

# TOWN OF EXETER



## Town Warrant 2026

### Fact Sheets and Explanatory Information

Please Take One

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

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Welcome to the 2026 Town of Exeter Deliberative Session. This year the Town Warrant includes a total of 29 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 2026, 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 four (4) zoning amendments this year (Articles 2-5), 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

There are 3 proposed bond articles: articles 6 through 8 on the Town Warrant. These bond articles are for capital projects requiring borrowing and will require 60% vote of the citizens to pass.

Article 1 Election

Article 2 Zoning Amendment #1

Article 3 Zoning Amendment #2

Article 4 Zoning Amendment #3

Article 5 Zoning Amendment #4

Article 6 Surface Water Treatment Plant Design and Engineering Phase II.

Article 7 Water Treatment Plant Residuals Disposal.

Article 8 Nitrogen Reduction Program – Equipment Purchase of a Street Sweeper

Article 9 Slate of Town officers

Article 10 General Fund Budget

Article 11 Water Fund Budget

Article 12 Sewer Fund Budget

Article 13 Replace Dump Truck #53

Article 14 Replace Fire Department Car #2

Article 15 Town's Sick Leave Expendable Trust

Article 16 Town's Snow/Ice Deficit fund.

Article 17 Town's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) fund

Article 18 Swasey Parkway Expendable Trust Fund

Article 19 Exeter Public Library Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund

Article 20 Pedestrian Improvements at Front St./Railroad Ave. Intersection.

Article 21 Lead Service Line Replacement Inventory program.

Article 22 Modify Optional Service Connected Total Disability Credit

Article 23 Modify Elderly Exemption from Property Tax

Article 24 Modify Exemption for the Blind

Article 25 Adopt All Veterans' Tax Credit

Article 26 Add an alternate to the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee

Articles 27 and 28 are petition articles submitted by citizens of Exeter.

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## **Overview of Deliberative Session**

Each article will be introduced and read by the Moderator, except for 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.

All proposed amendments must be in writing and given to the Moderator.

The following pages are 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Town wide (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.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **ZONING AMENDMENT #1:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Exeter Zoning Ordinance to amend Article 2 Definitions by deleting 2.2.3 Accessory Dwelling Unit and replacing it with the newly-enacted statutory definition that expands the definition of Accessory Dwelling Units by adding specific definitions for Attached Units and Detached Units as required by recent statutory changes?

Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

### **Description**

The purpose of this amendment is to comply with recent statutory changes by the Legislature.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **ZONING AMENDMENT #2:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Exeter Zoning Ordinance to amend Article 5, Section 5.6.6 by reducing the number of required residential parking spaces from two (2) to one (1) as required by recent statutory changes?

Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

### **Description**

The purpose of this amendment is to comply with recent statutory changes by the Legislature.

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### ARTICLE 4

#### **ZONING AMENDMENT #3:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Exeter Zoning Ordinance to amend Section 9.3.4.I. of Shoreland Protection Ordinance by adding the following new permitted use:

*I.7 Projects that re-vegetate or re-vitalize in some way an already disturbed buffer zone, as reviewed and approved by the Planning and Building Department?*

Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

#### **Description**

The purpose of this amendment is to allow improvements to be made in pre-existing disturbed areas.

### ARTICLE 5

#### **ZONING AMENDMENT #4:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Exeter Zoning Ordinance to amend Article 4 - District Regulations, 4.2 Schedule 1: Permitted Uses, by changing animal boarding/kennels from a permitted use in District C-2, C-3, and CT-1 to a use allowed by Special Exception?

Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

#### **Description**

The purpose of this amendment is to reduce the potential for conflicts when this use is proposed in a residential district or adjacent to an existing residential use.

### ARTICLE 6

#### **SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PLANT DESIGN AND ENGINEERING PHASE II (\$2,000,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the purpose of phase II design and engineering of a new surface water treatment plant including evaluation for cost saving measures and alternatives, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,000,000 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, 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 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.

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



### Description

Both surface water (SW) and groundwater (GW) supplies are required to meet the Town's total water supply needs in accordance with our Integrated Management approach to water supply. The need for a reliable 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 moving forward with development of additional groundwater supply capacity, but must also address upgrading or replacing the surface water treatment plant (SWTP), which currently provides

50-60% of the Town's water. The SWTP was initially constructed in 1905, and upgraded in 1924, 1972, and 1992. Based on the age of the facilities, limitations of the process, the constrained site, and the location in a flood zone that has resulted in two major flood events at the existing SWTP, rebuilding on this site is not recommended. It is noted that the potential for flooding is only expected to increase with climate change and predicted sea level rise. Therefore, construction of a new SWTP at a new site is recommended. The goal is for the new SWTP to supplement the GW supplies and provide closer to 30%-40% of the Town's water. An early estimate of the required capacity is 1.3 to 1.5 MGD, about half of the capacity of the SWTP proposed and designed in the early 2000's. Options for a new site are limited. The Town-owned "Sportsman's Club" parcel has been previously identified due to its higher elevation and proximity to the Exeter Reservoir and should be evaluated, including the need for lead shot remediation, and compared to other potential sites. A planning/preliminary design effort is in progress to evaluate potential sites, establish the required capacity, the most appropriate treatment process, and refine projected costs.

2024 Town Meeting authorized a NHDES SRF \$500,000 loan for Planning and Preliminary Design efforts, which includes the following:

- Confirm design flow for SWTP, depending on GW supplies.
- Site alternatives investigations.
- Refine water main connections to new plant.
- Collect seasonal water quality data for final design.
- Piloting of treatment alternatives & refine treatment processes and plant configuration.
- Develop opinions of probable costs.
- Evaluate repurposing of existing site.

Schedule and Phases: Permitting and Design (2026-7); Start Construction (after 2028); Substantial Completion (after 2029); Decommission Existing Plant (after 2030).

### Financing

The Public Works Department has been accepted for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) low interest loan up to \$1.5 million for the Design and Engineering Phase II project. Public Works has also been



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awarded a \$500K DWSRF Emergent Containmentment loan with 100% forgiveness. As a result, the Town would be responsible for \$1.5 million of this project not the full amount.

This project is proposed to be financed by a NHDES DWSRF loan and the appropriation to come from the Water Fund, therefore there is no impact on the tax rate.

