

SELECT BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 12, 2025

6:50 pm

Nowak Room, Town Offices

10 Front Street, Exeter, NH 03833

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS AT 7:00 PM

Meetings can be watched on Ch 22 or Ch 6 or YouTube. Attendees can join in person or virtually via Zoom.

To access the meeting, click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86426139388>

To access the meeting via telephone, call: +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Webinar ID: 864 2613 9388

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 how to access the meeting can be found here: <https://www.exeternh.gov/townmanager/virtual-town-meetings>

Contact us at extvg@exeternh.gov or 603-418-6425 with any technical issues.

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Board Interviews:
 - a. River Advisory Committee (April, 2026) – Nick Drinker 6:50 pm CONFIRMED
3. Proclamation
 - a. Public Works Week: May 18-24, 2025
4. Public Comment
5. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Goal Setting Meeting: April 21, 2025
 - b. Regular Meeting: April 28, 2025
6. Appointments/Resignations
7. Discussion/Action Items
 - a. 2nd Reading – Ordinance 101.2 – No Parking – Presentation by David Loch
8. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits & Exemptions
9. Permits & Approvals
 - a. Sewer Reserve Fund Request – Steve Dalton, Water/Sewer Superintendent
10. Town Manager's Report
11. Select Board Committee Reports
12. Correspondence
13. Review Board Calendar
14. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3-II(a,c)
15. Adjournment

Niko Papakonstantis, Chair

Select Board

Posted 5/9/25 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



RECEIVED

MAR 20 2025

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

Interview
5/12/25
6:50 pm
CONFIRMED

**Statement of Interest
Boards and Committee Membership**

Town Manager's Office

Committee Selection: RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

New ☒

Re-Appointment ☐

Regular ☐

Alternate ☐

Name: NICK DRINKER Email: SNDRINKER@COMCAST.NET

Address: 26 FRANKLIN ST. EXETER Phone: 603-686-6409 (C)

Registered Voter: Yes ☒ No ☐

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

SEE ATTACHED

THANK YOU -

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: [Signature]

Date: 3-17-25

To be completed by Select Board upon appointment:

Date Appointed: _____ Term Ending: _____ Full: _____ Alternate: _____



Outlook

[EXT]:Note to SB

From Nick Drinker <sndrinker@comcast.net>

Date Sun 3/16/2025 11:41 AM

To staples@printme.com <staples@printme.com>

Cc Print & Marketing Services 625 <print.marketing0625@staples.com>

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Be cautious of any requests for sensitive information.

Dear Exeter Select Board,

Thank you for considering my application for a position on the Town of Exeter River Advisory Committee.

I am a strong advocate for clean, safe, environmentally sound waterways in and around Exeter.

To that end I serve on the board of the Great Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a national organization dedicated to river, stream, pond, lake and ocean shoreline conservation.

I routinely work with TU colleagues in measuring and recording water quality in Seacoast area rivers for the NH Department of Environmental Services and will

again volunteer to count herring on the Exeter River this spring for DES. We also conduct fish hatching and fly fishing field classes for area middle school and high school students.

I am also a board member of Free the Exeter River, an advocate group pushing for the removal of Pickpocket Dam, which as you know received voter approval this month, made easier by the town government's support. Thank you.

I live on the Exeter River and am an avid fly fisherman as well as a guardian of our condominium's river shoreline. It's amazing what I have pulled out of the river such as plastic lawn chairs, tree branches, clothing and construction materials.

If appointed I would be honored to work with River Advisory Committee members to further the mission of protecting our precious waterways.

Sincerely, Nick Drinker



26 Franklin Street

Exeter, NH

sndrinker@comcast.net

Proclamation

Town of Exeter, New Hampshire
A Proclamation

National Public Works Week

May 18 - 24, 2025

Whereas, Public Works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to public health, high quality of life, and well-being of the people of Exeter,

And Whereas, these infrastructure, facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of Public Works professionals, who are engineers, managers and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving and protecting our nation's transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens,

And Whereas, it is in the public interest of the citizens, civic leaders and children in Exeter to gain knowledge of and maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of Public Works and Public Works programs in their respective communities,

And Whereas, the year 2025 marks the 65th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association,

Now, therefore, I, Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Chair of the Town of Exeter, do hereby proclaim and affirm May 18 – 24, 2025 as National Public Works Week within the Town of Exeter, NH. All people are hereby called upon to promote gratitude, respect and support for our dedicated Public Works professionals, recognizing the substantial contributions they make to protect our health and safety and advancing quality of life for all.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Exeter to be affixed this 12th day of May of the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Niko Papakonstantis,
Select Board Chair, Exeter, NH



Approval of Minutes

Select Board Goal Setting Meeting

April 21, 2025 7:00 pm Senior Center

Niko Papakonstantis, Molly Cowan, Nancy Belanger, Dan Chartrand, Julie Gilman
Russ Dean, Melissa Roy, Corey Stevens, Bill Keegan (Keegan & Associates Consultant)

Each Board Member has 3-5 Goals

Nancy: 1. Keegan Report – Next steps/Prioritize what still needs to be completed. Concern about the effects on the Town's budget.

