

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN MEETING 2013**

Proceedings of the Annual Town Meeting of the voters of the Town of Chesterfield, New Hampshire, called at the Chesterfield School in said town on Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

Moderator Pro Tempore Warren Allen called the Town Meeting to order at 10:00 in the forenoon at the Town Hall and declared the polls open for voting by ballot for Town Officials.

Polls were closed at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall and voting resumed at 6:30 pm at the Chesterfield School. Moderator Michael Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:35 and announced that the polls would remain open until 8 pm.

Police Chief Lester Fairbanks led the meeting in the salute to the flag.

ARTICLE 2: Bayard Tracy gave an overview of the budget process and spoke of balancing the needs of the town and consideration of taxpayers. He went over a handout which compared tax rates and amounts if amendments to article 3 were passed.

ARTICLE 3: Bayard Tracy made a motion, seconded by Dan Cotter to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Three Dollars (\$2,850,633) for the following purposes, or act in any way related thereto. (***\$2,870,633** Recommended by the Selectmen)

	(Recommended by the Budget Committee)	(Recommended by the Selectmen)
1. Executive	138,740	138,740
2. Elections, Registrations, Vital Stats	51,062	51,062
3. Financial Administration	62,846	62,846
4. Legal Expense	25,000	25,000
5. Personnel Administration	404,300	404,300
6. Planning Board	14,400	14,400
7. Board of Adjustment	5,650	5,650
8. General Government Buildings	47,900	47,900
9. Cemeteries	49,595	49,595
10. General Insurance	33,500	33,500
11. Regional Association (SWRPC)	4,000	4,000
12. Police	392,237	392,237
13. Police Reimbursable Detail	25,000	25,000
14. Ambulance	76,500	76,500
15. Code Enforcement	28,400	28,400
16. Office of Emergency Management	33,110	33,110
17. Forest Fires	6,000	6,000
18. Highway/Town Road Maintenance	774,098	774,098
19. Street Lighting	21,000	21,000
20. Solid Waste	216,845	236,845*
21. Health Officer	1,650	1,650
22. Animal Control	1,650	1,650
23. Other Health (Hepatitis B Shots)	300	300
24. General Assistance	25,000	25,000
25. Parks and Recreation	88,367	88,367
26. Library	130,583	130,583
27. Patriotic Purposes	500	500
28. Conservation Commission	3,650	3,650
29. Debt Service	<u>188,750</u>	<u>188,750</u>
TOTAL	2,850,633	2,870,633

Elaine Levlocke made a motion to amend Article 3 by accepting the Selectmen’s recommended budget which increases the Solid Waste line by \$20,000 to a total of \$236,845. This would bring the total of Article 3 to Two Million Eight Hundred Seventy Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Three Dollars (\$2,870,633). Leon Watkins said that the extra money was a cushion for the solid waste budget. Discussion ensued. The amendment passed on a voice vote.

A second amendment was introduced by Jim Larkin, seconded by Susan Newcomer to see if the town would vote to raise the amount of Article 3 by \$24,454.00 for police department salary and on-call pay, specifically increasing item 5, Personnel Administration, by \$4,311.00, and item 12, Police, by \$20,143.00. Duane Chickering addressed the meeting citing the many officers who have left the department in recent times and the high cost (\$90,000.00) of training a new policeman. Many people spoke in support of the police receiving increased pay. In response to a question, it was stated that the base rate for a new officer is \$17.71/hour. Kristin McKeon asked why the town did not ask for a contract if we are spending so much on training. Lester Fairbanks responded that currently he asks for two years from a new hire, that it’s done on a handshake. The amendment passed on a voice vote.

A third amendment was introduced by Elaine Levlocke, seconded by Susan Newcomer to increase the amount of Article 3 by \$29,011.00. She indicated that this would provide longevity pay for employees in the following departments:

1. Executive	\$ 2,497
5. Personnel Admin.	\$ 4,554
9. Cemeteries	\$ 217
12. Police	\$ 7,400
18. Highway	\$13,796
20. Solid Waste	\$ 547

Many questions and comments followed. Ruth VanHouten asked what “executive” meant. Jon McKeon responded that it was the selectmen’s office. Dan Cotter said he didn’t have a problem with the money but doesn’t like longevity pay. Susan Newcomer said that although the Budget Committee had had discussions about the issues of police pay and longevity, proposals from the Selectmen did not come to them in time for the regular budget process. Jim VanOudenhove preferred a merit based system, saying that it doesn’t pay for good people. Neil Jenness would like a better system for the Cemetery Commission. Karen Guyette stated that the library should have been included in the increases. Richard Aldrich stated that longevity was particularly advantageous in police work. Steve Laskowski said there could have been a better plan with more time. Bayard Tracy asked for a paper ballot. The moderator declined, saying the request had to come before the meeting. The amendment passed on a voice vote.

