

TOWN OF EXETER, NH
FIRST SESSION OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022

The first session of the 2022 Town Meeting was held at Exeter Co-Operative High School, 1 Blue Hawk Drive, in the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Town of Exeter Deliberative Session participant information is as follows:

It is strongly advised that all attendees wear a proper mask or suitable facial covering for the duration of the meeting.

- Attendees who are able to properly wear a mask - Please enter through the front entrance where you will be checked in and directed to the auditorium.
 - Social distancing is required
 - Family members of the same household will be able to sit with one another inside the auditorium.
- Attendees who are unable to wear a mask - Enter through Door B-5 on the left of the building, into the small gym. You will be assisted with checking in.
- Attendees who wish to participate while remaining outdoors will be directed around to the senior lot at the front of the building where an area will be set up to do so. You will need to come into the building to be checked in.

Town Moderator Kate Miller called the session to order at 9:00 am. Moderator Miller asked attendees to join her in Pledging Allegiance to the American Flag. She introduced the Town Officials seated at the head tables (from his left): Town Clerk, Andrea Kohler; Town Counsel, Walter Mitchell; Finance Director, Doreen Chester; Town Manager, Russell Dean, Selectman and Chair Niko Papakonstantis; Selectwoman, Molly Cowan, Selectwoman, Julie Gilman; Selectwoman, Lovey Roundtree Oliff.

Moderator Miller asked people coming into the auditorium to sign in with Checklist Supervisors. Moderator Miller explained the rules of the Session. It is custom for non-residents to be allowed to speak to certain articles because of their expertise. A motion was made to allow these people to speak. **The motion made, seconded and approved.**

Moderator Miller will recognize one resident at a time, but will recognize the proponent of an article to speak before any other resident. Each speaker is to state their name and address in Town. Any amendment made to an article must be seconded, and then followed by discussion. Following discussion, the Moderator will call for a voice vote or a card vote from the registered voters present at this meeting.

Moderator Miller said the names of the candidates associated with article 1 would be listed on the Ballot, as well as Article 2 which is a Zoning article. This meeting has no power to amend the Zoning articles as previous public hearings have been held, however they may be discussed. Moderator Miller said the Planning Director could address any questions or concerns relative to the Zoning Amendment following Article 34.

Article 1

To choose the following: 2 Select Board for a 3-year term; 1 Select Board for a 1-year term; 3 Trustees of the Library for a 3-year term; 1 Trustee of Swasey Parkway for a 3-year term; 1 Trustee of Trust Funds for a 3-year term; 1 Trustee of the Robinson Fund for a 7-year term; 1 Supervisor of the Checklist for a 6year term.

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five million seven hundred thousand and zero dollars (\$5,700,000) for the purpose of design and construction of a new sewer pump station and force main on Webster Avenue, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$5,700,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project. The Town will receive funding through a \$1.05 million-dollar federal grant, \$1.395 million in state ARPA funds, and \$325,500 in principal forgiveness from the NHDES. Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance. Debt service to be paid from the sewer fund. (3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Public Works Director, Jennifer Perry presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the ballot will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000) for the purchase of land and buildings at 10 Hampton Road (aka the Qessential Building), including making minor renovations to the property, to be used by the Parks and Recreation Department as recreation space, public parking and main offices, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,250,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project. Debt service will be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 10-year bond at .86% interest: .06/1,000, \$6/100,000 of assessed property value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance. (3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Parks & Recreation Director, Greg Bisson presented the article with a power point presentation. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred thirty thousand seven hundred and fifteen dollars (\$330,715) for the purpose of design and engineering of water, sewer and drainage improvements in the Westside Drive area, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$330,715 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project. The Town will receive a \$100,000 grant to offset the cost of this project. Debt service will be paid from the general fund, water fund, and sewer fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 5-year bond at .50% interest: .006/1,000, \$.63/100,000 of assessed property value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance. (3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectman, Niko Papakonstantis presented the article.
Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 6

To choose all other necessary Town Officers, Auditors or Committees for the ensuing year.
BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE: Chris Zigmont, Cory Stevens, Enna Grazier, Liz Canada, Anthony Zwaan, Robert Kelly, Judy Rowan, Christine Soutter
FENCE VIEWER: Doug Eastman; **MEASURER OF WOOD & BARK:** Doug Eastman; **WEIGHER:** Jay Perkins

Moderator Miller called Town Manager, Russ Dean to read the Slate of Officers.
Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none the article will go on the ballot as presented.