### ARTICLE 7

#### **WATER TREATMENT PLANT RESIDUALS DISPOSAL (\$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 Water Treatment Plant Residuals Disposal, 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, 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 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**

The SWTP has a waste settling basin that receives the backwash water from the filters and up flow clarifiers during rejuvenation processes. Periodically, equipment needs to be backwashed so it can continue producing potable drinking water. The Water & Sewer Department's request is to remove the built-up alum sludge from the water treatment plant's settling lagoon. The slopes of the settling lagoon are steep and overgrown with vegetation. There is approximately 4 to 5 feet of alum sludge accumulation in the lagoon. Historically, the sludge was removed and hauled to the Public Works site and dumped in the 4th wastewater lagoon. The 4th lagoon is now the site of the new WWTF, so this is no longer an option. The sludge will need to be sampled and tested to characterize the sludge components to determine the best disposal method. Then, excavation and disposal of the sludge can begin.

This project was last done in 2021 for a cost of \$305,000, and it was determined that it needs to be done more frequently than every 7-10 years.

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Project Costs	Low Range (\$172/ton)	Upper Range (\$264/ton)
Task 1 – Project Coordination/Sludge Pre-Characterization	\$10,000	\$10,000
Task 2 – Sludge Removal, Transportation, and Disposal	\$250, 000	\$250, 000
Landfill Disposal Fee \$172/ton (estimated 695 tons)	\$119,540	
Landfill Disposal Fee \$264/ton (estimated 695 tons)		\$183,480
Task 3 – As built Survey	\$2,550	\$2,550
Task 4 – Closeout Report	\$4,025	\$4,025
Contingency 10%	\$38,611	\$45,005
Sub Total	\$424,726	\$495,060

### Financial Impact

This appropriation is proposed to be funded via the Water Fund, therefore there is no impact on the tax rate.

### ARTICLE 8

#### NITROGEN REDUCTION PROGRAM - EQUIPMENT PURCHASE OF STREET SWEEPER (\$412,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$412,000) for the purpose of enhancing the Nitrogen Reduction Program by purchasing a new street sweeper to be used to meet EPA nitrogen reduction permit requirements and to implement an enhanced sweeping program, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$412,000 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, obtain, 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: FY<sub>1</sub>=\$0.03;

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FY<sub>2</sub>=\$0.03, FY<sub>3</sub>=\$0.03; FY<sub>4</sub>=\$0.03; FY<sub>5</sub>=\$0.02 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. Based on the Town's 2025 net valuation of \$3,501,043,853, which may vary in future years. Assumes a 5-year bond at 3.24% interest). 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 Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit (GBTNP) has been issued to NH communities with wastewater treatment facilities whose discharges reach Great Bay. The permit is for five years and includes an adaptive management process for possible nutrient reductions in non-point source (NPS) stormwater runoff. This voluntary NPS nitrogen reduction was included as a way to stem more stringent WWTF effluent restrictions at the end of the permit. The current request is for Year 5 of the permit. The NPS adaptive management framework consists of five categories: Water Quality Monitoring, Nitrogen Tracking, Nitrogen Source Reduction Plan, Threshold Study, and TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Load timeline development.

The Town entered into an Intermunicipal Agreement with other Great Bay communities to partner in this adaptive management framework, including cost-sharing responsibilities. The Town submitted an adaptive management plan to EPA for the permit term in July 2021. These programs are anticipated to be funded partially through the capital improvement program, the highway stormwater budget, and the sewer budget. Although the permit is necessitated by wastewater discharges, the NPS stormwater discharge improvements are generally paid from the general fund.



Elements of the Adaptive Management Plan supported by the FY26 operating budget include:

- Water Quality Monitoring, Nitrogen Tracking, Threshold Study
- \$75,000/yr to Municipal Alliance from Sewer Fund Budget.
- Catch Basin Replacements: \$28,000/yr from General Fund Budget.
- Land Use Regulation Review: Exeter Planning Department.

Elements of the Adaptive Management Plan requesting to be supported in the FY26 CIP:

- Nitrogen Source Reduction Efforts & Stormwater Nutrient Removal:
- Street Sweeper Replacement (\$400,000) & Enhanced Sweeping Program Development (\$12,000).

### Financing

This project would be financed by a NHDES SRF (State Revolving Fund) loan. The loan amount would be \$412,000 dollars, amortized over 5 years. Based on a \$412,000 loan over 5 years at a projected interest rate of 3.24%, the first-year debt service payment would be \$95,749. The average annual impact on a \$500,000 home is \$0.03/\$1,000 or \$13 per year.



## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

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### ARTICLE 9

#### CHOOSE TOWN OFFICERS

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

#### **Description**

This article will include nominations to the Budget Recommendations Committee, Measurer of Wood & Bark, Weigher, and the Fence Viewer.

### ARTICLE 10

#### 2026 GENERAL FUND 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 \$27,325,353. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$26,863,334, 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: .67/\$1,000 assessed property value, \$67/\$100,000 assessed property value).


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

#### **Description and Financial Impact**

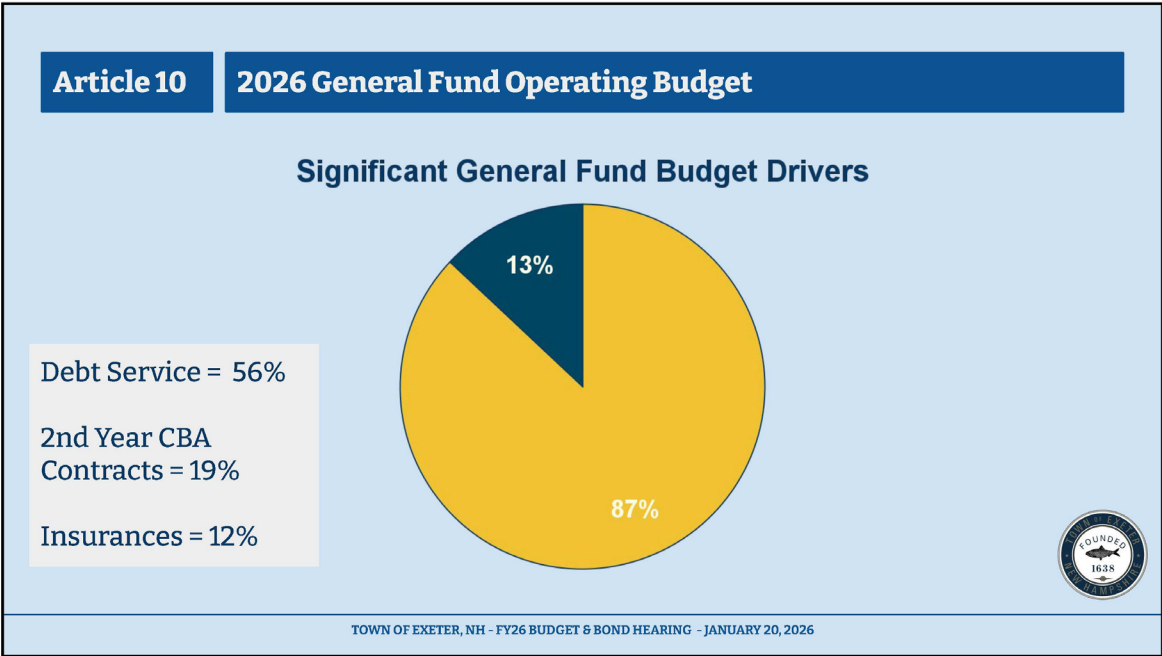
See slides on the following pages.

# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

Article 10		2026 General Fund Operating Budget		
General Fund	FY25 Approved Budget	FY26 Select Board Proposed Budget	\$ (+/-)	% (+/-)
Operating Budget	\$24,456,326	\$27,325,353	\$2,869,027	+11.7%



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

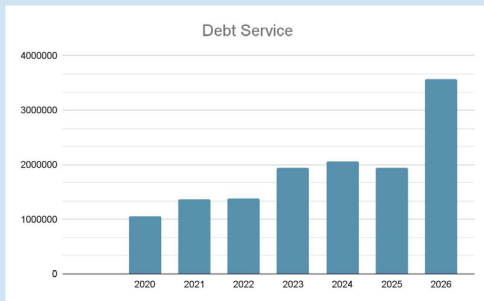


**Article 10**

**2026 General Fund Operating Budget**

**Significant Budget Drivers**

- **#1 Debt Service** : In the FY26 budget is a net increase of \$1,616,797 over FY25. Retiring debt of \$370,000 in FY26 is offset by debt service on new borrowing for the following projects: Police Station/ Fire Substation, Linden Street Bridge Rehabilitation, and Public Works Fuel Island.



The increase in debt service represents 56% of the overall General Fund budget increase for FY26.



**Article 10**

**2026 General Fund Operating Budget**

**Significant Budget Drivers**

- **#2 Collective Bargaining Agreements** : New 3-year CBAs were implemented in 2025, which call for the following increases in salaries and benefits in FY26:

SEIU Local 1984 (Public Works)	\$105,320
Exeter Police Association	\$225,370
Exeter Prof. Firefighters Association	\$207,857

These CBA increases represent 19% of the overall General Fund budget increase for FY26.



## Article 10 2026 General Fund Operating Budget

### Significant Budget Drivers

- #3 Insurances : Health and Property/Liability
  - Health:
    - For the FY26 budget year the Town received rate increases of 14.5% and 18.8% for its two plan offerings. Dental received a 4.4% rate increase. Rates are determined based on claims experience and the overall pool rating.
    - Healthcare costs for the General Fund increased 11.3% year over year, reflecting these premium increases as well as employee benefit elections.
  - Property/Liability:
    - Liability insurance increased by \$96K. (Split between Water/Sewer and General Fund)

These insurance increases represent 11.6% of the overall General Fund budget increase for FY26.



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

## Article 10 2026 General Fund Operating Budget

### Additional Budget Drivers

- 2025 was a unique budget year for the Town as there were 27 pay dates for salaried employees as opposed to 26 in a typical year. This is worth noting when comparing year-over-year results for Salaries/Wages, Taxes and Retirement, since in 2026 the Town will return to a 26-pay date cycle.
- The 2026 budget contains a 4% cost of living wage adjustment (COLA) for all non-union employees.



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

## Article 10    2026 General Fund Operating Budget

### EXPENSES

DEPARTMENT	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget: SB	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget \$ Increase/- (Decrease)	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget % Difference
<b>General Government</b>					
Select Board	22,881	22,462	22,462	-	0.0%
Town Manager	305,107	459,152	461,073	1,921	0.4%
Human Resources	199,566	216,602	222,631	6,029	2.8%
Transportation	-	1	1	-	0.0%
Legal	112,148	100,000	100,000	-	0.0%
Media Communications	59,969	73,526	73,886	360	0.5%
Trustees of Trust Funds	891	891	891	-	0.0%
Town Moderator	1,373	673	1,454	781	116.0%
Town Clerk	352,041	425,835	448,597	22,762	5.3%
Elections/Registration	31,794	21,682	29,278	7,596	35.0%
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>1,085,770</b>	<b>1,320,824</b>	<b>1,360,273</b>	<b>39,449</b>	<b>3.0%</b>



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

## Article 10    2026 General Fund Operating Budget

### EXPENSES


DEPARTMENT	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget: SB	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget \$ Increase/- (Decrease)	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget % Difference
<b>Finance</b>					
Finance/Accounting	366,673	407,803	407,029	(774)	-0.2%
Treasurer	9,542	9,545	9,545	-	0.0%
Tax Collection	109,113	136,875	136,811	(64)	0.0%
Assessing	267,808	275,818	267,652	(8,166)	-3.0%
Information Technology	313,456	430,044	407,765	(22,279)	-5.2%
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>1,066,591</b>	<b>1,260,085</b>	<b>1,228,802</b>	<b>(31,283)</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026


# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

<b>Article 10</b>		<b>2026 General Fund Operating Budget</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
DEPARTMENT	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget: SB	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget \$ Increase/- (Decrease)	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget % Difference
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>					
Planning	284,461	325,186	323,601	(1,585)	-0.5%
Economic Development	165,511	180,902	185,810	4,908	2.7%
Inspections/Code Enforcement	263,693	268,728	304,036	35,308	13.1%
Conservation Commission	8,441	9,796	9,808	12	0.1%
Renewable Energy Expense	-	1	1	-	0.0%
Zoning Board of Adjustment	3,366	4,271	3,868	(403)	-9.4%
Historic District Commission	311	1,557	1,045	(512)	-32.9%
Heritage Commission	1,109	1,544	1,379	(165)	-10.7%
<b>Total Planning &amp; Development</b>	<b>726,892</b>	<b>791,985</b>	<b>829,548</b>	<b>37,563</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>					
Police	3,936,990	4,298,391	4,585,934	287,543	6.7%
Fire	4,177,336	4,441,683	4,682,888	241,205	5.4%
Dispatch	428,863	539,229	566,799	27,570	5.1%
Health	127,257	142,892	135,720	(7,172)	-5.0%
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>8,670,446</b>	<b>9,422,196</b>	<b>9,971,341</b>	<b>549,145</b>	<b>5.8%</b>