2. Employees – Update the employee Personnel Policies – including comp time policy
3. All Boards Mtg/In lieu of training session
4. Parking issues – Enforcement mechanisms
5. Get out vote effort in March; possibly have Town send postcards with start date, time, location to increase 17% turnout

Julie: 1. Succession planning (Planning/Bldg)

2. 32 Court Street property determination
3. Fellow SB Members go to training/work w/HDC – Nancy volunteered
4. All Boards training/recruiting/Board open house @ Town Hall to recruit new members
5. Town Hall upgrades/CIP
6. Talk about what is happening at the State House more

Dan: 1. Deal w/shift @ Federal/State level

2. Personnel issues; DPW Maintenance, Water/Sewer
3. Wrap-up Epping Road TIF
4. Fill up land use boards – no open spots including alternate positions
5. Zero in on implement downtown study, bike/ped plan & future complete streets study

Molly: 1. Succession planning

2. Planning for upcoming Census
3. Have Town of Exeter be a leader in Concord
4. Accurately communicate what's happening – convey warrant articles – timing – chatter early
5. Departments being effective while being aware of which projects to take on
6. Employee retention

Niko: 1. Continue to work on Keegan Report

2. Welfare, HR Director, Sr. Coordinator
3. Parking, Biking, Complete Streets
4. Review infrastructure/tie into long-term planning
5. Cognizant of budget – this year/next year – no layoffs, no service cuts
6. Improve senior resources

Miscellaneous Additional

1. Housing Issues: talk with PEA, strategic housing plan; BIA
2. Housing Affordability vs Affordable Housing
3. Enforcement Department: How to work into budget

Strategic Planning Process for the Town of Exeter, NH

April, 2025 - Presented by WG Keegan Associates

What are the Key Steps to a Strategic Planning Process?

- 1) Determine your strategic position.
- 2) Prioritize your objectives.
- 3) Develop a strategic plan.
- 4) Execute and manage your plan.
- 5) Review and revise the plan.



**KEEGAN
ASSOCIATES**
MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

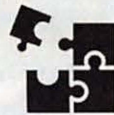
Personnel



Staffing

Personnel and Human Resources Issues are listed in nearly every department with a need for additional staffing and quality recruitment

Retention of existing staff members was a common issue in nearly every department



Responsibilities

Providing clear job responsibilities that emphasize lines of authority and provide clear direction



Training

Providing adequate Training for existing staff members that emphasizes the development of the skills needed to help address succession planning. Teach the leaders of tomorrow.



Credentials

High Emphasis was placed on accreditation and the need to obtain and/or maintain operational certifications.

Housing and Economic Development



Providing Increased Housing options in the community that emphasize Housing Affordability. This need extends to present and future residents as well as to the housing needs of the local workforce.



Possibly leading to the development of a Strategic Housing Plan?

Facility Management

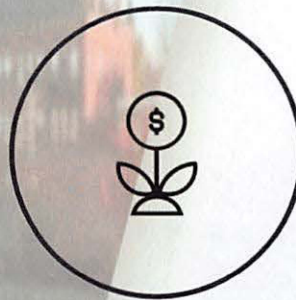
Efficiency

Finding Ways to
Maximize existing
facility space while
making operations more
efficient

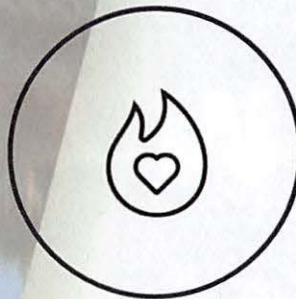
New Facilities

Transitioning to new facilities
needs to be strategically
addressed soon so that day
to day service is not
adversely affected

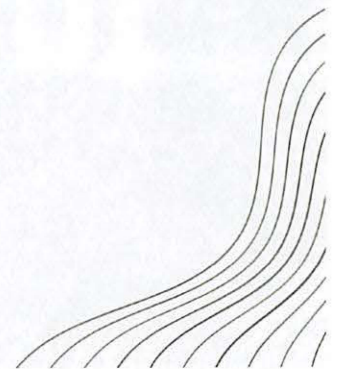
Environmental



Addressing changing climatic conditions and how they affect service delivery in the community was identified as a challenge for several departments.



