

**Town of Exeter**  
**Fact Sheets and Explanatory**  
**Information**  
**Town Warrant 2024**



**Please Take One**

Welcome to the 2024 Town of Exeter Deliberative Session. This year the Town Warrant includes a total of 25 articles to be discussed, debated and possibly amended at this year's session, unless the language of the article is prescribed by law.

The Deliberative Session affords Town residents the ability to directly participate in their town government. Warrant articles include the proposed operating budget for the Town for 2024, along with special, and individual, warrant articles proposed for various initiatives. This year, there are a total of 15 articles that are financial in nature, requesting an appropriation of funds.

There are 4 proposed bond articles: articles 4 through 7 on the Town Warrant. These bond articles are for capital projects requiring borrowing and will require 60% vote of the citizens to pass. Article 4 seeks funds for a new Police Station and Fire Substation on Continental Drive. Article 5 seeks funding to complete water, sewer, road and drainage improvements in the School Street neighborhood. Article 6 seeks additional funds for the Webster Avenue pump station project originally approved in 2020. Article 7 seeks funding for the design of a new Surface Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) on Portsmouth Avenue. Article 8 seeks to reassign surplus bond proceeds (project budget surplus) to pay debt service on another bond and purchase two police cruisers.

Article 9 is a customary article of the slate of Town officers including the Budget Recommendations Committee nominees for 2024.

Articles 10, 11 and 12 are the Town's operating, water, and sewer fund budgets.

Article 13 would provide funds for equipment for a new Planet Playground at 4 Hampton Road. It is anticipated this project would be 50% grant funded through the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

Articles 15 and 17 are customary articles to fund the Town's Sick Leave Trust Fund and Snow/Ice Deficit Fund.

Article 16 would appropriate funds to the Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes of park improvements within the Town.

Article 18 would provide funds to further the Town's ADA efforts.

Article 19 would appropriate funds into the Swasey Parkway Expendable Trust Fund created by the 2019 Town Meeting. Permit revenues generated from Parkway events are deposited into this fund as a customary article each year.

Article 20 would allow the Trustees of Trust Funds to hire an investment advisor to invest capital reserve funds.

Article 21 would establish a revolving fund to account for revenues and expenses for the new Town solar array to be constructed at the old Cross Road landfill.

Articles 22 and 23 would update the Town's committee structure for the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee and the Heritage Commission. Both boards have had quorum issues in recent years and these changes would assist those boards in meeting quorum requirements for meetings.

Article 24 is a Citizen's Petition for the Town to consider support of future purchase of the 'Rugg Property' located north of Oaklands Town Forest and east of Wood Ridge Lane.

Article 25 is a Citizen's Petition that proposes to make Swasey Parkway a one-way road and to spend \$2,500 on speed bumps and to maintain the Parkway.

There are 2 zoning amendments this year (Articles 2 and 3), and that language is set by law and cannot be amended. Zoning amendments are subject to public hearings at the Planning Board and go onto the ballot as written for a vote on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **Overview**

Each article will be introduced and read by the Moderator, excepting those that are not subject to amendment. Discussion, if any, will then take place. Amendments that are proposed will be discussed and deliberated at the meeting. Once discussion is complete and articles are finalized, the moderator will declare the item closed.

Questions from the floor on any article can be directed by raising one's hand and asking to be recognized by the Moderator. All questions and comments should go through the Moderator.

The following pages of this brochure include fact sheets and information. We hope you find it a helpful reference document.

Articles that are ultimately amended (or not) will appear on the official ballot for popular vote at the Town Election on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Second session voting will take place at the Talbot Gymnasium at 30 Linden Street. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a final vote on all town and school officers and warrant articles.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**  
**Article 4**

**Article 4 – Police Station and Fire Substation (\$17,522,500)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen million five hundred twenty two thousand and five hundred dollars (\$17,522,500) for the purpose of design, engineering and “net zero” construction of a new police station and fire substation on Continental Drive including equipment, furnishings and related costs, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$17,522,500 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, obtain and accept 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 20-year bond at 3.65% interest: .68/1,000, \$68/100,000 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.

**Description**

The proposed new Police Department and Fire Substation would be located on a Town owned piece of property on the corner of Continental Drive and Jillian Lane. The site is relatively flat and can accommodate the Police and Fire Departments needs for secure parking, an auto impound, and a trash enclosure. A 60’ apparatus apron would be provided from the Fire Department substation bays with direct access to Continental Drive. The proposed two-story building would be approximately 23,165 gross square feet (16,285 GSF for the Police Department and 6,880 GSF for the Fire Substation). Visitors would enter through a main lobby on the east side of the building allowing flexible day or nighttime use



of a training/community room as well as attend to Police Department and Fire Department business. Police Officers, Fire crew and staff would enter the building from the rear allowing secure parking for all employee and department vehicles with direct access to their individual departments.

There will be no need to hire additional personnel, buy additional apparatus or equipment, or promote any additional supervisors if the new Police Station/Fire Substation is approved.

If approved, the proposed new Police Station will not necessitate the need for additional staffing since the Exeter Police Department will be able to transition all police sworn and civilian staff entirely into the new station. The same applies to the Fire Department, as it intends to divide current resources (shifts of 7) to provide staffing at both locations. The plan is to have a staff of 4 including a Captain and 3 Firefighters at the current Court Street location, and a crew of 3 including a Lieutenant and 2 Firefighters at the Continental Drive Substation. Due to the ongoing support of our residents and taxpayers, the Fire Department has enough equipment to safely equip both locations without the need to purchase additional apparatus or equipment. The Department intends to relocate an engine, capable of initial attack of any fires in the north and west portions of town, and an ambulance. This will leave 3 engines downtown with the ladder truck and an ambulance.

The substation has been designed to support at least one chief level supervisor. During the recent reorganization, we promoted 2 Deputy Chief positions (not new employees just reclassified existing positions). These positions will allow us to assign at least 1 Deputy Chief to the Fire Substation and leave the Chief of Department, Asst. Chief, and Deputy Chief of Prevention assigned to the Court Street station.

#### Sustainability Initiatives

The proposed building will meet &/or exceed the current NH energy code. The building will be designed with all electrical equipment which will be Net Zero ready in the future for solar panels. Sustainable materials, low flow fixtures and LED lights will be used throughout the project.

The conceptual building plans include:

- A two-stall sally port with secure entry from the rear of the PD building.
- Secure parking for PD vehicles, PD staff, and FD staff.
- A two-bay apparatus floor to accommodate a large fire truck, EMS ambulance, work truck and associated FD storage.
- The Fire substation will provide decontamination spaces to protect healthy Firefighter living and work areas.

Anticipated construction completely is estimated sometime in the Fall of 2026.

#### **Financing**

This project will be financed by a bond. The bonded amount would be \$17,522,500 dollars, amortized over 20 years. Based on a bonded amount of 17,522,500 million dollars over 20 years at a projected interest rate of 3.65%, the first-year debt service payment would be \$1,515,696. This equates to a first-year impact of 68 cents per 1,000, or \$203 on a \$300,000 home. The 20<sup>th</sup> year impact on the same home would be \$122. The average impact over the 20 years is projected at \$162 per year for a \$300,000 home.



To watch an informational video on the project, scan the QR code or follow this link:  
<https://www.exeternh.gov/police/proposed-new-police-station-fire-substation>

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024

### Article 5

#### **Article 5 – School Street Area Design/Reconstruction (\$6,510,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six million five hundred ten thousand and zero dollars (\$6,510,000) for the purpose of construction of water, sewer and drainage improvements in the School Street area, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$6,510,000 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, obtain and accept 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 anticipates receiving 35% debt forgiveness from NHDES to offset a portion of the sewer cost of this project. Debt service will be paid from the general fund, and notwithstanding the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt service will also be paid from the water fund, and sewer fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 15-year bond at 3.35% interest: \$.10/1,000, \$10/100,000 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.