Article 7

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$20,387,002. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$20,084,542, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Estimated Tax Impact: .17/1,000 assessed property value, \$17/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Town Manager, Russ Dean presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 8

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a water operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,249,390. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$4,161,433, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Town Manager, Russ Dean presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 9

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a sewer operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$7,385,953. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,298,636, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Town Manager, Russ Dean presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the four-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Select Board and the Exeter Police Association, which calls for the following increased salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary/Benefits Increase
FY22	\$38,749
FY23	\$37,431
FY24	\$55,513
FY25	\$78,204

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-eight thousand, seven hundred and forty-nine dollars (\$38,749) for the 2022 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels. (Estimated Tax Impact: .017/1,000, \$1.73/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectman, Niko Papakonstantis presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Select Board and the Exeter Firefighters Local 3491, which calls for the following increased salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary/Benefits Increase
FY22	\$54,408
FY23	\$72,593
FY24	\$68,174

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-four thousand, four hundred and eight dollars (\$54,408) for the 2022 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels. (Estimated Tax Impact: .024/1,000, \$2.43/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Town Manager, Russ Dean presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Select Board and the SEIU (Service Employees International Union) Local 1984 covering Public Works and Administrative/Clerical employees, which calls for the following increased salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Water/Sewer Fund	General Fund	Total
FY22	\$22,082	\$29,145	\$51,227
FY23	\$17,538	\$17,899	\$35,437
FY24	\$26,976	\$33,003	\$59,979

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-one thousand two hundred and twenty-seven dollars (\$51,227) for the 2022 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels. The amounts raised will be \$29,145 through taxation (General Fund), and \$22,082 (Water/Sewer Funds). (Estimated Tax Impact: .013/1,000, \$1.30/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Town Manager, Russ Dean presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a 10-year lease/purchase agreement for \$650,000 for the purpose of lease/purchasing a replacement for Engine 5 in the Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-two thousand three hundred fifty-five dollars (\$82,355), which represents the first of 10 annual payments (a total of \$745,453) for this purpose. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .037/1,000, \$3.68/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Fire Chief Eric Wilken presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a 7-year lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of lease/purchasing SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) equipment for the Exeter Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$59,064, which represents the first of 7 annual payments (a total of \$385,547), for this purpose. This lease agreement shall contain an escape clause. (Estimated Tax Impact: .026/1,000, \$2.64/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Fire Chief, Eric Wilken presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 15

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred forty-nine thousand dollars (\$249,000) for the purpose of making improvements to the Raynes Barn located on Newfields Road. The appropriation of \$249,000 will be offset by an LCHIP grant (\$100,000) and a withdrawal from the Conservation Fund (\$49,000) with the balance of \$100,000 to be appropriated from unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Niko Papakonstantis presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a 5-year lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of lease/purchasing body cameras and associated equipment for the

Exeter Police Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,846, which represents the first of 5 annual payments (a total of \$204,139), for this purpose. This lease agreement shall contain an escape clause. (Estimated Tax Impact: .019/1,000, \$1.91/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Police Chief Poulin presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 17

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), for the purpose of engineering services related to sewer capacity rehabilitation. This sum to come from sewer funds. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Public Works Director, Jennifer Perry presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Selectwoman Julie Gilman presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 19

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of seventy-one thousand eight hundred and one dollars (\$71,801), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for Highway Truck #9, purchased in 2007. This replacement is for an existing 1-ton truck to a 1.5 ton "Switch and Go" Hook truck F-550. This vehicle is primarily used for light duty hauling, landscaping, asphalt work, drainage and catch basin maintenance. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Selectman Niko Papakonstantis presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 20

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of fifty-nine thousand four hundred and eighty-one dollars (\$59,481), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement hotbox asphalt reclaimer for the Highway Department. This is the Department's primary equipment to fill potholes. The current hotbox was purchased in 2005. (Estimated Tax Impact: .027/1,000, \$2.65/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectman Niko Papakonstantis presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the purpose of conducting and creating an intersection improvement proposal with preliminary designs, to improve intersections and intersection areas, including Pine/Front/Linden Street, Front Street/Water Street, Clifford Street/Water Street, Winter Street/Columbus Avenue/Railroad Avenue, and others. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .022/1,000, \$2.23/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectwoman, Julie Gilman presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 22

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), for the purpose of design work on a new garage at the Public Works Complex on Newfields Road. This sum to come from general taxation \$25,000, water funds \$12,500, and sewer funds \$12,500). (Estimated Tax Impact: .011/1,000, \$1.12/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 3-1.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectman Niko Papakonstantis presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 23

