

TOWN OF EXETER, NH
FIRST SESSION OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025

The first session of the 2025 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. 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 her left): Town Clerk, Andrea Kohler; Town Counsel, Ms Laura Spectrum-Roy, Town Manager, Russell Dean; Assistant Town Manager, Melissa Roy, Finance Director, Corey Stevens; Selectman and Chair Niko Papakonstantis; Selectwoman and Vice Chair, Molly Cowan; Selectwoman and Clerk, Julie Gilman; Selectman Daniel Chartrand; Selectwoman, Nancy Belanger.

Moderator Miller explained the rules of the Session. It is customary 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, second 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 the Article must be second 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 moved Article 2 to be discussed after Article 36. Moderator Miller said she and/or the Planning Director could address any questions or concerns related to the Zoning Amendments following Article 37.

Article 3 – Drinkwater Road Groundwater Development (\$6,800,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$6,800,000) for the purpose of design, engineering and construction of a new groundwater source off Drinkwater Road, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$6,800,000 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, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Notwithstanding the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt service will be paid from the water fund. Bond payments would begin

approximately one year after issuance. (3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

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

Article 4 – Pickpocket Dam Removal (\$2,100,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million one hundred thousand dollars (\$2,100,000) for the purpose of design, engineering, removal of the Pickpocket Dam and subsequent site monitoring, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,100,000 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, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. The Town is seeking grants to offset up to 100% of the project cost. Debt service to be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 15-year bond at 3.09% interest: .06/1,000, \$6.00/100,000 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Selectman, Niko Papakonstantis presented the Article. Paul Vlasich, Town Engineer, further explained the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** Paul Friedrichs asked what if there is no grant funding? Selectman, Dan Chartrand answered that the Town would be responsible for the funding. **Catherine Edison called for an amendment: Removal of all verbiage and insert the following:** “To see if the Town will not raise or appropriate any funds or issue any bonds for the removal of the Pickpocket Dam in the current budget cycle. The Town may proceed with any efforts to appeal the hazard classification of the dam, seek funding for removal or modification of the dam, and plan for future actions to address state requirements related to the dam. Majority vote required.” **Moderator Miller called for a second.** It was second. **Moderator called for discussion of the amendment.** Donald Lateiner spoke for the amendment. He has not heard a good reason for taking out the damn. David Kovar spoke against the amendment. Paul Vlasich, Town Engineer, explained that because of the high hazard rating of the damn, removal or repairs of the damn would be required regardless. Jim Breeling spoke against the amendment; removal of the damn is the least expensive avenue to solve the issue. Nick Drinker spoke against the amendment saying the Town has done it due diligence and he is for a free-flowing river. Morris Shore spoke for the amendment and does not believe the Town will receive any grant money and does not want to the town to be liable nor does it benefit anyone. **Moderator called for further discussion of the amendment, seeing none** **Moderator Miller read the amendment.** **Moderator Miller called for a hand vote of the amendment.** The nays won; the amendment does not pass. **Moderator Miller called for further discussion of the Article.** David Kovar stated it’s time to take action and move forward. The longer we wait the more it’s going to cost. Fred Bird was disappointed

that the Town people were not given the right to vote on the three choices to fix the dam. He asks voters to vote against the Article. Jim Breeling spoke for the Article saying that this is the least expensive choice and asks the voters to vote for the Article. **Moderator Miller called for further discussion. Seeing none the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Anthony Zwaan called for restricting consideration of the Article. It was second. Moderator Miller called for a hand vote. The Ayes have it. Moderator Miller restricted consideration for discussion of the previous Articles.

