

**Select Board Meeting**  
**Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Nowak Room, Town Offices**  
**10 Front Street, Exeter NH 03833**  
**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS AT 7:00 PM**

Virtual Meetings can be watched on Ch 22 or Ch 98 and YouTube.

To access the meeting, click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89214650227>

To access the meeting via telephone, call: +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Webinar ID: 892 1465 0227

Please join the meeting with your full name if you want to speak.

Use the "Raise Hand" button to alert the chair you wish to speak. On the phone, press \*9.

More instructions for how to access the meeting can be found here:

<https://www.exeternh.gov/townmanager/virtual-town-meetings>

Contact us at [extvg@exeternh.gov](mailto:extvg@exeternh.gov) or 603-418-6425 with any technical issues

**AGENDA**

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Non-Public Session – RSA 91A 3 2 d
3. Board Interviews – Conservation Commission – S. Torrez – 6:50 pm
4. Bid Awards
5. Public Comment
6. Proclamations/Recognitions
7. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Regular Meeting: January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023
8. Appointments
  - a. None
9. Resignations
  - a. Lew Hitzrot, Energy Committee
10. Discussion/Action Items
  - a. Parks/Recreation Policy Updates: Field Allocation Refund Policy, Town Hall Refund Policy
  - b. Tax Exemption Committee Proposal
  - c. SB533 on Virtual Meetings – State Representative Julie Gilman
11. Regular Business
  - a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits & Exemptions
  - b. Permits & Approvals – Water/Sewer Abatement, 5 Chestnut Street, Parks/Recreation Tree Removal 4 Hampton Road
  - c. Town Manager’s Report
  - d. Select Board Committee Reports
  - e. Correspondence

12. Review Board Calendar

13. Non-Public Session

14. Adjournment

Niko Papakonstantis, Chair

Select Board

Posted: 01/26/24 Town Office, Town Website

Persons may request an accommodation for a disabling condition in order to attend this meeting. It is asked that such requests be made with 72 hours notice.

AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## Board Interviews



**Town of Exeter**  
 Town Manager's Office  
 10 Front Street, Exeter, NH 03833

January 29, 2024  
 6:50 pm  
 confirmed.

**Statement of Interest  
 Boards and Committee Membership**

Committee Selection: Conservation Commission

New  Re-Appointment  Regular  Alternate

Name: Sean Torrez Email: smtorrez@umich.edu

Address: 18 Phinney Lane, Exeter, NH 03833 Phone: 617-894-8608

Registered Voter: Yes  No

Statement of Interest/experience/background/qualification, etc. (resume can be attached).

We moved to Exeter 11 years ago from Hampton. One of the reasons we moved here was for the excellent services the town of Exeter provides, including recreation. Everyone drives from miles around to use our trails. My wife and kids and I are always outdoors. We value state and national parks, national forests, and of course town trails for their exercise, competition, natural resources, timber, birds, and other wildlife. Although we are by no means wilderness guides, we have a lot of experience hiking and biking trails in NH. I would like to join concomm to help maintain resources. My unique contribution is that I am associated with several types of trail use (biking, running, xc ski, snowshoe, dog walking) so I feel I can represent various needs and communities. If this is re-appointment to a position, please list all training sessions you have attended relative to your appointed position.

I understand that: 1. this application will be presented to the Exeter Select Board only for the position specified above and not for subsequent vacancies on the same board; 2. The Town Manager and Select Board may nominate someone who has not filed a similar application; 3. this application will be available for public inspection.

After submitting this application for appointment to the Town Manager:

- The application will be reviewed and you will be scheduled for an interview with the Select Board
- Following the interview the Board will vote on your potential appointment at the next regular meeting
- If appointed, you will receive a letter from the Town Manager and will be required to complete paperwork with the Town Clerk prior to the start of your service on the committee or board.

I certify that I am 18 years of age or older:

Signature: Sean Torrez Date: 17 DEC 2023

*To be completed by Select Board upon appointment:*

Date Appointed: \_\_\_\_\_ Term Ending: \_\_\_\_\_ Full: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_



**Proclamations/Recognitions**

**Minutes**

Select Board Meeting  
Public Hearing for the FY24 Budget  
Tuesday January 16, 2024  
6:30 PM  
Nowak Room, Town Offices  
Draft Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Chair Niko Papakonstantis, Vice-Chair Molly Cowan, Clerk Julie Gilman, Dan Chartrand, Nancy Belanger, and Town Manager Russ Dean were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 6:30 PM.

2. Non-Public Session

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II(d). Ms. Cowan seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

The Board reconvened in the Nowak Room at 6:50 PM.

3. Bid Awards - Septage Equipment, Webster Avenue Pump Station

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

5. Proclamations/Recognitions

a. Ms. Gilman read the proclamation of 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, the Chair of the Town of Exeter Select Board hereby proclaims and affirms January 9, 2024 as National Law Enforcement Day within the town of Exeter. 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 law.*

Mr. Papakonstantis thanked Police Chief Stephan Poulin, who was present, and his Department for their efforts.

Mr. Papakonstantis recognized Leanne Simpson who served in the Town Clerk's Office for over 20 years and is retiring next week.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Special Meeting: December 28, 2023

Corrections: Ms. Belanger asked to change "Ms. Belanger asked if the deed *needs to be* filed today or tomorrow" to "Selectwoman Belanger asked if the deed *will be* filed today or tomorrow."

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve the Special Meeting minutes of December 28, 2023 as amended. Ms. Gilman seconded. Ms. Cowan and Mr. Chartrand abstained, as they were not present at the December 28 meeting. The motion passed 3-0.

b. Regular Meeting: January 8, 2024

Corrections: Ms. Belanger asked that on Page 6, Select Board Committee reports, *Housing Board* be changed to *Housing Advisory Committee*.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of January 8, 2024 as amended. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

7. Appointments

a. There were no appointments made at this meeting.

8. Discussion/Action Items

a. Planet Playground Land Acquisition

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Board met in non-public to go over the acquisition of the land associated with Planet Playground at 4 Hampton Road. The Select Board authorized the Town Manager to sign the purchase and sale agreement. The Select Board authorized funds of \$50,000 from ARPA to purchase the property, 100% of the price. It's consistent with how this Board has used ARPA funds, on projects that will be around for decades and that everyone can enjoy.

Mr. Dean said this was a sublease between the town and the nursing home that owned it for many years. This is a significant acquisition at a reasonable price. The town has applied for a Land Water Conservation Fund Grant which would pay for 50% of the price of a new Planet Playground. The total is \$595,000. On the warrant, we are proposing we fund the other part through fund balance. We expect to hear back about the grant in the next two weeks or so.

Ms. Cowan said it's been difficult to make plans for Planet Playground without owning the land, so this is an exciting update.

Mr. Chartrand said Karen Prior and other volunteers first saw the potential of this property. What they did to put the playground together was remarkable.

b. Public Hearing: FY24 Budget and Bonds

Ms. Cowan asked Mr. Papakonstantis to explain why the Board was not able to cancel the meeting tonight because of the weather. Mr. Papakonstantis said the date of the public budget hearing is set by statute. We have a Zoom option for those that are not able to attend in person. The Deliberative Session will be held Saturday Feb 3rd at the High School. Town Election will be at Talbot Gym March 12.

Mr. Papakonstantis read the notice of the budget and bond hearing:  
*The Exeter Select Board hereby gives notice of a public hearing pursuant to RSA 33:8-a on the following projects requiring bonds and notes as part of the fiscal year 2024 town warrant: Police Station and Fire Substation, \$17,522,500; School Street Area Reconstruction, \$6,510,000; Surface Water Treatment Plant Design/Engineering, \$500,000; Webster Pump Station, Additional Funding, \$884,000; Water Street Reconstruction, \$100,000; and the use of \$213,970.70 in excess bond proceeds to fund two Police cruisers totaling \$120,000 and applying the remaining proceeds (\$93,970.70) to current principal payments on current bond issues. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 16 2024 commencing at 7 PM in the Exeter Town Offices, Nowak Room, 10 Front Street, Exeter, NH. The public is encouraged to attend. Posted on January 4, 2024.*

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to open the public hearing for the town of Exeter 2024 bonds. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 4, Police Station and Fire Substation:  
*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen million five hundred twenty two thousand and five hundred dollars (\$17,522,500) for the purpose of design, engineering and "net zero" construction of a new police station and fire substation on Continental Drive including equipment, furnishings and related costs, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$17,522,500 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Debt service to be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 20-year bond at 3.65% interest: .68/1,000, \$68/100,000 of assessed property value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance. This ballot requires a  $\frac{3}{5}$  ballot vote for approval.*

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

Mr. Dean said the town proposed an article last year for the same project. It was less expensive last year, which is typical of capital projects. The vote last

year was very close; it needed 60% to pass and fell short by 45 votes, in a snowstorm. We brought it back this year for another walkthrough and hopefully an approval. The current Police Station is very small for a town of our size at 6,700 square feet. This project is 15,000-16,000 square feet, which would give them much more room. The current Police/Fire Station was built in 1978 and needs to be replaced. Regarding the Fire Substation, the town has had many studies over the years which all indicated that a Fire and EMS presence on Epping Road makes sense. We're proposing this as the preferred option of many different alternatives that we've been studying over the last few years.

Mr. Papakonstantis said there's a video on the town website that goes through the details of this proposal. The town has grown and the public safety needs of our citizens have grown since 1978.

Mr. Chartrand said he believes this is the right plan for the Public Safety complex and he urges people to vote for it.

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Budget Recommendations Committee voted to recommend this project.

Ms. Belanger said this will improve response times to our high school.

Ms. Gilman said that at the time the Public Safety complex was built, there were 9,000 residents, and now there are almost 15,000 residents. We need to give our Officers more room.

**MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to recommend Article 4, Police Station and Fire Substation, in the amount of \$17,522,500. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 5, School Street Area Design/Reconstruction:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six million five hundred ten thousand and zero dollars (\$6,510,000) for the purpose of construction of water, sewer and drainage improvements in the School Street area, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$6,510,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. The Town anticipates receiving 35% debt forgiveness from NHDES to offset a portion of the sewer cost of this project. Debt service will be paid from the general fund, and notwithstanding the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt service will also be paid from the water fund, and sewer fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 15-year bond at 3.35% interest: \$.10/1,000, \$10/100,000 of assessed property value). Bond payments would*



*begin approximately one year after issuance. A 3/5 ballot vote is required for approval.*

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

Mr. Dean said this is an area of the town that needs Water/Sewer and drainage improvements. The lines are well past their prime, and in some instances are 40-50 years old or older. A key piece of this project is the 35% debt forgiveness from NHDES for the Sewer portion of the project. The tax impact is \$10/100,000 of assessed value because there is a road/drainage component that comes from the General Fund. This is one of a series of projects such as Westside Drive and Salem Street.

Mr. Papakonstantis said voters have been giving in their votes over the last several years so we can improve our infrastructure a little at a time.

Mr. Chartrand said we should continue to put Water/Sewer and infrastructure improvements on the ballot. It's great for improving property values.

Ms. Belanger said a 2015 management plan put this as a high priority because of the age and small size of the pipes.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend Article 5, School Street Area Design/Reconstruction, in the amount of \$6,510,000. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 6, Webster Avenue Pump Station: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thirteen thousand and three hundred dollars (\$213,300) for the purpose of replacement of the Webster Avenue Sewer Pump Station, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$213,300 of bonds or notes, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Without impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt service will be paid by the sewer fund. Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance. This appropriation is in addition to the \$5,700,000 in bonding authority approved by Article 3 of the 2020 Town Meeting. A 3/5 ballot vote is required for approval.*

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

Mr. Dean said this article was requesting \$884,000 when we started. We had a bid opening at the last meeting, and the construction bid price came in lower than anticipated at \$4M. We still do need a little more money to finish this project: \$213,300.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend Article 6, Webster Avenue Pump Station, in the amount of \$213,300. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 7, Surface Water Treatment Plant Design/Engineering:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the purpose of design and engineering of a new surface water treatment plant, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$500,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other items thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto. Without impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt service will be paid from the water fund. Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance. A  $\frac{3}{5}$  ballot vote is required for approval.*

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

Mr. Dean said this is the initial stages of looking at a surface water treatment plant. The current surface water plant is old, and last had a major upgrade in 1993. We have a new Public Works Director with a water background, so he will be very useful to this process.

Ms. Belanger said the original construction was in 1905. It was updated in 1924, 1972, and 1992. We definitely need to look at options for improvement.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend Article 7, Surface Water Treatment Plant Design/Engineering, in the amount of \$500,000. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Gilman said we've been able to get an excellent interest rate on these bond articles over the past several years.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 8, Excess Construction Proceeds – Police Vehicle Purchase and Principal Payments on Outstanding Bond Issues:

*To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of the unused portion of the bonds approved in 2011 for Great Dam Design and Water/Sewer Line Replacement; and in 2012 for Wastewater Treatment Facility Design and Jady Hill Utilities (totaling \$213,970.70) as follows: to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 for the purchase of two Police vehicles per RSA 33:3-a, II. The remaining unused bond proceeds (\$93,970.70) to be applied to the principal payment on the Great Dam Removal bond issued in 2014. The Estimated Tax Impact is none. A  $\frac{3}{5}$  ballot vote is required for approval.*

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

Mr. Dean said we have three projects listed where we did the project, closed it out, and had a surplus of funds available. The money sits in the town's

accounts until something is done with it. This proposes that we use the excess proceeds to buy two Police vehicles which we need and which were part of the original budget submittal by the Department. The other piece is the remaining \$93,970.70 which we'd apply to the principal payment on the Great Dam Removal bond which we are still paying off. This would save money for the taxpayers.

**MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to recommend Article 8, Excess Construction Proceeds for Police Vehicle Purchase in the amount of \$120,000 and Principal Payments on Outstanding Bond Issues, in the amount of \$93,970.70. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to close the public hearing on the Town of Exeter 2024 bonds. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read the notice of public hearing:  
*The Exeter Select Board hereby gives notice of a public hearing on the Town of Exeter Fiscal Year 2024 operating budget and all financial and other warrant articles on Tuesday, January 16th 2024 at 7 PM in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices. This hearing will be held pursuant to RSA 32:5 and RSA 40:13. This was dated and posted December 22nd, 2023.*

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to open the public hearing for the Town of Exeter 2024 Operating Budget. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis said the first three articles are not discussed this evening: Article 1 is on elected officials and Articles 2 and 3 are zoning amendments. We discussed the bond articles 4-8. Article 9 is to elect town officers.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 10, the Town Operating Budget: Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$22,860,862. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$22,572,676, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. A majority vote is required.

Mr. Dean said the estimated tax impact is \$.29/1,000 assessed property value. The town budget represents 23% of the tax bill; the rest is schools and county. He discussed the budget process. This year the health insurance for the town increased 10%. Deliberative session is February 3rd at the High School. The town vote is March 12 at the Talbot Gym on Linden Street. There are three separate operating budget warrant articles: General Fund, Water Fund, and

Sewer Fund. Each operating budget has its own default budget. We've only had one default budget since 2005, and that was actually higher than the proposed operating budget. The CIP financial articles stand alone. The warrant is posted on January 29th, 2024.

Regarding Article 10, the operating budget, the total proposal is \$22,860,862. He showed the recent budget history; in 2019 there was a town revaluation, so the tax rate dropped quite a bit. We have a revaluation scheduled for 2024 and that could change the tax rate.

The largest departments in the General Fund are Police, Fire/EMS, and DPW. These make up 63.8% of the General Fund operating budget. We've tried hard to retain and incentivize our employees. We've had challenges filling positions. Wages had a step adjustment of 3% plus COLA of 2% for eligible non-union employees. Union contracts are settled through this cycle. Health insurance increased 10% for all plans. The Select Board expenses increased \$1,500 to \$5,000. There's a new Town Manager contract funding. The Senior Executive Assistant position is now budgeted 100% in the Town Manager budget, formerly 84%/16% between the Town Manager and Welfare budgets. One of the things we're proposing in this budget is a new part-time Welfare position that will take on those responsibilities. In IT, there's an increase in the phone utilization bill of \$10,200; an increase in the software agreement of \$1,700; and a reduction in network supplies of \$4,000. Media/Communications is a new budget for FY24. The IT/EXTV Technician was reclassified as a Media Communications Coordinator, and Bob Glowacky is in that role. The total budget including expenses is \$65,691. The Town Clerk budget has an increase in health insurance of \$42,363 to account for employee retirements and turnover. There are additional training funds of \$1,000. There are four elections in FY24, so the Elections budget has increased by \$9,238 or 59.5%. The Supervisors of the Checklist and Poll Workers are making very little for what they do, \$10/hr or less. In Finance, there was an increase in audit fees of \$1,410; an increase in GASB reporting requirements of \$5,600; and an increase in the MUNIS software agreement of \$2,154. The Treasurer is a level-funded budget. Tax Collection had an increase in postage of \$1,500. We're proposing an increase of \$1,500 for the lien/deed search. There was a reclassification of the Deputy Tax Collector position to put it more in line with market. There was a reduction in health insurance of \$8,561. The overall budget increase for Tax Collection is 2.9%. In Assessing, our contract assessor services increased \$2,100, our tax map budget increased \$700, and there was an increase in the postage budget for the revaluation of \$3,800. There was also an increase in the revaluation budget of \$9,999 for an independent appraiser per a settlement agreement with Riverwoods.

In Planning, there are wage/benefit increases of \$15,714, or 5.5%. Economic Development has a small decrease in expenses for the single employee in that department, but an increase in wages/benefits of \$10,534. In Building and Code Enforcement, there is an increase in contract services of

\$15,000 for electrical inspections, offset by the elimination of the part-time position of the Electrical Inspector at \$39,139. The overall budget reduction was - 2.4%. If that doesn't work out, we may come back in FY25 to reestablish that position. The Conservation Commission has a small reduction . The Zoning Board is level funded at \$4,376. The Historic District Commission has a budget of \$1,923. The Heritage Commission is at \$1,109. Those are all volunteer Boards.

In the Police budget, part time wages increased \$80,522 for part time Police Prosecutor services. We've reduced contracted services. A full-time employee, Patrick Mulholland, was doing prosecutorial work. When he retired we re-hired him as a part-time Prosecutor. There was also a health insurance increase in that department of 19.2%. There is a Police Equipment purchase increase of \$4,654; a fuel increase of \$1,686; a general expense increase of \$1,500; and a software agreement increase of \$3,904. The overall budget increase is 6.5%.

In Fire, the health insurance increase is 18.2%, due to plan changes. There's a retirement decrease of \$15,147. In Fire expenses, there's a command supplies increase of \$1,396, an IT contract services increase of \$3,753, a dues increase of \$1,396, a fire prevention supplies increase of \$1,157, and a fuel increase of \$1,199. The hydrant maintenance fee being reallocated to the town-wide expenses is a \$20,000 decrease to the Fire budget. The consultant said we should be paying \$700,000 out of the General Fund but we're trying to build up to that over time. The overall Fire budget increase is 3.5%.

In Dispatch, there's a health insurance increase of 63.9% or \$41,018 due to plan changes. The overall Dispatch budget is an increase of 9.5%.

In the Health budget, there's a reduction in health insurance of \$26,185, so the overall budget decrease is -15.8%. There's a single Health Officer, Madison Bailey.

In Public Works, DPW Admin/Engineering has an increase in full-time wages due to reclassifications, the hire of a new DPW Director, and the full year funding of the GIS Technician position, although we haven't been able to fill that yet. The overall budget increase for Admin/Engineering is \$115,015 or 25.1%. In Highways and Streets, the full-time wage increase is \$39,920; the reduction in health insurance is \$49,030; the increase in tree maintenance is \$35,535. There are reductions in asphalt reclamation of \$5,000, culvert repairs/replacement of \$1,000, and fuel of \$3,000. The overall expense increase is \$27,535. The DPW Highway Road paving is reduced from \$700,000 to \$550,000, with the balance to come from Road Aid. The culvert replacement budget has been reduced by \$5,000. The capital outlay budget had an increase of \$50,000 for tree equipment, but the Select Board voted to take that from ARPA funds, so that has come out of the budget. The Snow and Ice budget has an increase of .5% over FY23. The Solid Waste budget has an increase from the disposal/recycling contract of \$73,500. There was a reduction in brush grinding of \$5,000. There was an increase in landfill monitoring, which has become more complicated in recent

years, of \$11,671. Overall the increase is \$84,905 or 6% over FY23. DPW Streetlights and Stormwater are level-funded budgets.

In the DPW Maintenance budget, we've reduced full time wages by \$47,830, as we could not find a HVAC Plumber. There's a reduction in health insurance of \$11,177. There's a reduction of \$3,000 in the fire safety expense budget based on the historical spending. The Town Building accounts had a \$4 increase in electricity, natural gas, building maintenance, and Water/Sewer bills. In the electricity budget, we've had a good contract where we're paying 7.74 cents per KW hour through 2025. In 2025, the new solar array will hopefully be online and we should be selling electricity. The Maintenance Projects budget is level-funded at \$100,000. DPW Garage had an increase in full-time wages of \$8,140 or 5% and an increase in benefits of \$7,250 or 7.1%. The overall DPW Garage budget has increased by \$15,390 or 5.4%.

Welfare/Human Services has an increase in part time wages of \$39,651 for a part time Welfare/Human Services Administrator Position for 9 months of funding at 30 hours per week. We would move that operation out of the Town Manager's office and into a separate position. Human Services agency funding is \$98,325, a reduction of \$285 from FY23.

The Parks and Recreation budget had a Wage and Benefits increase of \$45,856 or 11.7% over FY23 due to reclassifications. The Parks budget had an increase in contracted services of \$11,340, which would allow them to mow more frequently and do more maintenance in the town. There's an increase in full time wages of \$6,717 and a benefits increase of \$11,340. The total Parks budget had an increase of \$28,467 or 12.8%.

Other Culture/Recreation had an increase in Veterans Activities of \$500 for addition Memorial Day Parade expenses. The total budget is \$34,500.

The Library increase is \$13,369 or 1.1%. Their total budget is \$1,185,689.

The General Fund debt service had an increase of \$571,684, or 38.2%. This includes the Solar Array project, which will have its own revolving fund; we anticipate funding from the Federal Government to reimburse the General Fund for that project. It also includes Intersection Improvements, including the roundabout at Pine/Front/Linden. The Westside Drive Design and Construction is \$6M. The Epping Road water tank, a project from 2009; and the Lincoln Street project phase 1 and 2. In General Government, there's an increase of \$100,000 paid to the Water Fund for fire suppression. The General Fund Vehicle Replacement and Leases is \$248,495, a reduction of \$19,771 from FY23 because some of our lease purchases have been paid down. The total FY24 General Budget is \$22,860,862.

Mr. Papakonstantis said retention and recruiting of employees is not a problem exclusive to Exeter or NH, it's widespread. A wage reclassification has not been done in Exeter since 2014. The Select Board approved funds to have a third-party consultant come in to compare our wages to other towns. The cost to recruit and replace is far greater than fairly reclassifying wages for long-time employees. There's only one position proposed in this budget, which is part time.



It would be bringing back a part-time position that we had around seven years ago which was taken on by the Executive Assistant to the Town Manager because it did not interfere with their regular duties, but times have changed. During the pandemic and post-pandemic, we've been tracking the time spent by this employee on Human Services vs the Executive Assistant duties, and the hours dictate that we consider bringing back that position.

Mr. Dean said the total revenue applicable to this budget is \$8,872,315, so the total taxes estimated to be raised in FY24 is \$13,988,547. The FY23 taxes raised were \$13,229,888. Regarding Article 10, the current rate is \$6.73 per thousand, but that assumes a 1% increase in net taxable valuation. The latest median assessment ratio is 64%, so the rate could drop close to \$2 per thousand. By law the ratio has to be 90-110%.

Mr. Chartrand asked how much of the budget increase is related to employee retention and filling empty positions. Mr. Dean said \$630,000 of the increase, or 40%. Mr. Chartrand said the Budget Recommendation Committee usually tries to keep the budget increase at 3-4% but the Board made a conscious decision that retaining and finding new employees was more important than hitting that historical marker. The increase is 7.2%. Ms. Gilman said every town in the State is having trouble retaining employees. We don't pay as much in salary as the States around us. Ms. Cowan said our community sees the impact when we don't have fully staffed Departments, such as the DPW. Ms. Belanger said you have to factor in the cost of new hires and training. Mr. Papakonstantis said the Select Board is dedicated to setting up succession planning. The core functions of this town come down to our employees and our volunteers.

Ms. Belanger asked if the fence for 23 Water Street should be added to the budget. Mr. Dean said the Recreation Department has a revolving fund that could accommodate the fencing at 23 Water Street.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend Article 10, the 2024 Operating Budget, to the voters. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 11, the Water Fund Budget:  
*Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a water operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,962,773. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$4,828,764, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law. Majority vote required.*

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

Mr. Dean said this is an Enterprise Fund which covers all of our Water expenses, from Operations to Maintenance to Capital Equipment and Debt Service. Mr. Chartrand said it's a very small increase.

**MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to recommend Article 11, the 2024 Water Fund Budget, to the voters. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 12, the Sewer Fund Budget:  
*Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a sewer operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$7,490,430. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,569,284, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.*

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

Mr. Dean said the lion's share of this budget is the debt service, including the Wastewater Treatment Facility debt service at \$3.6M. This also represents all of our operations and maintenance of our wastewater facility, our collection systems, our pump stations, and our siphons. We are contemplating hiring a sixth operator for the Wastewater Facility, which was recommended by NH DES. This is an enterprise fund paid for by the Sewer bills.

Mr. Chartrand pointed out that the default budget is larger than the operating budget.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend Article 12, the 2024 Sewer Fund Budget, to the voters. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 13, Planet Playground:  
*To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of five hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$595,000), for the purpose of purchase and installation of a new Planet Playground including equipment, at the Town Recreation Park at 4 Hampton Road. Approximately \$297,500 of this appropriation will be funded by a Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). The Select Board has designated this a special warrant article. Majority vote is required.*

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

Mr. Dean said this is a special warrant article, which can be encumbered by Board vote for an additional 12 months without further action. Mr.

Papakonstantis said it would be exciting if we could get this grant. He would like to put together a committee to get community feedback when the time comes.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend Article 13, Planet Playground, at a cost of \$595,000, to the voters. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 14, Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan – Water Street Stormwater. He asked that “Board of Selectmen” be changed to “Exeter Select Board.”

*To see if the Town will authorize the Exeter Select Board to enter into a loan agreement of no more than \$100,000 through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for the purpose of developing a replacement plan for Water Street stormwater infrastructure. The loan will provide up to \$100,000 principal forgiveness; therefore, no repayment of the loan will be required. A ⅔ vote is required.*

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

Mr. Dean said we've been doing a lot of stormwater improvements around town. This is an opportunity to get \$100,000 from the State Revolving Fund at no cost.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend Article 14, Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan – Water Street Stormwater, at a price of \$100,000. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 15, Appropriate to Sick Leave Trust Fund:  
*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.*

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

Mr. Dean said we ask for this to be funded every year. When people retire from the town after 20 years of service, we have a 50% sick leave buyback. It comes from unassigned fund balance, so there is no tax impact.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to recommend Article 15, Appropriate to Sick Leave Trust Fund at \$100,000, to the voters. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 15, Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – Parks Improvements:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Estimated Tax Impact: .03/1,000 assessed property value, \$3.34/100,000 assessed property value). Majority vote is required.

Mr. Papakonstantis said the fund has previously been funded at \$100,000. The initial request in this budget was \$50,000. The BRC had a thorough discussion about putting it back to the \$100,000. This is used to make improvements to our parks. It is spent annually. \$75,000 was a compromise.

He asked for public comment, but there was none.

Parks and Recreation Director Greg Bisson, who was present via Zoom, said the Parks Improvement Fund has made a big impact on the Parks Department. Fully funding it would be outstanding. He has sent in a list of potential projects. Mr. Dean said we developed the budget with \$50,000 in mind. \$75,000 is more than that. There are some projects and we did just acquire a park downtown. He's more comfortable with \$75,000 than \$100,000 but he can see it either way.

