



**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 at **Chester Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Rd, Chester MA on Monday, the 13th day of June 2022, A.D. at 7:00 P.M** for the following purposes:

ARTICLE 1:

To see if the Town will vote 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

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read, Richard Holzman seconded. No discussion.

1 - No Vote 75 -Yes votes 76 - Registered voters present Article approved

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, 2022, to June 30, 2023, as indicated below; or to take any other action relative thereto:

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the motion as read; Richard Holzman seconded.

Gail Tingley asked why the Assessors stipend was decreased, Rosemary Dalesandro (Finance Committee) said it have not been, that was a clerical error.

7- No Votes 71- Yes Votes 78 Registered voters present Article approved

A True Copy, Attest

Tom M. Dew

6/17/22

Elected Official's Salary	FY2022	Proposed FY2023	Per Member Stipend
Select Board (3)	\$6,879.99	\$7,224.00	\$2,408.00
Assessors (3)	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$500.00
Town Moderator	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Health Board (3)	\$4,287.00	\$4,501.00	\$1,500.33

ARTICLE 3 **FY2023 Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of **\$3,457,779.00** 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, 2022 to June 30, 2023, 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 separate budget sheet)*

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read, Richard Holzman seconded.
 Rosemary Dalesandro spoke about having a hard time accepting the large increases for Town Admn. And TA assist will be getting paid more than Town Clerk and Assessor clerk.
 John Baldasaro said that selectboard and finance committee had agreed on this line item. The TA is increasing hours. A motion was made to leave TA hours at 32 by Donald Stenico, seconded by Gail Tingley, That vote Failed with only 12 - yes votes.
 Brian Otterbeck stated with the hour increase we are only talking about a 1.89 dollar increase and he felt that was not a big deal to argue about. Andy Meyers said finance committee had agreed to raise although it was not unanimous.

Gail Tingley asked for a motion to vote on budget line by line that was then withdrawn.

John Baldasaro said we could vote section by section that was agreed on.

Section: Total General Government: 6-No Votes, 77- Yes Votes Approved 83 Registered Voters present

Section: Total Public Works: 7- No Votes 76- Yes Votes Approved

Section: Total Health/ Welfare/Culture: 2- No Votes 81- Yes Votes Approved

Section : Total Public Safety:

Bob Daley made a motion to change Police Budget to suggested amount by finance committee , Gail Tingley seconded. 19- Yes Votes, 66- No Votes. Motion Fails

Total Public Safety Budget Vote 3- No Votes, 82- Yes votes, 85-Registered voters present

Section: Total Debt/Int/Unclassified 2-No Votes, 84- Yes Votes, 86- Registered Voters present

Article approved

A True Copy, Attest

ARTICLE 4

Revolving Funds

Tom M. Dan
Town Clerk 6/17/22

To see if the Town will vote to set FY2023 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 Detail Fees	\$15,000.00

A True Copy, Attest

Tom Dan 6/17/22
Town Clerk
Majority vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read, Richard Holzman Seconded,

3- No Votes 83- Yes Votes, 86- registered voters present

Article approved

ARTICLE 5: FY2021 Invoices

To see if the Town will vote to authorize payment from Free Cash of the following invoices from FY2021 or take any other action relative thereto.

David Wickle-Board of Health	\$2,683.90
Verizon- Town Hall	\$273.49
CMELD-Board of Health	\$ 42.21
CMELD-Fire Dept	\$151.46
CMELD-Fire Dept - Gas/Diesel	\$ 89.28
White Wolf - Board of Health	\$200.00
Water Dept - Fire Dept	\$ 43.88
TOTAL	\$3,484.14

Four-fifths vote required

Jason Forgue accepted the article as read, Richard Holzman seconded

2- No Votes 84-Yes vote, 86- registered voters present

Article approved

ARTICLE 6 Regional School District Agreement

To see if the Town Will vote to accept the revised Regional School District Agreement, which governs the relationship between Gateway Regional School District and all member towns to be in compliance with M.G.L. c 71 s14 through 16, a copy of which is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

Majority vote required

Jason Forgue accepted the article as read, Richard Holzman seconded

2- No votes, 84- Yes votes 86- Registered voters present Article Approved

A True Copy, Attest

Tom W. Dan
Town Clerk 6/17/22

ARTICLE 7: Alternative Assessment for Gateway Regional School Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,668,209.00 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 of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023 or to take any other action relative thereto. (Last year’s figure \$1,635,333.00) **Majority vote required.**

Donald Ellershaw accepted the article as read, Gail Tingley seconded.