#### **Description**



The School Street Area Reconstruction project includes water, sewer, and drainage infrastructure improvements and the full-depth construction of roadways and sidewalks along Garfield, Kossuth, School, and Union Streets (including former Garfield Ct). The existing water mains in this area are comprised of 4-inch and 6-inch cast iron (CI) pipe that have insufficient capacity for fire flows and were identified in the 2015 Water System Asset Management Plan as being a high priority for replacement. The sewer mains are 8-inch and 10-inch vitrified clay pipe (VCP) in poor condition and the drainage system has been identified as being in poor condition with the potential for

flooding. As part of the project, the roads and sidewalks in the neighborhood will be upgraded to comply with current accessibility standards.

#### **Financing**

This project will be financed by a bond. The bonded amount would be \$6.51 million dollars, amortized over 15 years. Based on a bonded amount of 6.51 million dollars over 15 years at a projected interest rate of 3.35%, the first year debt service payment would be \$652,085. Of this amount, \$268,007 would be charged to the general fund, \$202,798 to the water fund, and \$181,280 to the sewer fund. This equates to a first year impact of 10 cents per 1,000, or \$30 on a \$300,000 home. The water fund and the sewer fund would pay debt service on the water and sewer parts of the project. The Sewer Fund portion will be subject to 35% debt forgiveness from the NHDES.

## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

### **Article 6**

#### **Article 6 – Webster Avenue Pump Station (\$213,300)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thirteen thousand and three hundred dollars (\$213,300) for the purpose of replacement of the Webster Avenue Sewer Pump Station, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$213,300 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, obtain and accept 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. Without impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt service will be paid by the sewer fund. Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance. This appropriation is in addition to the \$5,700,000 in bonding authority approved by Article 3 of the 2022 Town Meeting.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

#### **Description**

The Webster Avenue sewer pump station pumps sewage from the Portsmouth Avenue sewer-shed over Jady Hill, to the sewer collection system, to the two 8-inch siphons under the Squamscott River, which in turn, flow to the Main Pump Station on Water Street. This project will upgrade and increase the current flow capacity at the Webster Avenue sewage pump station from 800 gallons per minute (gpm) to 1,200 gallons per minute (gpm). Improvements include deepening the wet well to expand pumping capacity and improve pump efficiency and the installation of a new 12-inch HDPE force main, 1,940 feet in length, from the station to 55 Jady Hill Avenue. Other maintenance/upgrade tasks include a flow meter and force main shut-off valves with drain-back piping which allow for improved maintenance, and emergency repair response. In 2022, voters approved an appropriation of \$5,700,000 for design and construction, to be offset with a \$1,050,000 Congressionally Directed Spending grant, \$1,395,000 in State ARPA funds, and \$325,500 in principal forgiveness through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Construction bids for the project were opened in December 2023 and an appropriation of \$213,300 is being requested to provide supplemental funding to complete the project.



#### **Financing**

The additional funding for this project is \$213,300. This amount will be added to the current SRF (State Revolving Fund) approved loan and amortized over 15 years. Debt service will be paid by the Sewer Fund.

## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

### **Article 7**

#### **Article 7 – Surface Water Treatment Plant Design/Engineering (\$500,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the purpose of design and engineering of a new surface water treatment plant, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$500,000 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 items thereof; 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 and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto. Without impairing 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.

#### **Description**

Both surface water and groundwater supplies are utilized to meet the Town's total water supply needs and Integrated Management approach to water supply. The need for a surface water supply has become more apparent since testing in 2020 has shown that three of the existing groundwater supplies have less sustainable capacity than originally estimated, about 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD), while current peak demand is about 1.6 MGD. The Town is actively moving forward with development of additional groundwater supply capacity, but we must also address upgrading or replacing the Surface Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) which currently provides 50-60% of the Town's water. The existing SWTP was



constructed in 1905, with subsequent upgrades completed in 1924, 1972, and 1992. Rebuilding on the current site is not recommended due to the limitations of the existing treatment process, site constraints, and susceptibility to flooding. It has been noted that the potential for flooding is only expected to increase with climate change and predicted sea level rise. Construction of a new SWTP at a new site is recommended with the goal of providing 30%-40% of the Town's water supply needs. Options for a new site are limited; however, the Town-owned "Sportsman's Club" parcel has been previously identified as a potential location due to its higher elevation and

proximity to the Exeter Reservoir. A planning and preliminary design effort is necessary to evaluate the "Sportsman's Club" parcel and other potential sites, establish the required capacity and most appropriate treatment processes, and refine projected costs. This evaluation would include looking at options to utilize existing infrastructure, such as the current reservoir intake, and repurpose the existing SWTP site.

#### **Financing**

This project will be financed by a bond. The bonded amount would be \$500,000 dollars, amortized over 5 years. Based on a bonded amount of \$500,000 over 5 years at a projected interest rate of 2.89%, the first year debt service payment would be \$114,450. Debt service would be paid by the Water Fund.



**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

**Article 8**

**Article 8 – Excess Construction Proceeds – Police Vehicle Purchase (\$120,000) and Principal Payments on Outstanding Bond Issues (\$93,971)**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of the unused portion of the bonds approved in 2011 for Great Dam Design and Water/Sewer Line Replacement; and in 2012 for Wastewater Treatment Facility Design and Jady Hill Utilities (totaling \$213,971) as follows: to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 for the purchase of two Police vehicles per RSA 33:3-a, II. The remaining unused bond proceeds (\$93,971) to be applied to the principal payment on the Great Dam Removal bond issued in 2014. (Estimated Tax Impact: None).

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

**Description**

The Town has completed two capital projects under budget, which resulted in excess bond proceeds. These proceeds can be reassigned to a different purpose with a Town vote. The Town proposes reallocating the surplus proceeds in the following manner: 1) to pay down debt service associated with the Great Dam Removal project; and 2) purchasing two police cruisers for the Police Department.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

**Article 9**

**Choose Town Officers**

**Article 9**

To choose all other necessary Town Officers, Auditors or Committees for the ensuing year.

**Description**

The slate of nominees for the 2024 Budget Recommendations Committee, Fence Viewer, Measurer of Wood and Bark, and Weigher, will be presented under this article.

**Tax Impact of Project**

This article has no tax impact.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**  
**Article 10**

**Article 10 – 2024 Operating Budget**

Shall the Town of Exeter 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 \$22,860,862. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$22,572,676, 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: .29/1,000 assessed property value, \$29/100,000 assessed property value).

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

**Description**

Article 10 of the Town Warrant is the 2024 General Fund Operating Budget request. As Exeter is an “SB2” Town there are two numbers on the warrant. The first is the Operating Budget recommended by the Select Board. The second number is the “default budget” which cannot be amended. The default budget goes into effect if the Operating Budget is voted down at the polls on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The 2024 proposed Operating Budget is 7.20% higher than the 2023 budget. The dollar differential is \$1,534,582.

The detail of the 2024 Operating Budget is contained on the MS636 form, which outlines all purposes for funding in 2024 for the General Fund, the Water Fund, Sewer Fund, and other proposed warrant articles. The General Fund is the Town’s main operating fund and pays for all Town operations. The Police, Fire, and Public Works budgets make up approximately 64.2% of the total 2024 General Fund budget of \$22,860,862. In 2023, these departments also made up approximately 66% of the budget request.