Mr. Chartrand suggested respecting the \$75,000 that the BRC recommended but making a firm commitment to restoring it next year. This is a temporary reduction in recognition of the employee retention efforts we're making.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked what the tax impact of the full \$100,000 would be, and Mr. Dean said .4/1,000.

**MOTION [not voted]:** Mr. Chartrand made a motion to accept the \$75,000 Parks Improvement Fund budget that the Budget Recommendations Committee put forward, but with the understanding that this Board would like to restore that to \$100,000 next year. Ms. Belanger seconded. She asked that it be noted that the BRC did not have 23 Water Street on their radar when they made that vote. Mr. Papakonstantis said he can't vote for this; the tax impact is not great and there is work that needs to be done. Ms. Gilman said she's wary of binding a future Board to an action, it's not allowed.

Mr. Chartrand withdrew his motion and Ms. Belanger withdrew her second.

**MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand made a motion to accept the \$75,000 Parks Improvement Fund budget that the Budget Recommendations Committee put forward, but it is the sense of this Board that next year we would like to see that restored to \$100,000. Ms. Belanger seconded. Mr. Papakonstantis voted nay and the motion passed 4-1.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 17, Appropriate to Non-Capital Reserve Fund – Snow and Ice Deficit:

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

Mr. Dean said this is a customary article. Because our snow and ice season straddles two fiscal years, there are years where we run over budget. We tap into the fund when we have years of snow and ice that exceed the budget.

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger made a motion to recommend to the voters Article 17, Appropriate to Non-Capital Reserve Fund – Snow and Ice Deficit in the amount of \$50,000. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 18 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – ADA Fund:

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

Mr. Dean said this article is to fund ADA-related projects that keep us in compliance. This year we have utilized the fund to add a changing table to the public restroom downtown. Ms. Belanger said we should look at increasing this in the future. There are some big projects we will want to consider.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger made a motion to recommend to the voters Article 18, Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – ADA Fund in the amount of \$50,000. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 19, Appropriate to Trust Fund – Swasey Parkway:

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) to be added to the Swasey Parkway Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. This amount is equivalent to the amount of permit fees collected during 2023 for use of the Swasey Parkway. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation). Majority vote required.*

Mr. Dean said this is an expendable trust fund which is why it appears on the warrant. We raise certain amounts of money for use through fees, and we return those fees to this fund to be used for Parkway purposes. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if there is also a line item in the budget for Swasey Park, and Mr. Dean said yes, for maintenance and electricity.

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger made a motion to recommend to the voters Article 19, Appropriate to Trust Fund – Swasey Parkway in the amount of \$3,500. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 20 – Adopt Investment Services for Capital Reserve Funds:

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

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Trustees of the Trust Funds have been working diligently over the last year to look at improving our money management.

They vetted several organizations in public meetings and came to the Select Board with a recommendation. They have also gone to the various SAU 16 School Boards, which have endorsed this. He's excited to see how we can build on our investments.

Pat Curtis of the Trustees of the Trust Funds said we're looking to beat inflation. We want to use conservative investment strategies. We did thorough vetting to select Three Bearings as the investment advisor. We hope to raise more money than what we've done over the past decade. Mr. Papakonstantis said this will also be on the school ballots; this article is only for the percentage of town investment.

Mr. Chartrand said he is very much in support and appreciates the work that the three Trustees have done. To beat inflation is low-hanging fruit and not risky. It's long overdue.

Mr. Dean said regarding "No vote to rescind the authority shall occur within five years of the original adoption of this article," that's actually in the RSA. The town commits to the five-year window. Ms. Belanger said she doesn't think that's clear in the wording. Mr. Dean said this language was worked on very hard by the Trustees. Mr. Curtis said there will be an explanatory page. The five years is the authority to hire an investment advisor, but we have the authority to change investment advisors within that five years.

**MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand made a motion to recommend to the voters Article 20 – Adopt Investment Services for Capital Reserve Funds. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 21 – Establish Town Solar Array Revolving Fund:

*To see if the town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a solar array on the Cross Road Town Landfill. All revenues received for array operations from net metering credits, federal grants and aid, and REC (renewable energy credit) sales will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and town manager, and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. Majority vote is required.*

Mr. Dean said this would set up a separate fund to account for revenues and expenses for the solar array. It's an easier way to track revenues for that and will make it easier to report out how the solar array is doing.

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger made a motion to recommend to the voters Article 21 –Establish Town Solar Array Revolving Fund. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.



Mr. Papakonstantis said the next two warrant articles come out of work the Select Board has been doing looking at the committees and boards to ensure that they have a quorum. We felt that we needed to revise the makeup of the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee and Heritage Commission, but both of these were established at Town Meeting, so we have to ask the voters to allow us to revise the committees appropriately.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 22 – Water/Sewer Advisory Committee: *To see if the Town will amend Article 20 of the 2011 Town Meeting by reducing the number of members of the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee from seven (7) members to five (5) members. Of the five members, two (2) members shall be members of the Select Board. Members of the Select Board shall be voting members of the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee. Majority vote is required.*

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand made a motion to recommend to the voters Article 22, to amend Article 20 of the 2011 Town Meeting regarding the makeup of the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 23, Heritage Commission: *To see if the Town will vote to reduce the number of members of the Heritage Commission from seven (7) members to five (5) members. The composition of the Heritage Commission will include one (1) Select Board representative, one (1) Planning Board representative, one (1) Historic District Commission representative, and two (2) at-large members appointed by the Select Board. The Heritage Commission will include three (3) alternate members. Majority vote is required.*

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

Mr. Dean said he suggests adding “appointed by the Select Board” after *three alternate members*.

Ms. Gilman said we need this. She hasn't been able to bring this to the Heritage Commission because it hasn't had a quorum.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger made a motion to recommend to the voters Article 23 as amended. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 24 – Citizen's Petition – ‘Rugg Property’: *By petition, to see if the voters in the Town of Exeter support the future purchase of approximately 47 acres of property owned by the Rugg family located north of Oaklands Town Forest and east of Wood Ridge Lane by the Town of Exeter for the purposes of expanding the town-owned Oaklands Town Forest, and preserving open space, trails, public outdoor recreation, drinking water supplies, and wildlife habitat; to request that the Selectmen review the project, including evaluation of potential funding options such as bonds; and to advise and authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain, accept, and pass through any federal or state grants, loans, or private gifts, if any, which may be available for*

*said acquisition, in collaboration with and facilitated by conservation organizations.*

Mr. Papakonstantis said we can't amend the wording of citizen's petitions, but he would like any future petitioners to be reminded that it's the Select Board rather than the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment.

Toby Ferdon of 10 Stone Ridge Lane said he would like the Board's support for acquisition of this land. He abuts this property and the draw of the open space and the trail network is what brought him to this area. As we move forward, the more support we get from the community and the Board, the more apt we are to get grants toward the purchase of this land.

Sean Torres of 18 Phinney Lane said he moved here in 2013 one of the things that drew him here was how more cohesive Exeter is than other towns. A big part of that is the parks and open spaces. The trails are an inclusive spot and he supports this.

Tom Bergeron of Washington Street said the property network is one of the draws Exeter has. There's nothing else like it. Kids snowshoe out there, cross-country ski, and hike. We should keep it in the community.

John Elliot of 6 Tamarind Lane said he uses this land a lot and thinks there's an opportunity to expand the natural resource and public access.

Mr. Chartrand asked why there is not a spot for the Select Board to recommend this article. Mr. Papakonstantis said that the Select Board is not obligated to vote to support a citizen's petition unless there is an amount to raise and appropriate. The Board fully supports the plan. We need to do our due diligence as a town.

Mr. Chartrand said putting forward an advisory citizen's petition to take the temperature of the town is a great strategy. It will be important to see how the town votes on this.

Vanessa Lazar of 35 Woodridge Lane said as far as due diligence, we've been patient, and we were told the middle of January the report would be done. When can we expect that? Mr. Dean said he can't put an exact date on it but he had a conversation today on this issue for a progress report, and it seemed very close to coming to a space where recommendations can be made. It may be two weeks out. This is a complex title issue, and working through it has been a real challenge.

Mr. Papakonstantis read Article 25 – Citizen's Petition – Swasey Parkway *On petition of Donald Clement and others to see if the Town will vote to make the Swasey Parkway a one-way road northbound in its entirety for motorized vehicular traffic and raise and appropriate the sum of \$2500 to construct speed bumps and maintain the road.*

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if there was anyone present to speak to the petition, but there was not. He asked for public comment.

Vanessa Lazar said it's her understanding that if no motor vehicles are allowed, the Parkway can't have a food truck event or any vendors. Mr.

Papakonstantis said there was a warrant article two years ago based upon public comment, letters, phone calls, and emails, both supporting and not supporting the road closure. At that time, Selectwoman Cowan made a motion to create a warrant article that was a compromise: to discontinue the road from the Water Street entrance to the gazebo. From the gazebo to Newfields Road would be open. The warrant article was presented to the voters who voted in support of it. It went to Rockingham Probate Court and before a judge who reviewed the testimony and issued an order to discontinue the road. Last year, there was a citizen's petition that wanted to reverse the warrant article and put it back to a one-way road, which passed by the voters. Legal counsel reviewed it and determined that it was not binding, because there was no road to reopen based upon the wording of that citizens petition. This citizen's petition is asking for money to add speedbumps and maintain the road. Then we had the siphon project, which has consumed the Select Board for about a year, with a special town meeting and deliberative session, so the road has been closed to all traffic. Once the siphon project is over, per the judge's order, the road will remain discontinued from Water Street to the gazebo. If a special event such as the Farmer's Market is permitted, then those vendor trucks can use the roadway.

Mr. Chartrand said he's been impressed by the way this Board is trying to find compromise on this issue. A citizen's petition passed two years ago which allowed the Select Board to seek compromise, with access for pedestrians and cyclists but also vehicles. The Board has had joint meetings with the Swasey Parkway Trustees. He's not in favor of this article because it will restrict the ability to find that compromise. He's asking the voters not to vote for it. The Board will find a way to accommodate all. He appreciates that Mr. Clement and the citizens who signed this put it forward, but in the spirit of compromise that the Select Board works towards, he asks that the voters turn this down.

Ms. Belanger said the warrant article two years ago passed. Then we had a citizen's petition which passed. The lawyer said we couldn't do anything with it because the petition said to keep the road open but it had already legally been closed. It's up to the voters to try one more time.

Ms. Gilman asked whether it's even a road anymore. Mr. Papakonstantis said no, it's been discontinued. Mr. Dean said it would be up to the Select Board to lay that road out again, and it would require a petition to the court. Mr. Papakonstantis said he would like to hear from Town Counsel at Deliberative Session what would happen if this passes. The petition last year was found to be non-binding.

Ms. Cowan said that when she made the motion two years ago, she initially wanted to close the whole road, but she heard the accessibility concerns. Ambrose Swasey dedicated this to pleasure vehicles and she doesn't think that means cars as we know them now, she thinks the intention was recreation. We've done a good job with this compromise and people will see that when we can move forward. People have the right to petition anything, but she wants to move on.

Ms. Belanger said if it weren't for the siphon, we would be there by now.

Mr. Chartrand said he doesn't know if we've found the right solution yet that balances automobiles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Mr. Papakonstantis said he never thought about closing the road until it was temporarily closed during the pandemic and it was packed with people enjoying it. Then we started hearing that some people couldn't enjoy it because of mobility issues. The motion that Selectwoman Cowan made was a great compromise. The Swasey Park Trustees are three incredibly talented and dedicated officials who care about the Parkway very much. He appreciates the collaboration between the Trustees and the Board. The majority of people in town want to find a compromise. He would like to see a committee formed to determine how we can make this inclusive for everybody. The petitioners have their right and this is something that will be decided by the voters, but he won't recommend this as written.

Mr. Papakonstantis said we have to make a recommendation on this because of the "raise and appropriate."

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to recommend Article 25, Citizens Petition from Donald Clement and others, to see if the town will make Swasey Parkway a one-way road northbound and to also raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500. Ms. Belanger seconded. All voted nay and the motion failed 0-5.

Mr. Papakonstantis said Article 26 is to transact any other business that may come before Town Meeting.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to close the Town of Exeter 2024 operating budget public hearing. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

## 9. Regular Business

### a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to approve a solar exemption for 70/57 in the amount of \$17,500 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to approve a solar exemption for 85/61 in the amount of \$14,000 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to approve a solar exemption for 95/1 in the amount of \$12,000 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to approve veteran's credits in the amount of \$500 for tax year 2024 for the following properties: 69/3/6, 80/7/4, 68/6/544, 86/17, 87/26, 71/10/4, 63/44, and 64/97. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to deny a veteran's credit for 68/6/241 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to approve a veteran's credit for 70/4 in the amount of \$2,000 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**b. Permits & Approvals**

There were no permits or approvals considered at this meeting.

**c. Town Manager's Report**

- i. The DPW did an excellent job with the recent flooding.
- ii. Fire responded to several mutual aid fires and did an excellent job. All of our firefighters are safe.
- iii. The Kingston Road project is supposed to be substantially complete by July and complete by August of this year.
- iv. The changing table has been installed at Town Hall, it's just waiting on electricity to be wired in.
- v. We've been working with Ironwood Design on some concepts for Swasey Parkway that are different from the turnaround that was put forward.
- vi. The Court Street Sewer Pump replacement is underway.

**d. Select Board Committee Reports**

- i. Ms. Belanger attended her meetings via Zoom. At the Conservation Commission meeting, the group authorized the Chair to sign a "Connect to Protect" petition. The Trust for Public Land requested a letter of support for the Newfields grant for the Rugg property. Newfields is further along in the process and their costs are potentially higher. The group authorized the Chair to send a letter of support. Regarding Raynes Barn, they signed a one-year contract extension with the contractor who's been working on it. A hometown grant is available for help with funding for the barn. There will be a full moon snowshoe event, date to be announced on their Facebook page. The "Heard Bird" contest is ongoing. The feasibility study for Pickpocket Dam will be reviewed at Town Hall on February 27th. The Linden Street Bridge work permit has been received, and the staging area will be in the McDonnell Conservation property. At the Planning Board meeting, they had the first public hearing on the zoning amendments. The discussion was on ADUs and conversions, and trying to make the rules more concise as well as other changes. The other amendment would expand the MUND area.
- ii. Ms. Gilman said that the Energy Committee met and talked about the window fitters project. There will be a workshop going on for a week in Conway or Lebanon. The building would happen in the fall. CPCNH Regulatory and Legislative Advisory Committee had some success this week but there were threats to the net metering issue.
- iii. Mr. Chartrand said he would like to defer his report given the hour.
- iv. Ms. Cowan had no report.

- v. Mr. Papakonstantis said he met with the Tree Committee and they're excited about their proposed budget. They're going to work with Bob Glowacky and Kristin Murphy on a tree survey.

- e. Correspondence

- i. An email from Jen Martell regarding Swasey Park.

10. Review Board Calendar

- a. The next meetings are January 29, February 12, February 26, and March 18. Deliberative Session is February 3, Town Election is March 12, and next Tuesday is the Presidential Primary.

11. Non-Public Session

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A3II(c). Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0. The meeting entered non-public session at 9:50 PM.

12. Adjournment. The Board emerged from non public session. Mr. Chartrand moved to seal the minutes indefinitely, seconded by Ms. Belanger. Motion carried 5-0. Ms. Belanger moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Chartrand. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary



## Appointments

## Resignations

January 12, 2024

To: The Exeter Select Board

I have been a member of the Exeter Energy Committee for the past six years and of the Exeter Community Power Aggregation Committee for the past three years. ECPAC's work is done, and that ad hoc committee no longer exists. Consequently, I have decided that it is now time for me to resign from the Energy Committee. I am proud of what we have accomplished, particularly the successful transition to community power that gives Exeter residents and businesses the option to choose greener energy supplies, lowers the cost of their electrical energy and funds a reserve account for the Town's use. Incidentally, the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire has recently announced its rate schedule for Feb. 1 – July 31, 2024. The Granite Basic rate will be 8.1¢/kWh vs Until's default rate of 10.718 ¢/kWh for the same time period – a 24% saving for Exeter Community Power customers.

Finally, let me add that it has been a pleasure to work with the Select Board, Russ Dean, Bob Glowacky, Kristen Murphy and, indeed, all of those volunteers and Town employees with whom I have come in contact during my work with both committees. I leave with a much better understanding of the work that goes in to running a vibrant town like Exeter and of the incredible amount of time and thought the Select Board devotes to resolve the issues that come before it.

Sincerely,

Lewis H. Hitzrot

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**



# EXETER PARKS & RECREATION

32 COURT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833 • (603) 773-6151 • [www.exeternh.gov](http://www.exeternh.gov)



## TOWN OF EXETER MEMORANDUM

TO: Russ Dean, Town Manager  
CC: Melissa Roy, Assistant Town Manager  
FROM: Greg Bisson, Director of Parks and Recreation  
RE: Field Allocation Refund Policy  
DATE: 01/26/2024

---

We are requesting approval of a tiny edit to the field allocation rental agreement. We did not adjust the refund policy when we adjusted rates for local leagues. With various fees and locations, the current policy would not work as currently written. We can not collect a \$25 cancellation fee on a \$10 rental.

### **Current Policy:**

No refunds will be processed unless written notification of cancellation is received by the Recreation office no later than 21 days prior to the use date. **A \$25.00 cancellation fee per field per day will be deducted from your total refund.** There are no refunds for field use canceled less than 21 days prior to the use date. No refunds will be given for unused fields that were rented or for unused time during a rental period. Any cancellation of fields at the request of the renter for reasons other than weather may result in the denial to rent these dates for the following year.

### **New Policy:**

No refunds will be processed unless written notification of cancellation is received by the Recreation office no later than 21 days prior to the use date. **A cancellation fee equivalent to 50% fee per field per day will be deducted from your total refund.** There are no refunds for field use canceled less than 21 days prior to the use date. No refunds will be given for unused fields that were rented or for unused time during a rental period. Any cancellation of fields at the request of the renter for reasons other than weather may result in the denial to rent these dates for the following year.

Respectfully Yours,

Greg Bisson,

Director

Exeter Parks and Recreation



# EXETER PARKS & RECREATION

32 COURT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833 • (603) 773-6151 • [www.exeternh.gov](http://www.exeternh.gov)



## TOWN OF EXETER MEMORANDUM

TO: Russ Dean, Town Manager  
CC: Melissa Roy, Assistant Town Manager  
FROM: Greg Bisson, Director of Parks and Recreation  
RE: Town Hall Refund Policy  
DATE: 01/26/2024

---

Town hall rentals during the presidential season have always been busy, especially when multiple candidates run. This year, We experienced a last-minute cancellation the night before a scheduled event when the candidate pulled out of the election. The town currently has no refund policy in place for these circumstances. This candidate reserved the space several weeks ago, thus making the date unavailable for others to rent. Unfortunately, Without a policy, we had no choice but to refund this campaign and lose revenue. We understand if the event was canceled well before, but to cancel the night before just wastes the town's time and resources.

We are recommending a new refund policy be placed for the town hall.

- Before 30 days for an event, the renter would receive a full refund minus a \$50 administration fee.
- Within 30 days, no refund will be given.

Respectfully Yours,

Greg Bisson,

Director

Exeter Parks and Recreation

**TOWN OF EXETER  
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Select Board  
FROM: Town Manager  
RE: Tax Exemption & Credit Committee  
DATE: January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

---

The Town's Master Plan cites a need to review the Town's exemption and credit programs to maintain fairness within the system (see 5a and 5b recommendations under GROW section of Master Plan adopted February 22, 2018). To that end, I would suggest the Board entertain the idea of creating a 5 member committee (to include one Select Board member) to review the Town's current exemptions and credits. This committee could then make recommendations to the Select Board and by extension the Town, on adopting new limits and/or new credit programs, etc.. There are several items to consider in recent years including expanded Veterans Credits. A committee could analyze the data to chart a course of action with recommendations for the Board to consider. If successful, the committee would recommend any needed changes for the 2025 Town Meeting. If the committee is successful it could exist as a standing committee and make recommendations annually to the Board and to the Town.

Exemptions & Credit Areas

Elderly Exemption  
Veterans Credits (all types)  
RSA 79E  
RSA 72:81  
Disabled Exemption  
Blind Exemption  
Deaf Exemption  
Solar Exemption  
Wind Powered Energy Exemption  
Woodheating Energy Systems Exemption  
Electric Energy Storage Systems Exemption  
Renewable Generation Facilities & Electric Energy Systems Exemption

# MEMO

**TO:** Janet Whitten  
Assessor  
Town of Exeter

**FROM:** Scott P. Marsh CNHA  
Municipal Resources  
Contracted Assessor's Agents

**DATE:** December 29, 2023

**RE:** Elderly and other Exemption Information

---

As other revaluation clients have requested, I have reviewed elderly exemption information regarding the Town and surrounding communities. This was to determine if adjustments may be applicable given that a revaluation is occurring for the 2024 tax year.

Based on my recent preliminary sale analysis, the Town's estimated equalization ratio is currently 64%. As that is the case, it is estimated that on average assessments will need to increase by roughly 50+% for the equalization ratio to be in the mid 90% range.

On the attached spreadsheet I provided a listing of surrounding community exemption information to compare to Exeter's. As you can see in relationship to others, Exeter in general is in the upper range of exemption assessment and tax reduction amounts, but middle of in regards to income and asset requirement amounts.

On a different tab of the attached spreadsheet, if the property assessments were to increase in the 50% range and there was no major change in overall spending, the tax rate would decrease by a similar percentage. However, we all know that there are some required budget increases every year.

With that being said, I adjusted the current Town tax rate by 40%, but you could use whatever change you think may occur. I then applied that theoretical tax rate to the current exemption amounts. As you can see there is a substantial decrease in the actual tax reduction amounts. Therefore, in order to have the currently approved applicants to continue to receive the same amount of a tax dollar reduction, the exemption amounts would need to increase.

If this were to occur the Town would then be the highest in the range for exemption and tax dollar reduction amounts for surrounding communities but still in the middle in requirements. The difficulty in all of this is the unknown of the taxable assessment increase that will occur as well as what the spending amounts are going to be.

I hope the information provided is helpful and if there anything further I can be of assistance with, please let me know.



COMMUNITY	65-74	75-79	80+	INCOME SINGLE	INCOME MARRIED	ASSETTS	TAX RATE	YEAR
BRENTWOOD	\$90,000	\$115,000	\$145,000	\$37,500	\$60,000	\$125,000	\$23.53	2023
	\$2,118	\$2,706	\$3,412					
HAMPTON	\$140,000	\$168,000	\$221,000	\$38,000	\$58,000	\$250,000	\$16.75	2023
	\$2,345	\$2,814	\$3,702					
KENSINGTON	\$155,000	\$180,000	\$200,000	\$42,000	\$49,500	\$200,000	\$13.15	2023
	\$2,038	\$2,367	\$2,630					
STRATHAM	\$125,000	\$145,000	\$165,000	\$36,000	\$60,000	\$200,000	\$20.91	2023
	\$2,614	\$3,032	\$3,450					
NORTH HAMPTON	\$125,000	\$165,000	\$200,000	\$40,800	\$59,000	\$190,000	\$17.17	2022
	\$2,146	\$2,833	\$3,434					
NEWFIELDS	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$36,000	\$48,000	\$150,000	\$20.96	2022
	\$4,192	\$4,192	\$4,192					
EPPING	\$120,000	\$130,000	\$140,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$70,000	\$23.40	2023
	\$2,808	\$3,042	\$3,276					
<b>EXETER</b>	<b>\$152,251</b>	<b>\$183,751</b>	<b>\$236,251</b>	<b>\$40,426</b>	<b>\$51,976</b>	<b>\$194,251</b>	<b>\$26.78</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>RANKING</b>	<b>3RD HIGHEST</b>	<b>2ND HIGHEST</b>	<b>HIGHEST</b>	<b>3RD HIGHEST</b>	<b>4TH LOWEST</b>	<b>4TH LOWEST</b>		
<b>TAX AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$4,077</b>	<b>\$4,921</b>	<b>\$6,327</b>					
<b>RANKING</b>	<b>2ND HIGHEST</b>	<b>HIGHEST</b>	<b>HIGHEST</b>					

COMMUNITY	65-74	75-79	80+	TAX RATE 2023	23 EQ RATIO% (estimated)
EXETER	\$152,251	\$183,751	\$236,251	\$26.78	63.0%
2023 REDUCTION AMOUNTS	\$4,077	\$4,921	\$6,327		
NUMBER OF EACH	58	39	94		
	\$152,251	\$183,751	\$236,251	\$19.13	THEORETICAL TAX RATE IF TAXABLE ASSESSMENTS INCREASE AND EXPENSES DID NOT CHANGE SUBSTAINALLY
AFTER REVAL ESTIMATED AMOUNTS	\$2,913	\$3,515	\$4,519		40%
CHANGE IN TAX REDUCTION	-\$1,165	-\$1,406	-\$1,807		
					24 EQ RATIO estimated
AMOUNTS NEEDED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SIMILAR TAX REDUCTION CHANGE FROM 2023 AMOUNTS	\$213,151 \$4,078 \$0	\$257,251 \$4,921 \$0	\$330,751 \$6,327 \$0	\$19.13	95%
	AMOUNT	# OF		CHANGED	
BLIND	\$15,000 \$402	6		\$21,000 \$402	
DISABLED	\$125,000 \$3,348	23		\$175,000 \$3,348	

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF  
REVENUE ADMINISTRATION



MUNICIPAL & PROPERTY DIVISION

2022  
EXEMPTIONS AND TAX CREDITS  
SUMMARY REPORT  
by County

NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION

**2022**  
**EXEMPTIONS & TAX CREDITS SUMMARY**

This report presents the exemptions and tax credits available in each municipality for 2022 as compiled by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration.

Annually, each municipality is required to report and certify to the Department of Revenue Administration the assessed valuation of all taxable property on the Summary Inventory of Valuation, MS-1 Report. Assessment information is also gathered regarding exemptions and tax credits as well as taxes raised by each municipality. An exemption is an amount deducted from a taxpayer's assessment versus a tax credit which is an amount deducted from the taxes due.

The following is an explanation of the information contained in this report.

**VETERANS' TAX CREDITS:** RSA 72:28, 72:29-a and 72:35 are standard credits for individuals who qualify and do not require adoption by a municipality at an annual meeting. RSA 72:28-b and 72:27-c are optional and do require adoption at an annual meeting. Any modification to a credit amount, whether standard or optional (once adopted), requires a vote at an annual meeting. Standard exemptions and tax credits with the option to modify must be adopted under the provisions of RSA 72:27-a.

- Veterans' Tax Credit: RSA 72:28
  - Standard \$50 / Optional \$51 up to \$750
- All Veterans' Tax Credit: RSA 72:28-b
  - If adopted by municipality. Standard \$50 / Optional \$51 up to \$750
- Optional Tax Credit for Combat Service: RSA 72:28-c
  - If adopted by municipality. Optional \$50 up to \$500
- Surviving Spouse: RSA 72:29-a
  - Standard \$700 / Optional \$701 up to \$2,000
- Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability: RSA 72:35
  - Standard \$700 / Optional \$701 up to \$4,000

**VETERANS' EXEMPTION**

- Certain Disabled Veterans (EXEMPTION) RSA 72:36-a This exemption is available to any person who qualifies and is based on the value of the property.

**ELDERLY EXEMPTION:** RSA 72:39-a and RSA 72:39-b. This report includes the exemption amounts for each age category and applicable income and asset limits adopted by each municipality. To qualify, a person must be 65 years of age, or older, on or before April 1 of year for which exemption is claimed.

- **Residency Requirement:** Three consecutive years preceding April 1. Property must be owned by a resident or owned by a resident jointly or in common with the resident's spouse, either of whom meets the age requirement for the exemption claimed, and when they have been married for at least five years.

**NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION**

- **Age Categories:** State minimum for all age categories: \$5,000 or optional amount adopted by municipality.
  - 65 -74
  - 75 -79
  - 80+
- **INCOME LIMITS:** State minimum: single \$13,400, married \$20,400 or optional amount adopted by municipality.
- **ASSET LIMITS:** State minimum: single \$35,000, married \$35,000 or optional amount adopted by municipality.