Article 5 – Linden Street Bridge Repairs (\$1,257,900)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million two hundred fifty seven thousand nine hundred dollars (\$1,257,900) for the purpose of making repairs to the Linden Street bridge, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,257,900 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, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Debt service to be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 10-year bond at 2.72% interest: .05/1,000, \$5.00/100,000 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. DPW Director, Mr. Cronin, presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 6 – DPW Fuel Island Station Replacement (\$575,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred seventy five thousand dollars (\$575,000) for the purpose of replacing the fuel island station at the DPW Complex at 13 Newfields Road, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$575,000 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, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Debt service to be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 5-year bond at 2.89% interest: .04/1,000, \$4.00/100,000 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion. **Seeing none the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 7 – Street Sweeper (\$395,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred ninety five thousand dollars (\$395,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new street sweeper to be used to meet EPA nitrogen reduction permit requirements and the implementation of an enhanced sweeping program, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$395,000 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, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Debt service to be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 5-year bond at 2.89% interest: .03/1,000, \$3.00/100,000 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion. Seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 8 – Use of Excess Bond Proceeds - Front, Pine & Linden Street Sewer & Drainage Repairs (\$250,000)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of a portion of the unused bonds approved in 2021 for Salem Street Area Water, Sewer, Drainage Road Improvements and Utility Replacements as follows: to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), for the purpose of making sewer repairs at Pine, Front and Linden Streets, and making repairs to drainage systems at Pine, Front and Linden Streets, per RSA 33:3-a, II. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (3/5 ballot vote required for approval) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

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

Article 9 – Use of Excess Bond Proceeds - Clemson Lagoon Cleaning and Inspection (\$500,000)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of a portion of the unused bonds approved in 2021 for Wastewater Lagoon Sludge Removal as follows: to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), for the purpose of inspecting, cleaning and dredging of Clemson Lagoon, per RSA 33:3-a, II. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (3/5 ballot vote required for approval) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

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

Article 10 – Use of Excess Bond Proceeds - Wastewater Treatment Facility Effluent Flume Repair (\$245,000)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of a portion of the unused bonds approved in 2021 for Wastewater Lagoon Sludge Removal as follows: to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$245,000), for the purpose of repairing the effluent flume at the Wastewater Treatment Facility site at 13 Newfields Road, per RSA 33:3-a, II. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (3/5 ballot vote required for approval) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

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.**

Anthoney Zwaan called for restriction of consideration of the past Articles. It was second. Moderator Miller called for a voice vote. The Ayes have it. Moderator Miller will restrict consideration of the previous Articles.

Article 11 – Choose Town Officers

To choose all other necessary Town Officers, Auditors or Committees for the ensuing year. Moderator Miller explained this Article does not need to be discussed as the slate of officers will be on the ballot in March.

Article 12 – 2025 Operating Budget

To see if the Town of Exeter will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations 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 \$23,983,368. Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$23,441,313, 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: .27/1,000 assessed property value, \$27/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Town Manager, Russell Dean presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 13 – 2025 Water Fund Budget

To see if the Town of Exeter will vote to raise and appropriate as a water operating budget, not including appropriations 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 \$4,601,357. Should this Article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$4,613,401, 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Town Manager, Russell Dean presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 14 – 2025 Sewer Fund Budget

To see if the Town of Exeter will vote to raise and appropriate as a sewer operating budget, not including appropriations 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 \$8,147,727. Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$8,074,074, 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Town Manager, Russell Dean presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 15 – Collective Bargaining Agreement – SEIU Local 1984 and Town of Exeter

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
FY25	\$68,068	\$70,451	\$138,519
FY26	\$93,597	\$105,320	\$198,917
FY27	\$61,403	\$80,643	\$142,046

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thirty-eight thousand five hundred nineteen dollars (\$138,519) for the 2025 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 \$70,451 through taxation (General Fund), and \$68,068

(Water/Sewer Funds) as offsetting revenue. (Estimated Tax Impact: .02/1,000, \$2.02/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Town Manager, Russell Dean presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 16 – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Exeter Police Association and Town of Exeter

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 Police Association, which calls for the following increased salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary/Benefits Increase
FY25	\$133,009
FY26	\$225,370
FY27	\$128,120

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thirty-three thousand, nine dollars (\$133,009) for the 2025 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: .038/1,000, \$3.82/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Town Manager, Russell Dean presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 17 – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Exeter Professional Firefighters Association Local 3491 and Town of Exeter

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 Professional Firefighters Association Local 3491, which calls for the following increased salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary/Benefits Increase
FY25	\$158,248
FY26	\$207,857
FY27	\$124,297

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty-eight thousand, two hundred forty-eight dollars (\$158,248) for the 2025 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: .045/1,000, \$4.54/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Town Manager, Russell Dean presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Anthony Zwann made a motion to restrict consideration of the prior Article. It was second, Moderator Miller called for a voice vote, the Ayes have it. Moderator Miller restricted consideration of the previous Articles.

