

Select Board Meeting
Tuesday January 20, 2026
6:30 PM
Nowak Room, Town Offices
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Chair Niko Papakonstantis, Vice-Chair Molly Cowan, Clerk Nancy Belanger, Julie Gilman, Dan Chartrand, and Interim Town Manager Melissa Roy were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 6:30 PM and the Board went downstairs for interviews.

2. Board Interviews

- a. Kevin Fleming for the Exeter Housing Authority

The Board reconvened in the Nowak Room at 6:40 PM.

3. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. Mr. Papakonstantis read the proclamation for National Law Enforcement Day:

Whereas annually January 9th is nationally recognized as National Law Enforcement Day upon its creation in the year 2015;

And Whereas multiple organizations worked in collaboration in the creation of National Law Enforcement Day to promote a positive portrayal of Police Officers among communities and in the news media;

And Whereas the day recognizes, appreciates, and supports the over 900,000 Officers throughout the United States who have chosen the difficult career path of Law Enforcement Officer;

And Whereas Law Enforcement Officers of every rank and file have chosen a profession that puts their life on the line every day for their communities and answering all calls to public service, are often taken away from their families for long hours, and work with local, State, and Federal organizations, making communities safer through commanded dedication;

Now, therefore, I, Niko Papakonstantis, the Chair of the Town of Exeter Select Board hereby proclaim and affirm January 9, 2026 as National Law Enforcement Day within the town of Exeter New Hampshire. All people are hereby called upon to promote gratitude, respect, and support for the Law Enforcement Officers who serve and protect our citizens and uphold the

41 *law. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal*
42 *of the Town of Exeter to be affixed this day of January 20, 2026.*

43
44 b. Housing Champion Award

45 Andrew Dorsett, Lee Ann Moynihan, and Heather Shank of the
46 State Department of Business and Economic Affairs, as well as State
47 Senator Deborah Altschiller, were present to discuss the Housing
48 Champion award. Mr. Dorsett said several years ago there was
49 recognition that there was a housing crisis in the State of NH. Businesses
50 reached out to the State Government about not being able to grow or stay
51 in business. The Invest NH program was created to encourage the
52 creation of housing. \$64M went to capital projects in the State of NH.
53 Exeter has the largest program in the State underway, the "Gateway to
54 Exeter" project.

55 Ms. Moynihan said the Housing Champion program is voluntary,
56 and Exeter has shown that they want to be pro-housing. 28 communities
57 are participating. In the first year, they had \$5M, but they don't have
58 funding going forward. There are still incentives for towns, including 10
59 points on the DES Clean Water fund. They've also been working with
60 CDFA, Plan NH, and DOT to give Housing Champion communities an
61 advantage.

62 Ms. Shank congratulated Exeter on the award. She said they
63 continue to investigate how to expand the incentives of the program.

64 Ms. Roy said Dave Sharples, Darren Winham, and Kristin Murphy
65 were integral to the process but couldn't make it tonight.

66 Mr. Chartrand said the Land Use department has worked very hard
67 on the issue of housing availability. The TIF district set us up to have the
68 Gateway project, which is moving forward in 2026. He added that Nancy
69 Belanger has served on the Housing Advisory Committee and has been a
70 tireless champion of housing. The Rockingham Planning Commission has
71 also been great.

72 Senator Altschiller said Housing Champion communities are the
73 "communities of the willing." There is friction at the State House between
74 those who would like to provide incentives to those who create housing
75 versus another group that would like to create Statewide zoning edicts.
76 Exeter was forward-thinking and got all the points.

77 The group presented the Select Board with the award.

78
79 4. Public Comment

80 a. There was no public comment at this time.

81
82 5. Approval of Minutes

83 a. Regular Meeting: January 5, 2026

84 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 5,
85 2026 as presented. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

86
87 6. Appointments

88 a. There were no appointments made at this time.

89
90 7. Discussion/Action Items

91 a. Public Hearing: FY26 Budget and Bonds

92 i. Mr. Papakonstantis read from the warrant:

93 *To the inhabitants of the Town of Exeter, in the County of Rockingham, in*
94 *the said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs:*

95 *First Session*

96 *You are hereby notified that the first session (the Deliberative Session) of*
97 *the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026,*
98 *beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the*
99 *Performing Arts at Exeter High School, 1 Blue Hawk Drive. The first*
100 *session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the*
101 *following warrant articles, and will also afford voters who are present the*
102 *opportunity to propose, debate, and adopt amendments to warrant*
103 *articles, except those articles in which wording is prescribed by state law.*

104 *Second Session*

105 *The second session of the Annual Town Meeting, to elect Town officers by*
106 *official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles as they may have been*
107 *amended at the first session, will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at*
108 *the Talbot Gymnasium at the Tuck Learning Center, 30 Linden Street.*
109 *Polls for voting by official ballot will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00*
110 *p.m.*

111
112 **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

113 **TOWN OF EXETER 2026 BONDS**

114 *The Exeter Select Board hereby gives notice of a public hearing pursuant*
115 *to RSA 33:8-a on the following projects requiring bonds and notes as part*
116 *of the fiscal year 2026 town warrant:*

117 *1. Surface Water Treatment Plant Design Phase II; \$2,000,000.*

118 *2. Water Treatment Plan Residuals Disposal; \$500,000.*

119 *3. Nitrogen Reduction Program Equipment Purchase of Street Sweeper;*
120 *\$412,000*

121 *The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026*
122 *commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter Town Offices, Nowak Room, 10*
123 *Front Street, Exeter, NH. The public is encouraged to attend.*
124 *Dated: December 23, 2025*
125

126 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to open the public hearing for the Town of Exeter
127 2026 bonds. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
128