**DISABLED EXEMPTION: RSA 72:37-b** – This is a local optional exemption that must be adopted by municipality. Upon adoption by a city or town as provided in RSA 72:27-a, any person who is eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act for benefits to the disabled shall receive a yearly exemption in an amount to be chosen by the town or city. Upon the adoption of this paragraph by a city or town as provided in RSA 72:27-a, any person who at any time previously was eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act for benefits to the disabled, but who is no longer eligible for such federal benefits due to reasons other than the status of that person's disability, shall be eligible for the exemption under paragraph I or I-a, or both as may be applicable, provided that the person submits an affidavit from a physician licensed in New Hampshire that attests to the fact that the person continues to meet the criteria for disability that are used under Title II or Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act. Applicants must meet applicable income and asset limits.

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT:** 5 consecutive years preceding April 1. Property must be owned by a resident: or owned by a resident jointly or in common with the resident's spouse, either of whom meets the requirement for the exemption claimed, and when they have been married for at least five years.
- **INCOME LIMITS:** state minimum: single \$13,400, married \$20,400 or optional amount adopted by municipality.
- **ASSET LIMITS:** state minimum: single \$35,000, married \$35,000 or optional amount adopted by municipality.

**BLIND EXEMPTION: RSA 72:37** – The standard exemption amount is \$15,000 or an optional amount adopted by a town or city. Every inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the blind services program, bureau of vocational rehabilitation, department of education shall be exempt each year on the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate to the value of \$15,000, and a city or town may exempt any amount it may determine is appropriate to address significant increases in property values in accordance with the procedures in RSA 72:27-a. The term "residential real estate" as used in this section shall mean the same as defined in RSA 72:29.

**DEAF EXEMPTION: RSA 72:38-b** – This is a local optional exemption that must be adopted by a town or city. Upon adoption, the standard exemption amount is \$15,000 or an optional amount adopted by municipality. For purposes of this section, "deaf person or person with severe hearing impairment" means a person who has a 71 Db hearing average hearing loss or greater in the better ear as determined by a licensed audiologist or qualified otolaryngologist, who may rely on a visual means of communication, such as American Sign Language or speech recognition, and whose hearing is so

**NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION**

impaired as to substantially limit the person from processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, so as to require the use of an interpreter or auxiliary aid. Applicant must meet applicable income and asset limits.

- **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT:** 5 consecutive years preceding April 1. Property must be owned by a resident or owned by a resident jointly or in common with the resident's spouse, either of whom meets the age requirement for the exemption claimed, and when they have been married for at least five years.
- **INCOME LIMITS:** State minimum: single \$13,400, married \$20,400 or optional amount adopted by municipality.
- **ASSET LIMITS:** State minimum: single \$35,000, married \$35,000 or optional amount adopted by municipality.

**EDUCATIONAL AND SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS**

These are standard exemptions and do not require adoption at an annual meeting. The exemption amounts are determined by the municipality pursuant to each applicable statute, with the exception of the school, dining, dormitory and kitchen exemption, which is \$150,000.

- Water & Air Pollution Control Exemption
  - Non-Utility
  - Utility
- School Dining Dormitory and Kitchen Exemption
- Improvements to Assist Persons with Disabilities
- Improvements to Assist Deaf Persons

**WATER & AIR POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES EXEMPTION:** RSA 72:12-a [Utility & Non-Utility] - Any person, firm, or corporation which builds, constructs, installs, or places in use in this state any treatment facility, device, appliance, or installation wholly or partly for the purpose of reducing, controlling, or eliminating any source of air or water pollution shall be entitled to have the value of said facility and any real estate necessary therefor, or a percentage thereof determined in accordance with this section, exempted from the taxes levied under this chapter for the period of years in which the facility, device, appliance, or installation is used in accordance with the provisions of this section. This paragraph shall not apply to privately-owned landfills or ancillary facilities located at such landfills or to sewage disposal systems installed pursuant to RSA 485-A:29 through RSA 485-A:44 and rules adopted pursuant thereto, except that any exemption for a sewage disposal system granted prior to January 1, 2010 shall remain in effect. Approval for exemption filed with the department of environmental services.

**SCHOOL, DINING, DORMITORY and KITCHEN EXEMPTION:** RSA 72:23 IV – The standard exemption amount is \$150,000 per property. The buildings and structures of schools, seminaries of learning, colleges, academies and universities organized, incorporated or legally doing business in this state and owned, used and occupied by them directly for the purposes for which they are established, including but not limited to the dormitories, dining rooms, kitchens, auditoriums, classrooms, infirmaries, administrative and utility rooms and buildings connected therewith, athletic fields and facilities and gymnasiums, boat houses and wharves belonging to them and used in connection therewith, and the land thereto appertaining but not including lands and buildings not used and occupied directly for the purposes for which they are organized or incorporated, and the personal property used by them directly

**NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION**

for the purposes for which they are established, provided none of the income or profits are divided among the members or stockholders or used or appropriated for any other purpose than the purpose for which they are organized or established; provided further that if the value of the dormitories, dining rooms and kitchens shall exceed \$150,000, the value thereof in excess of said sum shall be taxable.

**IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSIST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: RSA 72:37-a** - Every owner of residential real estate upon which he resides, and to which he has made improvements for the purpose of assisting a person with a disability who also resides on such real estate, is each year entitled to an exemption from the assessed value, for property tax purposes, upon such residential real estate determined by deducting the value of such improvements from the assessed value of the residential real estate before determining the taxes upon such real estate. The exemption under this section shall apply only in taxable years during which the person with a disability resided on the residential real estate for which the exemption is claimed on April 1 in any given year.

**IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSIST THE DEAF: RSA 72:38-b V** - Every owner of residential real estate upon which he or she resides, and to which he or she has made improvements for the purpose of assisting a person who is deaf or severely hearing impaired who also resides on such real estate, is each year entitled to an exemption from the assessed value, for property tax purposes, upon such residential real estate determined by deducting the value of such improvements from the assessed value of the residential real estate before determining the taxes upon such real estate.

The exemption under this paragraph shall apply only in taxable years during which the person who is deaf or severely hearing impaired resided on the residential real estate for which the exemption is claimed on April 1 in any given year.

**LOCAL OPTIONAL EXEMPTIONS**

The following exemptions must be adopted by a municipality at an annual meeting. Each exemption amount is determined by the municipality. These include the disabled and deaf exemptions, described above. All modifications to standard exemption and tax credit amounts must be adopted under the provisions of RSA 72:27-a.

**ADDITIONAL SCHOOL DINING, DORMITORY and KITCHEN EXEMPTION: RSA 72:23 IV** – A municipality at an annual town meeting or the governing body of a city may vote to increase the amount of the exemption upon dormitories, dining rooms and kitchens.

**SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS EXEMPTION: RSA 72:62** - An exemption from the assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property which is equipped with a solar energy system as defined in RSA 72:61.

**WIND-POWERED ENERGY SYSTEMS EXEMPTION: RSA 72:66** - An exemption from the assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property which is equipped with a wind-powered energy system.

**WOODHEATING ENERGY SYSTEMS EXEMPTION: RSA 72:70** - An exemption from the assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property which is equipped with a wood-heating energy system.

**NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION**

**ELECTRIC ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS: RSA 72:85** - An exemption from the assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property which is equipped with an electrical energy storage system.

**RENEWABLE GENERATION FACILITIES AND ELECTRIC ENERGY SYSTEMS: RSA 72:87** - An exemption from the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of a renewable generation facility and an electric energy storage system located behind the retail meter of a customer-generator.

To apply for a tax credit or exemption, complete and file the following form(s) with your municipality:

- PA-29, Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions
- PA-33, Statement Of Qualification for Property Tax Credit, Exemption or Tax Deferral
  - This form is required if the property is held in a life estate or trust

All forms may be found on the DRA website at: [All Department | Forms & Instructions | NH Department of Revenue Administration](#)

For complete information, please refer to the State Statutes, provided, and Administrative Rules governing the exemptions and tax credits, Rev 400. For further explanation about the information contained in this report, please contact the Department of Revenue Administration, Municipal & Property Division at (603) 230-5950.



NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION  
2022 Exemptions and Tax Credits Summary Report

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY													
Municipality	Veterans' Tax Credits					RSA 72:36-a Certain Disabled Veterans' Exemption	Elderly Exemption						
	RSA 72:28 Standard and Optional Veterans' Tax Credit	RSA 72:28-b All Veterans' Tax Credit	RSA 72:28-c Optional Credit for Combat Service	RSA 72:29-a Surviving Spouse Tax Credit	RSA 72:35 Tax Credit for Service- Connected Total Disability		RSA 72:39-a						
						Value of Property	Elderly Exemption 65-74	Elderly Exemption 75-79	Elderly Exemption 80+	Single Income Limit	Married Income Limit	Single Asset Limit	Married Asset Limit
Atkinson	750	750	0	700	2,000		150,000	225,000	300,000	34,700	43,500	300,000	300,000
Auburn	500	500	0	700	2,000		150,000	170,000	210,000	25,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Brentwood	600	600	0	1,700	1,700		85,000	100,000	125,000	30,000	40,000	85,000	85,000
Candia	500	500	0	700	2,000		45,000	70,000	90,000	50,000	50,000	300,000	300,000
Chester	750	750	500	2,000	4,000		110,000	140,000	170,000	40,000	60,000	300,000	300,000
Danville	750	750	0	1,500	4,000		96,000	137,500	169,000	35,200	44,000	77,000	77,000
Deerfield	750	750	0	700	4,000		70,000	110,000	154,000	36,800	52,800	100,000	100,000
Derry	500	0	0	2,000	2,000		85,000	125,000	165,000	45,000	55,000	150,000	150,000
East Kingston	500	500	0	700	700		155,000	180,000	200,000	30,000	49,500	200,000	200,000
Epping	750	750	500	700	4,000		120,000	130,000	140,000	30,000	40,000	70,000	70,000
Exeter	500	0	0	700	2,000		152,251	183,751	236,251	40,427	51,977	194,251	194,251
Fremont	750	750	0	700	4,000		80,000	100,000	120,000	35,000	45,000	50,000	50,000
Greenland	750	750	0	2,000	4,000		90,000	115,000	145,000	37,500	60,000	125,000	125,000
Hampstead	750	750	0	1,400	2,000		150,000	200,000	230,000	35,000	50,000	100,000	100,000
Hampton	750	750	500	1,400	4,000		140,000	168,000	221,000	38,000	58,000	250,000	250,000
Hampton Falls	600	600	0	700	2,800		150,000	170,000	190,000	45,000	65,000	220,000	220,000
Kensington	500	500	0	700	700		155,000	180,000	200,000	42,000	49,500	200,000	200,000
Kingston	500	500	0	700	1,400		65,000	85,000	105,000	30,000	30,000	55,000	55,000
Londonderry	750	750	0	2,000	4,000		144,000	180,000	240,000	40,800	50,300	137,000	137,000
New Castle	500	500	0	2,000	2,000		125,000	175,000	225,000	40,000	55,000	150,000	150,000
Newfields	500	500	0	700	1,400		200,000	200,000	200,000	36,000	48,000	150,000	150,000
Newington	750	750	0	700	4,000		200,000	300,000	300,000	40,000	60,000	500,000	500,000
Newmarket	500	0	0	700	2,000		125,000	150,000	175,000	35,000	50,000	175,000	175,000
Newton	750	750	0	700	1,400		100,000	110,000	125,000	35,000	45,000	85,000	85,000
North Hampton	500	500	0	700	2,000		125,000	165,000	200,000	40,800	59,000	190,000	190,000
Northwood	250	250	0	700	1,400		113,620	162,500	211,250	35,000	40,000	50,000	50,000
Nottingham	750	750	500	700	4,000		101,000	142,000	184,000	38,000	48,000	180,000	180,000
Plaistow	500	500	0	700	2,000		110,000	150,000	190,000	38,000	53,000	110,000	110,000
Portsmouth	500	500	500	2,000	4,000		235,000	285,000	335,000	46,124	63,108	500,000	500,000
Raymond	500	500	0	2,000	3,500		141,000	155,000	183,000	33,800	45,825	74,865	74,865
Rye	500	500	0	2,000	2,000		140,000	170,000	200,000	40,000	59,900	199,000	199,000
Salem	500	500	0	2,000	2,000		120,000	180,000	245,000	41,000	55,000	140,000	140,000
Sandown	750	750	0	700	2,000		85,000	100,000	125,000	50,000	70,000	200,000	200,000
Seabrook	750	750	0	700	4,000		192,000	204,000	240,000	44,000	67,000	250,000	250,000
South Hampton	500	0	0	700	700		150,000	180,000	230,000	50,000	60,000	150,000	150,000
Stratham	600	600	0	2,000	4,000		125,000	145,000	165,000	36,000	60,000	200,000	200,000
Windham	500	500	0	2,000	4,000		160,000	190,000	600,000	45,000	55,000	160,000	160,000

NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION  
2022 Exemptions and Tax Credits Summary Report

<b>ROCKINGHAM COUNTY</b>													
Municipality	Disabled Exemption						Blind	Deaf Exemption					
	RSA 72:37-b						RSA 72:37	RSA 72:38-b					
	Disabled Exemption Adopted?	Disabled Exemption	Single Income Limit	Married Income Limit	Single Asset Limit	Married Asset Limit	Blind Exemption	Deaf Exemption Adopted?	Deaf Exemption	Single Income Limit	Married Income Limit	Single Asset Limit	Married Asset Limit
Atkinson	Yes	15,000	34,700	43,500	100,000	100,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Auburn	Yes	50,000	29,700	38,500	100,000	100,000	50,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Brentwood	Yes	62,500	22,000	33,000	55,000	55,000	62,500	No	0	0	0	0	0
Candia	Yes	35,000	50,000	50,000	300,000	300,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Chester	Yes	110,000	30,000	60,000	300,000	300,000	30,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Danville	No	0	0	0	0	0	25,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Deerfield	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Derry	No	0	0	0	0	0	40,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
East Kingston	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Epping	No	0	0	0	0	0	30,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Exeter	Yes	125,000	35,000	45,000	150,000	150,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Fremont	Yes	70,000	35,000	45,000	50,000	50,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Greenland	Yes	50,000	13,400	20,400	35,000	50,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Hampstead	Yes	50,000	35,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	50,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton	Yes	125,000	38,000	58,000	250,000	250,000	25,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton Falls	Yes	150,000	45,000	65,000	220,000	220,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Kensington	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston	Yes	70,000	35,000	40,000	50,000	50,000	30,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Londonderry	Yes	144,000	40,800	50,300	137,000	137,000	50,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
New Castle	Yes	75,000	40,000	55,000	150,000	150,000	50,000	Yes	50,000	40,000	55,000	150,000	150,000
Newfields	Yes	80,000	13,400	20,400	100,000	100,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Newington	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Newmarket	Yes	70,000	35,000	50,000	110,000	110,000	20,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Newton	Yes	85,000	32,000	45,000	60,000	60,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
North Hampton	Yes	100,000	45,000	60,000	125,000	150,000	25,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Northwood	Yes	35,000	18,500	26,500	35,000	35,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Nottingham	Yes	101,000	38,000	48,000	180,000	180,000	37,200	No	0	0	0	0	0
Plaistow	Yes	150,000	38,000	53,000	110,000	110,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Portsmouth	Yes	235,000	46,124	63,108	500,000	500,000	25,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Raymond	Yes	141,000	33,800	45,825	74,865	74,865	70,320	No	0	0	0	0	0
Rye	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Salem	Yes	120,000	41,000	55,000	140,000	140,000	130,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Sandown	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Seabrook	Yes	192,000	44,000	67,000	250,000	250,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
South Hampton	Yes	50,000	25,000	40,000	75,000	75,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Stratham	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Windham	Yes	160,000	45,000	55,000	160,000	160,000	15,000	Yes	15,000	45,000	55,000	160,000	160,000

NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION  
2022 Exemptions and Tax Credits Summary Report

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY													
	Educational and Special Exemptions					Local Optional Property Exemptions							
	RSA 72:12-a		RSA 72:23-IV	RSA 72:37-a	RSA 72:38-b V	RSA 72:23 IV	RSA 72:62	RSA 72:66	RSA 72:70	RSA 72:85	RSA 72:87		
Municipality	Non-Utility Water & Air Pollution Control Exemption	Utility Water & Air Pollution Control Exemption	School Dining / Dormitory / Kitchen Exemption	Improvements to Assist Persons with Disabilities	Improvements to Assist Deaf Persons	Additional School Dining / Dormitory / Kitchen Exemption	Solar Energy Systems Exemption	Wind- Powered Energy Systems Exemption	Woodheating Energy Systems Exemption	Electric Energy Storage Systems Exemption	Renewable Generation Facilities and Electric Energy Systems Exemption		
						Adopted?	Adopted?	Adopted?	Adopted?	Adopted?	Adopted?		
Atkinson	Value or Percentage of Value of Facility	Value or Percentage of Value of Facility	Standard Exemption \$150,000		Value of Improvements	Value of Improvements	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	
Auburn							No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Brentwood							No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Candia							No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Chester						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Danville						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Deerfield						No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	
Derry						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
East Kingston						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Epping						No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Exeter						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Fremont						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Greenland						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Hampstead						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Hampton						No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Hampton Falls						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Kensington						No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	
Kingston						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Londonderry						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
New Castle						No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Newfields						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Newington						No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Newmarket						No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	
Newton						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
North Hampton						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Northwood						No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	
Nottingham						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Plaistow						No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	
Portsmouth						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Raymond						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Rye						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Salem						No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Sandown						No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Seabrook						No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
South Hampton						No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	
Stratham						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Windham						No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	

NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION  
2022 Exemptions and Tax Credits Summary Report

STRAFFORD COUNTY													
Municipality	Veterans' Tax Credits					RSA 72:36-a	Elderly Exemption						
	RSA 72:28	RSA 72:28-b	RSA 72:28-c	RSA 72:29-a	RSA 72:35		RSA 72:39-a						
	Standard and Optional Veterans' Tax Credit	All Veterans' Tax Credit	Optional Credit for Combat Service	Surviving Spouse Tax Credit	Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability	Certain Disabled Veterans' Exemption	Elderly Exemption 65-74	Elderly Exemption 75-79	Elderly Exemption 80+	Single Income Limit	Married Income Limit	Single Asset Limit	Married Asset Limit
Barrington	650	650	0	2,000	3,550	Value of Property	85,000	127,500	161,500	36,000	50,000	125,000	125,000
Dover	750	750	0	2,000	4,000		166,000	234,000	300,000	47,000	64,000	186,100	186,100
Durham	500	0	0	2,000	2,500		125,000	175,000	225,000	38,000	52,000	200,000	200,000
Farmington	750	0	0	2,000	2,000		75,000	95,000	125,000	40,000	80,000	75,000	75,000
Lee	500	500	0	700	1,400		217,500	262,500	337,500	46,500	59,400	222,500	222,500
Madbury	500	0	0	700	2,000		90,000	110,000	130,000	40,000	50,000	180,000	180,000
Middleton	400	0	0	700	2,000		20,000	25,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	75,000	75,000
Milton	500	500	0	700	2,500		42,500	64,000	85,000	30,000	40,000	75,000	75,000
New Durham	750	750	0	700	4,000		45,000	65,000	90,000	26,000	35,000	60,000	60,000
Rochester	300	0	0	2,000	2,000		75,000	100,000	125,000	35,000	50,000	100,000	100,000
Rollinsford	500	0	0	1,400	1,400		50,000	75,000	100,000	32,000	36,000	100,000	100,000
Somersworth	500	0	0	2,000	2,000		65,000	80,000	90,000	35,000	50,000	100,000	100,000
Strafford	200	0	0	700	700		30,000	40,000	50,000	30,000	40,000	75,000	75,000

NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION  
2022 Exemptions and Tax Credits Summary Report

<b>STRAFFORD COUNTY</b>													
Municipality	Disabled Exemption						Blind	Deaf Exemption					
	RSA 72:37-b						RSA 72:37	RSA 72:38-b					
	Disabled Exemption Adopted?	Disabled Exemption	Single Income Limit	Married Income Limit	Single Asset Limit	Married Asset Limit	Blind Exemption	Deaf Exemption Adopted?	Deaf Exemption	Single Income Limit	Married Income Limit	Single Asset Limit	Married Asset Limit
Barrington	Yes	50,000	30,000	50,000	75,000	75,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Dover	Yes	166,000	47,000	64,000	186,100	186,100	166,000	Yes	166,000	47,000	64,000	186,100	186,100
Durham	Yes	110,000	38,000	52,000	155,000	155,000	30,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Farmington	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Lee	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Madbury	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Middleton	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Milton	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
New Durham	Yes	13,400	26,000	35,000	60,000	60,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Rochester	Yes	75,000	35,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	75,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Rollinsford	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Somersworth	No	0	0	0	0	0	25,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Strafford	Yes	30,000	20,000	30,000	35,000	35,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0



NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION  
2022 Exemptions and Tax Credits Summary Report

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY													
Municipality	Veterans' Tax Credits					RSA 72:36-a Certain Disabled Veterans' Exemption	Elderly Exemption						
	RSA 72:28 Standard and Optional Veterans' Tax Credit	RSA 72:28-b All Veterans' Tax Credit	RSA 72:28-c Optional Credit for Combat Service	RSA 72:29-a Surviving Spouse Tax Credit	RSA 72:35 Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability		RSA 72:39-a						
						Value of Property	Elderly Exemption 65-74	Elderly Exemption 75-79	Elderly Exemption 80+	Single Income Limit	Married Income Limit	Single Asset Limit	Married Asset Limit
Amherst	500	500	500	700	4,000		104,120	156,180	206,870	49,960	67,640	165,000	165,000
Antrim	500	500	0	2,000	2,000		25,000	50,000	65,000	26,250	37,800	75,000	75,000
Bedford	500	500	0	2,000	2,000		90,100	96,000	141,600	51,520	69,680	150,000	150,000
Bennington	500	0	0	700	2,000		25,000	50,000	75,000	27,500	39,500	75,000	75,000
Brookline	750	750	0	700	4,000		80,000	120,000	160,000	40,000	70,000	750,000	750,000
Deering	500	0	0	700	1,400		45,000	60,000	75,000	46,900	53,600	250,000	250,000
Francestown	500	0	0	700	700		40,000	60,000	80,000	13,400	20,400	50,000	50,000
Goffstown	500	500	0	2,000	2,000		50,000	67,500	90,000	37,500	55,000	150,000	150,000
Greenfield	300	0	0	700	700		20,000	40,000	60,000	25,000	33,000	50,000	50,000
Greenville	500	500	0	700	4,000		20,000	30,000	40,000	20,000	27,000	50,000	50,000
Hancock	500	0	0	700	700		35,000	47,500	75,000	22,500	31,000	53,000	53,000
Hillsborough	500	500	0	700	2,000		34,500	51,750	63,250	30,000	45,000	71,500	71,500
Hollis	750	750	0	700	2,000		159,000	190,000	222,000	53,000	60,500	165,000	165,000
Hudson	600	600	0	2,000	3,000		121,000	144,000	173,000	45,000	55,000	160,000	160,000
Litchfield	750	750	0	700	700		85,000	140,000	190,000	45,500	55,000	300,000	300,000
Lyndeborough	500	0	0	700	1,400		45,000	65,000	90,000	30,000	40,000	70,000	70,000
Manchester	500	500	0	2,000	2,000		156,000	210,000	280,000	41,000	55,000	100,000	130,000
Mason	500	500	0	700	2,000		70,000	100,000	130,000	30,000	40,000	60,000	60,000
Merrimack	500	500	0	2,000	4,000		85,000	115,000	150,000	45,000	60,000	200,000	200,000
Milford	400	400	0	800	1,500		83,000	124,000	165,000	38,600	46,000	100,000	100,000
Mont Vernon	500	0	0	700	2,000		60,000	70,000	80,000	40,000	40,000	75,000	75,000
Nashua	500	500	0	2,000	2,000		194,000	224,000	280,000	50,000	50,000	150,000	150,000
New Boston	500	0	0	700	2,000		119,000	163,500	238,000	37,000	47,000	94,500	94,500
New Ipswich	750	750	500	700	4,000		50,000	75,000	100,000	27,000	37,000	61,000	61,000
Pelham	500	500	0	700	2,000		106,000	152,000	196,000	44,000	54,000	250,000	250,000
Peterborough	750	750	0	700	4,000		80,000	120,000	160,000	34,000	52,000	100,000	100,000
Sharon	300	300	0	700	1,000		20,000	30,000	40,000	28,000	45,000	100,000	100,000
Temple	500	500	0	700	700		25,000	25,000	25,000	30,000	45,000	50,000	75,000
Weare	500	500	0	2,000	1,400		90,000	120,000	400,000	33,000	44,000	80,000	80,000
Wilton	750	750	0	700	4,000		40,000	55,000	75,000	35,000	45,000	70,000	70,000
Windsor	500	500	0	1,400	1,400		5,000	5,000	5,000	13,400	20,400	35,000	35,000

NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION  
2022 Exemptions and Tax Credits Summary Report

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY													
Municipality	Disabled Exemption						Blind	Deaf Exemption					
	RSA 72:37-b						RSA 72:37	RSA 72:38-b					
	Disabled Exemption Adopted?	Disabled Exemption	Single Income Limit	Married Income Limit	Single Asset Limit	Married Asset Limit	Blind Exemption	Deaf Exemption Adopted?	Deaf Exemption	Single Income Limit	Married Income Limit	Single Asset Limit	Married Asset Limit
Amherst	Yes	89,050	49,960	67,640	165,000	165,000	50,690	No	0	0	0	0	0
Antrim	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Bedford	Yes	52,000	51,520	69,680	150,000	150,000	35,000	Yes	35,000	51,520	69,680	150,000	150,000
Bennington	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Brookline	Yes	80,000	40,000	70,000	200,000	200,000	20,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Deering	Yes	15,000	46,900	53,600	250,000	250,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Francestown	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Goffstown	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Greenfield	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Greenville	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Hancock	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Hillsborough	Yes	25,000	25,000	33,000	65,000	65,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Hollis	No	0	0	0	0	0	30,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Hudson	Yes	121,000	45,000	55,000	160,000	160,000	121,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Litchfield	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Lyndeborough	Yes	40,000	30,000	40,000	70,000	70,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Manchester	Yes	156,000	41,000	55,000	100,000	130,000	156,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Mason	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Merrimack	Yes	75,000	50,000	67,500	200,000	200,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Milford	No	0	0	0	0	0	30,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Mont Vernon	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Nashua	Yes	194,000	50,000	50,000	150,000	150,000	94,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
New Boston	Yes	96,000	37,000	47,000	94,500	94,500	33,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
New Ipswich	Yes	50,000	27,000	37,000	61,000	61,000	15,000	Yes	15,000	22,500	30,000	50,000	50,000
Pelham	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Sharon	No	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Temple	Yes	25,000	15,000	25,000	50,000	50,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Weare	Yes	60,000	13,400	20,400	35,000	35,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Wilton	Yes	30,000	35,000	45,000	70,000	70,000	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor	Yes	15,000	20,100	30,600	52,500	52,500	15,000	No	0	0	0	0	0



NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION  
2022 Exemptions and Tax Credits Summary Report

<b>HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY</b>											
	<b>Educational and Special Exemptions</b>					<b>Local Optional Property Exemptions</b>					
Municipality	RSA 72:12-a		RSA 72:23-IV	RSA 72:37-a	RSA 72:38-b V	RSA 72:23 IV	RSA 72:62	RSA 72:66	RSA 72:70	RSA 72:85	RSA 72:87
	Non-Utility Water & Air Pollution Control Exemption	Utility Water & Air Pollution Control Exemption	School Dining / Dormitory / Kitchen Exemption	Improvements to Assist Persons with Disabilities	Improvements to Assist Deaf Persons	Additional School Dining / Dormitory / Kitchen Exemption	Solar Energy Systems Exemption	Wind-Powered Energy Systems Exemption	Woodheating Energy Systems Exemption	Electric Energy Storage Systems Exemption	Renewable Generation Facilities and Electric Energy Systems Exemption
	Value or Percentage of Value of Facility	Value or Percentage of Value of Facility	Standard Exemption \$150,000	Value of Improvements	Value of Improvements	Adopted?	Adopted?	Adopted?	Adopted?	Adopted?	Adopted?
Amherst						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Antrim						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Bedford						No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Bennington						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Brookline						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Deering						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Francestown						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Goffstown						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Greenfield						No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Greenville						No	No	No	No	No	No
Hancock						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Hillsborough						No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Hollis						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Hudson						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Litchfield						No	No	No	No	No	No
Lyndeborough						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Manchester						No	No	No	No	No	No
Mason						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Merrimack						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Milford						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Mont Vernon						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Nashua						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
New Boston						No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
New Ipswich						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Pelham						No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Peterborough						No	No	No	No	No	No
Sharon						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Temple						No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Weare						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Wilton						No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Windsor						No	Yes	No	No	No	No

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF  
REVENUE ADMINISTRATION



MUNICIPAL & PROPERTY DIVISION

2022  
VETERANS' TAX CREDITS REPORT  
By County

## 2022 VETERANS' TAX CREDITS REPORT

This report presents the 2022 Veterans' Tax Credits Summary as compiled by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration.