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026


<b>Article 10</b>		<b>2026 General Fund Operating Budget</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
DEPARTMENT	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget: SB	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget \$ Increase/- (Decrease)	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget % Difference
<b>Public Works - General Fund</b>					
Administration & Engineering	380,028	615,972	546,093	(69,879)	-11.3%
Highways & Streets	1,916,028	2,155,975	2,316,455	160,480	7.4%
Snow Removal	319,625	289,511	289,238	(273)	-0.1%
Solid Waste Disposal	1,524,568	1,652,139	1,767,360	115,221	7.0%
Street Lights	125,557	147,000	140,000	(7,000)	-4.8%
Stormwater	57,414	92,360	74,360	(18,000)	-19.5%
<b>Total Public Works - General Fund</b>	<b>4,323,220</b>	<b>4,952,957</b>	<b>5,133,506</b>	<b>180,549</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>					
General	470,189	579,113	672,226	93,113	16.1%
Town Buildings	292,834	320,632	331,007	10,375	3.2%
Maintenance Projects	65,403	100,000	100,000	-	0.0%
Mechanics/Garage	213,803	325,125	315,342	(9,783)	-3.0%
<b>Total Maintenance</b>	<b>1,042,230</b>	<b>1,324,869</b>	<b>1,418,575</b>	<b>93,706</b>	<b>7.1%</b>



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026


# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

<b>Article 10</b>		<b>2026 General Fund Operating Budget</b>				
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>						
DEPARTMENT	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget: SB	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget \$ Increase/- (Decrease)	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget % Difference	
<b>Welfare &amp; Human Services</b>						
Welfare	179,331	177,758	197,340	19,582	11.0%	
Human Services	98,325	100,000	101,125	1,125	1.1%	
<b>Total Welfare &amp; Human Services</b>	<b>277,656</b>	<b>277,758</b>	<b>298,465</b>	<b>20,707</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>						
Recreation	431,179	511,729	568,210	56,481	11.0%	
Parks	239,324	251,497	298,292	46,795	18.6%	
<b>Total Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>670,503</b>	<b>763,226</b>	<b>866,502</b>	<b>103,276</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	
<b>Other Culture/Recreation</b>						
Other Culture/Recreation	18,164	18,500	21,000	2,500	13.5%	
Special Events	15,943	18,000	18,000	-	0.0%	
<b>Total Other Culture/Recreation</b>	<b>34,107</b>	<b>36,500</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026


<b>Article 10</b>		<b>2026 General Fund Operating Budget</b>				
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>						
DEPARTMENT	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget: SB	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget \$ Increase/- (Decrease)	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget % Difference	
<b>Public Library</b>						
Library	1,190,669	1,281,634	1,335,579	53,945	4.2%	
<b>Total Library</b>	<b>1,190,669</b>	<b>1,281,634</b>	<b>1,335,579</b>	<b>53,945</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	
<b>Debt Service &amp; Capital</b>						
Debt Service	2,059,658	1,948,573	3,565,370	1,616,797	83.0%	
Vehicle Replacement/Lease	242,266	341,567	395,113	53,546	15.7%	
Misc. Expense	103,105	130,004	155,004	25,000	19.2%	
Cemeteries	-	1	1	-	0.0%	
Capital Outlay - Other	7,310	13,017	13,017	-	0.0%	
<b>Total Debt Service &amp; Capital</b>	<b>2,412,340</b>	<b>2,433,162</b>	<b>4,128,505</b>	<b>1,695,343</b>	<b>69.7%</b>	



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026


# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

<b>Article 10</b>		<b>2026 General Fund Operating Budget</b>			
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>					
DEPARTMENT	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget: SB	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget \$ Increase/- (Decrease)	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget % Difference
<b>Benefits &amp; Taxes</b>					
Health Insurance Buyout/Sick Leave/Flex Spending	221,339	239,389	309,937	70,548	29.5%
Unemployment	2,341	2,446	2,822	376	15.4%
Worker's Compensation	246,089	260,854	281,818	20,964	8.0%
Insurance	93,701	88,441	120,680	32,239	36.5%
Employee Wellness	-	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
<b>Total Benefits &amp; Taxes</b>	<b>563,470</b>	<b>591,130</b>	<b>715,257</b>	<b>124,127</b>	<b>21.0%</b>
<b>Total GF Operating Budget</b>	<b>22,063,894</b>	<b>24,456,326</b>	<b>27,325,353</b>	<b>2,869,027</b>	<b>11.7%</b>



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

<b>Article 10</b>		<b>2026 General Fund Operating Budget</b>		
<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>				
	2025 Actual	2026 Projected	\$ Change	
Current Use Tax	417,931	150,000	(267,931)	
Motor Vehicles	3,664,398	3,650,000	(14,398)	
Building Permits	707,323	350,000	(357,323)	
Meals & Rooms	1,616,548	1,600,000	(16,548)	
Highway Block	326,800	325,000	(1,800)	
Income Depts	1,327,213	1,343,090	15,877	
Investment Interest	563,835	600,000	36,165	
Solar Array Transfer	128,511	300,000	171,489	
All Other Sources	451,073	399,300	(51,773)	
	<b>9,203,632</b>	<b>8,717,390</b>	<b>(486,242)</b>	



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026



# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

## Article 10    2026 General Fund Operating Budget

NH Law defines a default budget:

“Default Budget” as used in this subdivision means the amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget and by salaries and benefits of positions that have been eliminated in the proposed budget. For the purposes of this paragraph, one-time expenditures shall be appropriations not likely to recur in the succeeding budget, and eliminated positions shall not include vacant positions under recruitment or positions redefined in the proposed operating budget, as determined by the governing body. [RSA 40:13, IX (b)]



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

## Article 10    2026 General Fund Operating Budget

General Fund	FY26 Select Board <u>Proposed</u> Budget	FY26 Select Board <u>Default</u> Budget	Diff between Proposed v. Default \$ (+/-)	Diff between Proposed v. Default % (+/-)
Operating Budget	\$27,325,353	\$26,863,334	\$(462,019)	-1.69%




TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

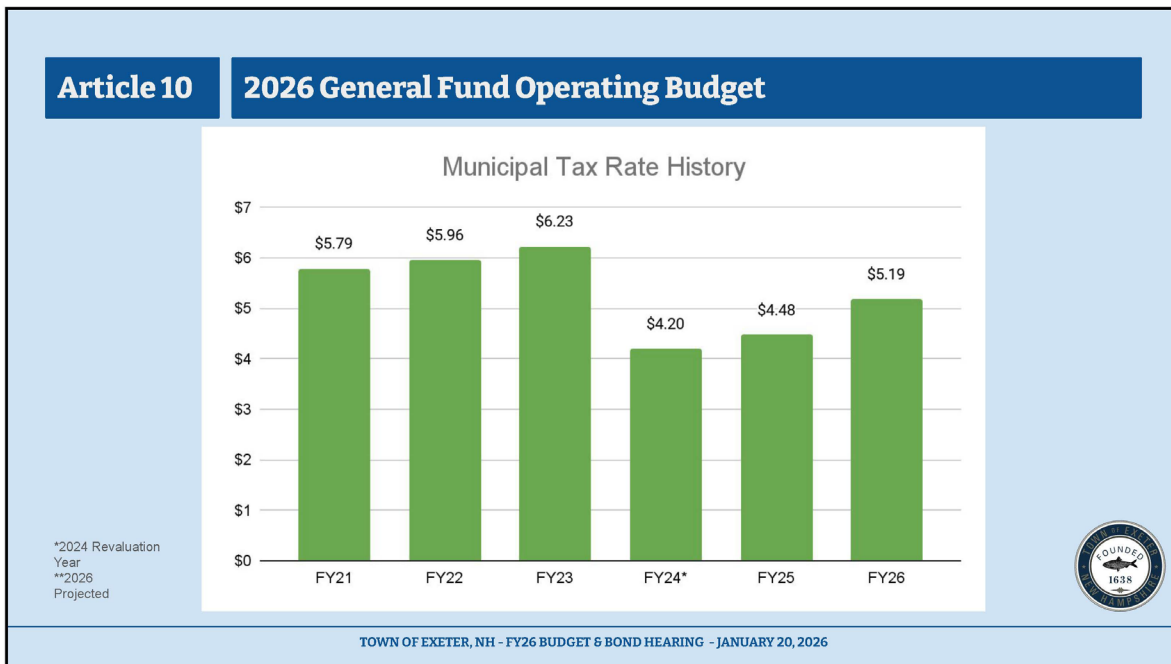
# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

Article 10		2026 General Fund Operating Budget			
	FY25 Actual	FY26 Projected	(+/-) Change	FY26 Projected Default	(+/-) Change
Operating Budget Tax Impact	\$4.31	\$4.98	\$0.67	\$4.85	\$0.54
General Fund Articles from Taxation	\$0.05	\$0.08	\$0.03	\$0.08	\$0.03
Impact of Overlay and Credits	\$0.12	\$0.13	\$0.01	\$0.13	\$0.01
<b>Overall Estimated Municipal Tax Rate</b>	<b>\$4.48</b>	<b>\$5.19</b>	<b>\$0.71</b>	<b>\$5.06</b>	<b>\$0.58</b>
<b>Year over year estimated Municipal Tax increase on a \$500,000 home.</b>			<b>\$355</b>		<b>\$290</b>

→ FY26 projected rate assumes a 1% increase in assessed valuation and \$1,000,000 use of fund balance.



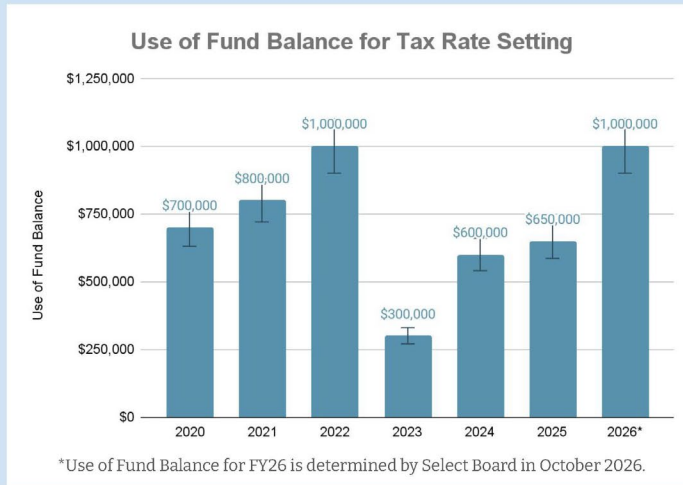
TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026



# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

## Article 10

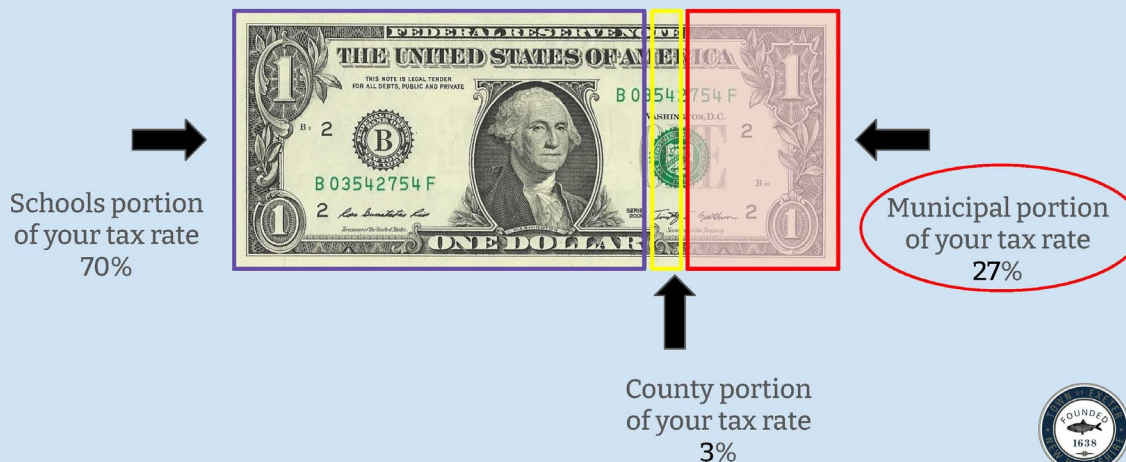
## 2026 General Fund Operating Budget



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

## Article 10

## 2026 General Fund Operating Budget



TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

## ARTICLE 11

### 2026 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 \$4,696,505. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$4,664,300, 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 and Financial Impact