The table below shows the year over year budget increases/(decreases) for each program area over the three year period:

| Function                   | FY22 Budget | FY23 Budget | FY24 Proposed | \$\$ '24/'23 | % '24/'23 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| General Government         | 1,239,834   | 1,320,922   | \$1,541,800   | \$220,878    | 16.72%    |
| Finance                    | 711,863     | 710,155     | \$770,998     | 60,843       | 8.57%     |
| Planning & Building        | 568,675     | 590,311     | 597,963       | 7,652        | 1.30%     |
| Economic Development       | 153,114     | 160,926     | 167,860       | 6,934        | 4.31%     |
| Police                     | 3,530,920   | 3,710,098   | 3,952,128     | 242,030      | 6.52%     |
| Fire                       | 3,883,095   | 4,091,172   | 4,235,231     | 144,059      | 3.52%     |
| Dispatch/Health            | 578,982     | 591,121     | 608,164       | 17,043       | 2.88%     |
| Public Works – Gen Fund    | 4,494,655   | 4,577,216   | 4,639,346     | 62,130       | 1.36%     |
| Maintenance - Garage       | 1,249,359   | 1,294,634   | 1,243,241     | -51,393      | -3.97%    |
| Welfare/Human Services     | 181,657     | 183,587     | 242,419       | 58,832       | 32.05%    |
| Parks/Recreation           | 640,116     | 614,506     | 688,829       | 74,323       | 12.09%    |
| Other Culture/Recreation   | 34,000      | 34,000      | 34,500        | 500          | 1.47%     |
| Public Library             | 1,124,643   | 1,172,320   | 1,185,689     | 13,369       | 1.14%     |
| Debt Service/Capital       | 1,784,835   | 1,772,346   | 2,424,260     | 651,914      | 36.78%    |
| Benefits/Taxes/Fixed Costs | 474,975     | 502,966     | 528,434       | 25,468       | 5.06%     |
| Total General Fund         | 20,650,723  | 21,326,280  | 22,860,862    | 1,534,582    | 7.20%     |

**Town Budget and Warrant Process**

- August – September: Town Departments prepare preliminary budget and submit to Town Manager.
- September: Town Manager submits preliminary budget to Select Board and Budget Recommendations Committee, along with Capital Improvement requests.
- October: Town receives annual health insurance rating and budget is adjusted.
- October – November: Budget Recommendations Committee and subcommittees (Police/Fire, General Government, Rec/Library/Human Services, DPW General, DPW Water/Sewer) meet with departments, review budgets, and make recommendations on budget and capital improvement program. All meetings are open to the public. Minutes and streamed meetings available to the public.
- December: Select Board receives recommendations of BRC and discusses budget. Select Board finalize budget for proposal to Deliberative Session and Town voters after January public hearing.
- Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024, 9:00 a.m.. – Town Deliberative Session, discussion of warrant articles. Amendments for articles that are able to be amended are discussed. Registered voters can participate.
- Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Town vote on Operating Budgets and Warrant Articles. Talbot Gym, Linden Street, Exeter, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – voting on all Town and school articles.

**FY24 Budget Format – Town Warrant**

- Three separate Operating Budget warrant articles. General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund (2024 articles 10, 11 and 12).
- Warrant articles for Operating Budget in required format under RSA 40:13.
- Each Operating Budget has its own default budget (should the budget article be voted down, default budget goes into effect).
- Financial articles (bonds, individual, and special warrant articles) stand alone for separate vote on warrant.
- Budget forms MS636 and MSDTB reflect DRA approved format.

## **FY24 Budget Commentary – Wage/Benefit Categories**

**Wages** – Budgeted wages in the FY24 budget include a step adjustment of 3.0% plus a 2.0% COLA adjustment for all eligible non union employees, and 2.50% step increases plus a 2.0% COLA for three unions. In addition, all three collective bargaining agreements now include incentives, career enhancement payouts, and shift differential (police only). The overall increase in General Fund wages for FY24 is budgeted at \$568,021, or 5.80%. The Town underwent a wage and classification update for non union and SEIU positions in FY24 and those wage adjustments are factored into the FY24 budget.

**Insurance** – The budgeted insurance increase for FY24 is 9.89%, or \$233,769. This is based on the FY24 rates set by HealthTrust, which includes a 10.0% plan increase in insurance premiums. Plan changes account for the necessary budgetary adjustments. It also includes dental, life, and long term disability insurance.

**Retirement Costs** – Group 1 and Group 2 retirement costs are increasing 2.60%, or \$53,805, in the proposed FY24 budget. Contribution rates for the FY24 budget year are as follows: Group 1 employees 13.53%, Group 2 employees (Police) 31.28%, and Group 2 employees (Fire) 30.35%. Police and Fire employees do not participate in social security. Group 1 employees participate in social security.

## **FY24 General Fund Budget Discussion**

The FY24 budget request is \$22,860,862, a 7.20% increase, or \$1,534,582 over the FY23 adjusted budget of \$21,326,280. The Town budget makes up approximately 23% of the overall property tax bill. The remainder of the bill is for education (local and Cooperative), state education tax, and the county tax.

## **The Operating Budget includes the following Town Departments and functions:**

1. General Government (Executive/Legislative, Human Resources, Town Clerk/Elections, Legal, Transportation, Information Technology, Trustees of Trust Funds, Town Moderator);
2. Finance/Treasurer/Tax Collection/Assessing;
3. Planning, Building, Economic Development, Land Use Boards;
4. Police, Animal Control, Dispatch, Fire/EMS, Emergency Management, Health;
5. DPW General Fund (Administration & Engineering, Highways/Streets, Snow Removal, Solid Waste, Street Lights, Stormwater), DPW Maintenance, DPW Town Buildings (Utilities, Maintenance, Projects), DPW Mechanics/Garage;
6. Welfare/Human Services Agency Grants;
7. Parks/Recreation, Other Culture/Recreation;
8. Public Library;
9. Debt Service & Capital;
10. Benefits and Taxes.

## **FY24 General Fund Budget Notes**

### **Expenses**

- Largest three Town Departments are Police, Fire/EMS, and Public Works. These three functions make up approximately 64.2% of the total General Fund.

- Personnel Requests – There is one new personnel request in the FY24 budget – a part-time Welfare/Human Services Administrator. The FY24 budget also contemplates a stipend for the Emergency Management Director, and the conversion of the Police Prosecutor position from a staff Detective to a contract Prosecutor.

**FY24 General Fund Revenue Projections**

- Estimated land use change tax of \$325,000.
- Motor vehicle permit revenue at \$3,250,000.
- Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution at \$1,500,000.
- Estimated department income \$1,426,570 (EMS fund transfer, blue bag fees, brush dump fees, transfer station permit fees).
- Interest income revenue at \$300,000..
- Use of Fund Balance of \$900,000 to lower tax rate (planned)
- Total revenues applicable to budget - \$8,872,315
- Total Budget Estimate: \$22,860,862
- Total Taxes Estimated to be raised by 2024 budget: \$13,988,547 (2024 budget of \$22,860,862 - \$8,872,315 in estimated revenues = \$13,988,547).
- Total Taxes Raised by 2023 budget: \$13,229,888
- Budget as presented represents a .29/1,000 increase in town tax rate (see additional slide, \$6.52 vs. \$6.23 in FY23)
- FY23 town tax rate of \$6.23/1,000 includes warrant articles approved in 2023, veterans credits, and overlay for abatements.

**Default Budget**

- Budget goes into effect if the Operating Budget is not approved
- Does not affect voting on separate warrant articles
- Definition of default budget in RSA 40:13; amended by state legislature in 2018.
- Certain contractual increases can no longer be counted due to new default definition
- Default budget form is MSDTB
- FY24 default budget: \$22,572,676
- Default budget is prior year budget minus one time expenditures plus obligations committed in prior years

**General Fund Budget Summary – Town Operations**

Article 10, Town Warrant

FY24 Proposed Budget: 7.20% over FY23 budget

FY24 Default Budget: \$22,572,676 – 5.84% over FY23 adjusted budget

FY23 Adjusted Budget: \$21,326,280

Budget Increase over FY23: 7.20%

Dollar increase over FY23: \$1,534,582

FY24 Operating Budget Tax Impact: \$6.52/1,000\*

FY24 Default Budget Tax Impact: \$6.35/1,000\*

\*Overlay and Veterans Credits add 21 cents to final rate.