Annually, each municipality is required to certify to the Department of Revenue Administration the assessed valuation of all taxable property in that municipality. This information is reported on the Summary Inventory of Valuation, MS-1 Report.

Assessment information is also gathered regarding exemptions and tax credits as well as taxes raised by each municipality. An exemption is an amount deducted from a taxpayer's assessment. A tax credit is an amount deducted from the taxes due.

The following are the applicable RSA's relating to the Veterans' Tax Credits and can be found on the General Court's website at: <https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-V-72.htm>

### VETERANS' TAX CREDITS:

- **RSA 72:28, Veterans' Tax Credit**  
Standard \$50 / Optional \$51 up to \$750
- **RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit**  
If adopted by municipality, same amount as the Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:28)
- **RSA 72:28-c, Tax Credit for Combat Service**  
If adopted by municipality, \$50 up to \$500
- **RSA 72:29-a, Surviving Spouse**  
Standard \$700 / Optional \$701 up to \$2,000
- **RSA 72:35, Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability**  
Standard \$700 / Optional \$701 up to \$4,000

The information presented in this report includes:

- Name of the municipality
- The amount of the standard credit or adopted or modified tax credit, as adopted by the municipality
- The number of tax credits granted for each applicable tax credit
- The total number of tax credits granted in each municipality
- The total amount of tax credits granted in each municipality

To apply for a tax credit or exemption, you must complete and file form PA-29, Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions with the municipality. If the property is held in a life estate or trust, form PA-33, Statement of Qualification for Property Tax Credit, Exemption or Tax Deferral (RSA 72:33, V) must accompany the PA-29. These forms may be found on the Department's website at: <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/forms/index.htm>

For more detailed information, relating to veterans' tax credits, see the RSA 72, Persons and Property Liable to Taxation, and Administrative Rules, Rev 400, Property Tax Credits, Exemptions and Deferrals, available on the Department's website at: <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/laws/index.htm>.

For further explanation about any information contained in this report, please contact the Department of Revenue Administration, Municipal & Property Division at (603) 230-5950.

**NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION  
2022 Veterans' Tax Credit Summary**

<b>ROCKINGHAM COUNTY</b>												
	Veterans' Standard and Optional Tax Credit \$50 Up to \$750		All Veterans' Tax Credit \$50 Up to \$750		Combat Service Tax Credit \$50 Up to \$500		Surviving Spouse Tax Credit \$700 Up to \$2,000		Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability \$700 Up to \$4,000		Veterans' Tax Credits Summary	
	RSA 72:28		RSA 72:28-b		RSA 72:28-c		RSA 72:29-a		RSA 72:35			
Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Total Number of Tax Credits Granted	Total Amount of Tax Credits Granted
Atkinson	296	750	40	750	0	0	0	700	19	2,000	355	286,498
Auburn	256	500	12	500	0	0	0	700	28	2,000	296	190,000
Brentwood	140	600	7	600	0	0	0	1,700	11	1,700	158	106,500
Candia	185	500	21	500	0	0	0	700	12	2,000	218	126,500
Chester	198	750	24	750	0	500	0	2,000	18	4,000	240	238,500
Danville	150	750	44	750	0	0	0	1,500	7	4,000	201	173,500
Deerfield	186	750	26	750	0	0	0	700	22	4,000	234	247,000
Derry	766	500	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	72	2,000	838	526,667
East Kingston	122	500	16	500	0	0	0	700	6	700	144	73,200
Epping	200	750	88	750	0	500	0	700	25	4,000	313	316,000
Exeter	476	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	32	2,000	508	301,750
Fremont	199	750	30	750	0	0	0	700	13	4,000	242	221,375
Greenland	181	750	30	750	0	0	2	2,000	7	4,000	220	189,500
Hampstead	339	750	71	750	0	0	0	1,400	27	2,000	437	361,500
Hampton	763	750	68	750	0	500	0	1,400	53	4,000	884	834,100
Hampton Falls	98	600	4	600	0	0	1	700	2	2,800	105	67,500
Kensington	67	500	6	500	0	0	0	700	3	700	76	38,600
Kingston	231	500	66	500	0	0	0	700	18	1,400	315	173,700
Londonderry	810	750	116	750	0	0	0	2,000	48	4,000	974	886,500
New Castle	40	500	2	500	0	0	0	2,000	1	2,000	43	23,000
Newfields	43	500	17	500	0	0	0	700	3	1,400	63	34,200
Newington	46	750	0	750	0	0	0	700	2	4,000	48	42,500
Newmarket	242	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	10	2,000	252	138,500
Newton	140	750	35	750	0	0	0	700	9	1,400	184	143,100
North Hampton	253	500	16	500	0	0	0	700	17	2,000	286	168,500
Northwood	174	250	46	250	0	0	0	700	15	1,400	235	76,000
Nottingham	239	750	30	750	0	500	0	700	21	4,000	290	285,750
Plaistow	222	500	45	500	0	0	0	700	15	2,000	282	163,250
Portsmouth	660	500	69	500	0	500	3	2,000	45	4,000	777	537,499
Raymond	435	500	61	500	0	0	0	2,000	55	3,500	551	440,500
Rye	211	500	42	500	0	0	1	2,000	9	2,000	263	146,500
Salem	907	500	101	500	0	0	0	2,000	47	2,000	1055	592,000
Sandown	230	750	28	750	0	0	0	700	20	2,000	278	233,500
Seabrook	333	750	55	750	0	0	0	700	33	4,000	421	418,188
South Hampton	30	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	0	700	30	14,840
Stratham	317	600	44	600	0	0	0	2,000	16	4,000	377	280,300
Windham	371	500	50	500	0	0	0	2,000	16	4,000	437	274,500
<b>County Totals</b>	<b>10,556</b>		<b>1,310</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>757</b>		<b>12,630</b>	<b>9,371,517</b>

**NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION**  
**MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION**  
2022 Veterans' Tax Credit Summary

<b>STRAFFORD COUNTY</b>												
	Veterans' Standard and Optional Tax Credit \$50 Up to \$750		All Veterans' Tax Credit \$50 Up to \$750		Combat Service Tax Credit \$50 Up to \$500		Surviving Spouse Tax Credit \$700 Up to \$2,000		Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability \$700 Up to \$4,000		Veterans' Tax Credits Summary	
	RSA 72:28		RSA 72:28-b		RSA 72:28-c		RSA 72:29-a		RSA 72:35			
Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Total Number of Tax Credits Granted	Total Amount of Tax Credits Granted
Barrington	400	650	98	650	0	0	3	2,000	43	3,550	544	482,350
Dover	901	750	97	750	0	0	0	2,000	71	4,000	1069	1,015,875
Durham	184	500	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	15	2,500	199	129,500
Farmington	284	750	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	39	2,000	323	291,000
Lee	160	500	12	500	0	0	1	700	3	1,400	176	90,900
Madbury	53	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	1	2,000	54	28,250
Middleton	78	400	0	0	0	0	0	700	4	2,000	82	39,200
Milton	220	500	20	500	0	0	0	700	27	2,500	267	187,250
New Durham	150	750	19	750	0	0	0	700	12	4,000	181	174,750
Rochester	1375	300	0	0	0	0	41	2,000	97	2,000	1513	686,675
Rollinsford	100	500	0	0	0	0	0	1,400	1	1,400	101	51,400
Somersworth	348	500	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	31	2,000	379	236,000
Strafford	169	200	0	0	0	0	0	700	17	700	186	45,700
<b>County Totals</b>	<b>4,422</b>		<b>246</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>45</b>		<b>361</b>		<b>5,074</b>	<b>3,458,850</b>

NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL AND PROPERTY DIVISION  
2022 Veterans' Tax Credit Summary

<b>HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY</b>												
	Veterans' Standard and Optional Tax Credit \$50 Up to \$750		All Veterans' Tax Credit \$50 Up to \$750		Combat Service Tax Credit \$50 Up to \$500		Surviving Spouse Tax Credit \$700 Up to \$2,000		Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability \$700 Up to \$4,000		Veterans' Tax Credits Summary	
	RSA 72:28		RSA 72:28-b		RSA 72:28-c		RSA 72:29-a		RSA 72:35			
Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Number of Tax Credits Granted	Tax Credit Adopted by Municipality	Total Number of Tax Credits Granted	Total Amount of Tax Credits Granted
Amherst	467	500	50	500	0	500	0	700	30	4,000	547	378,500
Antrim	76	500	36	500	0	0	0	2,000	8	2,000	120	72,000
Bedford	725	500	69	500	0	0	0	2,000	38	2,000	832	473,000
Bennington	64	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	4	2,000	68	39,330
Brookline	186	750	10	750	0	0	0	700	16	4,000	212	211,000
Deering	66	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	11	1,400	77	48,400
Francestown	64	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	2	700	66	33,400
Goffstown	602	500	52	500	0	0	1	2,000	58	2,000	713	443,000
Greenfield	56	300	0	0	0	0	0	700	3	700	59	18,900
Greenville	71	500	9	500	0	0	0	700	7	4,000	87	68,000
Hancock	86	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	4	700	90	45,800
Hillsborough	242	500	26	500	0	0	0	700	33	2,000	301	200,000
Hollis	286	750	37	750	0	0	0	700	11	2,000	334	264,250
Hudson	885	600	151	600	0	0	0	2,000	57	3,000	1093	790,500
Litchfield	322	750	83	750	0	0	0	700	32	700	437	325,093
Lyndeborough	56	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	8	1,400	64	39,200
Manchester	1869	500	149	500	0	0	1	2,000	175	2,000	2194	1,321,580
Mason	53	500	4	500	0	0	1	700	4	2,000	62	37,200
Merrimack	1033	500	110	500	0	0	1	2,000	66	4,000	1210	837,080
Milford	411	400	46	400	0	0	0	800	24	1,500	481	218,800
Mont Vernon	79	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	6	2,000	85	51,500
Nashua	2122	500	250	500	0	0	2	2,000	126	2,000	2500	1,438,460
New Boston	249	500	0	0	0	0	0	700	24	2,000	273	172,500
New Ipswich	180	750	19	750	0	500	0	700	23	4,000	222	241,250
Pelham	396	500	52	500	0	0	0	700	30	2,000	478	283,333
Peterborough	203	750	27	750	0	0	0	700	16	4,000	246	233,750
Sharon	15	300	2	300	0	0	0	700	0	1,000	17	5,100
Temple	51	500	8	500	0	0	1	700	2	700	62	31,600
Weare	323	500	14	500	0	0	1	2,000	24	1,400	362	203,600
Wilton	128	750	16	750	0	0	0	700	11	4,000	155	152,000
Windsor	9	500	3	500	0	0	0	1,400	1	1,400	13	7,400
<b>County Totals</b>	<b>11,375</b>		<b>1,223</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>854</b>		<b>13,460</b>	<b>8,685,526</b>

**SB533 – State Representative Gilman**





# Bill Text: NH SB533 | 2024 | Regular Session | Introduced New Hampshire Senate Bill 533

**Bill Title:** Relative to physical quorums at public meetings.

**Spectrum:** Partisan Bill (Democrat 8-0)

**Status:** (*Introduced*) 2024-01-24 - Hearing: 02/01/2024, Room 100, State House, 10:00 am; Senate Calendar 5 [SB533 Detail]

**Download:** New\_Hampshire-2024-SB533-Introduced.html

---

## SB 533 - AS INTRODUCED

### 2024 SESSION

24-3076  
11/08

### SENATE BILL **533**

AN ACT relative to physical quorums at public meetings.

SPONSORS: Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Rep. M. Paige, Rock. 11; Rep. Simpson, Rock. 33; Rep. N. Murphy, Hills. 12; Rep. W. Thomas, Hills. 12; Rep. Gilman, Rock. 11

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

---

### ANALYSIS

This bill enables public bodies to allow one or more members of the body to participate in a meeting by electronic means.

---

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.  
24-3076  
11/08

### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four*

AN ACT relative to physical quorums at public meetings.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 Meetings Open to Public. Amend RSA 91-A:2, III to read as follows:

III. A public body may, but is not required to, allow one or more members of the body to participate in a meeting by electronic or other means of communication for the benefit of the public and the governing body, subject to the provisions of this paragraph.

(a) A member of the public body may participate in a meeting other than by attendance in person at the location of the meeting only when such attendance is not reasonably practical. Any reason that such attendance is not reasonably practical shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting.

(b) Except in an emergency, ~~a quorum~~ **at least two members** of the public body shall be physically present at the location specified in the meeting notice as the location of the meeting. For purposes of this subparagraph, an "emergency" means that immediate action is imperative and the physical presence of a quorum is not reasonably practical within the period~~of time~~ requiring action. The determination that an emergency exists shall be made by the chair~~man~~ or presiding officer of the public body, and the facts upon which that determination is based shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.

~~(c) Each [part of a meeting required to be open to the public shall be audible or otherwise discernable to the public at the location specified in the meeting notice as the location of the meeting. Each member participating electronically or otherwise must be able to simultaneously hear each other and speak to each other during the meeting, and shall be audible or otherwise discernable to the public in attendance at the meeting's location.] No meeting shall be conducted by electronic mail or any other form of communication that does not permit the public to hear, read, or otherwise discern meeting discussion contemporaneously at the meeting location specified in the meeting notice.] **member participating electronically or otherwise shall be able to contemporaneously and throughout the meeting see and hear, and be seen and heard by, the other members of the public body attending the meeting and members of the public in attendance at the meeting site. A member participating in a meeting remotely as described in this paragraph is deemed to be present for all purposes, including for determination of a quorum and voting. Each member participating remotely shall identify the persons present in the location from which the member is participating. All votes taken during such a meeting shall be by roll call vote.**~~

~~[(d) Any meeting held pursuant to the terms of this paragraph shall comply with all of the requirements of this chapter relating to public meetings, and shall not circumvent the spirit and purpose of this chapter as expressed in RSA 91-A:1.~~

~~(e) A member participating in a meeting by the means described in this paragraph is deemed to be present at the meeting for purposes of voting. All votes taken during such a meeting shall be by roll call vote.]~~

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2025.

**Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits & Exemptions**



## Permits & Approvals



---

## 5 Chestnut St Water/Sewer Abatement Appeal

3 messages

---

**Steve Dalton** <sdalton@exeternh.gov>

Tue, Jan 16, 2024 at 2:52 PM

To: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

Cc: Bob Kelly <kellyes@comcast.net>, Desiree Murphy <dmurphy@exeternh.gov>

Hello Pam,

I would like to add an appeal of a Water/Sewer Advisory Committee (WSAC) decision for an abatement to the Select Board Agenda for January 29, 2024.

I have not had to do this in the past, so I am unfamiliar with how this process works and what I need to submit for this appeal.

Mr. Scott Cerrato applied for an abatement on 11/6/23 for two billing periods August 2023 and November 2023 for the service address of 5 Chestnut St. The Water/Sewer Advisory Committee met on 12/20/23 and approved a 50% abatement for one billing period in the amount of \$4040.44. Mr. Cerrato was not able to attend that meeting on 12/20/23 and would like to appeal the decision.

I have attached the abatement request, abatement packet approved by WSAC, and the Town's abatement policy.

Mr Cerrato's contact information is:

Mailing address:

Scott Cerrato  
PO Box 366  
Exeter, NH 03833

email:

[stcm8@yahoo.com](mailto:stcm8@yahoo.com)

telephone:

781-775-3724


Please let me know if there is anything else I need to submit for this.

Thank you,

Steve Dalton  
Interim Water & Sewer Superintendent  
Public Works Department  
[13 Newfields Road](#)  
[Exeter, NH 03833](#)  
p) 603-773-6165  
f) 603-772-1355

---

### 3 attachments

 **5 Chestnut St Abatement Adjustment Packet.pdf**  
2919K

 **5 Chestnut Street Abatement Request.pdf**  
3354K

 **Water-Sewer Abatement Policy 03.2019.pdf**  
850K

---

**Bob Kelly** <kellyes@comcast.net>

Tue, Jan 16, 2024 at 4:05 PM

To: Steve Dalton <sdalton@exeternh.gov>

Cc: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>, Desiree Murphy <dmurphy@exeternh.gov>

I am away until Jan 29 but should be able to attend the SB meeting on behalf of the committee.

Please keep me apprised of scheduling and discussions

Thanks

Bob Kelly  
Mobile (603) 396-4108

On Jan 16, 2024, at 3:55 PM, Steve Dalton <[sdalton@exeternh.gov](mailto:sdalton@exeternh.gov)> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

<5 Chestnut St Abatement Adjustment Packet.pdf>

<5 Chestnut Street Abatement Request.pdf>

<Water-Sewer Abatement Policy 03.2019.pdf>

---

**Pam McElroy** <[pmcelroy@exeternh.gov](mailto:pmcelroy@exeternh.gov)>

Wed, Jan 17, 2024 at 11:04 AM

To: Bob Kelly <[kellyes@comcast.net](mailto:kellyes@comcast.net)>

Cc: Steve Dalton <[sdalton@exeternh.gov](mailto:sdalton@exeternh.gov)>, Desiree Murphy <[dmurphy@exeternh.gov](mailto:dmurphy@exeternh.gov)>

Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

*Pam McElroy*

**Town of Exeter**

Senior Executive Assistant, Town Manager's Office

603-773-6102

Human Services Administrator

603-773-6116

**REQUEST FOR ABATEMENT/ADJUSTMENT**

Date: 12.28.23

Account #: 1107900-0 Amount: \$ 4,040.44

Name: Scott Cerrato Location: 5 Chestnut Street

Abatement       Adjustment      Amount: \$ 4,040.44

Reason:

- Should have been water only
- Multiplier off
- Meter malfunction
- Town's error

- Should have been sewer only
- Applied to wrong account
- Incorrect meter read
- Meter Should have been inactive

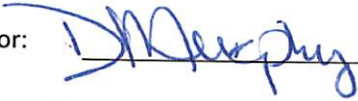
Approved by WSAC      Meeting Date: 12.20.23

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Abatement/Adjustment is to be applied:

Bill Date:	Bill #:	W/S AR Code:	Principal:	Interest:	Total:
<u>8.30.23</u>	<u>434504</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>\$1,467.53</u>		<u>\$1,467.53</u>
<u>8.30.23</u>	<u>434504</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>\$2,572.91</u>		<u>\$2,572.91</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Refund to customer?  No       Yes

Requestor:   
W/S Manager: \_\_\_\_\_  
Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

- Attachments:  Edit list  
 Updated billing statement  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**TOWN OF EXETER  
WATER & SEWER ABATEMENT**

Application Date: 11/6/2023

Meeting Date: TBD

Name: Scott Cerrato

Address: 5 Chestnut Street

**Water and Sewer Department Assessment:**

The water and sewer department notified the owner of high usage on 06/21/23 and on 10/18/2023. The property owner made a repair in September that did not fix the problem. He then hired a plumber who checked the toilets and found and repaired the issue on 10/19/23. This caused the leak to impact two bills.

Please see the completed abatement request, plumber's receipt, and usage history.

The abatement amounts below were based on the average usage for the most recent four quarters, which was 68,253 gallons per quarter, for an average bill of \$2,138.72.

The total bill for August was \$9,984.05. The abatement amounts for consideration by the WSAC are as follows:

	Abatement Amount
100% Abatement of Excess Water	\$2,421.34
100% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$4,995.52
80% Abatement of Excess Water	\$2,279.85
80% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$3,996.41
50% Abatement of Excess Water	\$1,467.53
50% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$2,572.91

✓  
✓

The total bill for November was \$8,440.61. The abatement amounts for consideration by the WSAC are as follows:

	Abatement Amount
100% Abatement of Excess Water	\$2,282.64
100% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$4,001.15
80% Abatement of Excess Water	\$1,826.11
80% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$3,200.92
50% Abatement of Excess Water	\$1,183.95
50% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$2,075.72

**Supporting Documents Submitted:**

- Account Notes       Data Download       High Usage Notice       Home Owner Repair Receipts
- Leak Check Results       Meter Test Results       Plumber Invoice/Statement       Usage History

**Water Sewer Advisory Committee Review:**

WSAC approved 50% abatement on excess for  
one billing period only

Approved \$ 4,040.44

Denied

Signature Whately for WSAC Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
3-0



**TOWN OF EXETER**  
**WATER AND SEWER COLLECTIONS**  
 10 FRONT STREET  
 EXETER, NH 03833  
 FOR BILLING QUESTIONS: (603) 773-6157 7:00AM-3:00PM  
 Email: [watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov](mailto:watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov)

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	1107900-0
<b>CID</b>	2987
<b>BILL #:</b>	434504
<b>BILLING DATE</b>	08/30/2023
<b>SERVICE ADDRESS</b>	5 CHESTNUT STREET
<b>DUE DATE</b>	09/29/2023
<b>LATE FEES OF 1% PER MONTH CHARGED AFTER DUE DATE (12% ANNUAL)</b>	

CERRATO SCOTT  
 CERRATO ANNE C  
 24 PLEASANTVIEW DRIVE  
 EXETER NH 03833

FOR PAYMENT QUESTIONS: (603) 773-6108 8:15AM-4:00PM  
 EMAIL: [collections@exeternh.gov](mailto:collections@exeternh.gov)  
 Customer Portal: <https://exeternh.authoritypay.com>  
 Not Responsible for Mail Delivery

BILLING CYCLE	BILLING PERIOD		METER READING		USAGE	# DAYS	DAILY AVERAGE
	FROM	TO	PRIOR	PRESENT			GALLONS
QUARTERLY	05/16/2023	08/14/2023	3,776,430	4,054,630	278,200	90	3092

**WATER & SEWER RATES AS OF JULY 30, 2021**

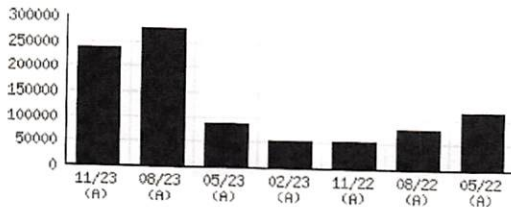
**WATER**

Service Fee: \$43.00 per quarter  
 Tier 1: \$9.32 per 1,000 gallons of use up to 21,000 gallons  
 Tier 2: \$11.66 per 1,000 gallons for 21,001 gallons of use up to 105,000  
 Tier 3: \$13.98 per 1,000 gallons for 105,001 gallons of use and above

**SEWER**

Service Fee: \$41.00 per quarter  
 Tier 1: \$16.34 per 1,000 gallons of use up to 21,000  
 Tier 2: \$20.42 per 1,000 gallons for 21,001 gallons of use up to 105,000  
 Tier 3: \$24.51 per 1,000 gallons for 105,001 gallons of use and above

*All Water passing through meter will be charged, whether used or lost by leakage. FAILURE to make payment may result in disconnection of service.*



Previous Balance	3,957.30
Penalty	17.00
Interest	17.00
Payments	-2,256.93
Adjustments	0.00
Prior Balance	1,734.37
Water Tier 1	195.72
Water Tier 2	979.44
Water Tier 3	2,421.34
Water Meter Fee	43.00
Sewer Tier 1	343.14
Sewer Tier 2	1,715.28
Sewer Tier 3	4,245.13
Sewer Service Fee	41.00
<b>Current Charges</b>	<b>9,984.05</b>
<b>Pay This Amount</b>	<b>11,718.42</b>

PLEASE DETACH & RETURN WITH PAYMENT

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	1107900-0
<b>SERVICE ADDRESS</b>	5 CHESTNUT STREET
<b>BILL #</b>	434504
<b>DUE DATE</b>	09/29/2023

<b>AMOUNT NOW DUE</b>	\$11,718.42
<b>DUE DATE</b>	09/29/2023

Please make checks payable to: Town of Exeter

Cash     Check     Money Order

<b>AMOUNT PAID</b>	\$
--------------------	----

CERRATO SCOTT  
 CERRATO ANNE C  
 24 PLEASANTVIEW DRIVE  
 EXETER NH 03833

TOWN OF EXETER  
 WATER AND SEWER COLLECTIONS  
 10 FRONT STREET  
 EXETER, NH 03833

TOWN OF EXETER  
WATER & SEWER ABATEMENT  
REQUEST APPLICATION

Application Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Scott Cervato Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Service Address: 5 Chestnut Street  
Email Address: stcm8@yahoo.com  
Phone #: 781-775-1324  
Mailing Address: Po Box 366 Exeter NH 03833  
Bill Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Due: \$ 8916.86

Property Type:  Single Family  Commercial  Multi-unit

Incident Details:

Replaced toilet valve on 9/18/23. That part turned out to be defective. Hired a plumber who found the defective part + replaced it. Was unaware that the water was running continuously there.

After part was replaced, the toilet is running properly + the water is no longer running.

Repair receipts submitted?  Yes  No

- Please return this completed form to the Water & Sewer Department
- by email to [watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov](mailto:watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov)
  - by mail to 13 Newfields Road, Exeter, NH 03833
  - in person to either the Town Office or Department of Public Works

Abatements are heard at the semimonthly meetings of the Water Sewer Advisory Committee, usually held the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Nowak room on the second floor of the Town Office and via zoom. The Water & Sewer Department will contact you by email and/or phone when the meeting has been scheduled. The Town will send a zoom link from Exeter TV. Your attendance is not required but is highly encouraged.

Please pay the amount due on your account while you wait for your request to be heard or contact the collections department, [collections@exeternh.gov](mailto:collections@exeternh.gov) or (603)773-6108, to make payment arrangements.

I have received a copy of the Town's abatement policy and acknowledge I will receive only one abatement every ten years. I have the right to refuse a granted abatement amount.

Signature of applicant or representative: 

**TOWN OF EXETER  
WATER & SEWER ABATEMENT**

Application Date: 11/6/2023

Meeting Date: TBD

Name: Scott Cerrato

Address: 5 Chestnut Street

**Water and Sewer Department Assessment:**

The water and sewer department notified the owner of high usage on 06/21/23 and on 10/18/2023. The property owner made a repair in September that did not fix the problem. He then hired a plumber who checked the toilets and found and repaired the issue on 10/19/23. This caused the leak to impact two bills.

Please see the completed abatement request, plumber's receipt, and usage history.

The abatement amounts below were based on the average usage for the most recent four quarters, which was 68,253 gallons per quarter, for an average bill of \$2,138.72.