Hazard mitigation is a growing concern for departments such as Police, Fire, Public Works and Parks/Recreation



Financial

Funding Challenges were identified almost universally citing the need to explore new ways of paying for services that residents and businesses have come to expect in the community

Constantly exploring Grant Programs that help offset the cost of capital acquisitions and the cost of new programs

Funding Challenges



Grant Programs



Offset Costs





Technology

New Programs

Finding ways to address ever changing technology programs that include the use of new software and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Reduce Waste

Finding technology solutions that will help reduce the use of paper

Communications



Emerging Communications

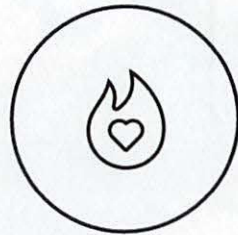
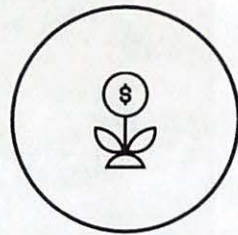
Emerging Communications issues are identified as an important concern on both an internal and external basis.



Effectiveness

There is a need to prioritize effective ways to gather information internally and then finding the best way to share it with the community

Quality of Life

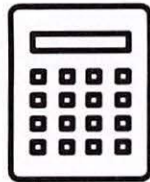


**Finding Cost
effective methods of
maintaining adequate
drinking water, solid
waste
disposal, recyclables
and treating of
wastewater.**



**KEEGAN
ASSOCIATES**
MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

AFFORDABILITY



**Finding ways to maintain
services without making the
community unaffordable for
residents**

Select Board Meeting
Monday April 28, 2025
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. The Board went downstairs to the Wheelwright Room for interviews.

2. Board Interviews

- a. Jonathan Ring for the 250th Celebration Commission
- b. Olivia Campbell for the Human Services Funding Committee
- c. Kent (Sam) MacLeod for the Planning Board

The Board reconvened in the Nowak Room at 7 PM.

3. Proclamations/Recognitions - Municipal Clerks Week

Ms. Belanger read the proclamation for the 2025 Municipal Clerks Week:

Whereas, the Office of the Municipal Clerk, initiated in 1969 by IIMC and endorsed by all of its members throughout the United States, Canada, and 15 other countries will celebrate and reflect on 56 years as a time honored and vital part of local government; and

Whereas, The Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and

Whereas, The Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels; and

Whereas, Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all; and

Whereas, the Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community; and

Whereas, Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations; and

Whereas, It's most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk;

Now, therefore, our Select Board Chair, Niko Papakonstantis, Town of Exeter, hereby proclaim and affirm May 4- May 10 2025 as Municipal Clerks' Week within the Town of Exeter, NH, and hereby extend gratitude, respect, and support for our Municipal Clerk, Andrea Kohler, and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital

45 *services they perform through exemplary dedication to the communities they*
46 *represent.*
47

48 4. Bid Opening - Linden Street Bridge

- 49 a. New England Infrastructure Inc of Hudson MA bid \$1,857,470.

50 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to refer this bid to the Public Works Department for
51 Recommendation back to the Select Board. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
52

53 5. Public Comment

- 54 a. Laura Barker of Beech Hill Road said she runs a non-profit and would like to
55 comment on a charitable tax exemption for 51 Paws Way, which the Town
56 Assessor recommended to deny, with the note that they only benefit a "very
57 small, very definite group of individuals." She founded Hero Pups and in 2016 it
58 became a non-profit. It was founded to provide dogs to veterans and first
59 responders to help with their mental health. Her organization logs 1,800
60 volunteer hours every month and has placed 251 support dogs. They also have a
61 comfort dog program. There is a community training model for these dogs. The
62 people impacted are the schools, Police, Fire, EMS, hospital workers, crime
63 victims, inmates, and families. She doesn't think that this qualifies as a "very
64 small, very definite group of individuals." They have received numerous awards
65 for community service. They have a new building to increase the numbers
66 served. A lawyer contacted her and suggested legal action against the town, but
67 she didn't want to do that. She has transferred the property to the non-profit
68 which should have fixed the issue. She requests that the Select Board read the
69 entire request packet and not just Ms. Whitten's summary. She presented the
70 Board with copies of her letter for the record.
71

72 6. Approval of Minutes

- 73 a. Regular Meeting: April 14, 2025

74 Corrections: Mr. Dean said the date should be April 14, not March 14.

75 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve the minutes of April 14, 2025 as amended. Ms.
76 Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
77

78 7. Appointments

79 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to appoint Jonathan Ring to the 250th Celebration Commission,
80 term to expire 12/31/26. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
81

82 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to appoint Olivia Campbell to the Human Services Funding
83 Committee, with no term. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
84

85 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to appoint Kent (Sam) MacLeod as an alternate on the Planning
86 Board, term to expire April 30, 2028. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
87

88 8. Discussion/Action Items

89 a. 1st Reading – Ordinance 101.2 – No Parking

90 Mr. Papakonstantis said there would be three readings; this is the first,
91 the second reading is May 12, and the final reading is May 19.

92 Mr. Papakonstantis read the amendment to Chapter 1, Parking
93 Regulations. This would add the following to 101.2, Parking Prohibited on
94 Specific Streets: Drinkwater Road, both sides of the street from High Street to the
95 Town Line; Pickpocket Road, north side of the street for a distance of 450 feet
96 west of Kingston Road; and Swasey Parkway, west side of the street from
97 Newfields Road to the turnaround. "No parking" is already in play for Swasey
98 Parkway and Pickpocket Road, but Drinkwater Road has not been done. He
99 opened the discussion to the public.