See slide

Article 11		2026 Water Fund Budget			
Water Fund	FY25 Approved Budget	FY26 Select Board Proposed Budget	\$ (+/-)	% (+/-)	
WF Operating Budget	\$4,635,000	\$4,696,505	\$61,505	+	1.3%
DEPARTMENT	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget: SB	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget \$ Increase/- (Decrease)	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget %- Difference
Administration	420,791	599,274	601,850	2,577	0.4%
Billing and Collection	198,663	224,238	238,541	14,303	6.4%
Distribution	798,138	945,346	999,520	54,174	5.7%
Treatment	967,063	1,166,276	1,265,575	99,299	8.5%
Debt Service	1,613,896	1,427,932	1,389,084	(38,848)	-2.7%
Capital Outlay	74,691	271,935	201,935	(70,000)	-25.7%
Total WF Operating Budget	4,073,241	4,635,000	4,696,505	61,505	1.3%

TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

## ARTICLE 12

### 2026 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 \$8,286,840. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$8,210,020, 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 and Financial Impact

See slide

Article 12		2026 Sewer Fund Budget				
Sewer Fund	FY25 Approved Budget	FY26 Select Board Proposed Budget	\$ (+/-)	% (+/-)		
SF Operating Budget	\$8,182,152	\$8,286,840	\$104,688	+1.28%	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget	2026 SB Budget vs. 2025 Budget
					\$ Increase/- (Decrease)	%- Difference
DEPARTMENT		2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget: SB		
Administration		475,501	630,909	641,008	10,100	1.6%
Billing and Collection		192,175	220,663	234,291	13,628	6.2%
Collection		482,946	744,394	764,637	20,243	2.7%
Treatment		1,343,796	1,722,122	1,737,633	15,511	0.9%
Debt Service		4,182,958	4,675,128	4,660,335	(14,793)	-0.3%
Capital Outlay		127,899	188,936	248,936	60,000	31.8%
Appropriations from Reserves		485,363	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
<b>Total SF Operating Budget</b>		<b>7,290,639</b>	<b>8,182,152</b>	<b>8,286,840</b>	<b>104,688</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

TOWN OF EXETER, NH - FY26 BUDGET & BOND HEARING - JANUARY 20, 2026

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

### ARTICLE 13

#### **REPLACE DUMP TRUCK #52 (\$85,000)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for the DPW Dump Truck #52, purchased in 2012. This vehicle is a frontline snow-fighting truck in the winter and is driven daily as a crew support vehicle for Highway Department operations year-round. 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**

Truck #52 is a 2012 Ford F350 dump body. The truck has undergone significant repairs in recent years due to routine oil leaks, frame rust, excessive front fender rot, holes in the floorboards and rocker panels, and dump body subframe rot.



This vehicle is a frontline snow fighting truck in the winter and driven daily as a crew support vehicle for Highway Department operations year-round. The replacement vehicle will be a one and half ton chassis with sander and front plow. This truck is used 5 days/week in spring, summer, fall. Up to 7 days/week in winter.

This price includes the cab & chassis and upfit costs for sander, front plow, strobe lights, and radio.

Mileage/date taken: 1,600 hours, 130,000 miles/June 2025

#### **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.

### ARTICLE 14

#### **REPLACE FIRE CAR #2 (\$67,194)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of sixty-seven thousand one hundred and ninety-four dollars (\$67,194), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for the Fire Department Car #2, purchased in 2014. This vehicle is used as a command vehicle. It contains firefighting, EMS, and command equipment, and responds as a single resource during periods of high call volume to provide immediate assistance. 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.

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026



### Description

Replace a 2014 Ford Explorer with a new Hybrid Ford Explorer. We have had a good experience with the hybrid currently in our fleet. There has been an obvious reduction in fuel costs associated with the hybrid explorer. This benefits the tax payers, through reduced fuel usage, as well as the environment in emission reductions.

The 11 year old vehicle is becoming more difficult to predict service & maintenance needs. This vehicle was deferred in 2024. This vehicle currently receives a Mercury Fleet Study score of 31, which indicates "needs immediate consideration"

for replacement with 3,362 engine hours and equivalent road mileage of 110,946. With any older vehicle, unexpected costs in addition to routine maintenance always have the potential to be higher than budgeted in the operating portion of the budget.

A new hybrid vehicle will reduce operating costs, fuel consumption, and provide for a more sustainable future for the Town of Exeter. Vehicle, Hybrid Ford Explorer - \$49,379; Two-Way Radio - \$7630, Lights/Siren \$10,185.

### 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.

## ARTICLE 15

### **APPROPRIATE TO EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND - SICK LEAVE (\$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 be paid out for 50% of their accrued sick leave at retirement. The fund needs to be replenished annually to meet retirement obligations each year. The fund's balance, after the distribution of \$147,187 for 2025 sick leave obligations paid, will be \$112,000. Estimated buyouts in 2026 related to scheduled retirements total another \$108,000.

### 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 2026

## ARTICLE 16

### **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.

#### **Description**

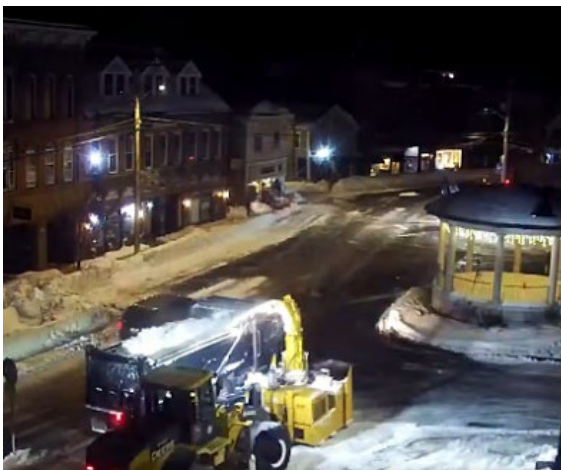
Article 23 of the 2010 Town Warrant established a reserve fund for snow and ice budget deficits. Due to the timing of the fiscal year, which ends December 31st, it is always difficult to forecast snow and ice spending. Overspending the snow/ice budget (a necessity) can put pressure on other budgets at fiscal year end. Each storm has variability, and depending on the type, length, and severity of the storm, the snow and ice budgets can be exhausted and easily overspent. This emergency fund allows the Select Board to approve withdrawals in years when 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 2025 projected end of year balance after reimbursement for the years snow activity is \$89,000. Adding \$75,000 will bring the balance to \$164,000 for 2026.