Tax Rate Projection Including Overlay/Vets Credits: \$6.73/1,000

2023 Town Tax Rate: \$6.23/1,000

*Assumes 1% increase in net taxable valuation in 2024*

*Latest sales to assessment ratio is 64%*

NOTE: 2024 is a revaluation year.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**  
**Article 11**

**Article 11 – 2024 Water Fund Budget**

Shall the Town of Exeter 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 \$4,962,773. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$4,828,764, 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.

**Description**

The FY24 Water Fund Budget of \$4,962,773 is a 9.09% increase, or \$413,403 over the FY23 Water Fund Budget of \$4,549,370.

The Water Fund Budget pays for operations and maintenance on the Town’s public water system, which serves approximately 75% of the population. The Town takes water from the Exeter River for its surface water supply, via a pump station in Gilman Park. The system also includes a series of groundwater wells (Gilman Well, Stadium Well, Lary Lane Well) and the Lary Lane groundwater plant. The Town operates three major distribution tanks (Epping Road, Cross Road, Fuller Lane), and the water system has a distribution pipeline of approximately 65 miles of water mains.

| <b><u>Budget Category</u></b> | <b><u>FY23</u></b> | <b><u>FY24</u></b> | <b><u>\$\$ Chg</u></b> | <b><u>% Chg</u></b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Administration                | \$506,236          | \$537,491          | 31,255                 | 6.17%               |
| Billing                       | 195,191            | 211,744            | 16,553                 | 8.48%               |
| Distribution                  | 1,007,816          | 954,024            | -53,792                | -5.34%              |
| Treatment                     | 933,759            | 1,028,751          | 94,991                 | 10.17%              |
| Debt Service                  | 1,431,038          | 1,640,513          | 209,475                | 14.64%              |
| <b><u>Capital Outlay</u></b>  | <b>475,330</b>     | <b>590,250</b>     | <b>114,920</b>         | <b>24.18%</b>       |
| <b>Total Budget</b>           | <b>\$4,549,370</b> | <b>\$4,962,773</b> | <b>413,403</b>         | <b>9.09%</b>        |

**FY24 Water Fund Budget Notes**

**Highlights**

- Water Fund programs: Administration, Billing & Collection, Water Distribution, Water Treatment, Debt Service, Capital Outlay.
- Water Administration. Includes administrative personnel allocation of DPW and General Government, property insurance allocation, public notices budget. FY24 Budget: \$537,941.

- **Water Billing.** Includes 50% of the water/sewer billing personnel, billing software costs, phone/internet support, finance department allocation, town audit allocation. FY24 Budget: \$211,744.
- **Water Distribution** – includes 50% distribution system personnel (technicians), natural gas and electric costs of pump station, pump station maintenance, GIS software. Reduction in system maintenance (\$24,000), electricity (\$12,500) and Tank maintenance (\$13,011). FY24 Budget: \$954,024.
- **Water Treatment** – includes operator costs for the Surface and Groundwater Treatment Plants. Addition of 1 operator in FY24 at 7 months funding and 1 PT Water Treatment Plant Supervisor in anticipation of retirement. FY24 Budget: \$1,028,751.
- **Debt service** – Debt payments on major capital projects. Epping Road Water Tank, Salem Street Utilities Improvements, Lary Lane Groundwater Plant, Washington Street Water Line Replacement, Groundwater Exploration program, and Westside Drive Design/Construction. FY24 Budget: \$1,640,513.
- **Capital outlay** – Water system capital needs identified in CIP including filter/clarifier replacement and maintenance contract, Stadium well rehabilitation, Lary Lane well rehabilitation, River Pump Station pump replacement. FY24 Budget: \$590,250.

**Budget Overview**

| <u>Fund</u> | <u>2024 Default Budget</u> | <u>2024 Budget</u> | <u>% Increase over Default</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Water Fund  | \$4,828,764                | \$4,962,773        | 2.78%                          |
|             |                            |                    |                                |

| <u>Fund</u> | <u>2023 Operating Adjusted Budget</u> | <u>2024 Operating Budget</u> | <u>% Increase over 2023</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Water Fund  | \$4,549,370                           | \$4,962,773                  | 9.09%                       |

**Water Fund Revenues**

The Water Fund Budget is paid for by fees and other revenues collected from users of the public water system, who are billed on a quarterly basis. The Select Board adjusted water rates in October, 2023 and these rates went into effect with bills issued after January 1, 2024 (the January bill).

The latest water rates are as follows: Tier 1: \$10.72 per 1,000 gallons, Tier 2: \$13.41 per 1,000 gallons, Tier 3: \$16.08 per 1,000 gallons. Gallon tiers are: Tier 1 – up to 21,000 gallons, Tier 2, 21,001 to 105,000 gallons, Tier 3, 105,001 gallons and above. Rates are based on quarterly consumption. Service fees vary by meter size and cover administration and billing costs.



**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

**Article 12**

**Article 12 – 2024 Sewer Fund Budget**

Shall the Town of Exeter 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 \$7,490,430. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,569,284, 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.

**Description**

The FY24 Sewer Fund Budget of \$7,490,430 is a decrease of \$28,872, or -0.38%, under the FY23 Sewer Fund Budget of \$7,519,302.

The Sewer Fund Budget pays for operations and maintenance on the Town’s sewer system. The Town’s sewer system serves approximately 75% of the population and includes a Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) located at 13 Newfields Road, the Main Pump Station located behind 277 Water Street, a siphon system that goes under the Squamscott River from Jady Hill to the Main Pump Station, miles of sewer lines, and several pump stations.

The FY24 Sewer Fund Budget reflects the fifth year of operation of the Wastewater Treatment Facility on Newfields Road. These costs are in the Treatment and Debt Service portions of the FY24 sewer budget. Due to known costs in electricity and biosolids handling/processing, these budgets continue to be adjusted to reflect actual activity at the WWTF.

| <b>Budget Category</b> | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2024</b>    | <b>\$\$ Chg</b> | <b>% Chg</b>  |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Administration         | \$515,471      | \$566,755      | \$51,284        | 9.95%         |
| Billing                | 191,614        | 208,169        | 16,555          | 8.64%         |
| Collection System      | 810,564        | 717,012        | -93,552         | -11.54%       |
| Treatment              | 1,639,664      | 1,635,020      | -4,643          | -.28%         |
| Debt Service           | 4,209,659      | 4,192,568      | -17,091         | -.41%         |
| Capital Outlay         | <u>152,331</u> | <u>170,906</u> | <u>18,575</u>   | <u>12.19%</u> |
| Total Budget           | \$7,519,302    | \$7,490,430    | -28,872         | -.38%         |

**FY24 Sewer Fund Budget Notes**

**Highlights**

- Sewer Fund programs: Administration, Billing & Collection, Sewer Collection, Sewer Treatment, Debt Service, Capital Outlay.
- Sewer Administration – includes administrative personnel allocation of DPW and General Government. Includes allocation for consulting personnel and fixed assets. FY24 Budget: \$566,755.
- Sewer Billing – includes 50% of the water/sewer billing personnel, billing software agreement costs, town audit allocation. FY24 Budget: \$208,169.