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of forty-seven thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine dollars (\$47,969), for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a replacement for Fire Department Car 3. This purchase would replace a 2010 Ford Expedition with an F250 Pickup. The vehicle will be used for incident command. This sum to

come from unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Fire Chief Eric Wilking presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 24

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of forty-five thousand and zero dollars (\$45,000), for the purpose of hiring a consultant to conduct a facilities condition assessment (FCA) and set up a database for Town facilities. The assessment will include an accounting and evaluation of all Town buildings and their systems. The consultant will input the data from the assessment into a software system that will be used by the Town for facility maintenance and capital asset planning. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .020/1,000, \$2.01/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectwoman Julie Gilman presented the article. Chris Weeks further explained the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 25

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of forty-four thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$44,750), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for Jeep Patriot #65 in the Public Works Department. This purchase would replace a 2013 Jeep Patriot with a Ford Explorer Hybrid vehicle. (Estimated Tax Impact: .020/1,000, \$2.00/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectman Niko Papakonstantis presented the article. Public Works Director Jennifer Perry further explained the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 26

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of twenty-five thousand and zero dollars (\$25,000), for the purpose of conducting a town wide bicycle/pedestrian plan as outlined in the Town Master Plan. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .011/1,000, \$1.12/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectwoman, Julie Gilman presented the article. Town Planner, David Sharples further explained the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 27

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Sick Leave Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Town Manager, Russ Dean presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 28

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Snow and Ice Deficit Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Town Manager, Russ Dean presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 29

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand six hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$3,625) to be added to the Swasey Parkway Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. This amount is equivalent to the amount of permit fees collected during the prior year for use of the Swasey Parkway. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Town Manager, Russ Dean presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 30

To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of making capital improvements to, equipping and maintaining the Town Hall building. All revenues received from the rental of space in the Town Hall will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund balance.

The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be placed in the revolving fund as an initial balance.

This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectman, Niko Papakonstantis presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 31

To see if the Town will appoint the Arts and Culture Commission as agents to expend from the Exeter Arts Program Donation Trust Fund created by vote of the 2009 Town Meeting in place of the Exeter Arts Committee which no longer exists. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectman Niko Papakonstantis presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 32

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Exeter Electric Aggregation Plan (voted upon by the Exeter Community Power Aggregation Committee on 12/29/21) which authorizes the Select Board to implement a Community Power Aggregation program as described therein. Community Power Aggregation programs, pursuant to State statute RSA 53-E, allow municipalities to purchase electric energy supply on behalf of their residents and businesses with the goals of allowing for more local control of energy sources, lowering relative costs, expanding access to renewable energy sources, and supporting the development of innovative energy projects. (Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectwoman, Julie Gilman presented the article. Exeter Energy Committee member Cliff Sennett further explained the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 33

Subject to the Town obtaining approval from both the Rockingham County Probate Court and NH Division of Charitable Trusts, to see if the Town will vote to close and discontinue Swasey Parkway as a public roadway from Water Street to the Pavilion, while still allowing traffic to enter from Newfields Road to park and turn around.

This action, if approved by the voters, will be conditioned on the following:

- a) Retaining the paved surface in the discontinued portion for the use of pedestrians, non-motorized vehicles, maintenance vehicles and emergency vehicles.
- b) The northerly portion of the roadway shall remain a Class V highway.

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 4-0.

Moderator Miller read the article. Selectwoman Molly Cowen presented the article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** Gerry Hamel, spoke against the article stating that the parkway was gifted to the town and should be used as the gift was intended as a parkway. Jay Childs spoke against the article questioning the need for the closure. Anne Surman stated she agrees that the parkway should be one way. My concern is that there may be hidden costs to close part of the parkway. Jason Murray spoke for the article as he and his family have enjoyed the parkway since it has been closed. Laura Bricker spoke for the article. Maura Fay spoke in support of the article. Don Clement is opposed to this article. What we haven't looked at any other ways to slow down the traffic and the traffic speed. Mr. Clement made an amendment to the article:

Subject to the Town obtaining approval from both the Rockingham County Probate Court and NH Division of Charitable Trust, to see if the Town will vote to close the portion of Swasey Parkway as a public roadway from where the corners of Tax Map 64 Lot 40 and Tax Map 64 Lot 39 intersect with Swasey Parkway Tax Map 64 Lot 45 north to the Newfields Road entrance, while allowing motorized traffic to enter from Water Street to Park and turn around. This action, if approved by voters will be conditioned on the following:

- a. retaining and maintaining the paved surface in the closed portion for the use of pedestrians, non-motorized vehicles, and emergency vehicles.
- b. The southerly portion of the roadway shall remain a class V Highway.