The total bill for August was \$9,984.05. The abatement amounts for consideration by the WSAC are as follows:

	Abatement Amount
100% Abatement of Excess Water	\$2,421.34
100% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$4,995.52
80% Abatement of Excess Water	\$2,279.85
80% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$3,996.41
50% Abatement of Excess Water	\$1,467.53
50% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$2,572.91

The total bill for November was \$8,440.61. The abatement amounts for consideration by the WSAC are as follows:

	Abatement Amount
100% Abatement of Excess Water	\$2,282.64
100% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$4,001.15
80% Abatement of Excess Water	\$1,826.11
80% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$3,200.92
50% Abatement of Excess Water	\$1,183.95
50% Abatement of Excess Sewer	\$2,075.72

**Supporting Documents Submitted:**

- Account Notes     
  Data Download     
  High Usage Notice     
  Home Owner Repair Receipts  
 Leak Check Results     
  Meter Test Results     
  Plumber Invoice/Statement     
  Usage History

**Water Sewer Advisory Committee Review:**

---



---



---

Approved \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Denied

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN OF EXETER  
WATER & SEWER ABATEMENT

Signature

---

Signature

---

Signature

---

Signature

---











# ACTIVE ACCOUNT 1107900-0

[Return To List](#)  

## CERRATO SCOTT

5 CHESTNUT STREET  
Exeter, NH 03833

Address 2: Work Phone: Municipality: Town of Exeter  
 GIS Longitude: -70.944142499999899 GIS Latitude: 42.982154999999899 Account Start Date:  
 Account End Date: Billing Cycle: District 1 Sequence: 8000  
 Route: Route 11 Is Rental: No Mobile Phone: (781) 775-3724  
 Home Phone: (603) 686-1094 Email: Address Type: Multi Unit

## Utility Billing Group [Edit Account Billing Groups](#)

### General Information [Edit](#)

Units:	1
Exclude Billing:	No
Exclude Interest:	No
Exclude Penalty:	No
Exclude Notice:	No
Exclude Lien:	No
Suspended Action Code:	Billing Group

### Transactions [View More](#)

Date	Type	Due Date	Total	Balance
11/03/2023	Interest	09/29/2023	80.50	8,916.86
10/17/2023	Pay		-1000.00	8,836.36
10/17/2023	Pay		-2000.00	8,836.36
10/05/2023	Adjust FEE	11/04/2023	18.10	11,836.36
10/03/2023	Penalty	09/29/2023	99.84	11,818.26

### Balances [View Details](#)

<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$8,916.86</b>
Deposits	0.00
Other	0.00
Water	4,220.22
Sewer	4,696.64
Generic Converted Service	0.00
Unapplied Cash	0.00

### Account Log [View More](#) [Add New](#)

Completed	Scheduled	Type	Reading
10/19/2023	10/19/2023	HIGH	
10/16/2023		<a href="#">Automated Meter Readings</a>	4267110
09/11/2023		<a href="#">Automated Meter Readings</a>	4156710
08/14/2023		Actual	4054630
08/14/2023		<a href="#">Automated Meter Readings</a>	4054630



## TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 13 NEWFIELDS ROAD • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 773-6157 • FAX 772-1355  
[watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov](mailto:watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov)

### High Usage Notice

**This is NOT a bill - please do not pay this amount**

June 21, 2023

Dear Customer,

Your usage is greater than normal for your last meter read. Your current charges are calculated below.

June	<u>64,080</u>		
Total Usage	<u>64,080</u>		
Tier 1	Gallons	Amount	
\$0.00932	21,000	\$ 195.72	Water
\$0.01634	21,000	\$ 343.14	Sewer
		<u>\$ 538.86</u>	
Tier 2			
\$0.01166	43,080	\$ 502.31	Water
\$0.02042	43,080	\$ 879.69	Sewer
		<u>\$ 1,382.01</u>	
Service Fees			
		\$ 43.00	Water
		\$ 41.00	Sewer
		<u>\$ 84.00</u>	
<b>Total Due</b>		<u><b>\$ 2,004.87</b></u>	

Please feel free to contact us at the Water and Sewer Department via email at [watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov](mailto:watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov) or by telephone at (603)773-6157 ext. 460 or 408 if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,  
 Town of Exeter  
 Water/Sewer Utilities Clerks

5 CHESTNUT STREET	Jun-23	May-23	Apr-23	Mar-23	Feb-23	Jan-23	Dec-22	Nov-22	Oct-22	Sep-22	Aug-22	Jul-22	Jun-22
<b>1107900-0</b>													
1834117460													
CERRATO SCOTT	64,080	38,960	29,890	17,960	17,800	17,490	18,690	17,940	17,250	17,640	30,330	23,960	25,100





## TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 13 NEWFIELDS ROAD • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 773-6157 • FAX 772-1355  
[watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov](mailto:watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov)

### High Usage Notice

**This is NOT a bill - please do not pay this amount**

October 18, 2023

Dear Customer,

Your usage is greater than normal for your last meter read. Your current charges are calculated below.

October	110,400		
September	102,080		
<b>Total Usage</b>	<b>212,480</b>		
Tier 1	Gallons	Amount	
\$0.00932	21,000	\$ 195.72	Water
\$0.01634	21,000	\$ 343.14	Sewer
		\$ 538.86	
Tier 2			
\$0.01166	84,000	\$ 979.44	Water
\$0.02042	84,000	\$ 1,715.28	Sewer
		\$ 2,694.72	
Tier 3			
\$0.01398	107,480	\$ 1,502.57	Water
\$0.02451	107,480	\$ 2,634.33	Sewer
		\$ 4,136.91	
Service Fees			
		\$ 43.00	Water
		\$ 41.00	Sewer
		\$ 84.00	
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$ 7,454.49</b>	

Please feel free to contact us at the Water and Sewer Department via email at [watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov](mailto:watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov) or by telephone at (603)773-6157 ext. 460 or 408 if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,  
 Town of Exeter  
 Water/Sewer Utilities Clerks

5 CHESTNUT STREET	Oct-23	Sep-23	Aug-23	Jul-23	Jun-23	May-23	Apr-23	Mar-23	Feb-23	Jan-23	Dec-22	Nov-22	Oct-22
<b>1107900-0</b>													
<b>1834117460</b>													
CERRATO SCOTT	110,400	102,080	94,640	119,480	64,080	38,960	29,890	17,960	17,800	17,490	18,690	17,940	17,250



**TOWN OF EXETER**  
**WATER AND SEWER COLLECTIONS**  
 10 FRONT STREET  
 EXETER, NH 03833  
 FOR BILLING QUESTIONS: (603) 773-6157 7:00AM-3:00PM  
 Email: [watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov](mailto:watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov)

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	1107900-0
<b>CID</b>	2987
<b>BILL #:</b>	434504
<b>BILLING DATE</b>	08/30/2023
<b>SERVICE ADDRESS</b>	5 CHESTNUT STREET
<b>DUE DATE</b>	09/29/2023
<b>LATE FEES OF 1% PER MONTH CHARGED AFTER DUE DATE (12% ANNUAL)</b>	

**FOR PAYMENT QUESTIONS: (603) 773-6108 8:15AM-4:00PM**  
**EMAIL: [collections@exeternh.gov](mailto:collections@exeternh.gov)**  
**Customer Portal: <https://exeternh.authoritypay.com>**  
**Not Responsible for Mail Delivery**

CERRATO SCOTT  
 CERRATO ANNE C  
 24 PLEASANTVIEW DRIVE  
 EXETER NH 03833

BILLING CYCLE	BILLING PERIOD		METER READING		USAGE	# DAYS	DAILY AVERAGE
	FROM	TO	PRIOR	PRESENT			GALLONS
QUARTERLY	05/16/2023	08/14/2023	3,776,430	4,054,630	278,200	90	3092

**WATER & SEWER RATES AS OF JULY 30, 2021**

**WATER**

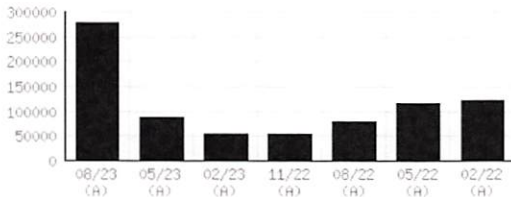
Service Fee: \$43.00 per quarter  
 Tier 1: \$9.32 per 1,000 gallons of use up to 21,000 gallons  
 Tier 2: \$11.66 per 1,000 gallons for 21,001 gallons of use up to 105,000  
 Tier 3: \$13.98 per 1,000 gallons for 105,001 gallons of use and above

**SEWER**

Service Fee: \$41.00 per quarter  
 Tier 1: \$16.34 per 1,000 gallons of use up to 21,000  
 Tier 2: \$20.42 per 1,000 gallons for 21,001 gallons of use up to 105,000  
 Tier 3: \$24.51 per 1,000 gallons for 105,001 gallons of use and above

*All Water passing through meter will be charged, whether used or lost by leakage. FAILURE to make payment may result in disconnection of service.*

Previous Balance	3,957.30
Penalty	17.00
Interest	17.00
Payments	-2,256.93
Adjustments	0.00
Prior Balance	1,734.37
<hr/>	
Water Tier 1	195.72
Water Tier 2	979.44
Water Tier 3	2,421.34
Water Meter Fee	43.00
Sewer Tier 1	343.14
Sewer Tier 2	1,715.28
Sewer Tier 3	4,245.13
Sewer Service Fee	41.00
<hr/>	
Current Charges	9,984.05
Pay This Amount	11,718.42



PLEASE DETACH & RETURN WITH PAYMENT

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	1107900-0
<b>SERVICE ADDRESS</b>	5 CHESTNUT STREET
<b>BILL #</b>	434504
<b>DUE DATE</b>	09/29/2023

<b>AMOUNT NOW DUE</b>	\$11,718.42
<b>DUE DATE</b>	09/29/2023

Please make checks payable to: Town of Exeter

Cash     Check     Money Order

<b>AMOUNT PAID</b>	\$
--------------------	----

CERRATO SCOTT  
 CERRATO ANNE C  
 24 PLEASANTVIEW DRIVE  
 EXETER NH 03833

TOWN OF EXETER  
 WATER AND SEWER COLLECTIONS  
 10 FRONT STREET  
 EXETER, NH 03833



TOWN OF EXETER  
 WATER AND SEWER COLLECTIONS  
 10 FRONT STREET  
 EXETER, NH 03833  
 FOR BILLING QUESTIONS: (603) 773-6157 7:00AM-3:00PM  
 Email: watersewerbilling@exeternh.gov

ACCOUNT NUMBER	1107900-0
CID	2987
BILL #:	494436
BILLING DATE	11/29/2023
SERVICE ADDRESS	5 CHESTNUT STREET
DUE DATE	12/29/2023
<b>LATE FEES OF 1% PER MONTH CHARGED AFTER DUE DATE (12% ANNUAL)</b>	

FOR PAYMENT QUESTIONS: (603) 773-6108 8:15AM-4:00PM  
 EMAIL: collections@exeternh.gov  
 Customer Portal: <https://exeternh.authoritypay.com>  
 Not Responsible for Mail Delivery

CERRATO SCOTT  
 CERRATO ANNE C  
 24 PLEASANTVIEW DRIVE  
 EXETER NH 03833

BILLING CYCLE	BILLING PERIOD		METER READING		USAGE	# DAYS	DAILY AVERAGE
	FROM	TO	PRIOR	PRESENT			GALLONS
QUARTERLY	08/14/2023	11/13/2023	4,054,630	4,292,260	237,630	91	2612

**WATER & SEWER RATES AS OF JULY 30, 2021**

**WATER**

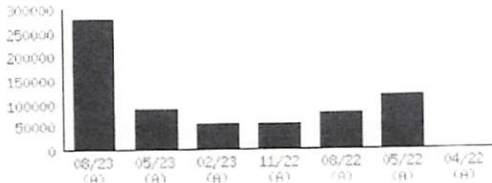
Service Fee: \$43.00 per quarter  
 Tier 1: \$9.32 per 1,000 gallons of use up to 21,000 gallons  
 Tier 2: \$11.66 per 1,000 gallons for 21,001 gallons of use up to 105,000  
 Tier 3: \$13.98 per 1,000 gallons for 105,001 gallons of use and above

**SEWER**

Service Fee: \$41.00 per quarter  
 Tier 1: \$16.34 per 1,000 gallons of use up to 21,000  
 Tier 2: \$20.42 per 1,000 gallons for 21,001 gallons of use up to 105,000  
 Tier 3: \$24.51 per 1,000 gallons for 105,001 gallons of use and above

All Water passing through meter will be charged, whether used or lost by leakage. FAILURE to make payment may result in disconnection of service.

Previous Balance	11,718.42
Penalty	99.84
Interest	80.50
Payments	-3,000.00
Adjustments	0.00
Prior Balance	8,898.76
Water Tier 1	195.72
Water Tier 2	979.44
Water Tier 3	1,854.17
Water Meter Fee	43.00
Sewer Tier 1	343.14
Sewer Tier 2	1,715.28
Sewer Tier 3	3,250.76
Sewer Service Fee	41.00
Water Certified Mail Fee	18.10
Current Charges	8,440.61
Pay This Amount	17,339.37



PLEASE DETACH & RETURN WITH PAYMENT

ACCOUNT NUMBER	1107900-0
SERVICE ADDRESS	5 CHESTNUT STREET
BILL #	494436
DUE DATE	12/29/2023

AMOUNT NOW DUE	\$17,339.37
DUE DATE	12/29/2023

Please make checks payable to: Town of Exeter

Cash     Check     Money Order

AMOUNT PAID	\$
-------------	----

CERRATO SCOTT  
 CERRATO ANNE C  
 24 PLEASANTVIEW DRIVE  
 EXETER NH 03833

TOWN OF EXETER  
 WATER AND SEWER COLLECTIONS  
 10 FRONT STREET  
 EXETER, NH 03833



## Customer Account Log Report

CERRATO SCOTT (1107900-0) [5 CHESTNUT STREET Exeter, NH 03833] From 01/01/2020 Thru 11/27/2023; Source: Read; All Billing Groups

---

Entered	Completed	Source	Type	Reading	Comments	Completed Notes	Usage
08/14/2023	08/14/2023	Read	Actual	4054630			278200.00
05/16/2023	05/16/2023	Read	Actual	3776430			86810.00
02/13/2023	02/13/2023	Read	Actual	3689620			53980.00
11/14/2022	11/14/2022	Read	Actual	3635640			52830.00
08/15/2022	08/15/2022	Read	Actual	3582810			79390.00
05/17/2022	05/17/2022	Read	Actual	3503420			114730.00
02/15/2022	02/15/2022	Read	Actual	3388690			122260.00
11/17/2021	11/17/2021	Read	Actual	3266430			121130.00
08/17/2021	08/17/2021	Read	Actual	3145300			117030.00
05/17/2021	05/17/2021	Read	Actual	3028270			78100.00
02/17/2021	02/17/2021	Read	Actual	2950170			62760.00
11/17/2020	11/17/2020	Read	Actual	2887410			49530.00
08/18/2020	08/18/2020	Read	Actual	2837880			45980.00
05/18/2020	05/18/2020	Read	Actual	2791900			53390.00
02/18/2020	02/18/2020	Read	Actual	2738510			49520.00

Average Quarterly Usage

**5 Chestnut Street Average Bill**

<b>Prior Year's Usage</b>	
<b>Bill Date</b>	<b>Usage</b>
23-May	86,810
23-Feb	53,980
22-Nov	52,830
22-Aug	79,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>273,010</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>68,253</b>

<b>Sewer</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Usage</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tier 1	\$0.01634	21,000	\$ 343.14
Tier 2	\$0.02042	47,253	\$ 964.90
Tier 3	\$0.02451	-	\$ -
Sewer Service Fee			\$ 41.00
<b>Water</b>			
Tier 1	\$0.00932	21,000	\$ 195.72
Tier 2	\$0.01166	47,253	\$ 550.96
Tier 3	\$0.01398	-	\$ -
Water Service Fee			\$ 43.00
<b>Total Water &amp; Sewer</b>		<b>68,253</b>	<b>\$ 2,138.72</b>

**5 Chestnut Street 100% Water & Sewer Abatement - August Bill**

<b>Total Usage Per Current Bill</b>	<b>278,200</b>
Tier 1 Usage	21,000
Tier 2 Usage	84,000
Tier 3 Usage	173,200

**Previous Bills**

23-May	86,810
23-Feb	53,980
22-Nov	52,830
22-Aug	79,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>273,010</b>
Average	68,253

**Amount Due Calculation**

Amount Billed	278,200
Less Average	68,253
<b>Excess Above Average</b>	<b>209,948</b>

Tier 1			
\$0.00932	21,000	\$	195.72 Water
\$0.01634	21,000	\$	343.14 Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>538.86</b>

Tier 2			
\$0.01166	47,253	\$	550.96 Water
\$0.02042	47,253	\$	964.90 Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>1,515.86</b>

Tier 3			
\$0.01398	0	\$	- Water
\$0.02451	0	\$	- Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Total Usage Due</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,054.72</b>
------------------------	-----------	-----------------

**Abatement Calculation**

Water & Sewer Bill	\$	9,984.05
Less Service Fees	\$	84.00
<b>Usage Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,900.05</b>

Usage Billed	\$	9,900.05
Less New Amount Due	\$	2,054.72
<b>Abatement</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,845.33</b>

**New Bill Total**

New Usage Due	\$	2,054.72
Service Fees Due	\$	84.00
<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,138.72</b>

**Abatement Breakdown**

Tier 2			
\$0.01166	36,748	\$428.48	Water
\$0.02042	36,748	\$750.38	Sewer

Tier 3			
\$0.01398	173,200	\$2,421.34	Water
\$0.02451	173,200	\$4,245.13	Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$7,845.33</b>	

\$2,849.81	Water
\$4,995.52	Sewer
<b>\$7,845.33</b>	

80% Water	\$	2,279.85
80% Sewer	\$	3,996.41
<b>New Bill</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,707.79</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,984.05</b>

**5 Chestnut Street 50% Water & Sewer Abatement - August Bill**

<b>Total Usage Per Current Bill</b>	<b>278,200</b>
Tier 1 Usage	21,000
Tier 2 Usage	84,000
Tier 3 Usage	173,200

**Previous Bills**

23-May	86,810
23-Feb	53,980
22-Nov	52,830
22-Aug	79,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>273,010</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>68,253</b>

**Amount Due Calculation**

Amount Billed	278,200
Less Average	68,253
<b>Excess Above Average</b>	<b>209,948</b>
<b>Half of Excess Above Average</b>	<b>104,974</b>

Tier 1			
\$0.00932	21,000	\$ 195.72	Water
\$0.01634	21,000	\$ 343.14	Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$ 538.86</b>	

Tier 2			
\$0.01166	84,000	\$ 979.44	Water
\$0.02042	84,000	\$ 1,715.28	Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$ 2,694.72</b>	

Tier 3			
\$0.01398	68,226	\$ 953.80	Water
\$0.02451	68,226	\$ 1,672.23	Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$ 2,626.03</b>	
<b>Total Usage Due</b>		<b>\$ 5,859.61</b>	

**Abatement Calculation**

Water & Sewer Bill	\$ 9,984.05
Less Service Fees	\$ 84.00
<b>Usage Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,900.05</b>

Usage Billed	\$ 9,900.05
Less New Amount Due	\$ 5,859.61
<b>Abatement</b>	<b>\$ 4,040.44</b>

**New Bill Total**

New Usage Due	\$5,859.61
Service Fees Due	\$ 84.00
<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$ 5,943.61</b>

**Abatement Breakdown**

Tier 3			
\$0.01398	104,974	\$1,467.53	Water
\$0.02451	104,974	\$2,572.91	Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$4,040.44</b>	

**5 Chestnut Street 100% Water & Sewer Abatement - November Bill**

Total Usage Per Current Bill	237,630
Tier 1 Usage	21,000
Tier 2 Usage	84,000
Tier 3 Usage	132,630

**Previous Bills**

23-May	86,810
23-Feb	53,980
22-Nov	52,830
22-Aug	79,390
Total	<u>273,010</u>
Average	68,253

**Amount Due Calculation**

Amount Billed	237,630
Less Average	<u>68,253</u>
Excess Above Average	<u>169,378</u>

Tier 1			
\$0.00932	21,000	\$	195.72 Water
\$0.01634	21,000	\$	343.14 Sewer
Total Due		\$	<u>538.86</u>

Tier 2			
\$0.01166	47,253	\$	550.96 Water
\$0.02042	47,253	\$	964.90 Sewer
Total Due		\$	<u>1,515.86</u>

Total Usage Due	\$	2,054.72
-----------------	----	----------

**Abatement Calculation**

Water & Sewer Bill	\$	8,440.61
Less Certified Mail Fee	\$	18.10
Less Service Fees	\$	84.00
Usage Total	\$	<u>8,338.51</u>

Usage Billed	\$	8,338.51
Less New Amount Due	\$	<u>2,054.72</u>
Abatement	\$	<u>6,283.79</u>

**New Bill Total**

New Usage Due	\$	2,054.72
Certified Mail Fee	\$	18.10
Service Fees Due	\$	84.00
Total Due	\$	<u>2,156.82</u>

**Abatement Breakdown**

Tier 2			
\$0.01166	36,748	\$428.48	Water
\$0.02042	36,748	\$750.38	Sewer

Tier 3			
\$0.01398	132,630	\$1,854.17	Water
\$0.02451	132,630	\$3,250.76	Sewer
Total Due		<u>\$6,283.79</u>	

\$2,282.64	Water
\$4,001.15	Sewer
<u>\$6,283.79</u>	

80% Water	\$	1,826.11
80% Sewer	\$	3,200.92
New Bill	\$	<u>3,413.58</u>
	\$	<u>8,440.61</u>



**5 Chestnut Street 50% Water & Sewer Abatement - November Bill**

<b>Total Usage Per Current Bill</b>	<b>237,630</b>
Tier 1 Usage	21,000
Tier 2 Usage	84,000
Tier 3 Usage	132,630

**Previous Bills**

23-May	86,810
23-Feb	53,980
22-Nov	52,830
22-Aug	79,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>273,010</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>68,253</b>

**Amount Due Calculation**

Amount Billed	237,630
<i>Less Average</i>	<u>68,253</u>
<b>Excess Above Average</b>	<b>169,378</b>
<b>Half of Excess Above Average</b>	<b>84,689</b>

Tier 1			
\$0.00932	21,000	\$ 195.72	Water
\$0.01634	21,000	\$ 343.14	Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$ 538.86</b>	

Tier 2			
\$0.01166	84,000	\$ 979.44	Water
\$0.02042	84,000	\$ 1,715.28	Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$ 2,694.72</b>	

Tier 3			
\$0.01398	47,941	\$ 670.22	Water
\$0.02451	47,941	\$ 1,175.04	Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$ 1,845.26</b>	
<b>Total Usage Due</b>		<b>\$ 5,078.84</b>	

**Abatement Calculation**

Water & Sewer Bill	\$ 8,440.61
<i>Less Certified Mail Fee</i>	\$ 18.10
<i>Less Service Fees</i>	<u>\$ 84.00</u>
<b>Usage Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,338.51</b>

Usage Billed	\$ 8,338.51
<i>Less New Amount Due</i>	<u>\$ 5,078.84</u>
<b>Abatement</b>	<b>\$ 3,259.67</b>

**New Bill Total**

New Usage Due	\$5,078.84
Certified Mail Fee	\$ 18.10
Service Fees Due	<u>\$ 84.00</u>
<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$ 5,180.94</b>

**Abatement Breakdown**

Tier 3			
\$0.01398	84,689	\$1,183.95	Water
\$0.02451	84,689	<u>\$2,075.72</u>	Sewer
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$3,259.67</b>	

# District 1 Monthly Usage

As of November 13, 2023

Address 5 CHESTNUT STREET

	Nov-23	Oct-23	Sep-23	Aug-23	Jul-23	Jun-23	May-23	Apr-23	Mar-23	Feb-23	Jan-23	Dec-22	Nov-22
<b>1107900-0</b>													
<b>1834117460</b>													
CERRATO SCOTT	25,150	110,400	102,080	94,640	119,480	64,080	38,960	29,890	17,960	17,800	17,490	18,690	17,940
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25,150</b>	<b>110,400</b>	<b>102,080</b>	<b>94,640</b>	<b>119,480</b>	<b>64,080</b>	<b>38,960</b>	<b>29,890</b>	<b>17,960</b>	<b>17,800</b>	<b>17,490</b>	<b>18,690</b>	<b>17,940</b>

## **WATER-SEWER ABATEMENT POLICY**

This policy was adopted as amended by the Exeter Select Board on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This policy is administered under the Board's authority pursuant to RSA 38 and RSA 149-I).

### **General Policy**

It is the policy of the Town of Exeter not to grant adjustments to water & sewer bills unless the problem rests with the Town's system. However, the Town recognizes that a high bill resulting from accidental, unpreventable water release can present financial hardship to a ratepayer. While most water releases are preventable, there are certain circumstances when an accidental water release is not preventable.

The intent of this policy is to establish a one-time abatement of up to \$500, during any ten year period, due to an accidental, unpreventable water release that exceeds 50% above normal average usage. This figure is calculated looking back over a 12 month period (4 quarters) from the date of discovery of the leak.

The town is under no obligation to issue an abatement if the leak is not due to a deficiency in the town system.

Discovering and repairing issues to stop water loss is the responsibility of the ratepayer. A courtesy notice from the Water-Sewer Department regarding high usage on a metered property, nor the omission or delay of sending such notice, does not create any liability to the Town.

### **Procedure**

A ratepayer seeking an abatement shall file an application for abatement through the Department of Public Works Water/Sewer Department. The Water/Sewer Department will review information submitted regarding abatement requests due to unpreventable leakage, and perform a leak check if necessary. The Department reviews the application and makes a recommendation to the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee whether to grant abatement based on the policy.

The Water/Sewer Committee meets after receiving the Department recommendation and makes a determination on the abatement request. Decisions on abatements will be made in the most timely manner possible based on town committee schedules. The Water-Sewer Department will inform the applicant of the date, time, and place the abatement application will be discussed by the Water-Sewer Advisory Committee.

Water/Sewer Committee meetings are held in public unless a request needs to be discussed in a non public session under RSA 91A, for acceptable exceptions identified in RSA 91A.

The deadline for submitting an abatement application is 90 days after receipt of the date of the water and sewer bill containing the qualifying amount for which an abatement is sought.

The Select Board will handle appeals from denial of abatements by the Water-Sewer Advisory Committee, under this policy. As a matter of course, the Select Board will sign all abatements granted in their role as water/sewer commissioners under RSA 38:28 and RSA 149-I.

The ratepayer is always encouraged to attend the public meeting to discuss the abatement, but is not required to attend.

---

### **Further Information**

Landlords will be responsible for tenant bills in accordance with this policy. Failure by a tenant to pay water and sewer charges will not excuse the landlord of any outstanding obligations.

In order to qualify for abatement, a ratepayer's excess consumption must exceed 50% above their normal average consumption, calculated from a review of a 12 month look-back period, as determined by the Water-Sewer Department. Any request not meeting this standard will not be considered.

The ratepayer must prove that the deficiency responsible for leakage has been repaired or corrected. This repair or correction must be affirmed by the Water-Sewer Department.

The Water/Sewer Department reserves the right to grant adjustments on water use or sewer use or both, such as in the case of a second meter landscaping irrigation system malfunction, billing clerical errors, or meter adjustment/read errors.

In the event that a ratepayer cannot determine the source or cause of the abnormally high consumption (or claims the source never existed), the ratepayer is required to hire a private licensed plumber to assist the ratepayer in trying to determine said source or cause. If the plumber is unable to determine the source or cause of the abnormally high consumption, the Town will take the position that the ratepayer has located and repaired or corrected the source of the leak.

If the ratepayer claims that said source never existed, the Town shall test the meter and make an adjustment to the bill in accordance with NHPUC requirements for meters found to be over-recording. If the meter test reveals an accurate or under-recording meter, the ratepayer shall be held responsible for the entire bill plus the cost of meter testing and shipping/handling.

In the event the source or cause of the abnormally high consumption is related to a leak due to ratepayer negligence such as the failure to maintain internal (private) plumbing fixtures in good repair and/or protect plumbing from freezing, the ratepayer will be held responsible for the entire bill. The Town is not responsible for spigot damage due to freezing or falling ice.

In the event the abnormally high consumption has occurred due to unpredictable leakage not caused by ratepayer negligence or unfortunate circumstances, the Town shall consider granting a one-time, ten year abatement of up to \$500.