- Sewer Collection – Includes collection system personnel (technicians), I and I abatement, pipe relining program, road repairs, manhole maintenance, pump and control maintenance, electricity for pump and lift stations. FY24 Budget: \$717,012.
- Sewer Treatment – includes operating and maintenance costs for the new Wastewater Treatment Facility. FY24 budget includes 6 FT operators with one funded at 7 months. FY24 Budget: \$1,635,020.
- Debt service – Debt payments on major capital projects. WWTF, Lagoon Sludge Removal, Salem Street Utility Project, Lincoln Street improvements. FY24 Budget: \$4,192,568.
- Capital Outlay – Sewer Vactor Truck Lease/Purchase, Air Compressor replacement, WWTF flume epoxy coating. FY24 Budget: \$170,906.

| <u>Fund</u> | <u>2024 Default Budget</u> | <u>2024 Budget</u> | <u>% Decrease under Default</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sewer Fund  | \$7,569,284                | \$7,490,430        | -1.04%                          |
|             |                            |                    |                                 |

| <u>Fund</u> | <u>2023 Operating Adjusted Budget</u> | <u>2024 Operating Budget</u> | <u>% Decrease under 2023</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sewer Fund  | \$7,519,302                           | \$7,490,430                  | -.38%                        |

As noted above, the Town’s Sewer Fund Budget request for 2024 is a decrease of .38%, or \$28,872 under the approved FY23 Sewer Fund Budget.

**Sewer Fund Revenues**

The Sewer Fund Budget is paid for by fees and other revenues collected from users of the public sewer system, who are billed on a quarterly basis. Sewer rates are reviewed regularly by the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee and Select Board. In October 2023, rates were adjusted by the Select Board.

The new sewer rates effective January 2024 were adjusted as follows: Tier 1: \$16.99 per 1,000 gallons, Tier 2: \$21.24 per 1,000 gallons, Tier 3: \$25.49 per 1,000 gallons. Gallon tiers are: Tier 1 – up to 21,000 gallons, Tier 2, 21,001 to 105,000 gallons, Tier 3, 105,001 gallons and above. Rates are based on quarterly water use. Residents who do not have public sewer but have public water are charged a flat rate based on the number of bedrooms in their homes. These residents have the option to tie into the public system however have chosen not to do so. Service fees are variable based on meter size. Standard ¾” meters pay \$38.43 per quarter in service fees.

## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

### **Article 13**

#### **Article 13 – Planet Playground (\$595,000)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of five hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$595,000), for the purpose of purchase and installation of a new Planet Playground including equipment, at the Town Recreation Park at 4 Hampton Road. Approximately \$297,500 of this appropriation will be funded by a Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). The Select Board has designated this a special warrant article.

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

#### **Description**

Since 1998, Planet Playground has been the heart and soul of recreation for the Town of Exeter. Hundreds of volunteers came together to create this iconic playground, once ranked as one of the premium playgrounds in the state. This large wooden playground, approximately 40,000 square feet, has attracted thousands of people from near and far for their children's enjoyment. The playground's recreational opportunities were boundless, from a puppet theater to multiple tunnels and crawl spaces spaced to the space shuttle. There was something to offer for all ages 2-12.

Unfortunately, time, weather, and usage have taken a toll on the playground. In the last few years, the playground has started to deteriorate. Elements had to be removed for safety; the structures are wearing down, and the wood has begun to crack and splinter. Furthermore, playground standards have changed. The layout, along with the non-accessible surfacing, creates challenges for those who might have mobility issues. The playground has too many flaws to invest in modifications. Replacement is the most cost effective solution.

The Town of Exeter is looking to replace the playground after 25 years with a new, universally designed playground to allow proper accessibility for those with mobility issues and disabilities. The design has a similar space theme as the original Planet Playground while providing safe, stable pathways required by the New Hampshire state law adopted in 2023. The playground will consist of various elements, such as

- 4 bay swing that will have two toddler swings, 2 ADA swings, and 4 Standard Belt Swings
- Two zip lines, one ADA zip line, and one standard zip line.
- A Buddy Rocker
- Sensory Wall
- Musical Elements
- A Rocket centerpiece that will be fully accessible with several slides.
- 2 Climbing Stations
- 2 whirly elements: 1 ADA and 1 Standard
- Poured in place pathways complemented by wood fiber.

#### **Tax Impact of Project**

This appropriation is proposed to be funded via the Town's General Fund unassigned fund balance, therefore there is no impact on the tax rate.



## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024

### Article 14

#### **Article 14 – Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan – Water Street Stormwater (\$100,000)**

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to enter into a loan agreement of no more than \$100,000 through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for the purpose of developing a replacement plan for Water Street stormwater infrastructure. The loan will provide up to \$100,000 principal forgiveness; therefore, no repayment of the loan will be required.

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

#### Description



The Town is undertaking planning efforts for eventual upgrades to traffic, pedestrian, water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure to ensure the adequate size and separation of future utilities, prevent potential construction conflicts, and improve existing conditions. Project limits will include the northern end of Water Street, from Main Street to Norris Brook. There are currently several areas along the project corridor where groundwater breakout and stormwater runoff enter the roadway. The intent of the stormwater infrastructure replacement plan is to identify opportunities to adequately capture and mitigate stormwater, while reducing nutrient pollution and meeting the conditions of the Town's MS4 General Permit.

#### Tax Impact of Project

This appropriation is a 100% forgiveness loan from NHDES, so there is no impact to the tax rate.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

**Article 15**

**Article 15 – 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.

**Description**

The Town established a Sick Leave Trust Fund in 1989 to fund sick leave buyouts when an employee retires. The current benefit allows employees to buy back 50% of their accrued sick leave at retirement. The fund needs to be replenished annually to meet retirement obligations each year. The balance in this fund will be approximately \$88,580 after the distribution of \$85,845 for 2023 sick leave obligations paid.

**Tax Impact of Project**

This appropriation is proposed to be funded via the Town's General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance, therefore there is no impact on the tax rate.

## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

### **Article 16**

#### **Article 16 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – Parks Improvements (\$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 Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Estimated Tax Impact: .03/1,000 assessed property value, \$3.34/100,000 assessed property value).

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 4-1.

#### **Description**

The Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund is essential in revitalizing the parks system. The fund has already significantly impacted the aging park system with improvements to various parks, such as renovations, safety enhancements, corrections of vital aesthetics, and crucial large-scale maintenance projects. The Department has many projects to address, with safety and accessibility as our priority. We plan to renovate the Gilman Park T-ball field, Gilman guard rail, and the spray pad renovation. We would like to complete more projects if estimates for these projects allow. The park system has a long list of deferred maintenance projects that must be achieved over the next several years to restore the park system.

The fund has already allowed the Department to complete over 45 different projects in town, ranging from pool resurfacing and ADA accessibility to the courts. None of these improvements would have been possible without the support of the residents and the establishment of the Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.

The advantage of a capital reserve fund over conventional funding for individual projects is that the fund will not lapse, giving the Department time to work with the Recreation Advisory Board to design and vet projects with the public for maximum benefit. Under normal conditions, the funding lapses on December 31st, giving the Department little time to develop and implement once a project is approved in March. For example, a project may be delayed due to scheduling conflicts, such as the AED boxes at the recreation park. The work was approved in March, but it will be completed in February due to supply chain issues. The flexibility of a capital reserve fund allowed the Department to finish projects in multiple years. Another advantage of the capital reserve fund is the ability to "roll over" any savings from projected project costs into the following year. As improvements are finished and assessed, the annual monetary request will likely stabilize as various projects are completed.

#### **Tax Impact of Project**

The estimated tax impact of this article is .03 per 1,000 of assessed value, or \$3.34 per \$100,000 of assessed value. The cost for a \$300,000 home is approximately \$10.02.

[Memorial Pool](#)

[Parks & Facilities](#)

[Programs](#)

[Online Registration](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Latest News](#)

**FOLLOW US**



**CONTACT INFORMATION**

E-NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

32 Court Street  
Exeter, NH 03833  
Phone: 603-773-6151  
Info. Line: 603-418-6495

Office Hours: Monday - Friday  
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Parks & Facilities**



Brickyard Park



Founders Park



Gale Park



Gilman Park



John C. Littlefield Memorial Skate Park



Kid's Park



Recreation Park



Stewart Park



Park Street Common





**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

**Article 17**

**Article 17 – Appropriate to Non-Capital Reserve Fund – Snow and Ice Deficit (\$50,000)**

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 5-0.