Article 18 – Replace Sidewalk Tractor #58 (\$225,000)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a 5-year lease/purchase agreement for \$225,000 for the purpose of lease/purchasing a replacement for a 1991 sidewalk tractor in the Public Works Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$56,250), which represents the first of 5 annual payments (a total of \$258,750) for this purpose. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .016/1,000, \$1.61/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 19 – Replace Dump Truck #33 (\$160,000)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a 5-year lease/purchase agreement for \$160,000 for the purpose of lease/purchasing a replacement for dump truck #33 in the Public Works Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-thousand dollars (\$40,000), which represents the first of 5 annual payments (a total of \$184,000) for this purpose. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .011/1,000, \$1.15/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 20 – Purchase ADA Accessible Van for Parks/Recreation (\$120,000)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a 5-year lease/purchase agreement for \$120,000 for the purpose of lease/purchasing an ADA Accessible Van for the Parks/Recreation Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen-thousand dollars (\$15,000), which represents the first of 5 annual general fund payments (a total of \$69,000) for this purpose. The total cost of the van will be shared with the Recreation Revolving Fund which will provide 50% funding or \$69,000 for this purchase over the 5-year lease/purchase. The total

sum to be raised from taxation will be \$69,000. The total amount of the lease/purchase is estimated at \$138,000. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. This sum to come from general taxation and Recreation revolving funds. (Estimated Tax Impact: .004/1,000, \$.43/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. David Tovey presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** Anthony Zwaan spoke in favor of the Article. Barbara Dejardins spoke in favor of the Article and urges voters to vote yes. **Moderator Miller called for further discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 21 – Public EV Charging Facility (\$120,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant Article, the sum of one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000), for the purpose of purchasing and installing two (2) two-port Electric Vehicle chargers (provides charging for 4 vehicles) to be located in the Downtown Municipal Lot. This project may qualify for a DOT Charging Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant that provides an 80:20 grant match (federal:local) up to \$96,000. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for this grant is typically announced in May. Any additional grants obtained will offset the cost of the project. This appropriation will not take effect unless at least \$96,000 in grants are received, with the town's share of up to \$24,000 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Selectwoman Julie Gilman presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** Paul Royal spoke in favor of the Article. David Kovar spoke in favor of the Article. Anthony Zwaan spoke in favor of the Article. **Moderator Miller called for further discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 22 – Appropriate to Sick Leave Trust Fund (\$100,000)

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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 23 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – Parks Improvements (\$100,000)

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. (Estimated Tax Impact: .028/1,000 assessed property value, \$2.84/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 24 – Purchase Styrofoam Densifier Unit (\$80,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant Article, the sum of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000), for the purpose of purchasing a Styrofoam densifier unit. This project is eligible for a \$50,000 grant through RecycleFoam.org with applications due in March/April. Any grants obtained will go to offset the cost of the equipment. This appropriation will not take effect unless \$50,000 in grants are received, with the town's share of \$30,000 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Nina Braun, Sustainable Advisory Committee presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** Christopher Scales asked if this would require a transfer station sticker. Selectman, Dan Chartrand said we do not have an answer at this time and those details would need to be worked out. David Kovar said he doesn't like the idea of charging the residents for a sticker. Tony Berke thinks the service should be free. Denise Short supports the Article. Nicholas Metz supports the Article wholeheartedly. **Moderator Miller called for further discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 25 – Appropriate to Non-Capital Reserve Fund – Snow and Ice Deficit (\$75,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five-thousand dollars (\$75,000) 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 26 – Replace Fire Utility Truck (\$71,355)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant Article, the sum of seventy-one thousand three hundred and fifty-five dollars (\$71,355), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for the Fire Department Utility Truck, purchased in 2008. This vehicle is primarily used for towing emergency and non-emergency trailers to incident scenes. It is also used to pick up used equipment after fire and other incidents. 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 27 – Transfer Station Improvements (\$50,000)

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 making improvements to the Town transfer station. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .014/1,000, \$1.44/100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Selectman, Dan Chartrand presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written**

Article 28 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – ADA Fund (\$25,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the ADA Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Estimated Tax Impact: .0072/1,000 assessed property value, .72/\$100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 29 – Sestercentennial Fund (\$5,000)

To see if the Town will vote to establish a non-capital reserve fund under RSA 35:1-c to be known as the Sestercentennial Fund, for the purpose of planning events and celebrations for the Sestercentennial of the United States of America, and to raise and appropriate the sum of five-thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in this fund and further the Select Board shall be named agents of the fund and be authorized to make expenditures from the fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: .0014/1,000 assessed property value, .14/\$100,000 assessed property value). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 30 – Appropriate to Trust Fund – Swasey Parkway (\$3,750)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750) to be added to the Swasey Parkway Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. This amount is equivalent to the amount of permit fees collected during 2024 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 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.