Consideration may consider compensation from any other sources, including reimbursement from homeowners insurance via a claim. The ratepayer may be required to submit a written statement from their homeowner's insurance policy provider stating what portion, if any, of the leak is covered by insurance.

The Town shall not disconnect service (for abnormally high consumption) provided the ratepayer pays the entire amount due within the normal payment period or enters into payment arrangements with the Tax, Water/Sewer Collections Office for the excessive amount and is in good standing on all current billings.

The above policy supersedes any prior water-sewer adjustment policies.

Original Policy Date: 10/21/92

Amended Policy Dates: 4/10/95, 6/19/95, 10/16/00, 5/19/08, 3/25/19

---

**5 CHESTNUT ST**

*multi-family  
11 kitchens  
9 baths*

**Location** 5 CHESTNUT ST

**Mblu** 64 / 56 / 1

**Acct#** R4760R

**Owner** CERRATO SCOTT M

**Assessment** \$677,600

**Appraisal** \$677,600

**PID** 1565

**Building Count** 1

**Current Value**

Appraisal			
Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2023	\$376,900	\$300,700	\$677,600

Assessment			
Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2023	\$376,900	\$300,700	\$677,600

**Parcel Addresses**

Additional Addresses
No Additional Addresses available for this parcel

**Owner of Record**

**Owner** CERRATO SCOTT M  
**Co-Owner**  
**Address** PO BOX 366  
 EXETER, NH 03833

**Sale Price** \$0  
**Certificate**  
**Book & Page** 6468/2322  
**Sale Date** 01/09/2023  
**Instrument** 39

**Ownership History**

Ownership History					
Owner	Sale Price	Certificate	Book & Page	Instrument	Sale Date
CERRATO SCOTT M	\$0		6468/2322	39	01/09/2023
CERRATO SCOTT M	\$695,000		4351/1821	00	08/25/2004
ROBERTS WM H REV TR	\$0		3117/1162		

**Building Information**

**Building 1 : Section 1**

**Year Built:** 1880  
**Living Area:** 5,830  
**Replacement Cost:** \$628,141  
**Building Percent Good:** 60  
**Replacement Cost Less Depreciation:** \$376,900

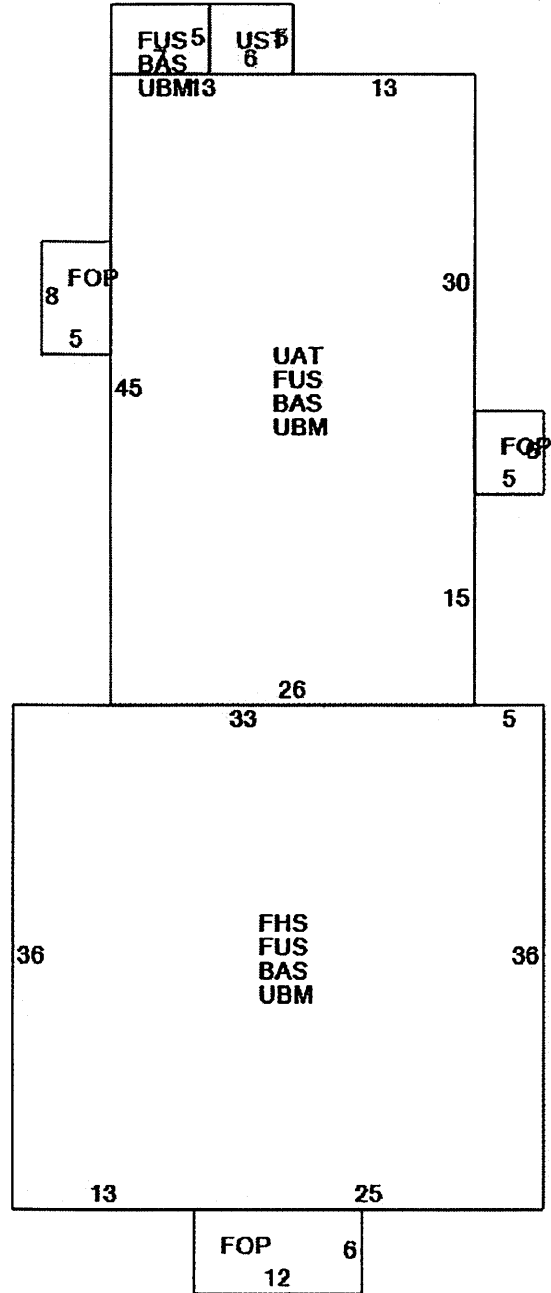
**Building Photo**



(<https://images.vgsi.com/photos/ExeterNHPhotos/\00\01\02\97.jpg>)

Building Attributes	
Field	Description
Style:	Apartments
Model	Residential
Grade:	Average
Stories:	2 1/2 Stories
Occupancy	11
Exterior Wall 1	Asbest Shingle
Exterior Wall 2	
Roof Structure:	Gable/Hip
Roof Cover	Asph/F GlS/Cmp
Interior Wall 1	Plastered
Interior Wall 2	
Interior Flr 1	Pine/Soft Wood
Interior Flr 2	Carpet
Heat Fuel	Gas
Heat Type:	Hot Water
AC Type:	None
Total Bedrooms:	9+ Bedrooms
Total Bthrms:	9
Total Half Baths:	0
Total Xtra Fixtrs:	
Total Rooms:	20 Rooms
Bath Style:	Average
Kitchen Style:	Average
Num Kitchens	11
Cndtn	
MHP	
Fireplaces	
Fndtn Cndtn	
Basement	

### Building Layout



(ParcelSketch.ashx?pid=1565&bid=1565)

Building Sub-Areas (sq ft)			Legend	
Code	Description	Gross Area	Living Area	
BAS	First Floor	2,573	2,573	
FUS	Upper Story, Finished	2,573	2,573	
FHS	Half Story, Finished	1,368	684	
FOP	Porch, Open, Finished	142	0	
UAT	Attic, Unfinished	1,170	0	
UBM	Basement, Unfinished	2,573	0	
UST	Utility, Storage, Unfinished	30	0	
		10,429	5,830	

**Extra Features**

Extra Features	Legend
No Data for Extra Features	

**Land**

**Land Use**

**Use Code** 112R  
**Description** APT 8+UP MDL-01  
**Zone** R-3  
**Neighborhood** C53  
**Alt Land Appr** No  
**Category**

**Land Line Valuation**

**Size (Acres)** 0.5  
**Frontage** 0  
**Depth** 0  
**Assessed Value** \$300,700  
**Appraised Value** \$300,700

**Outbuildings**

Outbuildings	Legend
No Data for Outbuildings	

**Valuation History**

Appraisal			
Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2023	\$376,900	\$300,700	\$677,600
2022	\$376,900	\$300,700	\$677,600
2021	\$376,900	\$300,700	\$677,600

Assessment			
Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2023	\$376,900	\$300,700	\$677,600
2022	\$376,900	\$300,700	\$677,600
2021	\$376,900	\$300,700	\$677,600





# EXETER PARKS & RECREATION

32 COURT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833 • (603) 773-6151 • [www.exeternh.gov](http://www.exeternh.gov)



## TOWN OF EXETER MEMORANDUM

TO: Russ Dean, Town Manager  
CC: Melissa Roy, Assistant Town Manager; Corey Stevens, Finance Director  
FROM: Greg Bisson, Director of Parks and Recreation  
RE: Tree Removal  
DATE: 01/26/2024

---

With the acquisition of the Planet Playground Property, We need to address the massive trees surrounding the playground. These trees have been a concern since the summer of 2023 when a branch fell off the pine trees close to the tennis court, only a few feet from a table. If someone had been in the area, they could have been injured. Curtis Tree examined the trees and confirmed the multiple weak points from rot, insect, and animal activity. Unfortunately, We will need a tree company with a large crane to remove these trees safely. We will need to clear three pine trees and one ash tree. When the playground is renovated, we will incorporate four new trees into the landscaping around the playground.

Only two local tree companies have the equipment needed to remove the tree.

**Seacoast Tree Care: \$7,750.00**

Knowles Tree: \$8,500.00

**To allow the Parks and Recreation Department to expend \$7750 from the Recreation Revolving Fund to enter into a contract with Seacoast Tree Care to remove four trees from around Planet Playground for the safety of our residents and patrons.**

Respectfully Yours,

Greg Bisson,

Director

Exeter Parks and Recreation

## Town Manager Report

**Select Board Committee Reports**

## Boards - Commissions - Committees (as of 1/23/24)

Name	Title	Term		
Kathryn Miller	Moderator	2025		
Vicky Nawoichyk	Checklist Sup.	2026		
John Crowley	Checklist Sup.	2024		
Michelle Berke	Checklist Sup.	2028		
Susan Penny	Town Treasurer	2026		
Andrea Kohler	Town Clerk	2026		
<b><u>Select Board</u></b>				
Niko Papakonstantis	Chair	2025		
Molly Cowan	Vice Chair	2024		
Julie Gilman	Clerk	2025		
Nancy Belanger		2026		
Daniel Chartrand		2026		
Joanna Bartell	Recording Sec			
<b><u>Planning Board</u></b>				
Langdon Plumer	Chair	Apr. 2025		
Aaron Brown	Vice Chair	Apr. 2026		
Pete Cameron	Clerk	Apr. 2024		
John Grueter		Apr. 2024		
VACANT	Alt.	Apr. 2026		
Gwen English		Apr. 2025		
Jennifer Martel		Apr. 2026		
VACANT	Alt.	Apr. 2026		
VACANT	Alt.	Apr. 2025		
VACANT	Alt.	Apr. 2025		
VACANT	Alt.	Apr. 2024		
Nancy Belanger	SB Rep.	Term		
Dan Chartrand	SB Rep. Alt.	Term		
<b><u>Recreation Advisory Board</u></b>				
Mike Wissler		Apr. 2025		
Jen Harrington		Apr. 2025		
Stephanie Papakonstantis	Chair	Apr. 2026		
Nicholas Nordin		Apr. 2026		
Brinn Sullivan		Apr. 2024		
Dan Provost		Apr. 2024		
Bob Dudra		Apr. 2024		
Danielle Capalbo	Alt.	Apr. 2025		
VACANT	Alt.	Apr. 2024		
Molly Cowan	SB Rep.	Term		
Nancy Belanger	SB Alt.	Term		

<b><u>Zoning Board of Adjustment</u></b>				
Robert Prior	Chair	Apr. 2024		
Theresa Page	Clerk	Apr. 2026		
Laura Davies		Apr. 2025		
Kevin Baum		Apr. 2026		
Esther Olson-Murphy	Vice-Chair	Apr. 2024		
Martha Pennell	Alt.	Apr. 2026		
VACANT	Alt.	Apr. 2025		
Joanne Petito	Alt.	Apr. 2024		
Laura Montagno	Alt.	Apr. 2024		
Mark Lemos	Alt.	Apr. 2026		
<b><u>Conservation Commission</u></b>				
Andrew Koff	Chair	Apr. 2025		
David Short	Treasurer	Apr. 2024		
Kyle Welch		Apr. 2024		
Conor Madison		Apr. 2025		
Nick Campion		Apr. 2024		
Keith Whitehouse		Apr. 2026		
Trevor Mattera	Vice Chair	Apr. 2026		
Donald Clement	Alternate	Apr. 2024		
Valorie Fanger	Alternate	Apr. 2025		
Bill Campbell	Alternate	Apr. 2024		
VACANT	Alternate	Apr. 2024		
Michele Crepeau	Alternate	Apr. 2026		
Nancy Belanger	SB Rep.	Term		
Niko Papakonstantis	SB Alt.	Term		
<b><u>Exeter Housing Authority Commission (5 year term)</u></b>				
Margaret Matick	Resident Comm.	2025		
Boyd Allen	Chair	2025		
Vernon Sherman	Vice Chair	2028		
Pam Gjettum	Commissioner	2026		
Renee O'Barton	Commissioner	2026		
<b><u>Heritage Commission</u></b>				
John Merkle	Chair	2024		
VACANT	Treasurer	2026		
Francoise Elise		2026		
Bill Campbell		2025		
John Greuter	PB Rep.	Term		
Pam Gjettum	HDC Rep.	Term		
VACANT	Alt.	2024		
VACANT	Alt.	2024		
VACANT	Alt.	2025		
VACANT	Alt.	2025		
VACANT	Alt.	2026		
Julie Gilman	SB Rep.	Term		

<b><u>Historic District Commission</u></b>		
Grayson Shephard	Chair	2026
VACANT	Vice Chair	2025
Pam Gjettum	Clerk	2024
Kevin Kahn		2026
Pastor Em Heath		2025
Gwen English	Planning Rep	Term
VACANT	Alt.	2026
VACANT	Alt.	2025
VACANT	Alt.	2024
VACANT	Alt.	2026
Julie Gilman	SB Rep	Term
<b><u>Rockingham Planning Commission</u></b>		
Pete Cameron	Alternate	Apr. 2024
Langdon Plumer		Apr. 2026
Gwen English		Apr. 2026
Julie Gilman	SB Rep.	Term
<b><u>Swasey Parkway Trustees</u></b>		
Dwane Staples		Apr. 2025
David Short		Apr. 2026
Darius Thompson		Apr. 2024
Niko Papakonstantis	SB Rep.	Term
Dan Chartrand	SB Alt.	Term
<b><u>Trustees of the Robinson Fund (7 year term)</u></b>		
Leslie Haslam		2028
Gwen English		2027
Katherine Miller		2024
Bill Perkins		2026
Jane McCaffery		2029
Jamie Sirois		2025
Debbie Merrill		2030
<b><u>Trustees of the Trust Funds</u></b>		
Jared "Pat" Curtis		2025
Leone Atsalis		2026
Peter Lennon		2024



<b><u>Budget Recommendations Committee</u></b>		
Elizabeth Canada		
Anthony Zwaan		
Robert Kelly	Chair	
Judy Rowan		
Christine Soutter	Vice Chair	
VACANT		
VACANT		
Enna Grazier		
Christopher Zigmont		
VACANT		
Andrew Elliott		
VACANT		
Timothy Gwynne		
James Darden Rives		
Amanda Kelly		
<b><u>Communications Advisory Committee</u></b>		
Martha McEntee	Chair	Apr. 2024
VACANT	Alt.	Apr. 2026
VACANT	Alt.	Apr. 2026
Herb Moyer		Apr. 2024
VACANT		Apr. 2025
Bob Glowacky	EXTV Rep	
Andy Swanson	IT Rep	
Molly Cowan	SB Rep.	Term
Nancy Belanger	SB Alt.	Term
<b><u>E911 Committee</u></b>		
Eric Wilking	Fire Chief	
Stephan Poulin	Police Chief	
Doug Eastman	Bldg. Inspect.	
Dave Sharples	Town Planner	
Molly Cowan	SB Rep.	
<b><u>Energy Committee</u></b>		
Renay Allen		
Amy Farnham		
Mark Lemos		
Stephanie Marshall		
VACANT		
Cliff Sinnott		
Julie Gilman	SB Rep.	
Niko Papakonstantis	SB Alt.	

<b><u>Facilities Committee</u></b>		
Kris Weeks		2024
Rob Corson		2024
VACANT		2026
Mark Leighton	Chair	2026
Alan Mangan		2025
Dan Chartrand	SB Rep.	Term
Niko Papakonstantis	SB Alt.	Term
Dave Sharples	Town Planner	
<b><u>Housing Advisory Committee</u></b>		
VACANT		Apr. 2024
Lindsey Sonnett	Chair	Apr. 2025
VACANT		Apr. 2025
E. Carrington Heath		Apr. 2026
Pete Cameron	Planning Rep.	
VACANT	EDC Rep.	
Tim Roache	RPC Rep.	
Nancy Belanger	SB Rep.	Term
Dan Chartrand	SB Alt.	Term
<b><u>Human Services Funding Committee</u></b>		
Christine Soutter		
Sherri Nixon		
Cameron Switzer		
Kathryn Ryder		
VACANT		
Pam McElroy	HS/Welfare	
<b><u>River Advisory Committee</u></b>		
Richard Huber	Chair	2024
Lionel Ingram		2026
Rod Bourdon		2026
Terrie Harman		2025
Dan Jones		2024
Carl Wikstrom	Water-Sewer Rep.	
Warren Biggins	PEA Rep.	
Trevor Mattera	Conservation Rep.	
Niko Papakonstantis	SB Rep.	Term



<b><u>Sustainability Advisory Committee</u></b>		
Chetana Parmar	Chair	Apr. 2024
Christopher Zigmont		Apr. 2025
Ryan Jean		Apr. 2024
VACANT		Apr. 2024
Nina Braun		Apr. 2026
VACANT		Apr. 2026
Jackie Ojala		Apr. 2025
Kristen Murphy	Conservation & Sustainability Planner	
Dan Chartrand	SB Rep.	Term
Niko Papakonstantis	SB Alt.	Term
<b><u>Water/Sewer Advisory Committee</u></b>		
Bob Kelly		Apr. 2024
Carl Wikstrom		Apr. 2025
Mark Fabian		Apr. 2025
Ben Mosher		Apr. 2026
VACANT		Apr. 2026
VACANT		Apr. 2026
Alan Mangan		Apr. 2024
Molly Cowan	SB Rep.	Term
<b><u>Tree Committee</u></b>		
Eileen Flockhart	Chair	
Gwen English	Secretary	
Erika Wilson		
Kevin Breen		
Greg Jordan		
Sally Ward		
Sara Sankowich		
Deb Twombly		
Sally Oxnard		
Steven Jones		
Dave Short	ConCom Rep	
Greg Bisson	Parks & Rec	
Kristen Murphy	Planning	
Jay Perkins	DPW	
Niko Papakonstantis	SB Rep.	Term

<b><u>Arts and Culture Advisory Commission</u></b>				
Anthony Callendrello		Apr. 2024		
Todd Hearon		Apr. 2025		
Scott Ruffner		Apr. 2024		
Dawn Amey		Apr. 2026		
Mary-Paige Provost		Apr. 2024		
Marissa Vitolo	Chair	Apr. 2026		
Bruce Jones	Alt.	Apr. 2026		
Danielle Capalbo	Alt.	Apr. 2025		
Florence Ruffner		Apr. 2025		
Niko Papakonstantis	SB Rep.	Term		
<b><u>Library Trustees</u></b>				
Kathy Corson	Chair	2025		
Jennifer Medlock	Vice-Chair	2026		
Laura Wyskiel	Secretary	2024		
Barbara Young	Treasurer	2025		
Katherine Boudreau		2026		
Denise Leonard		2024		
Sarah James		2026		
Linda Tober		2025		
Lisa Childs-Wilson		2024		

EXETER TOWN WARRANT – 2024

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

**First Session**

You are hereby notified that the first session (the Deliberative Session) of the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts at Exeter High School, 1 Blue Hawk Drive. The first session will consist of explanation, discussion and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will also afford voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to warrant articles, except those articles in which wording is prescribed by state law.

**Second Session**

The second session of the Annual Town Meeting, to elect Town officers by official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles as they may have been amended at the first session, will be held on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Talbot Gymnasium at the Tuck Learning Center, 30 Linden Street. Polls for voting by official ballot will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

**Article 1 (Election Article)**

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

**Article 2 Zoning Amendment #1:** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town zoning ordinance, by amending Article 4, District Regulations, Section 4.2, Schedule I: Notes of the Exeter Zoning Ordinance regarding Residential Conversions and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's)? The purpose of this amendment is to continue to allow residential conversions and accessory dwelling units but make the language on conversions and ADU's consistent, require access to municipal water and sewer for conversions, and to streamline the process for property owners.

Recommended by the Planning Board 5-0.

**Article 3 Zoning Amendment #2:** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town zoning ordinance, by modifying Article 6.19 Mixed Use Neighborhood Development? The purpose of this amendment is to extend the provisions of the Mixed Use Neighborhood District (MUND) to include the C2 Highway Commercial zoning district that includes a portion of Portsmouth Avenue between Green Hill Road and the Stratham town line and a portion of Epping Rd from just north of Brentwood Road to Industrial Drive. The MUND allows for mixed use development to occur at different scales. MUND uses a series of incentives to create a mix of housing units (including 10% affordable units) and neighborhood scale commercial uses. Design standards are included to ensure high quality development that is consistent with the scale and historic character of these neighborhoods. The amendment also modifies some existing language to incentivize the use of this innovative land use control.

Recommended by the Planning Board 4-1.

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

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen million five hundred twenty two thousand and five hundred dollars (\$17,522,500) for the purpose of design, engineering and “net zero” construction of a new police station and fire substation on Continental Drive including equipment, furnishings and related costs, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$17,522,500 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Debt service to be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 20-year bond at 3.65% interest: .68/1,000, \$68/100,000 of assessed property value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

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

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

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six million five hundred ten thousand and zero dollars (\$6,510,000) for the purpose of construction of water, sewer and drainage improvements in the School Street area, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$6,510,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. The Town anticipates receiving 35% debt forgiveness from NHDES to offset a portion of the sewer cost of this project. Debt service will be paid from the general fund, and notwithstanding the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt service will also be paid from the water fund, and sewer fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 15-year bond at 3.35% interest: \$.10/1,000, \$10/100,000 of assessed property value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

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

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

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thirteen thousand and three hundred dollars (\$213,300) for the purpose of replacement of the Webster Avenue Sewer Pump Station, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$213,300 of bonds or notes, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Without impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt service will be paid by the sewer fund. Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance. This appropriation is in addition to the \$5,700,000 in bonding authority approved by Article 3 of the 2022 Town Meeting.

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

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

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the purpose of design and engineering of a new surface water treatment plant, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$500,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other items thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto. Without impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt service will be paid from the water fund. Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

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

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

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

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

**Article 9 – Choose Town Officers**

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

**Article 10 – 2024 Operating Budget**

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$22,860,862. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$22,572,676, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Estimated Tax Impact: .29/1,000 assessed property value, \$29/100,000 assessed property value).

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

**Article 11 – 2024 Water Fund Budget**

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a water operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling

\$4,962,773. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$4,828,764, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

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

**Article 12 – 2024 Sewer Fund Budget**

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a sewer operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$7,490,430. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,569,284, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Article 15 – Appropriate to Sick Leave Trust Fund (\$100,000)**

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

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

**Article 16 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – Parks Improvements (\$75,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Estimated Tax Impact: .03/1,000 assessed property value, \$3.34/100,000 assessed property value).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) to be added to the Swasey Parkway Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. This amount is equivalent to the amount of permit fees collected during 2023 for use of the Swasey Parkway. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

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

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

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

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

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

To see if the town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a solar array on the Cross Road Town Landfill. All revenues received for array operations from net metering credits, federal grants and aid, and REC (renewable energy credit) sales will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town’s general fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and town manager, and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (Majority vote required)

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

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

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

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

**Article 23 – Heritage Commission**

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

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

**Article 24 – Citizen’s Petition – ‘Rugg Property’**

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

(Majority vote required)

**Article 25 – Citizen’s Petition – Swasey Parkway**

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

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

**Article 26**

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Niko Papakonstantis, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Molly Cowan, Vice Chair



\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Belanger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie D. Gilman, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel W. Chartrand

We certify that on the \_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024, we caused a true copy of the within warrant to be posted at the Exeter Town Hall on Front Street, the Exeter Public Library at Founder's Park, Exeter High School at 1 Blue Hawk Drive, Talbot Gymnasium at Tuck Learning Campus, 40 Linden Street, and the Town Clerk's Office, 10 Front Street.

Given under our hands and seal this \_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Niko Papakonstantis, Chair

—

\_\_\_\_\_  
Molly Cowan, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Belanger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie D. Gilman, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel W. Chartrand

**Correspondence**



## Bulletin #4: Municipal Utilities, Parking Garages, Retirement, Housing Webinar Series

1 message

NHMA Government Affairs <governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org>  
To: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

Fri, Jan 26, 2024 at 12:16 PM

### New Hampshire Municipal Association

THE SERVICE AND ACTION ARM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPALITIES

# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Legislative Bulletin 04

2024 Session

January 26, 2024



[Live Bill Tracker](#)

### Public Utility Customer Opt-Out Bill Hearing Monday

On **Monday, January 29**, at **1:00 p.m.**, the **House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee** will hear [HB 1576](#), which would require that “any municipal corporation providing electric distribution, or gas, water, or sewer connection . . . adopt procedures to allow residential property owners or existing customers within its utility service area to decline connection or access to the public utility.” NHMA opposes this bill.

New Hampshire has a well-developed system to ensure that municipally owned utilities are financially viable. **HB 1576** would up-end that system by allowing property owners to opt-out of connections, requiring municipalities to complete calculations that are duplicative of the type of information that they need to supply for bonding, and allow property owners to challenge decisions relative to those utilities, including establishment of a civil penalty “not to exceed \$250,000 or 2.5 percent of the annual gross revenue received from sales in the state.”

Most utility projects completed by municipalities require long-term indebtedness (i.e. bonding). Those bonds are paid back by ratepayers (those who use the service), and the terms of the bond (and the ability to pay back the bond over the life of the bond) depends on properties that are connected or are scheduled to be connected remaining connected to the utility.

If a mechanism exists for someone to drill a well instead of staying on municipal water, the bond payment – which does not change based on the number of users – will stay the same. The costs not paid for by those disconnecting will be redistributed to other ratepayers, likely creating a “death spiral” of users disconnecting, preventing the utility from paying back the bond, and leaving the local taxpayers as the backstop. Default on a bond will first result in a reduction in state aid to the municipality. If that is insufficient, the bond issuer can call the whole bond – which must be paid in full – and the municipality will likely be unable to acquire additional debt until the bond is paid. Even after the bond is paid in full, the default will impact the municipality’s credit for many years.



Please contact the [House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee](#) and ask them to oppose **HB 1576**.

## Electric Vehicles Could Be Banned from Parking Garages

On **Tuesday, January 30**, at **11:00 a.m.**, the **House Transportation Committee** will hear [HB 1332](#), which would bar electric vehicles from parking in all parking garages. NHMA opposes this bill.

Presently, what vehicles may park in which parking garages is determined through a combination of individual garage owners and local ordinances enacted through the authority granted by RSA 41:11 and RSA 47:17, VII, VIII, and XVIII. This combination of authority allows municipalities and garage owners to rely on structural engineers to determine appropriate rules, such as weight limits on certain garages.

**HB 1332** makes a sweeping determination without considering the impacts on local parking opportunities. For example, in Portsmouth, the downtown restaurant and shopping district is [primarily serviced](#) by the following municipally owned parking options:

Hanover Street Garage: 900 spaces, including 2 with electric vehicle chargers, + 18 handicap;  
Foundry Place Garage: 600 spaces, including 3 with electric vehicle chargers);  
Worth Lot: 79 spaces + 5 handicap;  
Bridge Street Lot: 12 spaces + 3 handicap;  
Ladd Street Lot: 12 spaces + 1 handicap;  
Hanover Street Lot: 11 spaces + 1 handicap.

Passage of **HB 1332** would effectively prevent the use of the electric vehicle chargers that the City of Portsmouth has installed in its two downtown garages, leaving Portsmouth unable to recoup its investment. Additionally, the bill would limit electric vehicles to 114 spaces, rather than the currently available 1,614 spaces.

Some of New Hampshire's heaviest tourism [marketing efforts](#) are concentrated in Boston, Philadelphia, and New York. According to the [U.S. Department of Energy](#), electric vehicle registrations in the states in which those cities are located number near 200,000 as of 2022 (Massachusetts (49,440), New York (84,670), Pennsylvania (47,440)), and preliminary data indicates that electric vehicle registration numbers have continued to increase. Allowing municipalities to work with parking garage owners to determine what, if any, restrictions are appropriate would allow municipalities such as Portsmouth to appropriately manage the parking situation in their downtowns without needing to build additional surface lots to accommodate the influx of tourists that power New Hampshire's economy.

Please contact the [House Transportation Committee](#) and ask them to oppose **HB 1332**.

## House Judiciary Committee to Hear Non-Germane RTK Amendment

On **Wednesday, January 31**, at **11:30 a.m.**, the **House Judiciary Committee** will hold a hearing on non-germane amendment [2024-0237h](#) to [HB 1696](#). If that amendment looks familiar, it should. The language is identical to [HB 1708](#). Although **HB 1708** is still alive in the Municipal and County Government Committee, we understand that the committee will not act on it until the Judiciary Committee has had the opportunity to determine whether to combine the bills.