**Description**

Article 23 of the 2010 Town Warrant established a reserve fund for snow and ice budget deficits. Due to the timing of the fiscal year, which ends December 31<sup>st</sup>, it is always difficult to forecast snow and ice spending. Overspending the snow/ice budget (a necessity) can put pressure on other budgets at fiscal year-end. Each storm has variability and depending on the type, length, and severity of storm, the snow and ice budgets can be exhausted and easily overspent. This emergency fund allows the Select Board to approve withdrawals in years the snow and ice budget is overspent. Once the fund reaches an approximate balance of \$100,000, the fund is re-examined for further appropriations, with appropriations proposed to ensure adequate snow and ice reserves exist in the event of a bad winter. Adequate funding of this reserve also allows the Town to maintain near level funding with the general fund snow and ice budget year over year. The Town will use approximately \$65,000 of this fund to cover the 2023 snow/ice budget deficit. Adding \$50,000 to the snow/ice deficit fund will result in a starting balance of \$105,000 for FY24.

**Tax Impact of Project**

This appropriation is proposed to be funded via the Town's General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance, therefore there is no impact on the tax rate.

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024

### Article 18

#### **Article 18 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – ADA Fund (\$50,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the ADA Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Estimated Tax Impact: .02/1,000 assessed property value, 2.21\$/100,000 assessed property value).

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

#### **Description**

The Town approved a warrant article in 2019 for the purpose of conducting and creating an American Disability Act (ADA) Improvements Plan for Town facilities and infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, and other pedestrian safety improvements. This plan has been completed and includes a list of projects that will improve accessibility for all users. Subsequent to the ADA Transition Plan's completion, the Town approved a Capital Reserve Fund to fund improvements. In 2023/24, the Town has installed an accessible changing table in the public restrooms at Town Hall. This appropriation would be used to continue to fund projects identified in the 2019 ADA Improvements Plan.

#### **Tax Impact of Project**

The estimated tax impact of this article is \$2.21 per \$100,000 of property value, or \$6.63 for a \$300,000 home.

#### Town ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan

The screenshot shows a document titled "Town of Exeter ADA/504 Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update". The document is divided into several sections:

- Maintenance of Accessible Features**

The ADA requires (35.133) public entities to maintain their accessible features and elements.
- Compliant Findings**
  - ✓ The Town has formal policies and procedures to maintain accessible features as required by the ADA.
  - ✓ The Town also includes accessibility improvements and renovation in their overall Capital Improvement Plans.
  - ✓ The Town has regularly scheduled practices to maintain day-to-day maintenance of accessible features, such as re-striping of parking, trimming vegetation or items that interfere with sidewalks, elevators and paths of travel.
  - ✓ The Town has policies, procedures and methods to maintain the accessibility of streets and sidewalks.
- Recommendations**
  - The Town should continue to monitor accessible items and elements that are required to be accessible and therefore need to be maintained in an accessible manner.
- Planning and Budgeting for Accessibility**

There is not a specific requirement in the ADA or Section 504 for planning and budgeting for barrier removal. There is a requirement for public entities to incorporate a projected schedule for barrier removal into the transition/barrier removal plan. A public entity that is budgeting or seeking funds to use for ADA/504 barrier removal and to improve access to programs, services and activities shows intent to implement the barrier removal/transition plan.
- Compliant Findings**
  - ✓ There is evidence that the Town is incorporating the removal of barriers to accessibility on an ongoing basis and plans to remove additional barriers to Town programs, services and activities.
  - ✓ The Town has established a capital reserve fund for a Town-wide ADA accessibility project.
  - ✓ The Capital Improvement Program has designated funding for ADA improvements and renovations.
  - ✓ The Town's budget reflects funds for ADA improvements.
- Recommendations**
  - Although the current funding for the removal of accessibility barriers is incorporated into existing projects, the Town can plan to set aside additional funds for an ADA budget to augment other ADA activities. Accommodations for a sign language interpreter, for example, that are needed but are not a part of a current project, may be able to be addressed with additional or a dedicated ADA budget.
  - The Town should continue to maintain an ongoing barrier removal implementation plan and document the Town's progress, initiatives and funds expended.
  - In appropriate cases, it is recommended that the Town contract for an independent review of plans, remodeling efforts and new construction for accessibility requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards (ADA) and related codes and accessibility regulations. It is important and required that the accessibility barrier removal efforts meet federal and state accessibility codes.
  - The ADA/504 Coordinator, or designated staff, should be empowered with the authority to make recommendations and monitor the current Town of Exeter ADA/504 Self-Evaluation and

The bottom of the screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with the date 1/29/2024 and time 11:40 AM.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

**Article 19**

**Article 19 – Appropriate to Trust Fund – Swasey Parkway (\$3,500)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) 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 2023 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.

**Description**

The Swasey Maintenance Fund was established in 2019 as an expendable trust fund. This fund holds permit fees that are raised each year for use of the Parkway. The fund is currently owed \$3,500 from the General Fund. This article would effectuate the fund transfer. The balance in the Swasey Parkway Expendable Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 was \$33,937.43.

**Tax Impact of Project**

This appropriation is proposed to be funded via the Town's General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance, therefore there is no impact on the tax rate.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**

**Article 20**

**Article 20 – Adopt Investment Services for Capital Reserve Funds**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 35:9-a-II, to authorize the Trustees of Trust Funds to pay for Capital reserve fund investment services, and any other expenses incurred, from capital reserve funds income. Such authority shall remain in effect until rescinded by vote of the Town. No vote to rescind the authority shall occur within 5 years of the original adoption of this article. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

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

**Description**

See attached document.

**Tax Impact of Project**

This article has no tax impact.



# EXETER TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

## Warrant Article Purpose

- Warrant Article approval by voters will allow fees for investment advisory services provided by Three Bearings Fiduciary Advisors of Hampton to be paid from investment income earned from the Town's Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trust Funds.



## **EXETER TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS**

# **EXETER SELECT BOARD AND TWO EXETER SCHOOL BOARDS APPROVE TRUSTEES INVESTMENT ADVISOR PAYMENT WARRANT ARTICLES**

**Town of Exeter Warrant Article Language – Select Board Unanimously Approved  
December 4, 2023, by a 5-0 vote.**

**Exeter (Elementary) School District Warrant Article Language – Approved by Voice Vote by  
ESD Board December 12, 2023.**

**Exeter Region Cooperative School District Warrant Article Language – Approved Unanimously by  
ERCSD Board December 19, 2023, by a 6-0 vote.**



# EXETER TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

## Investment Advisor Benefits

- Of about 280 Towns and Cities in NH, Trustees of Trust Funds in about one-third (92) to one-half (140) use Investment Advisors according to the NH Attorney General's office.
- Using a Professional Investment Advisor will:
  - Enable stronger growth of invested funds over time,
  - Improve investment returns for all Trust Funds,
  - Minimize loss of value of Trust Funds due to inflation.
- Professional monthly and annual reporting.
- Allows seamless transition when new Trustees are elected or appointed.