129
130 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 6 – Surface Water Treatment Plant
131 Design and Engineering Phase II:
132 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million*
133 *dollars (\$2,000,000) for the purpose of phase II design and engineering of*
134 *a new surface water treatment plant including evaluation for cost saving*
135 *measures and alternatives, and to authorize the issuance of not more than*
136 *\$2,000,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the*
137 *Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board*
138 *to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine*
139 *the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other items thereof; and*
140 *further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain, accept, and*
141 *expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness,*
142 *which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws*
143 *applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to*
144 *take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto. Without*
145 *impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is*
146 *anticipated that debt service will be paid from the water fund. Bond*
147 *payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.*
148 *(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)*
149

150 Public Works Director Stephen Cronin said the intent is to advance
151 the next phase of design for the Surface Water Treatment Plant project.
152 The voters already allocated \$500,000 for work which is ongoing. A pilot
153 study will be happening this spring on treatment technologies. The existing
154 plant is outdated and it's difficult to meet current regulations. This will
155 come from the State Drinking Water SRF with a \$500,000 principal
156 forgiveness portion.

157 Ms. Roy said we're not able to put that information in the warrant
158 language, so we'll let voters know in the informational packets about the
159 \$500,000 forgiveness. Drinking water projects require us to put the entire
160 amount of the project on the warrant.

161 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment.

162 Ron Buell of Pine Street said this is phase 2. Is phase 3 the actual
163 construction? When would it start? Mr. Cronin said there would be design
164 over the next year. We intend to bring this forward in 2028 or 2029 for
165 construction. Ms. Roy said we need to look at what's happening with the
166 warrant and our opportunities for grants. This will allow us to go for grant
167 funding.

168 Mr. Chartrand asked when the existing Surface Water Treatment
169 Plant was built. Mr. Cronin said some components are from the late
170 1800s. It had some updates in 2024.

171 Mr. Chartrand said this is part of a strategy to have a suite of water
172 sources. Mr. Cronin said the challenges with surface water is that it's high
173 in organics which produces disinfection byproducts. We have expanded
174 our capacities on the groundwater side and are in permitting for a new
175 source which will shift our sources to primarily groundwater. Mr. Chartrand
176 said surface water will be supplementing that going forward.

177 Mr. Chartrand asked where the impact of a project like this will hit.
178 Mr. Stevens said in the water fund rates, not the tax rates. Mr. Chartrand
179 said folks on the water system will pay for this. It will have no impact on
180 real estate property taxes.

181 Ms. Belanger said we've tried to get everything we could out of the
182 existing plant.

183 Ms. Gilman said in 2008 or before was another warrant article for
184 \$4M. Mr. Cronin said he thinks that included the construction. This is just
185 the design component.

186 Finance Director Corey Stevens said we need to start planning for
187 this despite the fact that it's just a water impact. This will be a multi-million
188 dollar project so we need to understand now how rates will absorb this.

189 Mr. Chartrand said Water/Sewer Advisory Chair Bob Kelly will be involved.

190 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to recommend article 6 as written. Ms. Belanger
191 seconded. Mr. Chartrand said he would recommend this unreservedly. The
192 motion passed 5-0.

193
194 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 7 – Water Treatment Plant
195 Residuals Disposal:

196 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five*
197 *hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the purpose of Water Treatment*
198 *Plant Residuals Disposal, and to authorize the issuance of not more than*
199 *\$500,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the*
200 *Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board*

201 *to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine*
202 *the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other items thereof; and*
203 *further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain, accept, and*
204 *expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness,*
205 *which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws*
206 *applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to*
207 *take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto. Without*
208 *impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is*
209 *anticipated that debt service will be paid from the water fund. Bond*
210 *payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.*
211 *(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)*

212
213 Mr. Cronin said this would address a chronic maintenance issue at
214 the Water Treatment plant. The lagoons are full and we need to remove
215 and treat that sludge, transport it offsite, and dispose of it. Ms. Roy said
216 we had a discussion on whether this could wait, since we will be bringing a
217 new plant forward in the next few years, but it was in our best interest to
218 keep this plant going as long as we can.

219 Mr. Chartrand said this new plant would also be funded by the
220 Water Fund rather than taxes.

221 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 7 be placed on the warrant as
222 written. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

223
224 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 8 – Nitrogen Reduction Program -
225 Equipment Purchase of Street Sweeper:
226 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four*
227 *hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$412,000) for the purpose of enhancing*
228 *the Nitrogen Reduction Program by purchasing a new street sweeper to*
229 *be used to meet EPA nitrogen reduction permit requirements and to*
230 *implement an enhanced sweeping program, and to authorize the issuance*
231 *of not more than \$412,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the*
232 *provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize*
233 *the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes*
234 *and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other*
235 *terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for,*
236 *accept, obtain, and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including*
237 *principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to*
238 *comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the*
239 *Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative*
240 *thereto. Debt service to be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax*

241 *Impact: FY1=\$0.03; FY2=\$0.03, FY3=\$0.03; FY4=\$0.03; FY5=\$0.02 per*
242 *\$1,000 assessed valuation. Based on the Town's 2025 net valuation of*
243 *\$3,501,043,853, which may vary in future years. Assumes a 5-year bond*
244 *at 3.24% interest). Bond payments would begin approximately one year*
245 *after issuance. (3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)*
246

247 Mr. Cronin said this is a repeat of an article that failed at the ballot
248 last year. We would use Clean Water SRF funding to help us comply with
249 the Great Bay Total Nitrogen Permit. We are looking to remove nutrients
250 and contaminants from our drainage system through street sweeping.
251 There would be \$12,000 principal forgiveness, plus 25% of the \$400,000
252 cost of the street sweeper. Ms. Roy said we want to explain to voters that
253 this is to pick up debris rather than treat it in our stormwater. This isn't a
254 beautification piece of equipment.