The amendment would fund the local government records manager position in the Secretary of State's Office and allow that person to help municipalities manage their records and store publicly accessible records online. As we stated in our testimony on **HB 1708**, we were pleased to work with the prime sponsor and stakeholders to craft a bill that could improve the administration of the Right-to-Know Law.

## Important RTK Bill Advances

On Monday, the House Judiciary Committee voted on a bipartisan 12-8 basis to recommend [HB 1002](#), the large records request bill, as Ought to Pass as Amended. NHMA supports the amended bill.

As we wrote in [Bulletin #1](#), we are asking local officials to contact their representatives to ask them to [support the committee recommendation of Ought to Pass](#). Explain to your representatives how responding to large requests affects your regular job functions and impacts budgets. The bill with the committee amendment has been carefully crafted to ensure that the local option fee would only apply to large requests.

We do not know when the bill will be scheduled to be voted on by the House, but with the pace of action this year, we ask that you contact your representatives sooner rather than later.

## Finance Bills to Watch

This week, public hearings were held on three bills that would provide grants to municipalities for disaster relief and hazard mitigation plan implementation:

- [HB 1466](#) would authorize disaster relief aid for municipalities that suffer damage in natural disasters. It would also establish the New Hampshire Emergency Response and Recovery Fund and the New Hampshire Disaster Relief Fund to



- provide funding for disaster relief and matching funds for federal assistance grants.
- [HB 1488](#) would establish the municipal hazard mitigation grant program, providing funding to municipalities that have hazard mitigation plans in place but insufficient funding to implement the projects in those plans. With initial funding of \$2 million, municipalities could apply for up to \$50,000 in funding once per calendar year.
- In the Senate, [SB 493](#) would establish the municipal emergency disaster relief loan fund and appropriate \$5 million to provide loans to municipalities affected by natural disasters. The loans would be structured at a zero percent interest rate and must be paid back within 5 years.

Two other bills heard in the House this week would introduce silver and gold into municipal financial transactions. [HB 1674](#) would establish gold and silver as legal tender in the state; create a state bullion depository for the storage of bullion; and even allow the use of digital gold and silver currency. While this bill would not mandate the acceptance of gold and silver as legal tender, [HB 1246](#), on the other hand, would create the option for payment of wages in gold or silver and mandate that employers offer employees the option of being paid in gold or silver. NHMA opposes these bills.

Coming up this week, on **Tuesday, January 30 at 1:00 p.m.** in **State House 103**, the [Senate Finance Committee](#) will hold a public hearing on [SB 553](#). This bill would require that all funds held by the Public Deposit Investment Pool in New Hampshire (NH PDIP) be insured and collateralized and invested or deposited within the state.

For more legislation affecting municipal budgets, refer to the next article, “More Retirement Bills.”

## More Retirement Bills

This year, there are 20 stand-alone New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) bills that would have a fiscal impact on municipalities and schools. In most cases, it is not the policy objective that NHMA members oppose, but the significant costs that will be downshifted to municipalities and taxpayers if the legislation is passed.

On the bright side, two of these bills would help decrease municipal costs. **Please contact your legislators and ask them to support [HB 1279](#) and [HB 436](#):**

- [HB 1279](#) would require that the state pay 7.5 percent of local employer retirement contributions for Group I teachers and Group II police and fire members on an ongoing basis. We saw the benefits of the one-time 7.5 percent contribution in 2021; as an on-going payment, this proposal would restore a small portion of the state’s promise dating back to 1967 to pay 35 percent of the employer costs for Group I teacher and Group II police and fire.
- [HB 436](#), a 2023 bill that has been amended, would appropriate \$50 million in fiscal year 2024 for the purpose of reducing the retirement system’s unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) determined under RSA 100-A:16, II. Over a 20-year period a \$50 million payment applied in FY 2024 could have a compounded savings impact of \$105 million.

Several additional bills propose policy changes to RSA 100-A, and *many* will have an impact on municipal employer costs:

- [HB 1307](#) would make a one-time state funded supplemental allowance of \$500 to accidental disability benefit recipients whose annual benefit is less than \$40,000. There is no municipal cost.
- [HB 1451](#) would require that mandatory overtime be reported as part of the full base rate of compensation. There would be an indeterminable, but certain, cost to this proposal.
- [HB 1647](#) would increase the multiplier for Group II Tier B and C members (and future hires) to 2.5 percent for all years worked in excess of 10 years. The bill includes a \$55.9 million state appropriation to offset the cost, but Group II employers would still have an ongoing annual cost of \$4.09 million.
- [HB 1653](#) would modify the definition of earnable compensation for Group II members hired prior to July 1, 2011, and who did not attain vested status prior to January 1, 2012. This bill adds \$26.9 million to the UAAL, having an annual ongoing cost of \$2.88 million for Group II employers.
- [HB 1673](#) would redefine the average final compensation for Group II members hired prior to July 1, 2011, and who did not attain vested status prior to January 1, 2012. This bill adds \$18.5 million to the UAAL, having an annual ongoing cost of \$2.04 million for Group II employers.
- [SB 309](#) would reduce the vesting period for retirement system benefits from 10 years to 5 years. The fiscal note indicated that this bill will actually reduce the unfunded liability by \$12.1 million but would increase the future benefits resulting in a \$2.12 million ongoing annual costs across all groups.

## Local Solutions to the State’s Housing Crisis Webinar Series

NHMA is proud to partner with New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs, New Hampshire Planners Association, New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions, University of New Hampshire Extension, PLAN NH, New Hampshire Housing, Community Development Finance Authority, and the Center for Ethics in Society at Saint Anselm College on a 5-part webinar

series focusing on local solutions to New Hampshire's housing shortage, which will kick off on February 15 with a program titled "[Our Housing Shortage](#)."

The other programs in the series are:

["The Intersection of Development and Clean Water"](#) (Thursday, February 22)

["YIMBYism: A Different Approach to Development"](#) (Thursday, February 29)

["Transfer of Development Rights 101: A Primer"](#) (Thursday, March 7)

["Attracting Developers"](#) (Thursday, March 14)

The series will highlight a variety of actions municipalities are taking to improve the housing shortage. We've all seen numerous news reports about, for instance, the [2,717 housing units that will shortly be under construction in Concord](#) (a [14% increase](#) in housing units), but this series will delve into the factors that lead to success and how growth can balance against existing demands for municipal services. We hope that you will register via the links above and join us during this series.

## Get Involved in NHMA's Legislative Policy Process

NHMA's biennial legislative policy process is getting underway. As a first step, we are recruiting volunteers to serve on our three legislative policy committees. These committees will review legislative policy proposals submitted by local officials and make recommendations on those policies, which will go to the NHMA Legislative Policy Conference in September.

*If you are a municipal official in a city or town and are interested in serving on one of the policy committees, please contact the Government Affairs staff at 603-224-7447 or [governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org).*

Each of the committees deals with a different set of municipal issues. The committees and their subject areas are as follows:

- [Finance and Revenue](#) – budgeting, revenue, tax exemptions, current use, assessing, tax collection, retirement issues, education funding.
- [General Administration and Governance](#) – elections, Right-to-Know Law, labor, town meeting, charters, welfare, public safety.
- [Infrastructure, Development, and Land Use](#) – solid/hazardous waste, transportation, land use, technology, environmental regulation, housing, utilities, code enforcement, economic development.

When you contact us, please indicate your first and second choices for a committee assignment. We will do our best to accommodate everyone's first choice, but we strive for equal membership among the committees. We hope to have 15-20 members on each committee.

There will be an organizational meeting for all committees on **Friday, April 5**. After that, each committee will meet separately as many times as necessary to review the policy proposals assigned to it—typically three to five meetings, all held on either a Monday or Friday, between early April and the end of May.

**Bill Hearings Schedule**  
**NHMA Events Calendar**  
**2023 Final Legislative Bulletin**  
**Website: [www.nhmunicipal.org](http://www.nhmunicipal.org)**  
**Email: [governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org)**

### **Government Affairs Contact Information**

Margaret M.L. Byrnes, Executive Director  
Natch Greyes, Government Affairs Counsel  
Katherine Heck, Government Finance Advisor  
Timothy Fortier, Communications Coordinator  
Pam Valley, Administrative Assistant  
**25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301**  
Tel: 603.224.7447





## Bulletin #3: Private Roads, InvestNH, RTK & More

1 message

NHMA Government Affairs <governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org>  
To: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

Fri, Jan 19, 2024 at 12:58 PM

### New Hampshire Municipal Association

THE SERVICE AND ACTION ARM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPALITIES

# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Legislative Bulletin 03

2024 Session

January 19, 2024

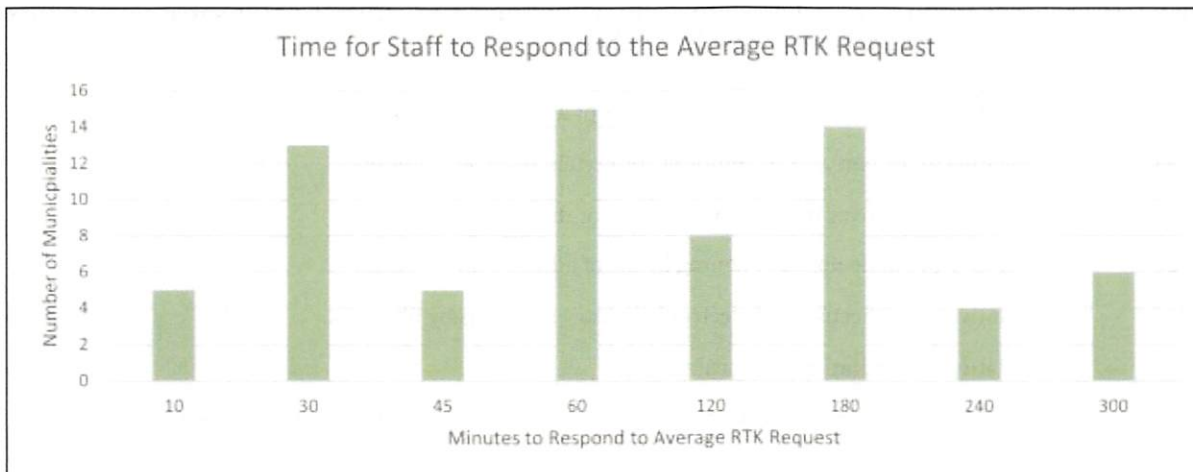
Live Bill Tracker

### Important RTK Bill to Be Acted on by Committee Monday

On **Monday, January 22**, at **9:00 a.m.** in **Legislative Office Building 206 - 208**, the **House Judiciary Committee** will vote on its recommendation on [HB 1002](#), the bill that would address “large” Right-to-Know Law requests. **Please continue to contact members of the House Judiciary Committee as well as your own representatives to emphasize the importance of this bill.**

The committee heard [hours of testimony](#) on Wednesday. We thank the Town of Sunapee and City of Keene for joining us in testifying in support of the bill. We were also pleased to learn that the Attorney General’s Office supports the bill.

We were able to provide the committee with the summary [results of the member survey](#) that we conducted in the fall. Importantly, we were able to share the following chart showing that the maximum amount of time that any municipality reported for completing the “average” Right-to-Know Law request was 5 hours (300 minutes):



This finding is critical because the legislation allows a fee to be charged only when more than 10 hours are spent responding to a request. Further, whether to charge a fee — and how much the fee will be (up to a statutory cap) — is a local option that must be adopted by the legislative body.

Overall, the legislation eliminates the possibility of a surprise bill for requestors and encourages municipalities and requestors to communicate to ensure that the requestor obtains the records that are being sought. An amendment will be presented at the executive session on Monday which provides additional protections for requestors by clarifying that they may appeal to the Right-to-Know Ombudsman if they believe the time or charge is unreasonable.

Again, **please contact members of the [House Judiciary Committee](#) before Monday.** We do not yet know when **HB 1002** will be scheduled for a vote by the entire House, but it is important that you reach out to your representatives to explain to them the costs associated with these large requests.

## Support State Investments in Rental Housing

**On Tuesday, January 23 at 9:00 am, the [Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee](#) will hold a hearing on [SB 384](#) in **State House 103**.** This bill would expand the InvestNH program and allocate \$10 million to provide municipal loans and grants for the purpose of land acquisition and the development of rental housing. The InvestNH program has been well received by municipalities and developers alike, reinforcing the need for state-local partnerships in addressing the statewide housing issue.

There are 70 housing and land use-related bills before the legislature this session. You can view those and NHMA's positions on those bills on [our bill tracker](#). While it's too early to tell how those bills will be received as many have not yet had a public hearing, we do know that legislators are determined to pass legislation this session on housing-related issues. **We encourage officials to ask their representatives and senators to support partnerships, not mandates.**

And stay tuned for an upcoming webinar series by NHMA and our state and regional partners focusing on housing issues and local solutions to those problems.

## Private Road Bill to Be Heard Tuesday

**On Tuesday, January 23, at 9:15 a.m. in Legislative Office Building 103, the [Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee](#) will hear [SB 381](#),** prohibiting a municipality from designating a road as a private road under certain conditions.

New Hampshire is a Dillon's Law state. Municipalities can only do what the legislature allows them to do. Municipalities do not have statutory authority to create private roads. (If you are interested in learning more about what municipalities *can* do with roads, please consider joining our Legal Services Department on May 9 for our [Hard Road to Travel](#) workshop.)

While we applaud the effort to define "private road" – a term that is used throughout the statutes but has never been defined – the proposed definition, unfortunately, would cause problems for those dealing with municipal roads (and, possibly, trails). The definition provides two options for what "private roads" are: (1) a road where a motor vehicle can no longer reasonably gain access to or drive to another road, or (2) where a municipality or town has not maintained or repaired the road for reasonable travel for 5 successive years or more. Existing [RSA 229:5, VII](#) provides that Class VI roads are "all other existing public ways...[including] all highways which have not been maintained and repaired by the town in suitable condition for travel thereon for 5 successive years or more except as restricted by RSA 231:3, II." Therefore, this legislation would introduce a second, applicable definition for roads that are in the basically same condition: "roads that have not been maintained or repaired by the municipality for travel for 5 years or more."

**Please [contact the committee](#) to express your opposition to SB 381.**

## Municipal & County Government Committee Executive Session

**On Wednesday, January 24, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Legislative Office Building 303 - 305, the [Municipal and County Government Committee](#) will vote on their recommendations on the following bills:**

10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1034</a>	relative to enabling municipalities to adopt a homestead property tax exemption.
10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1154</a>	relative to property tax exemptions for certain disabled veterans.
10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1258</a>	relative to a waiver from property taxes for disabled veterans.
10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1086</a>	relative to public notice of zoning board of adjustment hearings.
10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1342</a>	relative to the licensing of electronic literary materials by libraries.
10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1105</a>	relative to application of a local tax cap.
10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1461</a>	relative to live-streaming all properly noticed meetings and hearings of elected and appointed municipal bodies.
10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1708</a>	relative to local records retention.
10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1544</a>	relative to indemnification for municipalities adopting policies to address homelessness.



10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1641</a>	relating to requiring large parking lots to have a solar power canopy.
10:00 AM	<a href="#">HB 1396</a>	relative to prohibiting municipal inspections of owner-occupied units of multi-unit housing.

If you have not yet weighed in on any of these bills, please contact the [Municipal and County Government Committee](#) before Wednesday. Click on any bill to see NHMA's position and read more.

## An Unwanted Trade

On **Wednesday, January 24**, at **2:10 p.m.** in **Legislative Office Building 303 - 305**, the [House Municipal and County Government Committee](#) will hear [HB 1297](#), which proposes a trade of sorts. The bill does three things:

First, the bill prohibits municipalities from “enacting any ordinance that prohibits, regulates, or restricts the use of residential land or structures therein unless the ordinance directly conserves and promotes the health or safety, or general welfare of the community and residents.” RSA 674:16 already limits municipal zoning authority to “promoting the health, safety, or the general welfare of the community.” As such, this section appears to have no legal effect, other than to require “specific written findings” on which the ordinance is based.

Second, the bill prohibits ordinances that prohibit, regulate, or restrict the use or types of housing; home sizes; building, energy, water, or septic technologies; lot sizes; or residential structures if these uses, sizes, sites, technologies, lots, and or locations meet federal and state standards for health and safety for both inhabitants and other residents of that community and environmental impacts. Presumably, this means residential structures would be allowed everywhere if they meet federal and state standards.

Third, the bill allows municipalities to “adopt rights-based ordinances as that term is defined in other jurisdictions to restrict specific commercial practices in their jurisdiction, provided such ordinances are for the interest of the health and safety of the residents, including protection of the natural resources and ecosystem of the region, based on best scientific understanding of the direct effects of such practices on such.”

To our knowledge, only a handful of towns have adopted such ordinances, which are not enforceable under current law.

While we support increasing municipal authority to enforce rights-based ordinances, our [member-adopted legislative policies and principles](#) clearly require NHMA to oppose statewide zoning mandates. We ask local officials to join us on Wednesday in opposing **HB 1297** to explain to the House Municipal and County Government Committee why this is an unfair trade.

## Get Involved in NHMA’s Legislative Policy Process

NHMA’s biennial legislative policy process is getting underway. As a first step, we are recruiting volunteers to serve on our three legislative policy committees. These committees will review legislative policy proposals submitted by local officials and make recommendations on those policies, which will go to the NHMA Legislative Policy Conference in September.

***If you are a municipal official in a city or town and are interested in serving on one of the policy committees, please contact the Government Affairs staff at 603-224-7447 or [governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org).***

Each of the committees deals with a different set of municipal issues. The committees and their subject areas are as follows:

- [Finance and Revenue](#) – budgeting, revenue, tax exemptions, current use, assessing, tax collection, retirement issues, education funding.
- [General Administration and Governance](#) – elections, Right-to-Know Law, labor, town meeting, charters, welfare, public safety.
- [Infrastructure, Development, and Land Use](#) – solid/hazardous waste, transportation, land use, technology, environmental regulation, housing, utilities, code enforcement, economic development.

When you contact us, please indicate your first and second choices for a committee assignment. We will do our best to accommodate everyone’s first choice, but we strive for equal membership among the committees. We hope to have 15-20 members on each committee.

There will be an organizational meeting for all committees on **Friday, April 5**. After that, each committee will meet separately as many times as necessary to review the policy proposals assigned to it—typically three to five meetings, all held on either a Monday or Friday, between early April and the end of May.

**Bill Hearings Schedule  
NHMA Events Calendar  
2023 Final Legislative Bulletin  
Website: [www.nhmunicipal.org](http://www.nhmunicipal.org)  
Email: [governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org)**

## **Government Affairs Contact Information**

Margaret M.L. Byrnes, Executive Director  
Natch Greyes, Government Affairs Counsel  
Katherine Heck, Government Finance Advisor  
Timothy Fortier, Communications Coordinator  
Pam Valley, Administrative Assistant  
25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301  
Tel: 603.224.7447

HB 1600-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2024 SESSION

24-2332  
10/05

HOUSE BILL            ***1600-FN***

AN ACT                relative to participation in net energy metering.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Cormen, Graf. 15; Rep. McWilliams, Merr. 30; Rep. Noel, Coos 5; Rep. McGhee, Hills. 35; Rep. Seaworth, Merr. 12; Rep. Wolf, Merr. 7; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3

COMMITTEE:          Science, Technology and Energy

---

ANALYSIS

This bill modifies requirements for participation of municipal hosts aggregating retail electric customers, and of generation assets, in net metering.

.....

Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                         Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through]~~  
                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four*

AN ACT relative to participation in net energy metering.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act; Definition; Municipal Host. Amend RSA 362-A:1-a,  
2 II-c to read as follows:

3 II-c. "Municipal host" means a customer generator with a total peak generating capacity of  
4 greater than one megawatt and less than 5 megawatts used to offset the electricity requirements of a  
5 group consisting exclusively of one or more customers who are political subdivisions, provided that  
6 all customers are located within the same utility franchise service territory. A municipal host may  
7 be owned by either a public or private entity. For this definition, "political subdivision" means the  
8 state of New Hampshire or any city, town, county, school district, chartered public school, village  
9 district, school administrative unit, or any district or entity created for a special purpose  
10 administered or funded by any of the above-named governmental units, ***provided that a***  
11 ***municipal host that is used to offset the load of municipal or county aggregations***  
12 ***pursuant to RSA 53-E shall be a customer of a municipal or county aggregation and not on***  
13 ***utility default service, with compensation for their output made pursuant to RSA 362-A:9,***  
14 ***II.***

15 2 Net Energy Metering; Generator Assets. Amend RSA 362-A:9, XXI(b) and (c) to read as  
16 follows:

17 (b) No generator [~~of greater than one megawatt total peak generating capacity~~] that first  
18 becomes operational after [~~July 1, 2021~~] ***September 1, 2024*** that elects to participate in net  
19 metering as otherwise authorized by statute shall be registered as a generator asset with ISO New  
20 England [~~before June 30, 2022~~].

21 (c) A generator [~~of greater than one megawatt total peak generating capacity~~] that first  
22 became operational before [~~July 1, 2021 that elects to participate~~] ***September 1, 2024 that***  
23 ***participates*** in net metering as otherwise authorized by statute and that is registered with ISO  
24 New England as a generator asset [~~may, at its discretion,~~] ***shall*** retire from such participation in  
25 ISO New England wholesale markets ***at the earliest possible date, provided that any***  
26 ***outstanding capacity supply obligation in the ISO New England market is discharged in***  
27 ***conjunction with such retirement and shall refrain from registering as a generator with***  
28 ***ISO New England for the duration of their participation in net metering.***

29 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HB 1600-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
**AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to participation in net energy metering.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**     State             County             Local             None

<b>Estimated State Impact - Increase / (Decrease)</b>				
	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	Unknown at this time which, if any, revenue source would be impacted			
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			
<b>Appropriations</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

- Does this bill provide sufficient funding to cover estimated expenditures?  N/A
- Does this bill authorize new positions to implement this bill?  No

<b>Estimated Political Subdivision Impact - Increase / (Decrease)</b>				
	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>
<b>County Revenue</b>	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
<b>County Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
<b>Local Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill modifies requirements for participation of municipal hosts aggregating retail electric customers, and of generation assets, in net metering.

The Department of Energy indicates this bill would have an indeterminable fiscal impact on state, county, and local revenues. If the state, a county, or local unit of government engages in net metering as a municipal host and is in a community served by a municipal or county aggregator, the municipal host is used to offset the load of the municipal or county aggregator and the compensation rates will be made by the municipal or county aggregator. The Department states to the extent a municipal host that meets these requirements, the

compensation to the municipal host may increase or decrease. The final tariff and compensation design done by the municipal or county aggregator would determine any revenue impact.

If the state, a county, or local unit of government engages in net metering as a municipal host and is not in a community served by a municipal or county aggregator, there would be no revenue impact. Currently municipal hosts are compensated at the net metering tariff established by the Public Utilities Commission for customers of Eversource, Liberty, and Unitil. This bill would move them from that tariff to a new tariff developed by the municipal or county aggregator. The Department states that it has no way of predicting what that tariff structure would look like in order estimate the impact to revenues.

Regarding state, county and local expenditures, the Department indicates there would be no fiscal impact. This bill only impacts the tariff of the group host for its exports of electricity to the grid. It has no impact on the tariff paid by group members of the arrangements for the electricity they consume, including for members that may be the state, counties, or local units of government. Neither statute nor rule have any prohibitions on group hosts and group members having different suppliers for the electricity portion of their bill.

The Public Utilities Commission states would have no fiscal impact on the Commission. The Commission has no information regarding any potential fiscal impact at the county or local level.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Energy and Public Utilities Commission



## Newfields Exeter Community Forest Working Budget

1/9/2024

<b>NEWFIELDS - 101 acres</b>		<u>Notes</u>
Land Cost - June 2023 appraisal*	\$ 3,525,000	*to be re-appraised in 2024, see notes
<u>Funding</u>		
CFP (federal grant)	\$ 600,000	applying Jan 2024
LCHIP (state grant)	\$ 350,000	\$500K applied/not awarded 2023, reapply 2024
LWCF (federal grant)	\$ -	\$500,000 application submitted Dec 2024, but may not be feasible so not including in budget
Other grants/ gifts	\$ 75,000	
Town Loan (Clean Water SRF), maximum	\$ 2,500,000	awarded, pending 2024 town vote to accept
<i>Loan forgiveness (20%), maximum</i>	\$ 500,000	Amount forgiven, i.e. a grant
<i>Loan repayment (80%), maximum</i>	\$ 2,000,000	Amount repayable/ cost to town
Total	\$ 3,525,000	
	Grants/ Loan Forgiveness \$ 1,525,000	43%
	Cost to Town of Newfields \$ 2,000,000	57%

<b>EXETER - 47 acres</b>		<u>Notes</u>
Land Cost - June 2023 appraisal*	\$ 1,642,000	*to be re-appraised in 2024, see notes
<u>Funding</u>		
LCHIP (state grant)	\$ -	TBD pending feedback from program
DWGTF (state grant)	\$ 500,000	not awarded 2023, reapply 2024
Other grants/ gifts	\$ -	TBD pending further review
Town Loan (Clean Water SRF) or Bond	\$ 1,142,000	pending town approval to apply in 2024
<i>Loan forgiveness (20%), estimated</i>	\$ 228,400	Amount forgiven, i.e. a grant
<i>Loan repayment (80%), estimated</i>	\$ 913,600	Amount repayable/ cost to town
Total	\$ 1,642,000	
	Grants/ Loan Forgiveness \$ 728,400	44%
	Cost to Town of Exeter \$ 913,600	56%

Note: The project team is coordinating with the NH congressional delegation (Senator Shaheen, Senator Hassan, and Congressman Pappas) to explore possible additional federal funds for both Newfields and Exeter.

<b>Other Project Costs</b>		<u>Notes</u>
Project Costs	\$ 510,000	Staffing, due diligence, community forest planning, public engagement, legal
Recreation & Stewardship	\$ 200,000	Parking/trailhead development (Newfields), signage, land management/ stewardship funds
<u>Other Project Cost Funding (not paid by towns)</u>		
Clean Water SRF Planning Grant	\$ 100,000	awarded, pending 2024 town vote to accept
Donations/ philanthropy, other grants	\$ 610,000	campaign planned in 2024

**Acronyms and Budget Notes on Next Page >>**

## **Newfields Exeter Community Forest Working Budget**

### Acronyms

Clean Water SRF or CWSRF = Clean Water State Revolving Fund -- federal loan program administered by state

LCHIP = Land and Community Heritage Investment Program -- state grant program

DWGTF = Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund/Source Water Protection Program -- state grant program

CFP = Community Forest and Open Space Program administered by US Forest Service -- federal grant program

LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund -- federal grant program administered by state (DPR)

### BUDGET NOTES

1. This is an estimated budget, subject to change based on grants and other funding success, a final appraisal of the property in 2024, and other factors.
2. Trust for Public Land and project partners have evaluated numerous state, federal, and private grants that may apply to this project to develop this budget and funding plan. We will continue to seek additional grants and other funding sources to further reduce the cost to the towns if possible.
3. The goal in allocating grants and other funding between the towns is to make each town's share of their land purchase cost close to the same on a percent basis, preferably within 5% if possible. This is the fairest way to divide grants and other funding support, rather than on a dollar basis, given the difference in land costs. It is administratively difficult to "split" grants, so most will be applied to one or the other town to meet this goal.
4. Newfields warrant article #1, if passed, sets a maximum cost to the town of \$2.5M (the CWSRF loan), less 20% in loan forgiveness. Depending on grants and other funding, this amount may be lower. In Exeter, the maximum cost to the town is estimated at \$1.1-\$1.2M, potentially less 20% loan forgiveness. The amounts shown are based on the towns pursuing CWSRF loans with loan forgiveness. If instead either town pursues a bond, this amount would change as it would no longer include loan forgiveness.
5. The project is a package deal for the landowner and contingent upon approvals and funding from both towns, and sale of both parcels together.
6. The land price shown is based on a June 2023 appraisal. The final land price will be determined by a final appraisal in 2024. The landowner has agreed to a ceiling price of 5% over the June 2023 appraisal, and a floor price of 10% under the June 2023 appraisal. If the final appraisal is higher than the ceiling, the ceiling (5% over 2023) will set the price. If the final appraisal is lower than the floor, the towns may choose to pay the floor price if allowed by other funding sources, or the sale may not proceed.