Article 31 – TIF Amendment – Amend Financing Plan

To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of the Epping Road Tax Increment District Financing Plan Amendment (dated January 6, 2025) in accordance with RSA 162-K:9 IV which allocates the use of tax increments for retirement of bonds and notes as outlined in the plan amendment. The plan amendment includes three capital projects in the Epping Road TIF District. Epping Road Widening Phase 2 – estimated cost \$880,000; Industrial Drive/Commerce Way Paving – estimated cost \$180,000, and Water/Sewer Improvements south of the Continental Drive traffic light – estimated cost \$850,000. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Moderator Miller read the Article. Selectman Dan Chartrand presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** Mary Tegal spoke against this Article and commented that there is no consideration of the esthetics of the corridor. David Kovar seconds Ms. Tegals comments. **Moderator Miller called for further discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 32 – Citizen’s Petition Article

On the petition of Gerry Hamel and other registered voters of the town of Exeter, NH to see if the town shall vote:

To discontinue the community Revitalization Tax Incentive Program (RSA 79E) adopted by the Town of Exeter in March of 2014. The program was used to give tax incentives to owners and investors in certain districts to spur revitalization of property.

With property values more than doubling in the past ten years and the lack of needing incentives to renovate, we feel the incentive program should be discontinued so that the taxes on all future projects can be utilized by the town and citizens instead of investors. (Majority Vote Required.)

Moderator Miller read the Article. Gerry Hamel presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** Anthony Zwaan spoke in favor of the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 33 – Citizen’s Petition Article

By petition of Karishma Manzur and others, Shall the Town vote to direct the Exeter Select Board, our Governor, and State elected representatives to disclose and divest all town and state pension funds and withdraw investments from weapons manufacturers that are profiting from gun violence?

Every year, gun violence kills more than 40,000 people in America and wounds twice as many. Injury from firearms is now the leading cause of death for children and teens in America. Gun violence is costing our nation over \$557 billion in health care treatments and lost economic opportunity. The lost human potential cannot be measured. Put simply, America cannot afford gun violence.

As citizens, we want to make the world safer for everyone, especially children.

The record of the vote approving this Article shall be sent to Exeter's State and Federal representatives and the Governor of New Hampshire. (Majority Vote Required.)

Moderator Miller read the Article. Ms. Manzur presented the Article. **Mr. Alexander Koch made an amendment to the Article.** Removing "profiting from gun violence." And adding "not incorporating Advanced Technology and other safety features to prevent gun deaths and gun thefts?" **Moderator Miller called for a second,** it was second. **Moderator Miller called for discussion of the amendment.** Mary Tegal spoke in favor of the Article. **Moderator Miller called for further discussion seeing none,** **Moderator Miller called for hand vote.** The Ayes have it. The amendment carries. **Moderator Miller called for discussion of the Article.** Ms. Manzur stated we are asking that the Board of Directors that oversees the investing of the pension funds for the State of NH, do not invest in gun companies that do not incorporate gun safety features. Herb Moyer spoke in favor of the Article. Tony Berke asked if the Article passes, what does this bind the town to do. Town Council stated if the Article passes it binds the Selectboard to notify the State of the voting results of this Article. **Moderator Miller called for further discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as amended.**

Article 34 – Citizen's Petition Article

By petition of Karishma Manzur and others, Shall the Town vote to call upon our Federal elected representatives to investigate the massive fraud and waste in the US Department of Defense, cut the vast \$900 billion defense budget, and use taxpayer funds to help ordinary Americans?

While over 45 million Americans are struggling with hunger, billions of dollars will go to a few giant defense contractors that overcharge the US government and make enormous profits for their CEOs and shareholders. This is disgraceful. As citizens, we want our tax funds to help ordinary Americans.