255 Mr. Chartrand asked what would happen if we did not meet our
256 obligations. Mr. Cronin said we'd have to upgrade the plant to meet them.
257 Mr. Chartrand said that will cost a lot more than \$412,000. We would save
258 money doing this.

259 Ms. Roy said the new nitrogen permit is at a lower rate. Mr. Cronin
260 said the renewals are always more restrictive.

261 Mr. Cronin said this is a 2015 sweeper and they have a 6-8 year
262 life. It has gone through significant repairs in the last few years.

263 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 8 to be placed on the
264 warrant as written. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
265

266 Mr. Chartrand asked Mr. Papakonstantis to explain why there are
267 only three articles. Mr. Papakonstantis said in the last few years we've
268 asked a lot of our voters, with the Police Station and Fire Substation,
269 Public Works Improvements, and the purchase of 10 Hampton Road. The
270 budget is higher this year because of the first year of debt service of
271 Public Safety building and the first year of collective bargaining
272 agreements, as well as having a 20% increase in health insurance
273 premiums. We asked the Departments for the bare minimum of what we
274 could bring to the voters this year. We've paused some of the Capital
275 Improvement funds we typically ask the voters for. We're doing the best
276 we can to avoid impacts to the taxpayers.

277 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to close the public hearing for the Town of Exeter
278 2026 bonds. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
279

Mr. Papakonstantis read the notice of public hearing for the Operating Budget:
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF EXETER 2026 OPERATING BUDGET
The Exeter Select Board hereby gives notice of a public hearing on the Town of Exeter Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget and all financial and other warrant articles on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices. This hearing will be held pursuant to RSA 32:5 and RSA 40:13. Dated: December 23, 2025

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to open the Town of Exeter 2026 Operating Budget hearing. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read 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.)

Ms. Roy said the FY25 General Fund budget was \$24,456,326. This year, it's \$27,325,353, an increase of 11.7% on the General Fund operating budget. This is mostly due to debt service, CBA contracts, and insurance increases. Regarding debt service, the Police and Fire Substation came into the budget this year, at \$1.6M. We were able to retire \$370,000 of debt. The new debt service is for the Police and Fire Substation, Linden Street Bridge, and the Public Works fuel island. Collective bargaining agreements were necessary for us to keep our staff. In year one, there was a six month cost, but in year two there is a 12 month cost, which is 19% of the increase for 2026. Regarding health insurance, we have two health care plans; one had a 14.5% increase, and the second a 18.8% increase. Dental had a 4.4% increase. Health Trust

has a pool rating and a rating based on our claims. Health care costs increased 11.3% over last year. This also includes changes in employee benefit elections. Regarding property and liability insurance, previously we were in a three year program to have measured increases, but Primex sunset that program and we saw a significant increase of 36.9%. We had set aside a 20% reserve for increases so were able to cover that. The increases are 11.6% of the overall General Fund increase. Mr. Stevens said he didn't think Primex had a choice in sunsetting the program.

Ms. Roy said 2025 was a 27 pay period year. FY 26 has a 4% cost of living wage adjustment. Our employees do not get merit steps. We're doing a COLA, which will allow everyone to receive this adjustment.

Ms. Roy said regarding expenses, General Government is up by 3%. Finance is down 2.5%, mostly due to the 27 pays in 2025. Planning and Development is up 4.7%, due to health care changes. Public Safety includes the full year of the CBA. There is a savings in the Health Department, as we were paying for an employee to get their degree and she has completed that. Mr. Stevens said the Departments were diligent about keeping expenses down.

Ms. Roy said Public Works has an 11% decrease in Administration and Engineering. There was an Engineering Tech position that has been re-allocated to our Maintenance Department. There is a 19% savings in stormwater due to a reduction in the number of catch basins serviced. Maintenance has increased 7.1% due to CBA and the reallocated position.

Regarding Welfare, we are required by State statute to service our Welfare recipients. We were far exceeding the budget rent number, so we wanted to put in a more realistic number. We are required to overspend as long as the applicant meets the qualifications.

In Parks and Rec, General Expenses are the same but there were health benefit changes. Two of the employees are union. Other Recreation has a small increase for the holiday light budget.

The Public Library has a 4.2% increase. There are small increases for non-union plans and \$40,000 for program services.

Debt Service is up 83%, due to payments for the Police and Fire Substation, Linden Street Bridge, and the Fuel Island project.

In Benefits and taxes, the health insurance buyout program is a savings to the town. We can incentivize people that can get healthcare somewhere else to do so. There's a sick leave buyout for those that retire with over 20 years of service. This has an offset revenue of the Capital Reserve fund for sick leave. Insurance has a 36.5% increase.

The total budget is an 11.7% increase.

360 Mr. Stevens said that revenues are from property taxes and
361 services that the town charges for or gets back from the State. We're
362 projecting a \$486,000 decrease over the actual revenues of 2025. There
363 is a current use tax when properties go into development, but we don't
364 predict as much going into 2026. Regarding building permits, Doug
365 Eastman in inspection doesn't think we'll see as much this year, so we're
366 back at \$350,000 from \$700,000. Regarding investment interest, we
367 anticipate that rates will decline. We're now with a new banking partner
368 and hoping to have more of our money put into CDs, so we're predicting a
369 slight increase. Regarding the Solar Array, he and Kristin Murphy are
370 working on net metering from Unitil and starting to sell Renewal Energy
371 Credits. That income will go to the Solar Array Revolving Fund but will be
372 used by the General Fund to cover the debt service for that project. We'll
373 also be going after the solar credit from the IRS this Spring.