# Newfields-Exeter Community Forest Rugg Property Purchase

## Fact Sheet/ Q&A

<b>VOTING MEASURES</b> .....	<b>2</b>
What are the petitioned warrant articles?.....	2
If I support the project, which Newfields measure should I vote for?.....	2
Can I vote for both Newfields measures?.....	2
Why now, what is the urgency?.....	2
When are the town meetings? When will residents vote?.....	2
What happens if Newfields fails to pass the funding measure/ Article 1 this year? Or if Exeter fails to pass a funding measure next year?.....	3
<b>COSTS AND FUNDING</b> .....	<b>3</b>
What are the costs and funding sources?.....	3
What is the cost to Newfields for the project? What would it cost me as a resident? How does this compare to past investment in conservation (Piscassic Greenway)?.....	4
What is the cost to Exeter for the project? What would it cost me as a resident?.....	5
What are the municipal service costs if the land is developed?.....	5
What grants and donations are anticipated?.....	5
How will the grants be divided between the towns?.....	6
What is the appraisal process to determine the land value?.....	6
What concerns were expressed about the appraisal and how were they addressed?.....	7
<b>STATUS, PLANNING, &amp; TIMELINE</b> .....	<b>7</b>
What planning, information gathering, and review has been done? Coordination with the towns? Public engagement?.....	7
Will there be more review before the town purchases the land?.....	8
What is the project timeline?.....	8
Do both Newfields and Exeter need to proceed, are they linked? What happens if Newfields proceeds but Exeter does not, is there a cost to Newfields?.....	8
Why is Exeter “behind” Newfields in the timeline? What is the boundary question?.....	8
What is the alternative if the towns do not buy the land?.....	9
Is this land developable? How many houses could be built? How does this affect value?.....	9
In the Newfields Piscassic Greenway project the developer had full engineering plans and permits before selling. Isn't that the normal conservation process?.....	9
<b>ABOUT THE PROJECT</b> .....	<b>10</b>
What is the project?.....	10
What are the goals and benefits of the project?.....	10
What are the plans if the project is successful? How will the land be managed?.....	10
What is the proposed Community Forest model?.....	11
What parking exists, and what new parking is proposed?.....	11
What is the Fort Rock trail system? How does the Rugg Property fit in with the trail network?..	11
Who is the project team? What is the project structure?.....	11

## VOTING MEASURES

### What are the petitioned warrant articles?

**Newfields Warrant Article #1**: 125 Newfields residents petitioned for this warrant article to raise funds for the project. The measure would raise up to \$3,700,000 for the land purchase, of which up to \$2,000,000 would be cost to the town - further broken down below.

**The landowners and project team SUPPORT this warrant article.**

**Exeter Warrant Article (number TBD)**: 177 Exeter residents petitioned for this warrant article. The Exeter measure advises the town to move forward with the project and commence fundraising.

**The landowners and project team SUPPORT this warrant article.**

Text for Newfields Warrant Article 1 and Exeter Warrant Article X can be found at [www.savefortrock.org](http://www.savefortrock.org)

**Newfields Warrant Article #4**: This was submitted last-minute to the town with NO coordination with the project team or landowners. This measure includes no funding for the project and if passed it effectively serves as a vote **against conservation and likely would kill the project because it would not meet the Newfields funding deadline or 2025 closing deadline**. The landowner has been clear that a Newfields vote for funding is needed in March 2024 in order for them to continue with the project.

**The landowners and project team DO NOT SUPPORT this warrant article.**

### If I support the project, which Newfields measure should I vote for?

Newfields Article 1. The landowners and project team do not support Article 4.

### Can I vote for both Newfields measures?

While technically a resident can vote for both, **those in support of the project should only vote for Article 1**. If Article 1 and 4 both pass, the project will be at risk with an unclear outcome, and may not proceed. The landowners and project team do not support Article 4.

### Why now, what is the urgency?

The landowners have given the towns until mid-2025 to purchase the property for conservation, and until March 2024 to get approval of town funding from Newfields. To meet these timelines, Newfields must pass Article 1, the funding measure, and decline Article 4 in March 2024 – Newfields funding cannot wait until 2025. Then, with Newfields funding in place in 2024, Exeter can follow with a funding measure in 2025 and still meet the 2025 closing timeline. Further information on the timeline is below.

### When are the town meetings? When will residents vote?

The Deliberative Sessions are on February 3 (Exeter) and February 6 (Newfields) at which amendments to the warrant articles can be proposed and voted on. Thus, if you care about this project and are a registered voter, you should attend the Deliberative Session. Voting Day is March 12 for both towns. Other town meetings for the Newfields measure are January 9 (Newfields Budget Meeting) and January 16 (Newfields Bond Hearing). See other handout for detailed information on the town meetings.





<u>Voting Result</u>	<u>Impact on Conservation Effort</u>
Article 1 passes and Article 4 fails	Conservation effort continues.
Articles 1 and 4 both pass	Project at risk with unclear outcome.*
Article 1 fails and Article 4 passes	Landowners sell for development.
Articles 1 and 4 both fail	Landowners sell for development.

\*Have requested clarification from Select Board in advance of the Deliberative Session on February 6

**What happens if Newfields fails to pass the funding measure/ Article 1 this year? Or if Exeter fails to pass a funding measure next year?**

If Newfields fails to pass Article 1 which includes funding for the project, the loan and grant options that have been put together throughout 2023 will be gone, the funding deadlines will not be met, and the landowner will not proceed with a sale for conservation, close the trail system to the public, and sell the property for development. The landowner has been clear about this timeline and outcome, and has posted signs on their trails to this effect. Likewise, if Newfields passes Article 1 and next year Exeter fails to pass a warrant article that funds the project, the project will fail and the trail system will be closed.

**COSTS AND FUNDING**

**What are the costs and funding sources?**

Land Cost. The estimated land cost is based on an initial appraisal completed in June 2023 (see below for appraisal information). This came to \$3,525,000 for the Newfields 101 acres, and \$1,642,000 for the Exeter 47 acres. A 5% contingency was then applied to account for a potential increase in appraised value between the initial 2023 appraisal and a final 2024 appraisal (see below for price terms), resulting in a maximum land cost of \$3,700,000 for Newfields and \$1,724,000 for Exeter.

Price Terms. **The final land cost and price paid will be set by a final appraisal in 2024. No more than appraised value will be paid.** To bracket this, the landowner has agreed to a maximum price of 5% over the June 2023 appraisal (“ceiling”) and a minimum sales price of 10% under the June 2023 appraisal (“floor”). If the final appraisal is higher than the ceiling, the purchase price will be the ceiling. If the final appraisal is lower than the floor, the towns may choose to pay the floor price if allowed by other funding sources, or the sale may not proceed, at no cost to the town.

**TAKE NOTE: Regardless where the final appraisal and purchase price lands, Newfield’s maximum contribution would be the \$2 million repayable portion of the \$2.5 million loan, and may be less, pending grants and fundraising success, as that maximum is established in the warrant article language.**

*See chart of cost and funding sources on next page.*



**Newfields Land:** Total maximum: \$3,700,000 (includes 5% contingency)

*Town Loan:* Up to \$2,500,000 from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), selected for award in 2023. Anticipated loan terms: 20 to 30 years, 2.8% interest (final terms determined when the final loan application is submitted if the town votes to approve).

- **80% of the loan, up to \$2,000,000, would be repaid by the town. This is the maximum cost to Newfields.**
- 20% of the loan, up to \$500,000, would be forgiven/ grant (note: Additional \$100,000 CWSRF grant awarded for planning)

*Anticipated grants/gifts/donations:* \$1,200,000 or more

**Exeter Land:** Total maximum: \$1,724,000 (includes 5% contingency)

*Town Loan or Bond:* Up to \$1,150,000

*Anticipated grants/gifts/ donations:* \$574,000 or more

Associated Project Costs. \$700,000 is estimated for associated project costs including planning, community engagement, real estate due diligence, property stewardship and management funds, parking area and recreation improvements. These costs would not be paid by either town, and would be covered by grants and private funding.

Detailed budgets and funding proposals have been developed throughout 2023 and January 2024, with the most recent budget available for public review.

**What is the cost to Newfields for the project? What would it cost me as a resident? How does this compare to past investment in conservation (Piscassic Greenway)?**

The maximum cost of the project to Newfields is the \$2M repayable portion of the \$2.5M loan, as established in proposed Warrant Article 1. The estimated annual payment for a \$2M loan with an anticipated 30 year term and 2.8% interest is \$99,400, rounded to \$100K. Newfields has several options to repay this \$2M loan over 30 years, including through property taxes. This would cost homeowners 22 cents per \$1,000 of assessed home value per year in property taxes for the project.

This is similar to the Piscassic Greenway project, in which the town posted a \$1,500,000 bond in 2006 to support a land conservation project, and contributed another \$500,000 to the purchase, resulting in a \$2M contribution by the town. The town will finish paying off the Piscassic bond in 2026, the same year that the loan payments from the Rugg project would begin. Considering this, the incremental cost of the Rugg project will be much lower. From 2024 through 2026 the Town will pay approximately \$64,000 annually (including interest) for the Piscassic bond (prior payments were higher before the town refinanced). Considering this, the incremental cost to the town after the Piscassic bond is paid off would be about \$36,000/year (\$100K annual loan cost, less \$64K annual bond cost freed up). That is about 1.7% of the town's proposed annual budget of \$2.1M in 2024. This represents an incremental cost to homeowners of about 8 cents per \$1,000 of assessed home value per year in property taxes, down from 22 cents. The property tax rate in Newfields is \$15.79 per \$1,000 of assessed home value, one of the lowest tax rates in the state. This incremental cost represents a 0.5% increase in the tax rate.





**Continuing Newfields' Investment in Conservation**

	<b>2024- 2025 annual cost</b>	<b>2026 cost (overlap year)</b>	<b>2027 onward annual cost</b>
Piscassic Greenway Bond <u>\$1,500,000 in 2006</u> 20 year investment	\$64,000	\$64,000 (payment ends)	
Rugg Project Loan <u>\$2,000,000 in 2026</u> 30 year investment		\$100,000 (payment starts)	\$100,000
Total Conservation Cost & Tax Impact (per \$1,000 assessed value)	\$64,000 14 cents/ \$1000	\$170,000 (overlap year)	\$100,000 22 cents/ \$1000
<b><u>Incremental Conservation Cost &amp; Tax Increase</u></b>			<b>\$36,000 8 cents/\$1000 0.5% increase in tax rate</b>

**What is the cost to Exeter for the project? What would it cost me as a resident?**

Exeter is not voting on a funding measure this year, only an advisory measure. Exeter will vote on a funding measure next year, at which point these costs will be calculated with more information.

**What are the municipal service costs if the land is developed?**

The municipal service costs are not known and it would depend on the final size of the subdivision, type and value of the homes, and other factors. However, even with a wide range of potential lots, there would be substantive costs to the town to provide services. Whether or not those costs would be offset by property tax revenue from new houses or whether they represent a net cost to the town is not known. This level of fiscal analysis is not within the scope of the landowner's offer to sell the land for conservation, and is not required for conservation fundraising, nor for the appraisal of the land value.

Regarding potential impact to the school, this would depend on the increase in student enrollment that would result if the land were developed into a subdivision, which is difficult to estimate. According to a report produced by the Newfields Elementary School (NES) Board, current enrollment is 121 students with a maximum capacity of 182 students. The cost per student per year is approximately \$23,500. Current class size is 17 students. At maximum capacity, class sizes would increase to 25-30 students, up to 4 new teachers and staff would be needed, and there would no longer be dedicated classrooms for music, art and STEM. Beyond NES, there would be other impacts for middle and high schools.

**What grants and donations are anticipated?**

Funding from the state and federal grants is proposed. Applications have been submitted to 6 different grants and funding programs in 2023 and 2024, with additional applications planned for 2024.



**Grants Summary:**

- \$2,500,000 awarded – Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan (Newfields) – applied and recommended for award in 2023, requires town vote in March 2024
- \$100,000 awarded – CWSRF grant for planning – applied and recommended for award in 2023
- up to \$500,000 – NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) (state grant) – applied 2023, not awarded, reapplying 2024
- up to \$600,000 – US Forest Service Community Forest Program (CFP)(federal grant) – applied 2024, under review
- up to \$500,000 – NH Department of Parks and Recreation Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) (federal grant) – applied in 2023, under review
- up to \$500,000 – NH Department of Environmental Service Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF), applied 2023, not awarded, reapplying 2024

Additional grants and donations, including private foundation grants and individual gifts, are being considered to try to further lower the cost to the towns. The goal is to fund 40-50% of the land cost with grants and donations, with each town covering the remaining 50-60%.

**How will the grants be divided between the towns?**

For administrative reasons and limitations of the grant programs, it is not practical to divide all grants between both towns. Instead, different grants are proposed for the different towns with a goal of having a relatively equal percent of each town’s land cost covered by grants.

**What is the appraisal process to determine the land value?**

The land value is determined by an appraisal of “fair market value” done by an independent, qualified, licensed appraiser meeting state and federal (“yellowbook”) standards. All public funding sources (loans and grants) have strict appraisal requirements and rigorous appraisal review processes. Typically the appraisal is a two-part process — a first appraisal used for budgeting and fundraising, and a second final appraisal used to set the final purchase price, which is reviewed by the funders. The reason for two appraisals is that appraisals typically go stale after a year and, similar to this initiative, the fundraising process is often two years or more.

An initial, first appraisal was completed in June 2023 for project budgeting, grant proposals, and consideration by the town and landowner. It was done by a competitively selected, licensed, and highly recommended appraiser paid for by the nonprofit organization and project lead Trust For Public Land. The appraisal was done to federal “yellow book” standards. The appraised value and a summary report was submitted to the town of Newfields in June and the full report provided in August. The appraisal was also submitted to state and federal grant agencies as part of grant applications throughout 2023.

A second and final appraisal will be done in 2024 to state and federal standards, which will set the final purchase price as described above. Both the Town of Newfields and the Town of Exeter will be named as users of that report, and will have the opportunity to review, provide input on and ask questions about the appraisal approach, and provide information and data to the appraiser that they would like to be considered. This final appraisal will have a 4-part review to ensure it is publicly transparent and rigorous: review by both towns, review by the state of NH, review by federal funding agencies, and review by an independent third-party appraiser.





### **What concerns were expressed about the appraisal and how were they addressed?**

In the fall of 2023, the Newfields Select Board provided questions and concerns about the appraisal to Trust for Public Land. Those questions were sent to and answered by the appraiser, and a call was set up with the appraiser and all three Select Board members to address their questions. The Select Board's main concerns were around the comparable sales used, mixing land sales with approved/permitted lots with raw land that has not gone through permitting, and that raising the comparable sales average/metric used. The appraiser's response was that he had evaluated the most comparable land sales and considered all data available as of the date of valuation, including properties in all stages of development; that he discussed current development costs with multiple local developers; that the parcel is NOT being appraised as a fully permitted subdivision rather vacant land parcel for speculative development (consistent with the conceptual level of engineering plans that were done by the Ruggs); and that he was not basing the appraisal on the "average" of the sales, so the idea that the data is being skewed by fully permitted sales is incorrect. He notes this is discussed in detail in the appraisal. The Select Board did not provide additional questions or follow up requests on the appraisal following this.

## **STATUS, PLANNING, & TIMELINE**

### **What planning, information gathering, and review has been done? Coordination with the towns? Public engagement?**

There has been an extensive amount of information gathering, planning, review, budgeting, and coordination with the towns, landowner, and potential funding partners since the fall of 2022. Before this, the landowner had discussed the project with the towns for many years. In fall of 2022, the landowner agreed to work with Trust for Public Land and Southeast Land Trust to advance the project with the towns. In total, well over 600 hours of project team staff and volunteer time have been spent on the project in the last year.

Coordination with Towns: Throughout 2023, the project team has held over 20 meetings and site visits including with both town's Conservation Commissions, with the Newfields Planning Board and staff, with the Newfields Select Board, with Exeter staff, and with the Exeter Select Board.

Public Engagement: Two public hearings dedicated to the project were held in Newfields in July 2023 (estimated attendance of 80+) and November 2023 (estimated attendance of 60+). One general public meeting/ information session was held in Exeter, open to people from any town (estimated attendance of 130+). Public engagement at public meetings has been overwhelmingly supportive of the project. Dozens of residents have written to town officials and attended additional public meetings where the project was discussed. Over 1,200 people from across New England have signed onto an open public letter of support, including 319 residents of Newfields and Exeter and hundreds more from surrounding communities.

Property Information and Due Diligence: Extensive information collection and due diligence has been completed including: a preliminary appraisal, title research, a title report and title commitment, a boundary survey and plan, a conceptual subdivision plan and revisions to the plan, a fundraising plan, and detailed budgets. All of this information has been sent or made available to the towns.

Funding Applications: Trust for Public Land worked in cooperation with the Town of Newfields (Select Board and Conservation Commission) and Town of Exeter (Conservation Commission) to submit five



extensive state and federal funding applications – in Exeter, one state grant application; in Newfields, one state grant, one state loan, and two federal grants. Detailed information on grant funding requirements was provided to Newfields, along with extensive coordination with and review by funding agency staff.

Social Media and Website: A Facebook group has been established which can be accessed here: "[Save Fort Rock](#)," and there is a website for the project here: [www.savefortrocktrails.org](http://www.savefortrocktrails.org).

**Will there be more review before the town purchases the land?**

Yes. As with any real estate transaction, final due diligence will need to be completed by the towns and funding partners before the land is purchased. That includes a final appraisal, title review, an environmental assessment to look for any contamination, boundary survey review and resolution of the boundary question with Exeter, and all the documentation required for public grant funding. This will all be reviewed by the project team, towns, and funding agencies in 2024 and early 2025.

**What is the project timeline?**

Past/ Completed

2019	Landowners started talking with SELT and the towns about conservation
Fall/winter 2022	Landowners agree to work with TPL and SELT to conserve land
Spring 2023	Initial meetings with Newfields and Exeter, landowners sign letter of intent
Summer-fall 2023	Initial appraisal, town/public meetings, grant applications, due diligence review
Dec-Jan 2023	Warrant article petitions signed, additional grant applications

Future/ Planned

Jan-Feb 2024	Public Meetings prior to Town Votes
March 2024	Town Votes, first fundraising deadline (Newfields funding)
2024 to 2025	Additional fundraising/grants, due diligence, second/ final appraisal
2024 to 2015	Public meetings/ engagement re: Community Forest Planning
March 2025	Final fundraising deadline (Exeter funding)
Mid-2025	Closing Deadline

Detailed timelines have been provided to the towns throughout 2023, and are available to the public.

**Do both Newfields and Exeter need to proceed, are they linked? What happens if Newfields proceeds but Exeter does not, is there a cost to Newfields?**

Both must proceed together. The landowners will only sell both parcels together, so the project is linked/ dependent on both towns proceeding. If Newfields proceeds and Exeter fails to proceed, the project would stop and there would be no cost to Newfields, because the loan would not be taken out, and all of the project planning and due diligence cost is covered by grants and other non-town funding. While the purchases may not close at the exact same time, the Newfields purchase could not close until the Exeter purchase is lined up.

**Why is Exeter “behind” Newfields in the timeline? What is the boundary question?**

Exeter is behind Newfields in the timeline due to a boundary question between the Rugg property and Town of Exeter property that both parties are working to resolve. Refer to boundary survey Plan D-44047 recorded at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds. The landowner, at their own initiation and significant cost, contracted a surveyor and title researcher to do a detailed boundary survey and detailed title research for the property, an effort that took more than a year. They submitted the title research





report and the above-referenced boundary Plan to Exeter in July 2023. It was still under review as of December 2023, when the warrant articles were being developed. As such, an advisory measure was proposed for Exeter in 2024 with a funding measure following in 2025. Even without funding included, passage of the advisory measure in Exeter in 2024 is critical, as it will show funding programs that there is strong support from Exeter for the project.

### **What is the alternative if the towns do not buy the land?**

Unfortunately, the landowners must sell the land to settle their estate — preferably to the towns for conservation, but if not, then for development. Development and subdivision would eliminate the 12 miles of trails and public access, harm water quality and groundwater supplies, fragment wildlife habitat, and increase municipal service costs. If Newfields does not pass the funding measure in 2024, and Exeter does not pass a funding measure in 2025, and if the towns do not complete the purchase in 2025, the landowners will sell for development.

### **Is this land developable? How many houses could be built? How does this affect value?**

The landowner contracted an engineer to develop a conceptual engineering plan showing 67 house lots across the 148 acres. There are two versions of the plan – a “yield plan” which shows lots spread between Newfields and Exeter, and a “conservation yield plan” which shows lots clustered in Newfields. The engineer took into consideration several elements of feasibility: topographic mapping, wetland mapping, ingress/ egress of roads, zoning and local regulations. The plan was revised to avoid wetlands following a field review, which included walking the entire extent of the proposed road system. The landowner and the engineer presented the conceptual subdivision plan to the Newfields Planning Board several times in 2023 with a request for a preliminary review of feasibility. The Planning Board was unable to provide a preliminary review and suggested the landowner submit a full permit application.

Full, approved and permitted engineering plans would be needed to know the exact number of lots. However, it is highly unusual to do this for conservation and not recommended for the reasons outlined in the next question. As such, the landowner has chosen not to pursue full engineering plans and approval by the Planning Board at this time and is selling the land as-is with a conceptual level plan that was accounted for in the appraisal.

### **In the Newfields Piscassic Greenway project the developer had full engineering plans and permits before selling. Isn't that the normal conservation process?**

No. That was a highly unusual project because the property was owned by a developer and initially proposed for development. This is not the normal conservation process, and not recommended by conservation organizations including Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Southeast Land Trust (SELT) for several reasons: 1) full engineering plans and permits are very costly and take a lot of time to complete, which can significantly impact a landowner's interest, and delay and risk the project not proceeding; 2) full plans are not needed for an accurate appraisal of the land's Fair Market Value value as-is, and in fact can complicate the appraisal process and agency review and approval; 3) given the cost and time involved, fully permitted plans drive up the land value substantially, often putting it beyond conservation funding potential; and 4) the land then usually goes the route of development and not conservation.

In 50+ years of experience across 100+ land conservation projects, TPL and SELT staff involved have seen very few conservation projects done that had full engineering plans/ permits for development.



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

### What is the project?

The project is the purchase of 148 acres of private, undeveloped, forested property owned by the Rugg family in Newfields (101 acres) and Exeter (47 acres). If approved, these lands would become public with the Newfields portion owned by the Town of Newfields and the Exeter portion owned by Exeter. The land would be managed as a community forest with input from the community.

### What are the goals and benefits of the project?

There are many goals and benefits of this project, whether you regularly use the trails, sometimes use the trails, or never use the trails! The project has multiple benefits for the local community.

1. **Create new public land, expanding and connecting two town forests** – Inland Acres expanded by ~265% (~40 > 140 acres), Exeter Oaklands Town Forest expanded by ~24% (~200 > 250 acres)
2. **Protect 30% of the Fort Rock Trails** (12 miles out ~40 miles), preserve trail connections between the two towns and neighborhoods, and support economic benefits to local stores and businesses created by the recreational economy.
3. **Protect water supply of two drinking water wells** in Exeter (property in “wellhead protection area”) and **water quality of two nearby impaired coastal rivers** – Piscassic and Squamscott – through preserving forests and wetlands that filter and absorb stormwater and help with aquifer recharge, and through avoiding the runoff, nitrogen loading, and new wells that may overtax groundwater supplies that would occur with development.
4. **Preserve wildlife habitat**, including potential habitat for 7 state and federally listed species.
5. **Preserve open space, rural scenic character, and quality of life** of the towns.
6. **Improve public access** to the trail network through a new trailhead and parking area.
7. **Establish a Community Forest** where the community has ongoing input into use and management, including recreation/ trails, potential youth engagement/ outdoor education opportunities in partnership with the local schools, and potential sustainable forestry.

More information about each of these goals can be found in the public grant applications.

### What are the plans if the project is successful? How will the land be managed?

The land will be owned and managed by each town, with permanent restrictions to ensure it remains open to the public for multiple recreational uses and kept in conservation. The land would not be able to be sold, subdivided, developed, or converted to another use. Parking would be allowed with limitations (see below). The same multiple recreational uses that currently exist would continue, including hiking, running, biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, birdwatching, geocaching, and snowmobiling on established routes. Buffers for ecologically sensitive areas such as wetlands and vernal pools would be established. Volunteers with the group Fort Rock Riders would continue to manage trails, as they have already done for years, in coordination with the towns. Trail management and other uses would follow a Management Plan adopted by the towns. The vision is that the land would be managed as a Community Forest with input from the public – see below.

### What is the proposed Community Forest model?

Please reference the “Proposed Community Forest Model” document for information. In short, this will involve a public planning process and Community Forest Committee to guide decisions on the forest.





### **What parking exists, and what new parking is proposed?**

Currently there are 5 existing parking areas of various sizes that serve the larger Fort Rock trail system. Four are located in Exeter and one is located in Newfields which is the smallest of them supporting three cars, possibly four. Currently, most of the parking areas are best located to serve Exeter and people traveling from the southern part of the region. The Save Fort Rock effort proposes adding additional parking in Newfields using the conservation project's frontage on Route 87 (Piscassic Road). The new parking area is currently envisioned to hold 10 to 15 cars, possibly as high as 20 but these are estimates and an exact number will be determined through further planning in 2024 and 2025 based on site conditions and design parameters. The lot would have a gravel surface including a kiosk with information about allowed/prohibited uses and maps, and a new trail connecting the parking area to the trail system. The parking area would be visible from Route 87 for public safety and to prevent illicit activities. Route 87 is a state highway and there will be no parking along Route 87. Detailed issues like plowing, hours of operation, and trash receptacle can all be addressed by the community through the Community Forest Planning process and is a decision to be made by the Town. The Town will be responsible for the parking area long-term. It is envisioned the parking area will be built within 1 year of the closing. Design details have not been initiated yet, but could start once funding from the communities and grants are further along. The cost for the design and construction of the parking area will be raised as part of the project and SELT will assist the Town in the design and hiring of the contractors to construct the lot.

### **What is the Fort Rock trail system? How does the Rugg Property fit in with the trail network?**

"Fort Rock" is the collective name used to describe the multi-use trail system that exists in Newfields and Exeter. Consisting of about 40 miles of trails, the network includes land owned by the Town of Newfields, the Town of Exeter, and private landowners. The trail network connects the two towns via a culvert tunnel under Route 101. This trail network is popular for a variety of uses in all seasons - hiking, biking, trail running, snow sports, dog walking, wildlife viewing, photography, etc. and it is known for its wide variety of natural terrain. The recent implementation of newer trail signage and the adoption of phone-based mapping apps for trail usage has led to improved navigation and safety on the network.

The Rugg family have graciously opened their property to the public, and it has been actively used for outdoor recreation for many decades. The Rugg Property contains about 12 miles of the Fort Rock network with trails ranging from wider, doubletrack trails, access roads, to narrower singletrack sections. Their property is the vital link that connects together the Inland Acres Town Forest in Newfields with the Oaklands Town Forest in Exeter.

### **Who is the project team? What is the project structure?**

The project is led by the Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit conservation organization, with support from Southeast Land Trust, a regional nonprofit conservation organization, and Fort Rock Riders, a local volunteer mountain biking group. This team is working in cooperation with both town's Conservation Commissions and Select Boards, with significant support from residents and community volunteers. Trust for Public Land has negotiated purchase terms with the landowner, and will hold an Option Agreement for purchase of the land, with the ability to direct the deeds to the towns.

### **Contact for More Information**

Lynnette Batt, Project Manager, Trust for Public Land, [lynnette.batt@tpl.org](mailto:lynnette.batt@tpl.org)