100 Darius Thompson of 15 Drinkwater Road and Scott Matthews of 19A
101 Drinkwater Road were present to comment on the proposed ordinance. Mr.
102 Matthews said he's lived there for decades and he doesn't see the problem we're
103 addressing with this. When he has guests, they park on the side of the road. Mr.
104 Thompson asked who benefits from this, and who does it impact? Is there a
105 specific section of the road that is an issue, so that just a section could be made
106 "no parking"? At the Academy gates, there are rocks that discourage people from
107 parking in that area, but there's a third gate where people park.

108 Mr. Papakonstantis said there's a letter in the correspondence from your
109 neighbors who made some of the same points. Mr. Dean was part of a team that
110 went out to examine Drinkwater Road with the Police, Public Works, and the
111 Assistant Town Manager. Mr. Dean said we visited 44 Drinkwater Road about
112 the parking issues the resident, Mr. Lock, has been experiencing. We got
113 together and made a recommendation to post "no parking" up and down the
114 street. If we limit it to around 44 Drinkwater we would just push the problem
115 elsewhere. Mr. Thompson said people are parking and trying to access the trails.
116 Why not make the "no parking" around the Academy gates rather than impacting
117 the rest of the road?

118 Mr. Chartrand asked if Mr. Lock's concern was the whole road or just
119 near his house. Mr. Dean said just around his house, but the concern was that if
120 we made it only partly "no parking," it would push the issue down to other
121 residences.

122 Mr. Thompson said there are other things that could be done to mitigate
123 parking there. If parking is eliminated, what are the exemptions for utility work or
124 work on the new well? Mr. Matthews said if someone wants to park by his house,
125 that's fine. Mr. Dean said part of the issue Mr. Lock identified is that people are
126 parking in the travel lane because there isn't enough room to park in the road.
127 Mr. Thompson said there are signs that say "no parking on pavement." Mr. Dean
128 said there are, but people do not comply. Mr. Thompson suggested trying to
129 make that section "no parking" and see what happens. Mr. Chartrand said that
130 seems like a good solution to him. Mr. Matthews said he rarely sees cars parked
131 there.

132 Mr. Chartrand asked if we had feedback from the Academy on this. Mr.
133 Dean said they had no problem with enacting "no parking."

134 Mr. Papakonstantis said we have three readings, we can take this back to
135 our experts to finetune this for the second reading. Ms. Belanger said there are
136 families that park but she doesn't really see a problem with them being on the
137 road. She's having trouble with eliminating another area for people to access
138 walking through the woods. People have been able to access this for as long as
139 she can remember. Mr. Thompson said there's a metal gate after the first gate. If
140 that were to be made into a couple of parking spaces, that would be an
141 alternative. Ms. Belanger asked if the "no parking" would be on both sides. Mr.
142 Dean said yes. Mr. Chartrand asked who we're working with at the Academy,
143 and Mr. Dean said Mark Leighton.

144 Ms. Gilman said with the renaming of streets, a lot of the restrictions in
145 the ordinance are no longer accurate, and the Board should clean this up.

146 Mr. Papakonstantis said the second reading will be May 12.

147
148 b. Exeter Historical Society Lease Agreement

149 Mr. Dean said this is a lease renewal with the Historical Society for the 47
150 Front Street building. There have been a few editorial changes: the word "lease"
151 has been inserted in the first paragraph; the map and lot have been corrected to
152 read 72/197; under section 2C, the word "Town" has been capitalized; under
153 section 3A the word "agreement" has replaced "lease"; under 3B, the 2015
154 amendment has been inserted into the lease agreement; all other terms and
155 conditions, including the rent due, remains the same.

156 Ms. Gilman asked why we are referring to it as a lease and an
157 agreement? Mr. Dean said it's a lease agreement. The terms are
158 interchangeable.

159 Mr. Chartrand said he's in favor of this lease. With the importance of this
160 building as our former Library and the entryway being our Civil War Memorial,
161 there couldn't be a better tenant than the Historical Society.

162 Ms. Belanger said on page 1, where it says "to have and to hold," it starts
163 with "It is further understood and agreed that the lessor and lessee" - it should
164 say "and/or" - "shall decide one year..." Also, regarding maintenance requests,
165 there's no language about how those are handled. Mr. Dean said maintenance
166 requests are made of the DPW. We could add that. Ms. Belanger said on page
167 2C, it says "No interior or exterior alterations to the building will be made without
168 express approval of the Town of Exeter through the Select Board and/or their
169 authorized designee," it should say "No interior or exterior alterations to the
170 building will be made without prior notice and without express approval..." Under
171 3B, the amount of the insurance coverage is not listed. Should it say the
172 minimum amount? Mr. Chartrand said as the lessor, we don't have exposure for
173 the contents of the building, that's the responsibility of the lessee.