Select Board said they are voting no because we use the statutory assessment method

1- Yes vote, 85- No votes 86- Registered voters present Article Fails

ARTICLE 8: Statutory Assessment Method for the Gateway Regional School Budget

In the event the “Alternative Assessment Method” for the Gateway Regional School budget does not pass in all six Gateway towns, and the “Statutory Assessment Method” is adopted, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,572,329.00 for the Gateway Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 or take any other action thereto. (Last year’s figure \$1,635,333.00) **Majority vote required**

Donald Ellershaw accepted the article as read, Andrew Myers seconded

2- No votes 84- Yes votes 86- Registered voters present Article approved

ARTICLE 9: Vocational Tuition and Transportation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$212,307.00 to pay for vocational tuition (\$171,000.00) and transportation (\$41,307.00) for Chester’s students for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Last year’s figure \$215,692.00). **Majority vote required**

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read, Donald Ellershaw seconded it

**0- No Votes 86- Yes votes 86 -Registered voters present
Article Approved**

Tam M. Dan

6/13/22
Town Clerk

ARTICLE 10: Revote FY22 Education Stabilization Transfer

To see if the town will vote to re-authorize the transfer of \$23,325.00 from the Educational Stabilization Account to pay part of the Town's assessment for the Gateway Regional School budget or take any action there to.

Two-thirds Majority Vote

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read, Richard Holzman seconded

1- No votes, 84- Yes votes 85- Registered voters present Article Approved

ARTICLE 11: 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

Jason Forgue accepted the article as read, John Baldasaro seconded

2- No votes 83 - Yes votes 85-Registered voters present Article Approved

ARTICLE 12: 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 July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, 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 vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the motion as read, Jason Forgue seconded

0- No votes 85- Yes votes Article approved

ARTICLE 13: Energy Committee

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to establish and appoint an Energy Committee with the input from the Chester Municipal Electric Light Commissioners, such committee to consist of 5 town residents working on a voluntary basis, for the purpose of reviewing opportunities to reduce energy costs by generating green energy (solar, wind and hydro), investigating the possibility of storing energy for peak periods utilizing advanced battery technology,

preparing estimates of investments required to generate power, seeking grant opportunities, and reviewing the advantages, disadvantages and feasibility of merging the Chester Municipal Electric Light Department with a larger electric utility company; provided that such committee shall be appointed within 30 days, shall elect its own chair and shall report its initial findings and recommendations at a Special Town Meeting in the fall of 2022; or to take any other action relative thereto. **Majority vote required**

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

Deryk Savoy asked what is the end game of this article.

John said it is to have an independent group to look into if the town is getting the best rates and options for its solar power and green energy.

0- No votes 83- Yes votes 86- Registered voters present Article approved

ARTICLE 14: Establish a Water Dept Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, s. 53F1/2 establishing the water department as an enterprise fund effective Fiscal Year 2023, or to take any other action in connection therewith. **Majority vote required**

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read, Richard Holzman seconded

0- No votes 86- Registered voters present Article approved

ARTICLE 15: Raise and appropriate funds for the Chester Water Dept Enterprise fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Chester Water Department or take any other action thereon.

That the following sums be appropriated for the Chester Water Department

Water Dept. Salaries	\$ 44,805.00
Commissioners Stipends	\$ 2,100.00
Water Department Operations	\$ 43,000.00
Contract Services	\$ 24,000.00
Debt Service	\$ 29,479.00
Total to be raised	\$143,384.00

Department anticipated receipts	\$113,905.00
General Fund Subsidy	\$ 29,479.00
Total expenditures	\$143,384.00

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Majority vote required

Tom M. Dan

Town Clerk 6/17/22

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

0-No Votes 86- Registered voters present Article Approved

ARTICLE 16: Establishment of a Police Cruiser Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Departmental Revolving Fund Bylaw by adding the following to the table of revolving funds:

Police Department: Fees charged in connection with police details for the presence of a police cruiser shall be deposited and may be used by the Police Chief, with the approval of the Select Board, to pay for the purchase, maintenance and repair of police cruisers and related equipment. For Fiscal Years 2023 and subsequent years or take any other action thereon.

Majority Vote Required

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

2- No votes 84- Yes votes 86- Registered voters present Article approved

ARTICLE 17: Establish the limits for the Police Dept Cruiser Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to set \$25,000 total authorized expenditures from the revolving fund created under Article 16 in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, ss 53E 1/2 for Fiscal Year 2023 or to take any action thereto.