#### **Tax Impact**

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 2026

### ARTICLE 17

#### **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. 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 approved a warrant article in 2019 for the purpose of conducting and creating an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements Plan for Town facilities and infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, and other pedestrian safety improvements. Subsequent to the ADA Transition Plan's completion, the Town approved a Capital Reserve Fund to fund improvements. Past projects have included an accessible changing table in the public restrooms at Town Hall and sidewalk upgrades. The current fund balance is \$82,730. In 2026, the town would work on various improvements to handicap parking access, installing an adult changing table in the Library, review accessibility to crosswalks and signals and more.

#### **Tax Impact**

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.

### ARTICLE 18

#### **APPROPRIATE TO EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND – SWASEY PARKWAY (\$3,468)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand four hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$3,468) 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 2025 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 collected each year for use of the Parkway. The fund is



## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

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currently owed \$3,468 from the General Fund for activity related to 2025. This article would effectuate the fund transfer. The balance in the Swasey Parkway Expendable Trust Fund as of 12/31/2025 was \$43,750.

### **Tax Impact**

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.

### **ARTICLE 19**

#### **CREATE THE EXETER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND (\$25,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to establish the Exeter Public Library Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of maintenance, repairs and other infrastructure projects of the Exeter Public Library building and grounds and to raise and appropriate twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in this fund and further to name the Library Trustees as agents to expend from said fund. The amount to come from general taxation; (Estimated Tax Impact: \$.007/\$1,000 assessed property value, \$.71/\$100,000 assessed property value)

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



### **Description**

The 2020 renovation of Exeter Public Library upgraded part, but not all of the original 1987 library building. The choice to not upgrade all of the building's pipes, elevator, and thirteen original featured doors means that some of the original 1987 features that remained untouched by the renovation are beginning to fail and are or soon will need replacement. In addition, there are no funds for when any materials in the renovation fall out of warranty and fail. Unlike other town departments, building upkeep for the Library does not fall under the town's Department of Public Works. The Library's budget alone supports any building and maintenance needs. The

Trustees of Exeter Public Library have voted to create an Exeter Public Library Infrastructure Trust Fund, which will support maintenance, repairs, or other infrastructure projects so that the Library's service to the community will not be reduced or eliminated due to unforeseen repair or maintenance costs.

### **Tax Impact**

The amount to come from general taxation; (Estimated Tax Impact: \$.007/\$1,000 assessed property value, \$.71/\$100,000 assessed property value)

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

### ARTICLE 20

#### PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT

#### FRONT ST./ RAILROAD AVE. INTERSECTION (\$1,334,939)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one million three hundred thirty-four thousand nine hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$1,334,939) for the purpose of constructing a new sidewalk on Railroad Ave, re-constructing the Front St/Railroad Ave intersection, replacing the existing "painted" sidewalks on Front Street, and installing a user activated rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) at the crosswalk. These improvements will enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety, connect residential and commercial uses, and make the area accessible to all users. This project is contingent upon receiving Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds in the amount of 80% of the funding (\$1,067,951) with the Town of Exeter to be responsible for the remaining 20% (\$266,988). This amount to come from general taxation; 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. (Estimated Tax Impact: \$.076/\$1,000 assessed property value, \$7.60/\$100,000 assessed property value)

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

#### **Description**

The project goals are to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety, connect residential and commercial uses, and make the area accessible to all users. Currently, there is no sidewalk on Railroad Ave, which is in a mixed-use area with residential, commercial and industrial uses. This project would fill gaps in our sidewalk network in a busy area and improve access to between uses. The existing crosswalk at the intersection of Front St and Railroad Ave is over 100 feet long and terminates on the westerly side into a vertical curb reveal that is approximately 12 1/2" high.



To meet the goals and satisfy the need, the town would:

- Construct a new sidewalk on Railroad Ave that will connect the existing sidewalk on Winter St to the existing sidewalk on Front St.
- Reconstruct the Front St/Railroad Ave intersection to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety by shortening the length of the crosswalk, reducing the pavement width of Railroad Ave, and constructing an ADA accessible tip down on the westerly side of Railroad Ave.
- Replace the existing "painted" sidewalks on Front Street by constructing a raised sidewalk with granite curbing and reduce curb cut widths in these areas.
- Install a user activated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the crosswalk easterly of the railroad tracks on Front St.

# Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

## Tax Impact

This project would be contingent upon receiving Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds. TAP would provide 80% of the funding (\$1,067,951.07) and the Town of Exeter would be responsible for the remaining 20% (\$266,987.80). If the Town does not receive the TAP grant this project would not continue.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$.076/\$1,000 assessed property value, \$7.60/\$100,000 assessed property value.

## ARTICLE 21

### **LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT INVENTORY (\$173,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy three thousand dollars (\$173,000) for the purpose of identifying approximately two hundred and eighteen (218) water service connections to work towards meeting the requirements of the EPA-required Lead and Copper Rule(LCRR). To meet the requirements of the LCRR, 2,173 service connections designated as unknown must be identified within 10 years of the submission of the initial inventory, or by 2034. This sum to come from the water fund.

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



## Description

The Lead and Copper Rule (LCRR) that EPA implemented required water systems to develop an initial lead service line inventory by October 16, 2024. All service lines had to be categorized as lead, non-lead, GRR, or unknown. The Town has 3,280 services that were reviewed under this effort. Based on the review that was conducted, zero service lines were identified as lead, 5 service lines were identified as GRR, and 2,173 were designated as lead status unknown. To meet the requirements of the LCRR, the 2,173 services designated as unknown must be identified within 10 years of the submission of the initial inventory, or by 2034. To meet the 10-year deadline, 218 services (on average) should be identified annually.