174 Jonathan Ring, Vice Chair of the Historical Society Board of Directors,
175 said he's happy to endorse the document when it's in its final form. Mr.

Papakonstantis said the Board could approve the document as revised and amended and then Mr. Ring could come into the office to sign.

MOTION (not voted): Mr. Chartrand made a motion to approve the lease agreement as amended. Ms. Belanger seconded. Mr. Papakonstantis said he would like to make a more formal motion. Mr. Chartrand

MOTION: Mr. Chartrand moved to approve the proposed lease as amended between the Town of Exeter and the Exeter Historical Society at 72/197 for the term of May 1, 2025 - May 1, 2030, and authorize the Town Manager to sign the lease on the Town's behalf. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

c. Water Street Project – Weston & Sampson Contract –

DPW Director Stephen Cronin was present to discuss the proposed contract. Mr. Cronin said we're looking to sign a contract with Weston & Sampson for \$100,000 for Stormwater Planning for the Water Street project, which has been in the CIP for several years now. This is for assessment of stormwater and drainage systems. This stretch of road from Norris Brook to Main Street has runoff and seasonal breakout. The survey would look for locations for stormwater infrastructure. The vendor is prequalified as part of the Salem Street project. We have a loan with 100% principal forgiveness for this work. Additional phases will be in the CIP for next year, and there will be a construction request several years down the road.

Ms. Gilman asked if the \$100,000 SRF Loan is already in hand. Mr.

Cronin said it was approved and we have a loan agreement with DES in hand.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a contract with Weston & Sampson in the amount of \$100,000 for Stormwater Planning for the Water Street project and further authorize the Town Manager or their designee to sign the contract documents. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

9. Regular Business

a. Permits & Approvals

i. Water/Sewer Abatement

Water/Sewer Advisory Committee Chair Bob Kelly was present to discuss this abatement request. Mr. Kelly said the Water/Sewer Committee learned of an issue that has been going on for about a year, involving dirty water on Crawford Ave. Public Works tried to figure out where it might be coming from. It was a faulty valve in the groundwater plant on Lary Lane, which was open during backwash operations due to corrosion. It was dirty water, not contamination or chemical issues. We fixed it in October and haven't had problems since. At the Water/Sewer Committee meeting, Jim Willette spoke for the residents and described the need for remuneration for the hardship they experienced. He proposed a three month abatement of all fees and charges. We felt

strongly that they did deserve some remuneration. He had contacted 11 residents which would have cost the town a total of \$5,300. The committee felt that everyone in the neighborhood should be contacted, and the final number is \$12,000 to cover every resident on Crawford Ave who was affected, which they have accepted. The committee voted 5-0 to approve a general abatement. Mr. Cronin said the total cost is \$12,161.77. Mr. Kelly said it took so long because this was a needle in a haystack. Our policy is that a problem must rest with the town system for an abatement to be considered. There was a lot of analysis to make sure. This would be the largest abatement we've ever given.

Mr. Papakonstantis said he feels that this is a reasonable solution for the town and the neighborhood.

Mr. Cronin said we've learned some things that would allow us to catch this earlier. The filters are cycled so it was an intermittent release of water, and it would disappear and pop up again. We've talked with our control folks about ways to catch it sooner. We added individual turbidimeters to monitor each filter for backwash in the Drinkwater Road well project.

MOTION: Mr. Chartrand made a motion to approve abatements totaling \$12,161.77 for the residents of Crawford Ave that were adversely affected by an equipment failure in our Lary Lane facility; this was a very unique circumstance not related to the normal issues that are taken up by the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

ii. Lease-Purchase Financing for 2025

Finance Director Corey Stevens was present to discuss the lease-purchase financing. Mr. Stevens said per the memo in the packet, in the March vote, the voters approved three pieces of equipment: a sidewalk tractor, a dump truck, and an ADA van, in articles 18, 19 and 20. We received three finance Packages and selected TD Bank with a 5 year repayment term of 4.1%.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the financing proposal with TD Bank with an interest rate of 4.10% for a 5 year repayment term for the purchases of a sidewalk tractor, dump truck, and ADA van as approved at the March 2025 elections, and to further authorize the Select Board Chair to sign the lease resolution authorizing the Town Manager or their designee to sign all documents regarding the closing on this financing. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

iii. Donation Acceptance - Public Art Sculpture

Florence Ruffner of the Arts & Culture Advisory Commission said we've been working with Parks and Rec to get a sculpture for Townhouse Common. An Exeter resident agreed when they were moving to donate the sculpture in their yard. We're hoping the Board will approve it for Townhouse Common near the gazebo.