Majority Vote Required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read, Terry Donovan seconded.

2- No votes 83- Yes votes 86- Registered voters present Article approved

ARTICLE 18: 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 thereto.

Majority Vote Required

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

0- No Votes 86 Registered voters present Article approved

ARTICLE 19: Reduce Uncollectable Tax Burden

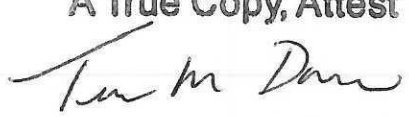
To see if the Town will vote transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$62,287.45 or any other amount there to, to increase the Assessors Overlay Account to cover the uncollected taxes for the Fiscal Year 1987-2005 or to take any other action thereto.

Majority Vote Required

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

Elaine Gilmore asked why so long ago.

A True Copy, Attest



John said it has been on the books forever auditors suggested to clean up the bookkeeping issue this way.

0- No votes 85- registered voters present Article approved

ARTICLE 20: Vote to Make Assessors Positions Appointed

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the Legislature to enact special legislation providing the position of Assessors, upon expiration of the current terms of incumbents holding those positions, shall cease to be elected positions and shall instead become positions appointed by the Board of Selectmen, provided that the Legislature may reasonably varying the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Majority Vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read, Jason Forgue seconded.

7- No votes 83- Registered voters present Article approved

ARTICLE 21: Hunting by Written Permission Only Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote to adopt as a General Bylaw the following" Hunting by Written Permission Only Bylaw." Or to take any other action in connection therewith:

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt on any private property in the town of Chester, Massachusetts without first obtaining the written permission by the landowner or person in possession or control of such lands and having authority from the owner to give such permission. Any person who hunts on such lands shall have written permission in his or her immediate

possession at all times and shall display the same upon request of an environmental law enforcement officer, local police or person in possession or control of such lands.

A copy of the written permission must also be displayed on the dashboard of the parked vehicle while hunting and must be visible for law enforcement officers and the landowner to view from the exterior of the parked vehicle.

This bylaw shall be enforced by the police. Violators are subject to a fine of one hundred (\$100) dollars for the first offense and two hundred (\$200) dollars for a second offense within a twenty-four (24) month period.

Written permission for hunting on private property must be renewed on an annual basis.

Written permission must include the following information:

1. Name of authorized hunter who has been granted permission.

A True Copy, Attest



Town Clerk 6/17/22

2. Contact phone number of authorized hunters who has been granted permission.
3. Name, signature, and contact phone number of property owner or person in possession or control of such lands and having authority from the owner to give such permission.
4. Address or location of property
5. Date of granted permission.
6. Period for which permission is granted (start and end date; cannot exceed one year).

A completed hunting agreement card is required and must be obtained by the landowner or their designee from the Town Clerk. Only the approved town agreement card can be used to document this permission.

Majority Vote required

Richard Holzman accepted the article as read, Donald Ellershaw seconded.

Mevlyn Hook stated if you don't want people hunting on your land then post it correctly, responsible hunters will not hunt on posted land.

Flo Bolduc stated hunters walk past the posted signs and rip them off.

68- No votes 15- Yes votes

Article Fails

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Town Clerk

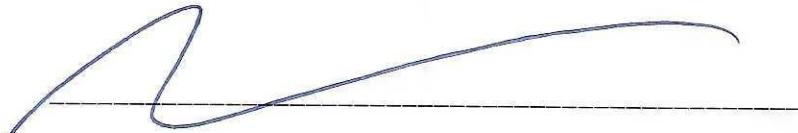
6/17/22

Town of Chester Annual Town Meeting June 13, 2022, 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.

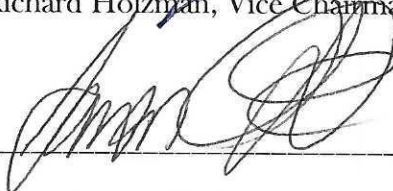
Given under our hands at Chester, this 2nd day of June, 2022



John Baldasaro, Chair




Richard Holzman, Vice Chairman



Jason Forgue, Clerk

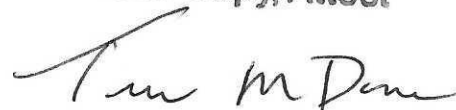
As per instruction in this Warrant, I have posted same, this 2nd day of June, 2022 in three public places, Chester Town Hall, Chester Post office, Chester Center.



Chester Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas

6/13/2022 10:59AM
Date & time

A True Copy, Attest



Town Clerk
6/17/22