374 Ms. Roy said the default budget is the same appropriations of the
375 previous year other than debt service and other obligations. The FY26
376 proposed budget is \$27M, and the default budget is \$26,863,334. The
377 difference is \$462,019, or 1.69% less.

378 Mr. Stevens said we're projecting a municipal tax rate of \$5.19 per
379 \$1,000. This assumes a 1% increase in assessed value, calculated in
380 April, and the use of \$1M in fund balance. A \$500,000 home would see a
381 \$355 increase over the FY25 tax rate; under the default budget, there
382 would be an increase of \$290.

383 Ms. Roy said we're talking about the municipal tax portion, which is
384 27% of the tax bill. 70% goes to the Schools and 3% goes to the County.
385 Mr. Stevens said \$3M goes to the TIF until it is sunset and the money
386 brought back to the Town.

387 Mr. Papakonstantis said a nearly 12% increase is a lot to swallow,
388 but the Departments have done a lot of work to be competitive with towns
389 that are our neighbors and peers. There's still a labor shortage. We
390 haven't asked the voters to do anything outrageous. The three collective
391 bargaining agreements approved in 2025 were fair to employees and to
392 the Town. It costs much more to hire and train than retain. We're fortunate
393 to have the volunteers and employees we have.

394 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment.

395 Ron Buell of Pine Street said he is pleased to see cuts. When the
396 money's not coming in, you have to cut. 70% of the tax bill is going to the
397 schools. We should publish that before the Town Meeting.

398 Ms. Cowan said it's our responsibility to tell people how their money
399 is being spent. She doesn't want to defund public schools, so we're

400 thinking about a responsible way to articulate this. Let's make sure we're
401 having conversations about how the State is forcing us to make choices.

402 Mr. Chartrand said public schools are the heart of the community.
403 We have to be careful how we wield that information without demonizing
404 the schools.

405 **MOTION:** Ms. Cowan moved to recommend article 10 to be put on the warrant
406 as written. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

407
408 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 11 – 2026 Water Fund Budget:
409 *Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a water operating*
410 *budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other*
411 *appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget*
412 *posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the*
413 *purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,696,505. Should this article be*
414 *defeated, the water default budget shall be \$4,664,300, which is the same*
415 *as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the*
416 *Town of Exeter or by law. (Majority vote required.)*

417 Ms. Roy said the Water Fund operating budget in FY25 was \$4.6M,
418 and in FY26 is \$4.6M. It has a \$61,000 increase or 1.3%. There is a
419 reduction in Capital Outlay. We did a realignment between the
420 Water/Sewer and General Fund for one project. The increases have a
421 staff component to them; these employees are part of our bargaining
422 groups.

423 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

424 Mr. Chartrand said the increase here is relatively small and that's
425 why we put a couple of bond articles tying into the water rate. He added
426 that in the 1990s we fell way far behind and that cost more money.

427 Ms. Belanger said when that happened, our roads were in terrible
428 shape. We had to allocate funds every year to get back what we lost. Ms.
429 Roy said most of the towns around us don't have nearly the level of
430 infrastructure we do.

431 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to recommend article 11 to be put on the warrant
432 as written. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

433
434 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 12 – 2026 Sewer Fund Budget:
435 *Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a sewer operating*
436 *budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other*
437 *appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget*
438 *posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the*
439 *purposes set forth therein, totaling \$8,286,840. Should this article be*

440 *defeated, the default budget shall be \$8,210,020, which is the same as*
441 *last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town*
442 *of Exeter or by law. (Majority vote required.)*
443

444 Ms. Roy said the FY 26 Sewer Fund budget has a \$104,000
445 increase, or 1.2%. There are bargaining unit members within the Sewer
446 Department. The Administrative positions in General Government that
447 service the Water/Sewer Department charge a small portion to the
448 Water/Sewer Fund.

449 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

450 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to recommend article 12 to be put on the warrant
451 as written. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
452

453 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 13 – Replace Dump Truck #52:
454 *To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant*
455 *article, the sum of eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000), for the purpose*
456 *of purchasing a replacement for the DPW Dump Truck #52, purchased in*
457 *2012. This vehicle is a frontline snow-fighting truck in the winter and is*
458 *driven daily as a crew support vehicle for Highway Department operations*
459 *year-round. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance.*
460 *(Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).*
461 *(Majority vote required.)*

462 Ms. Roy said this is self-explanatory.

463 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

464 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 13 to be put on the warrant
465 as written. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
466

467 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 14 – Replace Fire Car #2:
468 *To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant*
469 *article, the sum of sixty-seven thousand one hundred and ninety-four*
470 *dollars (\$67,194), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for the Fire*
471 *Department Car #2, purchased in 2014. This vehicle is used as a*
472 *command vehicle. It contains firefighting, EMS, and command equipment,*
473 *and responds as a single resource during periods of high call volume to*
474 *provide immediate assistance. This sum to come from the unassigned*
475 *fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by*
476 *taxation). (Majority vote required.)*

477 Ms. Roy said this vehicle was deferred last year. It's time for it to be
478 on the warrant.

479 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

480 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 14 to be put on the warrant
481 as written. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

482
483 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 15 – Appropriate to Expendable
484 Trust Fund - Sick Leave:

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

490 Ms. Roy said this is an annual appropriation. Part of our benefits
491 package is that if you are here for 20 years, you can have a buyout of half
492 of your sick time. We expect a few retirements this year.