263 Mr. Papakonstantis said the pictures don't do it justice, it's
264 gorgeous. He's pleased that the residents have donated it to the Town.
265 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept the metal sculpture on behalf of Ruffner Real Estate
266 and TEAM For Townhouse Common. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
267

268 iv. Mats Installation Funding Request

269 Parks and Recreation Director Greg Bisson said we're asking for
270 approval to use the money from fundraising, which was \$13,110, and
271 Park Improvement Funds for playground mats. The installer of the
272 playground will allow us to solicit volunteers to put them in. It could line up
273 with the United Way Day of Caring; if so, we won't use all the money. The
274 installation of the Playground started today. There are 533 mats to be laid
275 down and zip tied.

276 Mr. Papakonstantis said it would be great if we could involve
277 volunteers. Have we run this through Primex? Mr. Dean said not yet. Mr.
278 Bisson said he can do that. In the past, as long as it is rostered we're
279 covered under the town policy.

280 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to utilize and
281 not to exceed the Planet Playground Enhancement funds of \$13,110 and Park Improvement
282 funds of \$4,890 to install ADA mats at Planet Playground and to approve of any volunteer
283 organization to assist to offset the cost once Primex has okayed volunteers working on this
284 project. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
285

286 v. Donation Acceptance – Lang Plumer

287 Mr. Bisson said Lang Plumer, a long-time member of the Planning
288 Board, donated \$510 towards Planet Playground. Ms. Belanger said this
289 is specifically for ADA enhancements for Planet Playground. Should there
290 be a separate account for ADA for Planet Playground, or is it all one
291 account? Mr. Stevens asked if it were Mr. Plumer's wishes that it
292 specifically be used for ADA. The form doesn't say that. Mr. Bisson said
293 all we received was a check. There was nothing that specifically said
294 ADA. Mr. Stevens said if the donor didn't have a specific purpose beyond
295 Planet Playground enhancements, we should leave it at that. Mr. Bisson
296 said he just added that to the memo, it was not at Lang's request.

297 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept the \$510 donation from Lang Plumer for Planet
298 Playground renovations and enhancements and direct that the funds be held by the Trustees of
299 the Trust Funds in a new Trust account called the Planet Playground Renovation Fund.
300 Disbursement of the funds shall be made by authorization of the Town Manager or their
301 designee related to the purpose of renovating and enhancing Planet Playground. Mr. Chartrand
302 seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
303

304 vi. Donation Acceptance – Gullick/Auman Family

305 Mr. Bisson asked the Board to accept the donation of the
306 Gullick/Auman family.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to accept the \$600 donation from the Gullick/Auman Family for Planet Playground renovations and enhancements and direct that the funds be held by the Trustees of the Trust Funds in a new Trust account called the Planet Playground Renovation Fund. Disbursement of the funds shall be made by authorization of the Town Manager or their designee related to the purpose of renovating and enhancing Planet Playground. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

vii. Donation Acceptance – Curtis Tree

Mr. Bisson said Curtis Tree has offered to donate \$1,800 worth of work in the area of Planet Playground.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to accept the donation of \$1,800 of work from Curtis Tree. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

viii. Donation Acceptance – United Way

Mr. Bisson said on May 16, the United Way will assist with cleanup, staining the dugouts, cleaning the tennis courts, general maintenance, planting flower beds, staining a fence around the transformer, and assembling benches. We have 35-40 volunteers come out and all we have to do is feed them.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to accept the services provided by the United Way Day of Caring including assistance with park cleanup and Planet Playground renovation volunteer opportunities, and ask that the Town Manager or Parks and Rec director follow up with Primex regarding the coverage of the volunteers. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

ix. Donation Acceptance – RiverWoods

Mr. Bisson said there is a donation from the Charitable Funds Committee at RiverWoods in the amount of \$15,000 towards Senior Programming. This will enable us to maintain the level of programming achieved with the grant from the Hospital, which is expiring.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to accept the \$15,000 donation received from RiverWoods residents Charitable Funds Committee for senior programming and direct that the funds be held by the Trustees of the Trust Funds in a new Trust account called "Senior Programming;" disbursement of the funds to be made by the Town Manager or their designee for senior programming expenses coordinated through the Exeter Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Gilman seconded. Mr. Chartrand recused himself. The motion passed 4-0-1.

b. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

Mr. Chartrand said he would like more information before he votes on the denial. Ms. Gilman said the packet cited an RSA that she thinks is non-existent. Our town attorney wasn't given enough information. Mr. Chartrand said he's concerned that we're going off a 990 form that is 12 years old. Ms. Barker said she will have a new one in the next two weeks. Mr. Papakonstantis said he was troubled by the information in her letter. He would not be comfortable taking action without addressing the items in her comments. Ms. Belanger said she

351 would like to look into the issue with the Town's paperwork saying "North
352 Hampton." Mr. Dean said we will do a full re-review. Mr. Papakonstantis said he
353 would like to coordinate with Ms. Barker prior to the next discussion.
354

355 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve an abatement for 74/129 in the amount of \$211.70
356 for tax year 2024. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
357

358 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve an abatement for 72/123 in the amount of \$2,414.10
359 for tax year 2024. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
360