The Moderator called for a vote on Article 3 as amended. The article passed on a voice vote.

Although not read to the meeting, the amended Article 3 is as follows:

	PROPOSED BY BUDGET CMTE:	PROPOSED BY SELECTMEN:	FINAL BUDGET	X = AS AMENDED
1. Executive	138,740	138,740	141,237	X
2. Elections, Registrations, Vital Stats	51,062	51,062	51,062	
3. Financial Administration	62,846	62,846	62,846	
4. Legal Expense	25,000	25,000	25,000	
5. Personnel Administration	404,300	404,300	413,165	X
6. Planning Board	14,400	14,400	14,400	
7. Board of Adjustment	5,650	5,650	5,650	
8. General Government Buildings	47,900	47,900	47,900	
9. Cemeteries	49,595	49,595	49,812	X
10. General Insurance	33,500	33,500	33,500	
11. Regional Association (SWRPC)	4,000	4,000	4,000	
12. Police	392,237	392,237	419,780	X
13. Police Reimbursable Detail	25,000	25,000	25,000	

14. Ambulance	76,500	76,500	76,500	
15. Code Enforcement	28,400	28,400	28,400	
16. Office of Emergency Management	33,110	33,110	33,110	
17. Forest Fires	6,000	6,000	6,000	
18. Highway/Town Road Maintenance	774,098	774,098	787,894	X
19. Street Lighting	21,000	21,000	21,000	
20. Solid Waste	216,845	236,845	237,392	X
21. Health Officer	1,650	1,650	1,650	
22. Animal Control	1,650	1,650	1,650	
23. Other Health (Hepatitis B Shots)	300	300	300	
24. General Assistance	25,000	25,000	25,000	
25. Parks and Recreation	88,367	88,367	88,367	
26. Library	130,583	130,583	130,583	
27. Patriotic Purposes	500	500	500	
28. Conservation Commission	3,650	3,650	3,650	
29. Debt Service	<u>188,750</u>	<u>188,750</u>	<u>188,750</u>	
TOTAL	2,850,633	2,870,633	2,924,098	X

ARTICLE 4: A motion was made by Jon McKeon, seconded by Lester Fairbanks to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) to be added to the following already established Capital Reserve Funds, or act in any way related thereto:

	(Recommended by the Selectmen)	(Recommended by the Budget Committee)
Highway Heavy Equipment CRF	100,000	85,000*
Roadways Construction/Reconstruction CRF	25,000	25,000
(Recommended by the Selectmen) (\$110,000)		Recommended by the Budget Committee)

Bart Bevis spoke to the needs of the town. Tom Woodman offered that this was a savings account. The article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Jon McKeon, seconded by Susan Newcomer to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000) to be added to the following already established Capital Reserve Funds, or act in any way

Revaluation CRF	30,000
Town Hall Annex Renovations CRF	25,000
Town Office Building Maintenance CRF	10,000
(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)	

ARTICLE 6: A motion was made by Elaine Levlocke, seconded by Bart Bevis to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the following already established Capital Reserve Funds, or act in any way related thereto:

Police Cruiser CRF	23,000
Police Department Equipment CRF	7,000
(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)	

Dan Cotter asked why this year one warrant article dealt with two capital reserve funds. Elaine Levlocke responded that they thought it was a better way to put it forward. The article passed on a voice vote

ARTICLE 7: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Elaine Levlocke, seconded by Karen Guyette to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the already established Library Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, or act in any way related thereto.

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

ARTICLE 8: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Jim Larkin, seconded by Dan Cotter to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) to be added to the following already established Capital Reserve Funds, or act in any way related thereto:

Parks & Rec Building CRF	2,500
Outdoor Court CRF	500

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

ARTICLE 9: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Jim Larkin, seconded by Bob Brockmann to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand One Hundred Seventy Six Dollars (\$4,176) to be added to the following already established Expendable Trust Funds, or act in any way related thereto:

P&R Pickup Truck Exp Trust	1,000
Wares Grove Trees Exp Trust	2,000
Parks & Rec Activities Enhance Exp Tr	1,176

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

ARTICLE 10: A motion was made by Jim Larkin, seconded by Susan Newcomer to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the following already established Expendable Trust Funds, or act in any way related thereto:

Cemetery Truck Exp Trust	2,500
Cemetery Mower Exp Trust	2,500

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

Gary Winn asked why we're adding to the truck fund when there's already \$20,000 in it. Neil Jenness answered that they had used it to purchase a new used truck earlier this year. The article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Jim Larkin, seconded by Dan Cotter to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) to the already established Wildland Fire Suppression Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto.