The record of the vote approving this Article shall be sent to Exeter's State and Federal representatives and the Governor of New Hampshire. (Majority Vote Required.)

Moderator Miller read the Article. Ms. Manzur presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** David Kovar spoke in favor of the Article. Herb Moyer spoke for the Article. Pat Yosha spoke for the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 35 – Citizen's Petition Article

By petition of Karishma Manzur and others, Shall the Town vote to call upon our Federal elected representatives to use the US government's considerable influence to (1) support the safety and right to life of all people living in Israel and Palestine, (2) enforce U.S. laws prohibiting weapons sales to countries that violate human rights, and (3) ensure the safe delivery of food and medical supplies to the people in Gaza?

While many Americans struggle to live from paycheck to paycheck, many are homeless, children are going hungry, elderly people are unable to afford to heat their homes, and millions of Americans don't have health insurance, our government spent over \$90 million of New Hampshire tax money in 2024 to buy weapons for Israel.

We want our government to spend our money to help ordinary Americans. As citizens, we are also concerned that our money and weapons are being used to make Gaza the most dangerous place in the world to be a child.

The record of the vote approving this Article shall be sent to Exeter's State and Federal representatives and the Governor of New Hampshire. (Majority Vote Required.)

Moderator Miller read the Article. Ms. Manzur presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** **Herb Moyer spoke in favor of the Article.** **Moderator Miller called for discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 36 – Citizen's Petition Article

By petition of Karishma Manzur and others, Shall the Town vote to authorize and direct the Exeter Select Board, our Governor, and State and Federal elected representatives to support a \$5,000 limit on contributions to political action committees (PACs) and super PACs that spend money to support or defeat candidates for office in New Hampshire?

Democracy means that we elect our political leaders, and they represent us. As citizens, we are concerned that corporations and billionaires use money to make our elected officials do what they want, and most ordinary Americans do not have that power.

The record of the vote approving this Article shall be sent to Exeter's State and Federal representatives and the Governor of New Hampshire. (Majority Vote Required.)

Moderator Miller read the Article. Ms. Manzur presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** Herb Moyer spoke in favor of this Article. Nicholas Mentz spoke in favor of the Article. **Moderator Miller called for further discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 37 – Petition Article

By petition of Karishma Manzur and others, Shall the Town vote to call upon our Governor and State and Federal elected representatives to conserve and maintain New Hampshire's public natural resources for the benefit of this and future generations?

As citizens, we recognize the fundamental right of people, plants, and animals to have clean air, pure water, and a healthy environment. We urge our State and Federal governments to ensure that our beautiful state continues to have a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment upon which we all rely.

The record of the vote approving this Article shall be sent to Exeter's State and Federal representatives and the Governor of New Hampshire. (Majority Vote Required.)

Moderator Miller read the Article. Ms. Manzur presented the Article. **Moderator Miller called for discussion.** Herb Moyer supports the Article. Joan Pratt supports the Article. **Moderator Miller called for further discussion, seeing none, the Article will go on the ballot as written.**

Article 2 Zoning Amendment #1: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town zoning ordinance, by amending Article 2, Section 2.2 Definitions by adding a new definition for “Short-term rental”: “Any individually or collectively owned single-family house or dwelling unit or any unit or group of units in a condominium, cooperative, or timeshare, or owner-occupied residential home, that is offered for a fee and for less than thirty (30) consecutive days.” And amend Article 4, Section 4.2 Schedule I: Permitted Uses by adding “**Short-term rental**” as a permitted use in the C-1, Central Area Commercial and WC-Waterfront Commercial zoning districts?

Moderator Miller read Article 2. Moderator Miller called for discussion. David Kovar spoke against the Article. Moderator Miller called for further discussion, 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 second with no opposition, Moderator Miller declared the meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm and the meeting to resume at 7:00 am at the Talbot Gym on 30 Linden Street for voting purposes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea J. Kohler
Exeter Town Clerk, CMC, CTC, MMC

State of New Hampshire
Rockingham County

Dated:

These minutes of the Deliberative Session held on February 1, 2025, were signed before me

by Andrea J. Kohler, Exeter Town Clerk, this
day of _____ 2025