361 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve an abatement for 47/9/1 in the amount of \$13,675.17
362 for tax year 2024. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
363

364 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to deny abatements for 65/113 and 65/127/A for tax year 2024.
365 Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
366

367 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to deny a Disability Exemption for 103/13/30 for tax year 2025.
368 Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
369

370 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Disability Exemption for 103/13/31 in the amount of
371 \$125,000 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
372

373 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve Solar Exemptions for 90/29 and 38/11 in the amount
374 of \$10,000 each for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
375

376 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve Elderly Exemptions for 65/59, 55/14, 96/2/11, and
377 104/79/1008 in the amount of \$152,251 each for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The
378 motion passed 5-0.
379

380 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve an Elderly Exemption for 87/14/6B in the amount of
381 \$183,751 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
382

383 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve an Elderly Exemption for 64/105/24 in the amount of
384 \$236,251 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
385

386 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to deny Elderly Exemptions for 64/105/4, 47/8/104, and 90/11
387 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
388

389 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve Veterans Credits for 87/8/c-18 and 54/4/125 in the
390 amount of \$2,000 each for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
391

392 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve Veterans Credits for 54/4/125 and 54/4/34 in the
393 amount of \$500 each for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
394

395 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to deny a Veterans Credit for 94/24/3 for tax year 2025. Mr.
396 Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
397
398 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 71/119/E in
399 the amount of \$62,300 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
400
401 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 62/112 in the
402 amount of \$3,555,000 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
403
404 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 108/1 in the
405 amount of \$337,100 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
406
407 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 64/41/E in
408 the amount of \$2,864,500 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
409
410 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 64/42 in the
411 amount of \$1,277,200 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
412
413 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption 64/43 in the
414 amount of \$1,861,800 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
415
416 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 64/46 in the
417 amount of \$1,540,100 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
418
419 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 71/119/E in
420 the amount of \$4,934,800 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
421
422 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 72/162/E in
423 the amount of \$1,119,500 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
424
425 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 72/169/E in
426 the amount of \$23,366,500 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
427
428 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 72/204/1E
429 in the amount of \$545,200 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
430
431 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 72/208/E in
432 the amount of \$26,497,500 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
433
434 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 72/209/E in
435 the amount of \$30,888,800 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
436
437 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 83/1E in the
438 amount of \$29,884,000 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

439

440 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 83/87 in the
441 amount of \$1,492,900 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

442

443 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 86/11/11 in
444 the amount of \$119,300 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

445

446 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve Charitable/Educational Exemptions for 86/11/12 and
447 86/11/14 in the amount of \$116,600 each for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The
448 motion passed 5-0.

449

450 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 86/11/15 in
451 the amount of \$119,300 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

452

453 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 63/8 in the
454 amount of \$328,300 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

455

456 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 35/4 in the
457 amount of \$553,400 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

458

459 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 97/23/E in
460 the amount of \$24,200,000 for tax year 2025. Ms. Cowan seconded. Mr. Chartrand recused
461 himself. The motion passed 4-0-1.

462

463 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 86/8/1 in the
464 amount of \$240,100 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

465

466 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 86/8/2 in the
467 amount of \$238,600 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

468

469 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 87/36/E in
470 the amount of \$812,000 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

471

472 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 65/146 in the
473 amount of \$2,735,100 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

474

475 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 73/292 in the
476 amount of \$592,000 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

477

478 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 72/206 in the
479 amount of \$1,581,600 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

480

481 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 72/215 in the
482 amount of \$546,800 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

483
484 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 82/13 in the
485 amount of \$4,097,900 for tax year 2025. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
486
487 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable/Educational Exemption for 72/9 in the
488 amount of \$1,515,800 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
489
490 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 83/60 in the amount of
491 \$3,359,200 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
492
493 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 91/32 in the amount of
494 \$2,879,900 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
495
496 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 72/222 in the amount of
497 \$952,100 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
498
499 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 72/222/E in the amount of
500 \$1,020,200 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
501
502 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 73/143 in the amount of
503 \$1,051,000 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
504
505 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 29/26 in the amount of
506 \$1,546,700 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
507
508 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 29/21 in the amount of
509 \$578,100 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
510
511 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 95/61 in the amount of
512 \$777,500 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
513
514 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 72/166 in the amount of
515 \$1,578,400 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
516
517 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 91/35 in the amount of
518 \$1,342,900 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
519
520 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 72/165 in the amount of
521 \$665,200 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
522
523 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 73/5 in the amount of
524 \$564,100 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
525