It was seconded by Anne Surman. **Moderator Miller called for discussion of the amendment.** Paul Royal asked if the amendment passes, is it binding by the Selectman. Town Counsel, Walter Mitchel stated yes, the article is binding. Alexis Simpson spoke against the article stating she doesn't think the amendment is clear enough for the voters. **Moderator Miller called for a card vote of the amendment. Ayes 13, Nays 33, The Nays have it. The amendment does not pass.** **Moderator Miller called for discussion of the article.** Sally Ward questions the process of closing the road and what exactly is a recreational vehicle? Selectman, Papakonstantis stated that after consulting with Town Counsel the question has to be brought to town meeting and then it goes to probate court.

Moderator called for further discussion. Seeing none the article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 34 – Citizen's Petition

By petition of Andrew Elliott and others

Washington Street Improvements

Shall the Town vote:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred and sixty thousand and zero dollars (\$260,000) for the design and construction of road improvements (sidewalks, tree work, and traffic calming) on Washington Street. This sum to come from General taxation (Estimated Tax Impact: .046/1,000, \$4.55/100,000 assessed property value).

Could the funds also come from “towns unassigned fund”, or “in bonds or notes in accordance with provision of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33).” (Majority vote required) Not recommended by the Select Board 0-4.

Moderator Miller read the article. Andrew Elliott presented the article and made an amendment to the article. **Moderator Miller read the amendment:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred and sixty thousand and zero dollars (\$260,000) for the design and construction of road improvements (sidewalks, tree work, and traffic calming) on Washington Street. This sum to come from General Taxation. (Majority vote required) Not recommended by the Select Board 0-4.

The amendment was seconded by Fred Bird. The Moderator Miller called for discussion of the amendment. Seeing none, she called for a card vote. Ayes 34 and Nays 2. The amendment passes. Moderator Miller call for discussion of the amendment. Herb Moyer asked if this amendment would preclude the use of the town’s surplus for this project? Town Manager Russ Dean responded not the way it’s currently worded. Mr. Moyer made an amendment as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred and sixty thousand and zero dollars (\$260,000) for the design and construction of road improvements (sidewalks, tree work, and traffic calming) on Washington Street. This sum to come from the Town’s unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required) Not recommended by the Select Board 0-4.

The amendment was seconded by Fred Bird. Moderator Miller called for discussion of the amendment. Dan Chartrand does not support this amendment. We need better planning from our DPW Dept and the Select Board before we do this project. Herb Moyer asked what the board thinks of the amendment. Moderator Miller explained that the board would need to discuss it. **Moderator called for further discussion, seeing none she called for a card vote. The Ayes 19 Nays 23. The amendment does not pass. Moderator Miller called for further discussion of the amended article. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 2 Zoning Amendment #1: By petition, are you in favor of the adoption of an Amendment to the Town of Exeter’s Zoning Ordinance to revise the definition of “Bed and Breakfast” contained in article 2.2.12 as follows:

The proposed Amendment will be underlined text for proposed additions and strikethrough text for proposed deletions.

Bed and Breakfast: The primary dwelling of an owner-operator and or detached accessory structure on the same property, that provides ~~exclusively~~ for the lodging of transient guests and whose posted rates shall include breakfast. ~~A Bed and Breakfast shall not be used for any other hospitality or business related use.~~ A Bed and Breakfast shall have not more than four (4) rentable rooms and a dining area capable of accommodating the number of registered guests. The Planning Board recommends this article 6-0.

Moderator Miller called for discussion. Ben Anderson supports this amendment. Seeing none, the article will go on the ballot as written.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Moderator Miller made a motion to adjourn the Deliberative Session of the Annual Town Meeting. So, moved and seconded with no opposition, Moderator Miller declared the meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm and the meeting to resume on March 8, 2022 at 7:00 am at the Talbot Gym on Linden Street for voting purposes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea J. Kohler
Exeter Town Clerk, CMC, CTC

State of New Hampshire
Rockingham County

Dated: _____

These minutes of the Deliberative Session held on February 5, 2022, were signed before me

_____ by Andrea J. Kohler, Exeter Town Clerk, this

_____ day of _____ 2022.