



A True Copy, Attest

Tim M. Dore
Town Clerk

Special Town Meeting Warrant

Monday, January 6, 2025 7:00PM

Town of Chester

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Town Clerk opened the meeting in the absence of the Moderator, Adam Bryant. It was asked for volunteers to moderate the meeting. Brian Forgue was appointed temporary moderator, motion made by John Baldasaro and seconded by Andy Sutton.

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 meet in the Chester Town Hall Auditorium, 15 Middlefield Road, in said Town on Monday, January 6, 2025, at 7:00 in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: LEASE TO OWN NEW POLICE CRUISER

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c. 44, § 21C and upon the recommendation of the Select Board, to authorize the Town to enter into a lease-purchase financing agreement to acquire a new police cruiser for a term up to the useful life of the cruiser as determined by the Select Board, and to appropriate the first year's lease payment from the \$71,730.60 in the Police Cruiser Revolving Expenses account 53208.00; or take any other action relative thereto:

2/3 vote required

John Baldasaro accepted the article as read, Jane Sutton seconded.

Discussion followed, John Baldasaro stated we were using the revolving account and the amount is not coming off of tax money. Craig Boyer asked if Blandford was kicking in any funds. John said no it is all coming from the revolving account.

0- No Votes 16- Yes Votes 20- Registered Voters present Article is Approved.

Article 2:

REPLENISH FUNDS IN HIGHWAY FAIR SHARE ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$12,243.37 to replenish the Highway Department DOT Fair Share Account spent for emergency drinking water; or take any other action relative thereto:

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro motioned to accept the article as read, Jane Sutton seconded.

The question was asked “this was to buy water?” John answered yes during the boil water order by the DEP, during the water crisis.

0-No Votes 17- Yes Votes 20- Registered Voters Present Article approved

Article 3: APPROVE HERO ACT TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VETERANS – CLAUSE 22I

To see if the Town will vote to accept G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 22I, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto:

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro made a motion to accept the article as read, Andy Sutton seconded.

No Discussion.

0-No Votes 16- Yes Votes 20- Registered Voters Present Article approved

Article 4: APPROVE HERO ACT TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VETERANS – CLAUSE 22J

To see if the Town will vote to accept G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 22J, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by 100% of the personal exemption amount, subject to the conditions in Clause 22J, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto:

Majority vote required

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John Baldasaro moved to accept the article as read, Jane Sutton seconded.

No Discussion.

0-No Votes 16- Yes Votes 20- Registered Voters Present Article approved.

Article 5: MODERNIZE TOWN GOVERNMENT PHONE SYSTEM

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$7,378.00 to modernize the town government phone system; or take any other action relative thereto:

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro moved to accept the article as read, Andy Sutton seconded.

Veronica Marr asked why does the phone system need to be modernized?

John explained that the phone system needs to be updated, no interconnectivity. Don Humason explained it would be more efficient, only one phone bill, and would save money.

0-No Votes 17- Yes Votes 20- Registered Voters present. Article is approved.

Article 6: PURCHASE OF TAX TITLE SOFTWARE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$3,770.00 to purchase Tax Title software for the Treasurer; or take any other action relative thereto:

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro moved to accept the article as read, Andy Sutton seconded.

Andy Myers discussed that this software was recommended by the Treasurer's office. It would help in moving the properties thru quicker.

0-No Votes 15- Yes Votes 20- Registered Voters Present. Article is Approved.

Article 7: MAKE PRINCIPAL PAYMENT FOR NEW FIRE ENGINE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$85,500.00 to make the first of five payments to pay off the loan for the new fire truck; or take any other action relative thereto:

Majority vote required

John Baldasaro moved the article as read, Andy Sutton seconded.

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Andy Myers said this is the first payment. Needs to be done yearly.

0- No Votes 18-Yes Votes 20- Registered Voters Present Article is Approved.

Article 8:

BILL FROM A PRIOR FISCAL YEAR

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,091.48 to pay the following bill incurred in FY2024; or take any other action relative thereto:


Tritech Software Systems \$1,091.48 Shared Police Expenses Account 54680.58

9/10 vote required

John Baldasaro moved to accept the article as read, Andy Sutton seconded.

0-No Vote 16- Yes Vote 20- Registered Voters Present Article is Approved.

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