493 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

494 Ms. Cowan said she appreciates that we're creative about keeping
495 folks here.

496 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 15 to be put on the warrant
497 as written. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

498
499 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 16 – Appropriate to Non-Capital
500 Reserve Fund – Snow and Ice Deficit

501 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-*
502 *five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the Snow and Ice Deficit*
503 *Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from*
504 *the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount*
505 *to be raised by taxation). (Majority vote required.)*

506 Ms. Roy said we never know from year to year whether we'll have a
507 heavy snow balance or not. This fund helps us during the heavy weather
508 years.

509 Ms. Gilman asked how much we've spent already. Mr. Cronin said
510 in 2025, we budgeted \$289,000 and spent \$448,123. We drew \$158,000
511 from the Snow and Ice reserve fund. Mr. Stevens said the current balance
512 is \$197,000.

513 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

514 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 16 to be put on the warrant
515 as written. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

516
517 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 17 – Appropriate to Capital
518 Reserve Fund – ADA Fund:

519 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five*
520 *thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the ADA Non-Capital Reserve*
521 *Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund*
522 *balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by*
523 *taxation). (Majority vote required.)*

524 Ms. Roy said we are a historic town and with that comes buildings,
525 sidewalks, and streets that are not ADA accessible. This fund allows us to
526 build up a balance to work on ADA projects. We did a tipdown at the
527 Library, railings, an adult changing table, and a number of other projects.

528 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

529 Ms. Belanger said this amount is smaller than our needs, but we're
530 chipping away at it.

531 **MOTION:** Ms. Cowan moved to recommend article 17 to be put on the warrant
532 as written. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

533
534 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 18 – Appropriate to Expendable
535 Trust Fund – Swasey Parkway:

536 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three*
537 *thousand four hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$3,468) to be added to the*
538 *Swasey Parkway Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This*
539 *sum to come from unassigned fund balance. This amount is equivalent to*
540 *the amount of permit fees collected during 2025 for use of the Swasey*
541 *Parkway. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by*
542 *taxation). (Majority vote required.)*

543 Ms. Roy said when we rent out Swasey Parkway, the rental fees
544 are transferred into this fund.

545 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

546 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 18 to be put on the warrant
547 as written. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

548
549 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 19 – Create the Exeter Public
550 Library Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund:

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

559 (Majority vote required.)

560 Library Director Julia Lantner was present to discuss this article.
561 Ms. Lanter said the “new building” was just addressing a failing roof, failing
562 walls, and adding more meeting space for the public. Some systems
563 retained in that renovation have begun to break down after 40 years. We
564 had two breakages in the last two months. We lost two heat pumps in the
565 same week. The fire suppression system had two leaks in December.
566 Vendors who come in tell us these systems are showing their age. The
567 Trustees have asked this fund to be created so things can be fixed right
568 away, rather than waiting and costing the taxpayers more money.

569 Ms. Roy said we will need to have a separate public hearing just on
570 this to create an expendable Trust Fund. The agents to expend would be
571 the Library Trustees.

572 Ms. Lanter said this was voted unanimously by the Library Board.

573 Mr. Papakonstantis said the BRC vetted this carefully. The initial
574 request was a little higher.

575 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

576 Ms. Gilman said it's doing pretty well for a 40-year-old building. In
577 10 years it will be a historical structure.

578 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 19 to be put on the warrant
579 as written. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

580
581 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 20 – Pedestrian Improvements at
582 Front St./ Railroad Ave. Intersection:

583 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special*
584 *warrant article, the sum of one million three hundred thirty four thousand*
585 *nine hundred thirty nine dollars (\$1,334,939) for the purpose of*
586 *constructing a new sidewalk on Railroad Ave, re-constructing the Front*
587 *St./Railroad Ave intersection, replacing the existing "painted" sidewalks on*
588 *Front Street, and installing a user activated rectangular rapid flashing*
589 *beacon (RRFB) at the crosswalk. These improvements will enhance*
590 *pedestrian and bicycle safety, connect residential and commercial uses,*
591 *and make the area accessible to all users. This project is contingent upon*
592 *receiving Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds in the amount*
593 *of 80% of the funding (\$1,067,951) with the Town of Exeter to be*
594 *responsible for the remaining 20% (\$266,988). This amount to come from*
595 *general taxation; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for,*
596 *accept and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal*
597 *forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply*
598 *with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select*

599 *Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto.*
600 *(Estimated Tax Impact: \$.076/\$1,000 assessed property value,*
601 *\$7.60/\$100,000 assessed property value) (Majority vote required.)*

602 Ms. Roy said Dave Sharples applied for the TAP grant. The
603 Railroad Ave/Front Street area is a wonky intersection and there is
604 business investment there. We are looking to be a walkable, safe
605 community. We have received 80% from a grant and would only be
606 responsible for 20%.

607 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

608 Ms. Gilman asked if we have gotten the grant already. Ms. Roy said
609 we've been told that it has been awarded, but we're waiting for
610 confirmation. She hopes that residents can see the benefit of an 80%
611 grant.

612 Mr. Chartrand said several people have been injured in this
613 intersection.

614 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 20 to be put on the warrant
615 as written. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

616
617 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 21 – Lead Service Line
618 Replacement Inventory (\$173,000)
619 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one*
620 *hundred seventy three thousand dollars (\$173,000) for the purpose of*
621 *identifying approximately two hundred and eighteen (218) water service*
622 *connections to work towards meeting the requirements of the EPA-*
623 *required Lead and Copper Rule (LCRR). To meet the requirements of the*
624 *LCRR, 2,173 service connections designated as unknown must be*
625 *identified within 10 years of the submission of the initial inventory, or by*
626 *2034. This sum to come from the water fund. (Majority vote required.)*

627 Mr. Cronin said this is something we're mandated to do by the EPA.
628 We're trying to chip away at this over a number of years. We received
629 \$60,000 in grants this year to offset the costs.