# EXETER TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

## Seacoast/Nearby Towns and Cities Trust Fund Trustees Already Using Investment Advisors

Voters already have approved paying investment advisors from publicly funded trust funds in these Neighboring Towns and Cities:

- Hampton and SAU 21 and SAU 90 (Three Bearings)
- Brentwood (Three Bearings)
- East Kingston (Three Bearings)
- Kingston (Three Bearings, PDIP/PFM Asset Management/US Bank, Cambridge Trust)
- Kensington (Three Bearings)
- Newfields (Three Bearings)
- Seabrook and SAU 21 (Three Bearings)
- South Hampton and SAU 21 (Three Bearings)
- Newington (Three Bearings)
- Plaistow and SAU 55 (Three Bearings)
- Raymond and SAU 33 (Three Bearings)
- Somersworth (Three Bearings)
  
- Stratham (Cambridge Trust)
- Durham (Cambridge Trust)
- New Castle (Cambridge Trust)
  
- Portsmouth (TD Wealth Management/TD Bank)
  
- Dover (Clarfeld/Citizens Bank)



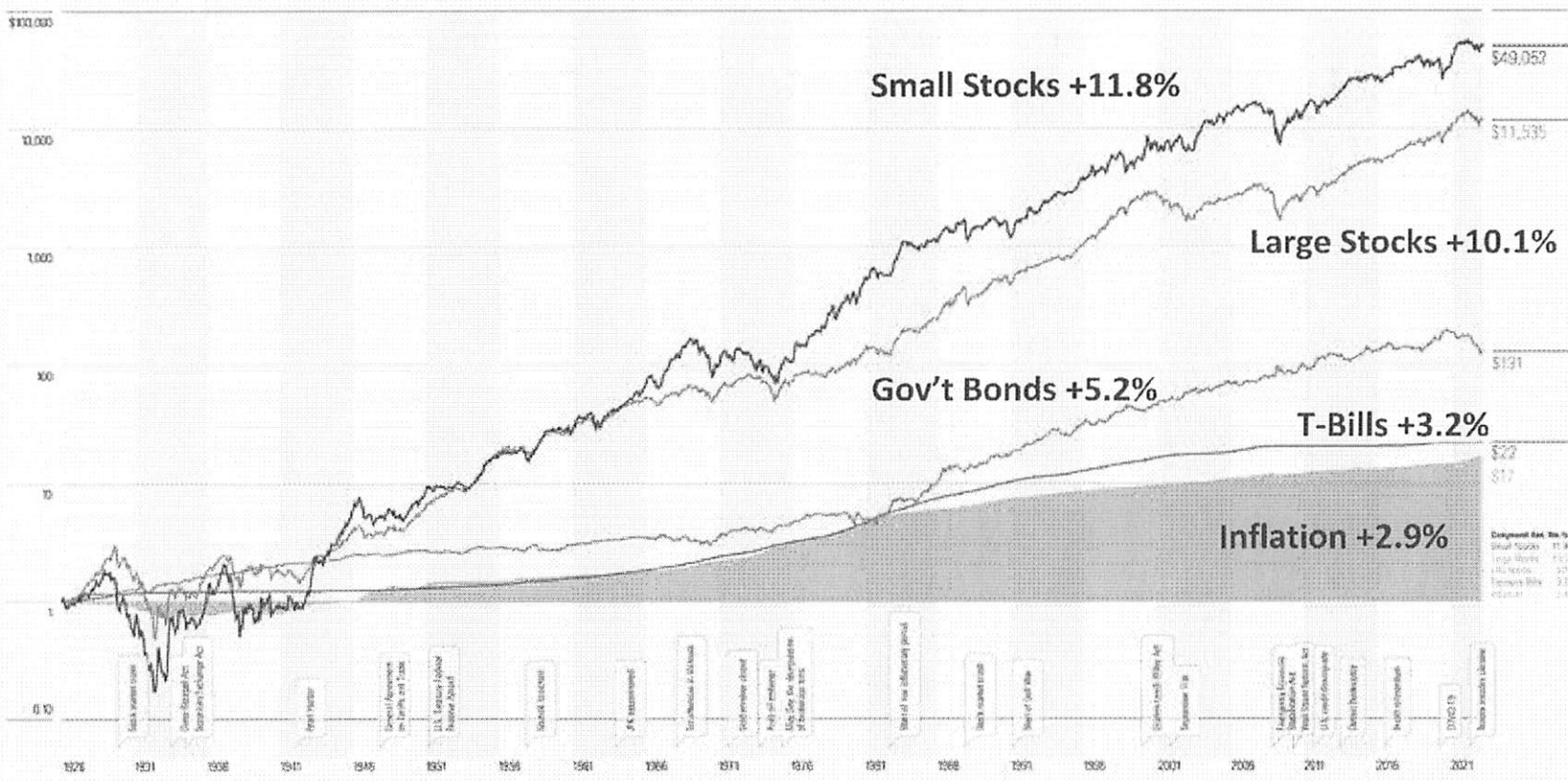
# EXETER TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

## Trustees of Trust Funds Investment Philosophy and Objectives

- Safety and preservation of principal, including offsetting the impacts of annual inflation on the purchasing power of the trust funds.
- Maintain liquidity of key assets to reimburse Town and Schools as needed on a timely basis.
- Maximize to the extent achievable the return of the total portfolio.
- Move Trust Fund assets out of low earning Money Market and other Low Paying accounts.

**Until Very Recently, Every Other Investment Category Yields Better Returns than Money Markets Over Time**  
**(Money Market Annual Average Yield 2013-2022 was +0.12% per Forbes Advisor, Sept 29, 2023)**  
**(Exeter Trust Funds have been in Money Market and other Low Paying Accounts from about 2013-2023)**

Ibbotson SBBI  
 Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation January 1926–December 2022



Performance as measured by total returns. Inflation is measured as the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) published by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. All returns are annualized. The performance of the U.S. government securities and money market funds is not guaranteed. Past performance does not guarantee a similar outcome. The performance of the U.S. government securities and money market funds is not guaranteed. The performance of the U.S. government securities and money market funds is not guaranteed. The performance of the U.S. government securities and money market funds is not guaranteed. The performance of the U.S. government securities and money market funds is not guaranteed.

January 8, 2024



# EXETER TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

## Definition of Trustees Responsibilities

- Custodians of the town's perpetual care funds, charitable trusts, private donations, and capital reserve/expendable trust funds.
- Act in a fiduciary capacity and make the decisions regarding expenditure from these funds based on the wishes of the donor for privately donated funds and based on the wording of the voter-approved warrant articles for publicly funded trust funds.
- Release capital reserve funds, expendable trust funds, and private trust funds to the appropriate government officials, also annual income from the private trust funds to the Cemetery and Library Trustees, upon request.
- Make decisions on how these funds are to be invested, based upon the statutes and the investment policy adopted by the Trustees.

# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024

## Article 21

### **Article 21 – Establish Town Solar Array Revolving Fund**

To see if the town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a solar array on the Cross Road Town Landfill. All revenues received for array operations from net metering credits, federal grants and aid, and REC (renewable energy credit) sales will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from 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 town manager, 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. (Majority vote required)

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

### **Description**

The Town has approved the construction of a 1.77MW solar array on the Cross Road landfill property. The Town is proposing this revolving fund to effectively track revenues associated with the project against anticipated expenses.

### **Tax Impact of Project**

This article has no tax impact.

The screenshot shows a website page with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar is titled "Planning & Sustainability" and contains several menu items: "About Our Department", "Capital Improvement", "Making Sustainable Exeter", "Master Plan", "Current & Upcoming Projects", "FAQ's", "Useful Links", "PB Applications", and "Latest News". Below the sidebar is a "CONTACT INFORMATION" section with the address "10 Front Street, Exeter, NH 03833", phone number "603-773-6112", and alternate number "603-778-0591 ext.". The main content area is titled "1.77 MW Landfill Solar Array Project" and includes a "Solar Array Latest News" section with an aerial image of the site and text describing the project's progress. Below this is a "Project History" section detailing the town's decision in March 2021 and March 2023. The "Project Costs and Revenue" section explains the financing plan, including a \$5.227274 million bond and the use of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to offset costs. The page footer shows a Windows taskbar with the date "1/29/2024" and time "11:38 AM".