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

ARTICLE 12: A motion was made by Jon McKeon, seconded by Bart Bevis to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Forty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Four Dollars (\$245,824) for the purpose of resurfacing Town roads, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:10 I (d).

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

Merril Yeaw asked whether the new material used by the road department is better than the old. Bart Bevis answered that it's a question of money; the chip seal is cheaper and works pretty well. The article passed on a voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Jon McKeon, seconded by Bart Bevis to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) to purchase a new 35,000 GVW Truck with Body and Plow for the Highway Department and authorize the withdrawal of up to One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) from the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose, said amount to be offset by the amount received from the trade-in or sale of the existing 1998 International Truck, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:10 I (d).

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (**\$147,000** Recommended by the Budget Committee)

ARTICLE 14: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Elaine Levlocke, seconded by Lester Fairbanks to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$33,500) for the purchase of a police cruiser and switchover costs,

and authorize the withdrawal of up to Thirty Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$33,500) from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:10 I (d).

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

ARTICLE 15: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Elaine Levlocke, seconded by Dan Cotter to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$4,700) for the purchase of a Portable Radio for the Police Department and authorize the withdrawal of up to Four Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$4,700) from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:10 I (d).

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

ARTICLE 16: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Elaine Levlocke, seconded by Lester Fairbanks to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) for the purchase of a Cruiser Mounted Radar Unit for the Police Department and authorize the withdrawal of up to Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:10 I (d).

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

ARTICLE 17: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Elaine Levlocke, seconded by Lester Fairbanks to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) for computer upgrades at the Police Department and authorize the withdrawal of up to One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:10 I (d).

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

ARTICLE 18: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Jim Larkin, seconded by Ruth VanHouten to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$24,320) to support the following, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:10 I (d).

Chesterfield Senior Meals program	200
Home Health, Meals on Wheels and Age in Motion	8,675
Monadnock Family Services/Mental Health	4,505
Community Kitchen	7,000
Youth Services	140
Southwestern Community Services	1,700
Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice	500
Drop In Center	200
Monadnock Child Advocacy Center	1,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters	400
TOTAL	24,320

(Recommended by the Selectmen) (Recommended by the Budget Committee)

ARTICLE 19: A voice vote was in the affirmative on a motion made by Jim Larkin, seconded by Dan Cotter to see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to dispose of municipal assets by sealed bid, or by other means as deemed appropriate, or act in any way related thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.
Bart Bevis: last year it was voted not to demolish the town-owned building on Rt 9A in Spofford. What is happening with that? Jon McKeon responded that selectmen are waiting for the offer from a neighbor.

Jim Larkin spoke about the newsletter.

Steve Laskowski asked for further information on the Spofford property. Jon McKeon responded that liens had been removed.

Moderator Bentley declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The ballots cast under Article 1 were counted.

ARTICLE 1:

SELECTMAN—3 YEARS (1)

JAMES LARKIN 105*

BAYARD TRACY 85

BUDGET COMMITTEE—1 YEAR (1)

CLIFFORD EMERY 171*

BUDGET COMMITTEE—3 YEARS (3)

DAN COTTER 174*

RICH KALICH 153*

CHARLES PERRY 159*

TREASURER—1 YEAR (1)

EDWARD CHEEVER 190*

TAX COLLECTOR—1 YEAR (1)

ELIZABETH BENJAMIN 191*

LIBRARY TRUSTEE—3 YEARS (3)

KEVIN HAYES 169*

AMY NOYES 176*

DAVID SMITH 181*

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS—3 YEARS (1)

CHRISTINE PRAH 180*

CEMETARY COMMISSION—3 YEARS (2)

CORNELIA JENNESS 34*

PAT PORTER 18*

*Declared Elected

Number of names on checklist: 2625

Number of ballots cast: 199

8% of voters took part in elections.

Approximately 75 voters (3% of those registered) took part in Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Girs
Town Clerk