anticipates an expenditure of town funds shall be referred to the finance committee at least 15 days before the posting of the warrant. The finance committee shall consider all such articles and shall issue its recommendations to the town meeting to approve and or disapprove in whole or in part of the proposed expenditure and shall notify the board, officer, committee, or individual(s) which submitted the request.

When an expenditure or appropriation is sought by a department under the control of the board of selectmen, the proposal for such expenditure or appropriation shall be submitted to the finance committee by the board of selectmen.

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read and Richard Holzman seconded.

Andy Meyers discussed the article and expressed his views for it.

A True Copy, Attest


Town Clerk

John Baldasaro cautioned against it, stating we have a limited pool of qualified people that are willing to fill these positions and if we accept it we may run into trouble getting people.

R Duane Pease stated he thinks it is wise to have a selectboard member on the finance committee.

Richard Holzman stated there have been no problems in the past, but he feels we should not let a selectboard member be on the Finance Committee.

James Higby stated the bylaw does not restrict anyone from participating in the process anyone can join in the meetings and have input.

After further discussion vote was taken

17-Yes 15-No 35 registered voters present

Article passed



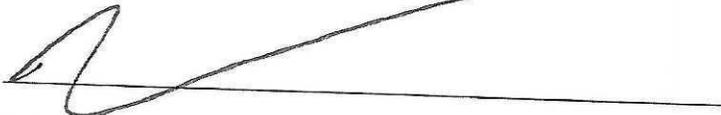
A True Copy, Attest

Tom M. Dan
Town Clerk
2/24/22

You are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting true and attested copies thereof, in three public places within the Town of Chester, fourteen (14) 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.

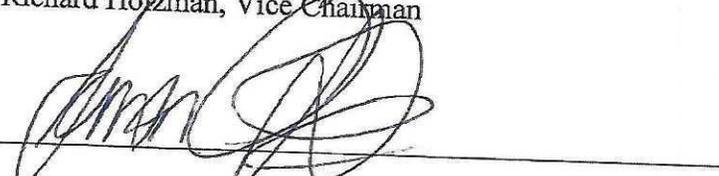
Given under our hands at Chester, this 31st day of January 2022.



John Baldasaro, Chair



Richard Holzman, Vice Chairman



Jason Forgue, Clerk

As per instruction in this Warrant, I have posted same, this 2nd day of February 2022, in three public places, Chester Town Hall, Chester Post Office, Chester Center.



Chester Police Officer

A True Copy, Attest



Town Clerk

2/24/22