630 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

631 Ms. Belanger asked how old some of these areas are. Mr. Cronin
632 said we're a town that has a water system dating back to the late 1800s.
633 With this rule, they want you to make certain what you have for materials.
634 It's somewhat intrusive. We may need to do investigatory digging.

635 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 21 to be put on the warrant
636 as written. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

638 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 22 – Modify Optional Service
639 Connected Total Disability Credit:

640 *Shall the town increase the RSA 72:35 optional tax credit on residential*
641 *property for veterans with a Service-Connected Total Disability from*
642 *\$2,000 to \$2,500? Pursuant to a new law effective April 1, 2026,*
643 *veterans who receive this credit are no longer eligible to receive any other*
644 *veterans related tax credits. (Majority vote required)*

645 Ms. Roy said this was one of four recommendations from our Tax
646 Committee. They felt that some of our income limits and exemptions didn't
647 meet the change in value from the 2024 valuation. It would be a change
648 from \$2,000 to \$2,500 for those who qualify.

649 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

650 Mr. Papakonstantis asked why the question mark is in the article.

651 Ms. Roy said the language was prescribed through DRA. She can double-
652 check it. Mr. Chartrand said it's not in article 24 but is in 23 and 25. Mr.

653 Papakonstantis said he will call for a motion that will allow for edits later.

654 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to recommend article 22 to modify optional
655 service-connected total disability credit for veterans with a service-connected
656 total disability from \$2,000 to \$2,500. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed
657 5-0.

658
659 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 23 – Modify the Elderly Exemption
660 From Property Tax:

661 *Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption*
662 *from property tax in the Town of Exeter, based on assessed value, for*
663 *qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 74*
664 *years, \$198,000 (previously \$152,250); for a person 75 years of age up to*
665 *79 years, \$238,000, (previously \$183,250); for a person 80 years of age or*
666 *older \$307,000, (previously \$236,250)? To qualify, the person must have*
667 *been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the*
668 *real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such*
669 *person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5*
670 *consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not*
671 *more than \$43,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than*
672 *\$55,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$194,251 excluding the*
673 *value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required.)*

674 Ms. Roy said the Tax Committee felt that the 2024 revaluation
675 affected people in different ways, and wanted to increase the dollar
676 amount to account for that.

677 Ms. Gilman said they haven't been updated in a decade or more.
678 She saw a State bill today to increase them even more than this.
679 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.
680 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to recommend article 23 to be put on the warrant
681 as written. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

682
683 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 24 – Modify the Exemption for the
684 Blind:
685 *Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:37, Exemption for the*
686 *Blind, to allow an inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the blind*
687 *services program, to be exempt each year on the assessed value, for*
688 *property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate to the value of*
689 *\$25,000 an increase from the previously approved exemption amount of*
690 *\$15,000. (Majority vote required.)*

691 Ms. Roy said this was the Tax Committee's recommendation. It
692 hasn't been reviewed in quite some time.

693 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

694 Mr. Chartrand said he will vote for this but with the knowledge that
695 when we offer an exemption to one person the other taxpayers pick up the
696 slack. We should do that with care. If qualifications need to be verified, we
697 should follow through on that.

698 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to recommend article 24 to be put on the warrant
699 as written. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

700
701 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 25 – Adopt the All Veterans' Tax
702 Credit
703 *Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans'*
704 *Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the*
705 *spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than*
706 *90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and*
707 *was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services*
708 *and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35.*
709 *If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500, the same amount as the*
710 *standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Exeter*
711 *under RSA 72:28. (Majority vote required.)*

712 Ms. Roy said this was talked about the most at the Tax Committee.
713 They came to the Board and reported that they were divided but wanted to
714 put it on the ballot to ask the voters. Currently, in order to get a Veterans
715 Tax credit, you need to have participated in certain conflicts. This would

716 allow anyone who served more than 90 days and was honorably
717 discharged a \$500 credit.

718 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

719 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 25 to be put on the warrant
720 as written. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

721
722 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 26 – Add an alternate member to
723 the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee:

724 *To see if the Town will amend the membership of the Water/Sewer*
725 *Advisory Committee, established by Article 20 of the 2011 Town Meeting*
726 *and Article 22 of the 2024 Town Meeting, by adding one alternate member*
727 *so that the Committee will now consist of five (5) members, two of whom*
728 *are Selectboard members, and one (1) alternate. (Majority vote required.)*

729 Ms. Roy said we changed this in 2024 but we now have an extra
730 person that is interested. We'd like to add an alternate position to the
731 committee.

732 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

733 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 26 to be put on the warrant
734 as written. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

735
736 Mr. Chartrand asked regarding the first citizens' petition if
737 "Barrinton" can be changed to "Barrington." Ms. Roy said she heard today
738 that we can update it for the warrant.

739 Mr. Papakonstantis said the Board is obligated to vote on this
740 because there is a dollar amount associated.

741 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 27 - Citizens' Petition:
742 *Shall the Town vote to award veterans in the town of Exeter \$750 credit*
743 *off their property tax such as what is awarded in the towns of Dover;*
744 *Newmarket; Portsmouth; Kingston; East Kingston; Barrinton and others.*
745 *(Majority Vote Required)*

746 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

747 Ms. Gilman said there are other definitions of Veterans. She's in
748 support of this but it doesn't pass the legal question of what RSA this is
749 amending or supporting.

