

Article 3 - Salem Street Area Water, Sewer, Drainage Road Improvements, and Utility Replacements

This article proposes raising \$5,100,000 in the form of a bond for the design and construction of water, sewer, drainage, road, and utility improvements in the Salem Street area, which has some of the oldest water and sewer lines in Exeter.

For project details, visit the Exeter DPW website at

<https://www.exeternh.gov/publicworks/salem-street-area-utility-improvement-project>

Bond repayments will be shared between the General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund. The Select Board is also authorized to seek federal, state, or other aid to pay for the project. Estimated Tax Impact, assuming 10-year bond at 0.86%, is 0.05 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value or \$5 per \$100,000 of assessed property value. Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

3/5 vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 4 - Solar Array Landfill Property

This article proposes spending \$3,617,629 to construct a solar array on town-owned land on the landfill at Cross Road. The project would be owned and operated by the Town and would supply approximately 92% of the Town's municipal operations electricity. Revenue generated by the array will cover the bond repayment by selling power and Renewable Energy Certificates.

There is no tax impact, assuming a 20-year bond at 1.67%.

3/5 vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 5 - Wastewater Lagoon Sludge Removal

This article proposes raising \$2,600,000 in the form of a bond for the removal of sludge from the wastewater lagoons at 13 Newfields Road. The new Wastewater Treatment Plant was substantially completed in December 2019. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services requires the lagoons for the old plant be cleaned before they can be decommissioned. To date, the sludge from Lagoon #1 has been prepared for removal and disposal off-site. This funding request will allow for the removal and dewatering of sludge from Lagoon #2 and trucking and disposal of all remaining sludge.

The bond will be amortized over 15 years. Based on a bonded amount of \$2,600,000 million dollars over 15 years at a projected interest rate of 1.37%, the first-year debt service payment would be \$208,953. Sewer funds would be used to pay the debt service on the bond.

3/5 vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 6 – Groundwater Source Development

This article proposes spending \$1,000,000 to develop additional groundwater sources to supplement the existing three groundwater sources and the surface water sources in accordance with the Town's Integrated Management Plan for water supply and to meet projected needs. The requested funds will continue the Town's program.

There is no estimated tax impact. This project will be financed by a bond.

3/5 vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 8 – 2021 Operating Budget

This article proposes spending \$19,891,082 towards the Town's operating budget. This amount does not include money spent by special warrant articles, which are voted on separately. If the 2021 budget does not pass, the operating budget will remain at the 2020 level of \$19,978,374.

There is an estimated tax impact of .22 per \$1,000 of assessed property value or \$22.00 per \$100,000 assessed property value.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 9 – 2021 Water Fund Budget

This article proposes spending \$4,054,184 towards the Town's Water Fund budget. This amount does not include money spent by special warrant articles, which are voted on separately. If the 2021 water budget does not pass, it will remain at the 2020 level of \$3,633,083. The FY21 water fund budget is a 14.1% increase over the FY20 water budget.

There is no estimated tax impact. The Water Fund budget is paid for by fees and other revenues collected from users of the public water system.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 10 – 2021 Sewer Fund Budget

The Town of Exeter has a Sewer Fund used to pay for operations and maintenance on the Town's sewer system, which serves approximately 75% of the Town's population. This fund exists through fees and other revenues collected from users of the sewer system. Residents are charged quarterly, based on water consumption. Residents who opted out of the sewer system, but still receive public water, are quarterly charged a flat rate, based on the number of bedrooms in their home.

This article requests a 2021 Sewer Fund budget of \$7,015,364, which is a decrease of \$671,241, or 8.7%, from the 2020 budget of \$7,686,605.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 11 – Police Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Town of Exeter and the Exeter Police Association have negotiated a Collective Bargaining Agreement to pay for a 2.5% increase in salaries and benefits for all police sergeants, full-time officers, and the animal control officer for 6 months, through December 31, 2021. This article approves that agreement.

The estimated cost of this salary and benefit increase is \$26,459.00. The approximate tax impact of the contract will be .012 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value or \$1.20 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 12 – Kingston Road Shoulders

This article proposes that Kingston Road (otherwise known as Route 111) be widened to include sidewalks for pedestrian foot and bicycle traffic. Both sides will be widened from Westside Drive to Pickpocket Road, and one side will be widened from Westside Drive to Tamarind Lane (*See, Map on 2021 Warrant Article Fact Sheet, Page 19*). The total estimated cost is \$980,000.

The Town of Exeter will contribute \$235,653 towards this project. The remaining \$744,347 will be contributed by a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, which has not yet been granted. The project is conditioned upon the Town of Exeter receiving the grant. The Select Board is also authorized to seek federal, state, or other aid to pay for the project.

There will be no tax impact. Select Board recommended 5-0.

Article 13 - Public Safety Complex Alternatives Analysis

This article proposes spending \$100,000 to evaluate alternatives for a new public safety complex. This follows a 2019 public safety study for the Police and Fire Departments.

Estimated Tax Impact is .046 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value or \$4.55 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 14 - Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund - Parks Improvements

This article proposes spending \$100,000 towards the Parks Improvement Capitol Reserve Fund with the goal of completing several projects, including Parle Street common playground

replacement, Townhouse common fencing, Recreation Park tree trimming/invasive plant removal, Recreation Park pavilion renovation, brickyard park storage replacement, Gilman Park fence replacement/ tree planting, tennis nets/pole replacement, ADA pool lift installation.

Estimated Tax Impact is .046 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value or \$4.55 cents per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 15 - Appropriate to Sick Leave Trust Fund

This article proposes spending \$100,000 towards the Sick Leave Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

There will be no tax impact.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article – 16 – Conservation Fund (\$50,000)

This article proposes spending \$50,000 to allow the Conservation Fund to purchase interests in property held for conservation purposes. This article will provide an opportunity to pursue matching grant funds.

Estimated Tax Impact is .023 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value or \$2.28 center per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article – 17 – Snow and Ice Fund Appropriation (\$50,000)

This article proposes to spend \$50,000 towards the Snow and Ice Deficit Non-Capital Reserve Fund. The Select Board is authorized to draw on this fund, as necessary, in fiscal years when the snow and ice budget is overspent. The \$50,000 will replenish the depleted fund and bring the reserve back to \$103,073.

There is no tax impact.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article – 18 – Stewart Park Project Deficit

This article proposes to eliminate the Stewart Park Seawall project deficit from the year 2005 by transferring \$105,794 from the town’s current Non-spendable General Fund balance to the Capital Balance and resolve the issue in the Town’s financial statements.

This is an administrative transfer of funds with no tax impact.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 19 - Appropriation to Trust Fund – Swasey Parkway

This article proposes spending \$1,300 from the General Fund towards the Swasey Parkway Trust Fund, which is an amount equivalent to the permit fees collected during the past year for the use of Swasey Parkway.

This is an administrative transfer of funds with no tax impact.

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.