There are 2 sides to each water service: the system side which is the portion from the watermain to the curb stop and the customer side, which is the portion from the curb stop into the residence or business. Of the 2,173 designated as unknown 685 services are on the system side and 1,488 services are on the customer side. The customer side can be identified by visual inspection, where the service line enters the building. To meet the 2034 deadline, 149 inspections of the customer side (on average) will need to be performed annually. There is a self-report option available on the Town website that would be a cost saving way for these services to be identified. The 685 services designated as unknown on the system side will require a method called "potholing" in order to identify the service line material. Potholing involves excavating the curb stop to be able see and identify what the service line material is on the system side. To meet the 2034 deadline, 69 potholes (on average) would need to be performed each year.

The Town was a recipient of a Lead Service Line Inventory Grant for \$60,000 which will offset the cost of this

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

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program for 2026.

### Project Costs:

Consultant assistance -	\$30,000
Field inspections of customer side -	\$5,000
Potholing 69 services at \$2000 per service	\$138,000
Total Requested Appropriation	\$173,000
LSL - Grant	<u>(\$60,000)</u>
Total Funded by Water Fund	\$113,000

### Tax Impact

This appropriation is proposed to be funded via the Water Fund, therefore there is no impact on the tax rate.

## ARTICLE 22

### MODIFY OPTIONAL SERVICE CONNECTED TOTAL DISABILITY CREDIT

Shall the town increase the RSA 72:35 optional tax credit on residential property for veterans with a Service-Connected Total Disability from \$2,000 to \$2,500? Pursuant to a new law effective April 1, 2026, veterans who receive this credit are no longer eligible to receive any other veterans related tax credits.

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

### Description

The Optional Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability (RSA 72:35) is a property tax credit for New Hampshire residents who are honorably discharged veterans with a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability rating. Unlike general exemptions that reduce assessed value, this is a direct credit subtracted from your final property tax bill. This article would increase the benefit given to eligible residents. This credit can not be stacked with any other veterans credits.

## ARTICLE 23

### MODIFY THE ELDERLY EXEMPTION FROM PROPERTY TAX

Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Exeter, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 74 years, \$198,000 (previously \$152,250); for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years, \$238,000, (previously \$183,250); for a person 80 years of age or older \$307,000, (previously \$236,250)? To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$43,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$55,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$194,251 excluding the value of the person's residence.

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2026

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

### Description

The Elderly Exemption (RSA 72:39-a) is a property tax relief program that allows qualified residents aged 65 or older to reduce the taxable assessed value of their primary residence. This article would modify the criteria to be eligible for this program.

### **ARTICLE 24**

#### **MODIFY THE EXEMPTION FOR THE BLIND**

Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:37, Exemption for the Blind, to allow an inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the blind services program, to be exempt each year on the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate to the value of \$25,000 an increase from the previously approved exemption amount of \$15,000?

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

### Description

The Exemption for the Blind (RSA 72:37) is a property tax relief program that allows residents who are legally blind to reduce the taxable assessed value of their primary residential real estate. This article would increase the benefit given to eligible residents.

### **ARTICLE 25**

#### **ADOPT THE ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT**

Town Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Exeter under RSA 72:28.

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

### Description

Currently, the Town of Exeter offers the optional veteran's credit for \$500. Eligible veterans must meet the qualifications below.

- I. The following persons shall qualify for the standard veterans' tax credit or the optional veterans' tax credit:
- (a) Every resident of this state who served not less than 90 days in the armed forces of the United States in any qualifying war or armed conflict listed in this section and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident;

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- (b) Every resident of this state who was terminated from the armed forces because of service-connected disability; or the surviving spouse of such resident; and
- (c) The surviving spouse of any resident who suffered a service-connected death.

II. Service in a qualifying war or armed conflict shall be as follows:

- (a) "World War I" between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918, extended to April 1, 1920 for service in Russia; provided that military or naval service on or after November 12, 1918 and before July 2, 1921, where there was prior service between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 shall be considered as World War I service;
- (b) "World War II" between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946;
- (c) "Korean Conflict" between June 25, 1950 and January 31, 1955;
- (d) "Vietnam Conflict" between December 22, 1961 and May 7, 1975;
- (e) "Vietnam Conflict" between July 1, 1958 and December 22, 1961, if the resident earned the Vietnam service medal or the armed forces expeditionary medal;
- (f) "Persian Gulf War" between August 2, 1990 and the date thereafter prescribed by Presidential proclamation or by law; and
- (g) Any other war or armed conflict that has occurred since May 8, 1975, and in which the resident earned an armed forces expeditionary medal or theater of operations service medal.

This article would adopt the All Veterans' Credit which would be available to all veterans who served at least 90 days and were honorably discharged despite what years they served. The All Veterans' Credit must be for the same dollar amount as the optional veterans' credit. Eligible veterans would receive a \$500 credit on their tax bill.

### **ARTICLE 26**

#### **ADD AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

To see if the Town will amend the membership of the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee, established by Article 20 of the 2011 Town Meeting and Article 22 of the 2024 Town Meeting, by adding one alternate member so that the Committee will now consist of five (5) members, two of whom are Select board members, and one (1) alternate.

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

#### **Description**

Since the Water/Sewer Advisory committee was adopted by Town Meeting and changes to the committee must come before Town Meeting for approval. This article would add a single alternate member to the committee.

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### ARTICLE 27

#### CITIZENS' PETITION

Submitted by petition.

Shall the Town vote to award veterans in the town of Exeter \$750 credit off their property tax such as what is awarded in the towns of Dover; Newmarket; Portsmouth; Kingston; East Kingston; Barrington and others.

(Majority Vote Required) Recommended by the Select Board 0-0-5.

### ARTICLE 28

#### CITIZENS' PETITION

Submitted by petition.

New Hampshire communities value strong public schools and responsible use of public funds for education. Therefore, the voters of Exeter, New Hampshire, are asked:

Shall we call on our legislators to protect taxpayers by requiring the Education Freedom Account program to provide fiscal and educational performance reports comparable to those required of public schools, and by limiting eligibility to families with demonstrated financial need?

This question is raised because state legislators recently removed all income limits from the Education Freedom Account program (vouchers), expanding it beyond its original purpose. These changes added tens of millions of dollars in costs, while the program provides limited public information on how funds are spent or if educational standards are being met.

The voucher program is projected to cost \$110 million over the next two years with no new revenue sources identified. This directs public funds to private education without reducing the expenses public schools are constitutionally required to cover, increasing pressure on local property taxes.

Be it further resolved that the Exeter Select Board shall send the results of this vote to the Governor and all members of the General Court representing Exeter within thirty (30) days of this vote.

(Majority Vote Required)