750 Keith Whitehouse of Westside Drive asked if the article would fail if
751 it passed because of that. Mr. Papakonstantis said we're not sure. Ms.
752 Roy said the All-Veterans credit has to match the standardized number,
753 but we would have a gap. We would have to get a legal opinion but that
754 may not be binding. Mr. Chartrand asked if we can share that with the
755 petitioner. Ms. Roy said she can communicate with them but they can't

756 change it now. Mr. Chartrand said they can propose an amendment at
757 Deliberative Session. Ms. Roy said we have not suggested edits in the
758 past. Mr. Chartrand said he wants to abstain from the vote because it's not
759 clear if this is sufficient.

760 Mr. Whitehouse asked how we could get this person a real shot.
761 Mr. Papakonstantis said the deadline to submit a petition has passed so
762 it's going on the warrant as written. At Deliberative Session, there could be
763 an amendment, but it can't change the subject or intent. Mr. Whitehouse
764 asked if there will be Counsel at Deliberative Session who could help with
765 the wording. Mr. Chartrand said probably not. Ms. Belanger asked if this is
766 supposed to be in addition to the existing tax credit. Mr. Papakonstantis
767 said it's not clear. Ms. Roy said this is an unusual scenario where if it is
768 the All-Veterans credit it is a legally binding recommendation, but we don't
769 know that.

770 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend article 27 Citizens Petition that the
771 town vote to award veterans in the Town of Exeter to be awarded a \$750 credit
772 off their property tax. Ms. Gilman seconded. Ms. Belanger said she doesn't want
773 to vote no for this because we don't know the intent. Are we able to all abstain?
774 Mr. Papakonstantis said yes. Mr. Chartrand asked for a roll call vote. Ms. Gilman,
775 Ms. Belanger, Ms. Cowan, Mr. Chartrand, and Mr. Papakonstantis abstained.
776 The motion failed with 5 abstentions.

777
778 Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 28 - Citizens' Petition:
779 *New Hampshire communities value strong public schools and responsible*
780 *use of public funds for education. Therefore, the voters of Exeter, New*
781 *Hampshire, are asked:*
782 *Shall we call on our legislators to protect taxpayers by requiring the*
783 *Education Freedom Account program to provide fiscal and educational*
784 *performance reports comparable to those required of public schools, and*
785 *by limiting eligibility to families with demonstrated financial need?*
786 *This question is raised because state legislators recently removed all*
787 *income limits from the Education Freedom Account program (vouchers),*
788 *expanding it beyond its original purpose. These changes added tens of*
789 *millions of dollars in costs, while the program provides limited public*
790 *information on how funds are spent or if educational standards are being*
791 *met.*
792 *The voucher program is projected to cost \$110 million over the next two*
793 *years with no new revenue sources identified. This directs public funds to*
794 *private education without reducing the expenses public schools are*

795 *constitutionally required to cover, increasing pressure on local property*
796 *taxes.*

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

800 *(Majority Vote Required)*

801 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

802 Mr. Chartrand said the Board has never made recommendations
803 about non-financial articles. He would be uncomfortable making a
804 recommendation. Ms. Gilman said there are proposed bills that would
805 modify the ESAs. Ms. Cowan said this is timely and important, but she's
806 happy to let the voters decide.

807 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to close the public hearing for the Town of Exeter
808 2026 Operating Budget. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

809
810 b. FY25 Exeter Public Library Request

811 Library Director Julia Lanter and Finance Director Corey Stevens
812 were present to discuss this item. Ms. Lanter said for the first time in 38
813 years, the Library has two bills it's unable to pay. Two boiler pipes failed
814 and the fire suppression system had a leak. We try to stretch our budget
815 as best we can but we were not able to absorb these extra expenses.
816 We're asking the Board to give the Library the funds to pay these two bills.

817 Ms. Roy said she and Mr. Stevens met with Ms. Lantner and Mr.
818 Papakonstantis and were able to review the budget, and feel that we can
819 absorb these costs in the FY25 budget. They are making progress
820 towards not having these situations if the town votes for the maintenance
821 fund.

822 Mr. Stevens said the total is \$8,685.28.

823 Mr. Chartrand asked if we could "bridge" the money and be paid
824 back out of the \$25,000. Ms. Lanter said she'd have to go to the Trustees,
825 who meet next Tuesday. Ms. Roy said that may be a legal concern. Mr.
826 Stevens said the town would have to vote on the new expendable trust
827 fund and the Trustees would have to vote for it. Mr. Chartrand said we
828 should scratch that idea. He asked if this type of thing would be covered
829 by the fund and would never happen again. Ms. Lanter said that's the
830 point of the fund, but she can't promise it wouldn't ever happen again. Ms.
831 Roy suggested researching what's possible if this situation arises in the
832 future.

833 Mr. Papakonstantis said transparency has improved since Ms.
834 Lanter assumed the leadership of the Library. He applauds that the

835 Trustees have come in good faith to work together. If a motion is made, he
836 will vote yes, because he's confident that we have the funds to pay for
837 these unanticipated costs. The expendable fund on the warrant is a good
838 idea. He's asking that this doesn't happen frequently.

839 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to authorize a line transfer of \$8,685.28 to the
840 Exeter Public Library budget to cover unanticipated costs of repairs. Mr.
841 Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

842
843 c. Rename Exeter Train Committee

844 Mr. Chartrand said the committee had its first meeting last week,
845 and they would like to be known as the "Train Station Committee," as they
846 don't do anything with the train itself. They're looking to improve amenities
847 at the train station.

848 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to rename the Exeter Train Committee to the
849 Exeter Train Station Committee, effective immediately. Ms. Gilman seconded.
850 The motion passed 5-0.

851
852 d. Train Station Committee

853 Mr. Chartrand said at the meeting, Darren Winham gave a
854 presentation on a design charrette. This memo describes the process and
855 we're hoping the Board will approve the Chair to sign a letter.