**Planning & Sustainability**

- About Our Department
- Capital Improvement
- Making Sustainable Exeter
- Master Plan
- Current & Upcoming Projects
- FAQ's
- Useful Links
- PB Applications
- Latest News

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

10 Front Street  
Exeter, NH 03833  
Phone: 603-773-6112  
Alternate: 603-778-0591 ext.

## 1.77 MW Landfill Solar Array Project

**Solar Array Latest News:**

The Town of Exeter has executed a contract with ReVision Energy to construct a 1.77-megawatt solar array at the Cross Rd. Landfill site. The executed contract is available below. Once constructed, a facility of this size has the capacity to offset 92% of the Town's current electricity use for municipal operation, turning this Brownfields site from a liability, to an asset.

Revision Energy is working to secure environmental permits necessary for the project. Once permitting is complete and materials secured, construction will be underway.

[Check back here for progress updates.](#)

**Project History:**

In March 2021, Exeter voters overwhelmingly passed Warrant Article 4 (1031/363), approving \$3,617,629 to construct a solar array at the Cross Road landfill site. Following the successful vote, delays in completing an interconnection study and increased building costs threatened the viability of the project. The passing of the Federal Inflation Reduction Act which affords a 30% Investment Tax Credit to municipalities, made the project feasible again, but residents needed to approve the additional project costs.

The additional project costs were presented to the voters in March 2023. Exeter residents once again supported the Warrant Article (1115, 438), approving the additional \$1,609,645 for the project. The majority of this additional funding request will be offset by the 30% Federal Investment Tax Credit.

**Project Costs and Revenue:**

To construct the array, the Town of Exeter will bond \$5,227,274 million dollars, amortized over 20 years. The financing plan for the project includes annual revenues and renewable energy credits to offset the amount of debt service, resulting in no tax impact. At year 20, the bond will be fully paid with all revenues generated by the solar array become available to the Town.

As set forth in the Exeter Landfill Cash Flow analysis created by ReVision Energy available below, the project would be cash-flow positive from Year 1. The Town also hired an independent third party, Competitive Energy Services (CES), to conduct its own cash flow, also available below.

It is anticipated the Town will initially sell the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to offset costs, and will stop selling RECs when it is desirable to do so. At that time, the Town will use the production to offset our municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Based on our 2020 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report available below, this project has the capacity to offset 92% of the Town's municipal operation's electricity use.

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024

### Article 22

#### **Article 22 – Water/Sewer Advisory Committee**

To see if the Town will amend Article 20 of the 2011 Town Meeting by reducing the number of members of the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee from seven (7) members to five (5) members. Of the five members, two (2) members shall be members of the Select Board. Members of the Select Board shall be voting members of the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee.

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

#### **Description**

This article is sponsored by the Select Board and would reduce the number of Water/Sewer Advisory Committee members from the current seven (7) to five (5) members. This change is being recommended to assist the Committee in obtaining quorums for their meetings. The article would also make two Select Board members standing members of the Committee. The Select Board currently serves in the role of Water/Sewer Commissioners over water/sewer operations.

#### **Tax Impact of Project**

This article has no tax impact.

### Water/Sewer Advisory Committee

[Water/Sewer Abatement Form](#)

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Trisha Allen  
Public Works Business Manager  
[tallen@exeternh.gov](mailto:tallen@exeternh.gov)


[View Full Contact Details](#)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Water-Sewer Advisory Committee  
03/06/2024 - 6:30pm

Water-Sewer Advisory Committee  
06/05/2024 - 6:30pm

### Water/Sewer Advisory Committee



There is hereby established by the Select Board a seven member Water & Sewer Advisory Committee. A member of the Select Board shall serve on the committee ex-officio as the Select Board's Representative. Other members shall serve three-year staggered terms. Initial appointments shall be made for 1, 2 and 3 year terms and thereafter be 3 year terms.

The Water and Sewer Advisory Committee usually meets every second Wednesday of the month and meetings are broadcast live on Channel 22.

| Member        | Term    | Member                        | Term    |
|---------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Alan Mangan   | 4/30/24 | VACANT                        | 4/30/26 |
| Bob Kelly     | 4/30/24 | Ben Mosher                    | 4/30/26 |
| Carl Wikstrom | 4/30/25 | VACANT                        | 4/30/26 |
| Mark Fabian   | 4/30/25 | Molly Cowan, Select Board Rep | Term    |

Updated: April 18, 2023

#### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[Water & Sewer Advisory Committee Duties \(107 KB\)](#)

#### WEB LINKS

- [Water Sewer Advisory Committee Meetings - Video On Demand](#)
- [2016 Water Sewer Rate Recommendations - MFSG](#)
- [2016 Water Sewer Rate Study Report - MFSG](#)
- [Board Committee Application Form](#)

Windows taskbar: Type here to search, 33°F Mostly cloudy, 9:55 AM 1/29/2024

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2024**  
**Article 23**

**Article 23 – Heritage Commission**

To see if the Town will vote to reduce the number of members of the Heritage Commission from seven (7) members to five (5) members. The composition of the Heritage Commission will include one (1) Select Board representative, one (1) Planning Board representative, one (1) Historic District Commission representative, and two (2) at large members appointed by the Select Board. The Heritage Commission will include three (3) alternate members appointed by the Select Board.

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

**Description**

This article is sponsored by the Select Board and would reduce the number of Heritage Commission members from the current seven (7) to five (5) members. This change is being recommended to assist the Commission in obtaining quorums for their meetings. The article would also reduce the number of alternates to three (3) members from (5) members.

**Tax Impact of Project**

This article has no tax impact.

**Heritage Commission**

The Heritage Commission was established by town vote in 2006, via article 37 of the town warrant.

The purpose of a heritage commission, since 1992 and per RSA 673:1(i) and 674:44-b, is to offer a valuable means for local government to manage, recognize, and protect historical and cultural resources. They are intended to have a town-wide scope and a range of activities that is determined by each individual municipality and geared to that particular community's needs and wants. Basically, a heritage commission does for historical resources what a conservation commission does for natural resources: it advises and assists other local boards and commissions; conducts inventories; educates the public on matters relating to historic preservation; provides information on historical resources; and serves as a resource for revitalization efforts.

| VOTING MEMBER                | TERM       | ALTERNATE MEMBER | TERM |
|------------------------------|------------|------------------|------|
| Julie Gilman, SB Rep.        | Ex-Officio | Vacant           | 2026 |
| John Grueter, PB Rep.        | Ex-Officio | Vacant           | 2024 |
| Pam Gjetnum, HDC Rep., Clerk | Ex-Officio | Vacant           | 2024 |
| Bill Campbell                | 2025       | Vacant           | 2025 |
| Francoise Elise              | 2026       | Vacant           | 2025 |
| John Merkie, Chair           | 2024       |                  |      |
| VACANT, Treasurer            | 2026       |                  |      |

(Updated August 25, 2023)

For more information about the Exeter Heritage Commission, please contact the Planning Office at 773-6112.

**Heritage Commission Projects**

- Park Street Neighborhood Heritage Area Project
- Franklin Street Area Survey

## **CITIZEN'S PETITIONS**

### **Article 24 – Citizen's Petition – 'Rugg Property'**

On petition of Tom Jelinek and others, to see if the voters in the Town of Exeter support the future purchase of approximately 47 acres of property owned by the Rugg family located north of Oaklands Town Forest and east of Wood Ridge Lane by the Town of Exeter for the purposes of expanding the town-owned Oakland Town Forest, and preserving open space, trails, public outdoor recreation, drinking water supplies, and wildlife habitat; to request that the Selectmen review the project, including evaluation of potential funding options such as bonds; and to advise and authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain, accept, and pass through any federal or state grants, loans, or private gifts, if any, which may be available for said acquisition, in collaboration with and facilitated by conservation organizations.

(Majority vote required)

### **Article 25 – Citizen's Petition – Swasey Parkway**

On petition of Donald Clement and others to see if the Town will vote to make the Swasey Parkway a one way road northbound in its entirety for motorized vehicular traffic and raise and appropriate the sum of \$2500 to construct speed bumps and maintain the road.

(Majority vote required.) Not Recommended by the Select Board 0-5.