

**TOWN OF CHESTER  
2021 TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

Moderator William Dakin called the zoom meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and explained how the zoom meeting will proceed. After reading each Article there will be an opportunity to ask questions and there will be no debate. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Moderator Dakin then introduced the Board, Lee Gustafson, Jeff Holden, Arne Jonynas, Leigh Dakin and Heather Chase, Town Manager Julie Hance, Town Clerk Deborah Aldrich, and Assistant Town Clerk Amie O'Brien. Moderator Dakin then read the Warning and explained that he would read Articles 2 through 5 and Town Manager Julie Hance would give a power point presentation.

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet on Monday, March 1, 2021, at 6:00 pm., via Zoom for a virtual Informational Meeting on the following Articles. Voting on all Articles will be by Australian ballot on March 2, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1:** To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont.
- ARTICLE 2:** Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of paving Lovers Lane Road and Popple Dungeon Road (portion between new road construction and the dirt road)? Said paving to be financed for a term of 5 years.
- ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$3,342,887.01 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 15, 2021, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to expend from the Capital Budget Reserve Fund, \$887,249.36 to be allocated as follows: \$18,750 to be used for the purchase of air paks for the Fire Department; \$10,000 to be used to purchase signage for the town; \$200,000 to be used as match for the Depot Street Sidewalk Grant; \$41,000 to be used to purchase a Police Cruiser; \$146,610.80 to be used to pay previously approved equipment loans; and \$470,888.56 as a transfer to the Bond Plan; all as indicated on the Capital Budget Program schedule and less any grant funds that may be received.
- ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town of Chester will vote to approve the purchase of a dump truck for the Highway Department in an amount not to exceed \$130,000, less any trade in. Said dump truck to be financed for a term of 5 years beginning in 2022, as illustrated in the Capital Plan. *Town Manager Julie Hance presented a power point explaining the town budget. (copy attached) Tim Roper asked if the location of the second well had been determined. Jeff Holden advised that it would be near the present well or at the Canal Street well location.*
- ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Chester Rod & Gun Club. *Julie Hance advised that the assessment on the Rod and Gun property is \$183,300.00 and the taxes for 2020 would have been \$4,323.13. Arne Jonynas asked if the education tax had to be made up by the taxpayers, as would Article 7 and Article 8. Julie Hance advised yes.*

- ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Green Mountain Softball, Inc. *Julie Hance advised that the assessment on the Green Mountain Softball property is \$77,800.00 and taxes for 2020 would have been \$1,834.91.*
- ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Olive Branch Lodge. *Julie Hance advised that the assessment on the Olive Branch property is \$166,600.00 and taxes for 2020 would have been \$3,929.26. Tim Roper asked what the organization was. William Dakin advised that it was the Mason's, and the building is on the Green. Tom Asmden, Secretary of the Olive Branch Lodge advised that he would answer any questions. There were no further questions.*
- ARTICLE 9:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$4,000 (four thousand dollars) to Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, Inc. for continued support and services to the citizens of the Town of Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691.
- ARTICLE 10:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$2500 (two thousand five hundred dollars) to support the Chester Fireworks for Independence Day, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691.
- ARTICLE 11:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.
- ARTICLE 12:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health, and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.
- ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.
- ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.
- ARTICLE 15:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691. *James Collins thanked the schools for all their work for the seniors.*

- ARTICLE 16:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the Current operated by Connecticut River Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.
- ARTICLE 17:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691. *Patricia Dodona thanked the Town of Chester for their support of Windsor County Mentors.*
- ARTICLE 18:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.
- ARTICLE 19:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc. a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.
- ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town of Chester will appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) to assist in the services of the Chester-Andover Family Center for individuals and families in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691. *Stephanie Mahoney thanked everyone for their donations to the Family Center.*
- ARTICLE 21:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500) to Neighborhood Connections, Inc. to cover the cost of providing services in Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.

Lee Gustafson made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

A true copy.

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Deborah J. Aldrich, Town Clerk

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William E. Dakin, Jr., Moderator

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Arunas Jonynas, Selectboard Chair