856 Ms. Gilman asked if Darren has talked to Plan NH about the
857 charrette we did a few years ago. Mr. Chartrand said yes, but this will focus
858 on the C1 district. Ms. Roy said Darren feels that they're looking favorably
859 on our pending application for a summer charrette.

860 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to authorize the Select Board Chair to sign a
861 letter of support for the Exeter Train Station Committee's application to Plan NH
862 for the charrette design program. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-
863 0.

864
865 Ms. Roy said Exeter, Dover, Durham, and Portsmouth were
866 contacted by the MBTA about a federal grant to improve the rail line that
867 services the Amtrak. Would the Board consider a letter of support? Mr.
868 Papakonstantis asked when they need this, and Ms. Roy said January 28.
869 Mr. Chartrand said it would be a neighborly thing to do. Ms. Roy read the
870 proposed letter of support.

871 Mr. Chartrand said if we wanted something done in NH or ME, it
872 would be nice to give them our support now.

MOTION: Mr. Chartrand moved to authorize the Select Board Chair to sign a letter of support for the MBTA to seek FSP National Funding for the Draw One Bridge Replacement Project. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

8. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Solar Exemption for 73/66 in the amount of \$4,000 for tax year 2026. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Solar Exemption for 65/142 in the amount of \$13,500 for tax year 2026. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve Veterans Credits for 47/8/3227, 71/96/4, 64/105/83 in the amount of \$500 each for tax year 2026. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve Veterans Credits for 33/11, 86/17, and 19/16/54 in the amount of \$2,000 each for tax year 2026. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve an Abatement for 65/113 in the amount of \$4,897.59 for tax year 2024. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve an Abatement for 65/113 in the amount of \$5,164.63 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve an Abatement for 69/2 in the amount of \$21,256.96 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve an Abatement for 47/8/3234 in the amount of \$187.60 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Chartrand recused himself from the next item.

Mr. Papakonstantis said we have a memo from the Deputy Tax Collector for a refund request from RiverWoods. The amount is \$165.41. Mr. Stevens said it has to do with what our online system will allow us to pay.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to refund the tax late fee in the amount of \$165.41 for the RiverWoods Group for property located at 7 Riverwoods Drive, Parcel 97/23. Ms. Gilman seconded. Mr. Chartrand was recused and did not vote. The motion passed 4-0.

b. Permits & Approvals

i. Pairpoint Park Donations

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Exeter Area Greater Federation of Women's Clubs' Environmental Committee is looking to donate \$400. Mr. Stevens said we hope to come in once a month with a slate of donations to accept.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to accept the \$400 donation from the Exeter Area Greater Federation of Women's Clubs Environmental Committee for the design and construction of Pairpoint Park and to direct the funds be held by the Trustees of Trust Funds in a new trust account called the Pairpoint Park Fund. Disbursement of the funds shall be made by the authorization of the Town Manager or their designee for the purpose of designing and/or constructing Pairpoint Park. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

ii. Use of Water/Sewer Impact Fees

Mr. Stevens said this is an annual exercise to make sure we're employing the impact fees from Water/Sewer in a timely way by putting them towards debt service for Water/Sewer.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved that Water and Sewer Impact fees collected in 2024 be transferred to the General Fund operating account to offset debt payments on Water and Sewer Completed projects as follows: Water Impact Fee \$40,260; Sewer Impact Fee \$22,350. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

c. Town Manager's Report

i. Ms. Roy said the Westside Drive project water main break yesterday. Fidium has been contacted multiple times regarding underground lines that are not coming up where they're telling us they should. There's some concern about whether the people of Westside are still using these lines. Steve Cronin is working with Legal to see what we can do.

- 952 ii. She's been working on this budget presentation and some
953 personnel issues.
- 954
- 955 d. Select Board Committee Reports
- 956 i. Ms. Gilman said the Energy Committee is finishing up the Window
957 Dressers program this Thursday. There were more volunteers than
958 applicants this year. She also discussed State-level issues.
- 959 ii. Ms. Belanger said the Planning Board held a public hearing on an
960 amendment to site plan review and subdivision regulation. There's
961 a new section 8.7.9 on bicycle infrastructure. The applicants'
962 requests were granted. Housing Advisory had a great meeting with
963 the Director of the Exeter Housing Authority and talked about
964 collaboration options. We also talked about the Housing Champion
965 award and another housing charette.
- 966 iii. Ms. Cowan attended a Water/Sewer Advisory Committee meeting
967 where they dealt with a number of abatements. They also had a
968 discussion about the Lindt Chocolate Factory request for additional
969 capacity which will come to the Board Feb 2nd. We voted to
970 recommend it to the Select Board.
- 971 iv. Mr. Chartrand said he will give his report at the next meeting.
- 972 v. Mr. Papakonstantis said the Tree Committee is ready to plant once
973 the drought is over.
- 974
- 975 e. Correspondence
- 976 i. A letter from DRA on the 2024 Exeter Cyclical Revals.
- 977 ii. Information on Legislative Alerts.
- 978 iii. The NHMA bulletin
- 979
- 980 9. Review Board Calendar
- 981 a. The next meetings are February 2, Tuesday February 17, March 2, March
982 16, and March 30. Deliberative Session is Jan 31, and the Election is
983 March 10. There will be a public meeting February 9 to invite the public to
984 come and talk with us about what they're looking for in a Town Manager,
985 and asked the Board what time that should be. Ms. Cowan suggested 6 to
986 8 PM and the Board agreed.
- 987
- 988 10. Non-Public Session
- 989 a. There was no non-public session at this time.
- 990
- 991 11. Adjournment

992 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to adjourn. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed
993 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

994

995 Respectfully Submitted,

996 Joanna Bartell

997 Recording Secretary

998

999

1000

1001