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 73/300 in the amount of \$1,668,900 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Religious Exemption for 73/299 in the amount of \$2,246,100 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable Exemption/Hospital for 65/28 in the amount of \$42,400 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable Exemption/Hospital for 65/129/1 in the amount of \$12,434,400 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable Exemption/Hospital for 65/130 in the amount of \$14,928,400 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable Exemption/Hospital for 65/131 in the amount of \$51,821,200 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable Exemption/Hospital for 65/131/3 in the amount of \$3,988,700 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Charitable Exemption/Hospital for 71/48/E in the amount of \$74,800 for tax year 2025. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. Unitil will be doing gas main replacement work on Water Street and High Street. The work starts May 5th on Water Street which will last 2 - 3 weeks, then start on High Street for another 2-3 weeks. The work on High Street is mostly on the sidewalks and should have minimal impact on traffic.
- ii. Deeding notices are going out and a response is due by June 6.
- iii. DES and Sportsman's Club met with us regarding issues at the club.
- iv. The Solar Array meter letter we sent to Unitil worked and we'll have the meter in by the end of May. It will take 5-6 weeks to get it in working order.
- v. The Hospital approved EMS using their training room.
- vi. Madison Bailey received her Masters in Public Health.
- vii. He attended the Planet Playground farewell.
- viii. The Farmer's Market is beginning on May 1.
- ix. He attended Paul Vlasich's retirement party last Friday.
- x. SB 297 is in the Commerce Committee at the House. The hearing went well according to the Health Trust. There was a lot of opposition to the bill.

570 d. Select Board Committee Reports

- 571 i. Ms. Gilman attended an HDC meeting where they looked at 89 Front
572 Street, which is the Amos Tuck House with a barn. We saw this building 3
573 years ago and they put on addition on the back; now the new owner
574 wants a new addition. They want to connect the two buildings. We had a
575 lot of discussion about this connection. It was a split decision. The
576 Heritage Commission May 13 will be a public meeting for the Pine Street
577 Historic Survey, a presentation of the findings. We sent letters to property
578 owners in that area. This was just about its history, not for any other
579 purpose. The Senate is having their only public budget hearing on May 6.
- 580 ii. Ms. Belanger attended the Planet Playground sendoff and the Select
581 Board goal session. The Arts & Culture Commission meeting and Rec
582 Advisory meeting were both cancelled for lack of quorum. At the Planning
583 Board meeting, one application was granted, for 57 Portsmouth Ave for
584 six residential condo units. The other application was for Willey Creek,
585 and she recused herself. The design review ended and the Board
586 requested a formal application, so it's not on an agenda yet. At the end of
587 the meeting, they decided to restructure next month. They also talked
588 about two surveys, the Pairpoint Park survey and the RPC survey for a
589 regional master plan.
- 590 iii. Ms. Cowan had no report.
- 591 iv. Mr. Chartrand attended a Facilities Advisory Committee meeting where
592 they began the space needs assessment process. They would like to add
593 to the CIP to hire a consultant on the most efficient way to use our public
594 buildings. Everyone agreed that robust staff input was important. Our
595 Maintenance Department is very understaffed right now. He attended a
596 Train Station meeting; they're still waiting to hear from the Select Board
597 on how to proceed. There was another styrofoam collection event at
598 DPW, and we gathered 16 ½ sacks. It was very successful.
- 599 v. Mr. Papakonstantis said there is a survey out for the three plans for
600 Pairpoint Park. He attended the Planet Playground festivities and Easter
601 Egg Hunt. Bill Keegan facilitated the goal setting session. He was not
602 able to attend Paul Vlasich's retirement party. May 7 at 5:30 is the Exeter
603 Accessibility forum.

604
605 e. Correspondence

- 606 i. A letter the person spoke about at our last meeting.
607 ii. A Jady Hill email
608 iii. A notice from Xfinity with updated information on their programming
609 iv. The DRA results of monitoring 2024 sale inspections for Town of Exeter
610 v. The NHMA Legislative Bulletin
611

612 10. Review Board Calendar

- 613 a. The next meetings are May 12, May 19, June 2, June 16, June 30, July 14, July
614 28, and August 11.

615
616 11. Other Business

- 617 a. Ms. Gilman said there's a good slideshow and discussion on NH Fiscal Policy
618 Institute's webpage. Several proposed zoning laws were pulled off the consent
619 calendar.

620
621 12. Non-Public Session

622 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A3II(a,b,c). Mr.
623 Chartrand seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0 and the meeting entered non-
624 public session at 9:04 PM. The Board emerged from non public session. Mr. Chartrand moved
625 to seal the minutes until the matter is resolved. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion carried by a
626 5-0 vote.

- 627
628 13. Adjournment. Ms. Belanger moved to adjourn. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion
629 carried and the Board stood adjourned at 9:32 pm.

630
631 Respectfully Submitted,
632 Joanna Bartell
633 Recording Secretary

Appointments/Resignations

Discussion/Action Items

2nd Reading – Ordinance 101.2 – No Parking



EXETER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

13 NEWFIELDS ROAD • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 773-6157 • FAX 772-1355

www.exeternh.gov/publicworks • publicworks@exeternh.gov

TO: Russ Dean, Town Manager

FROM: Stephen Cronin, Public Works Director

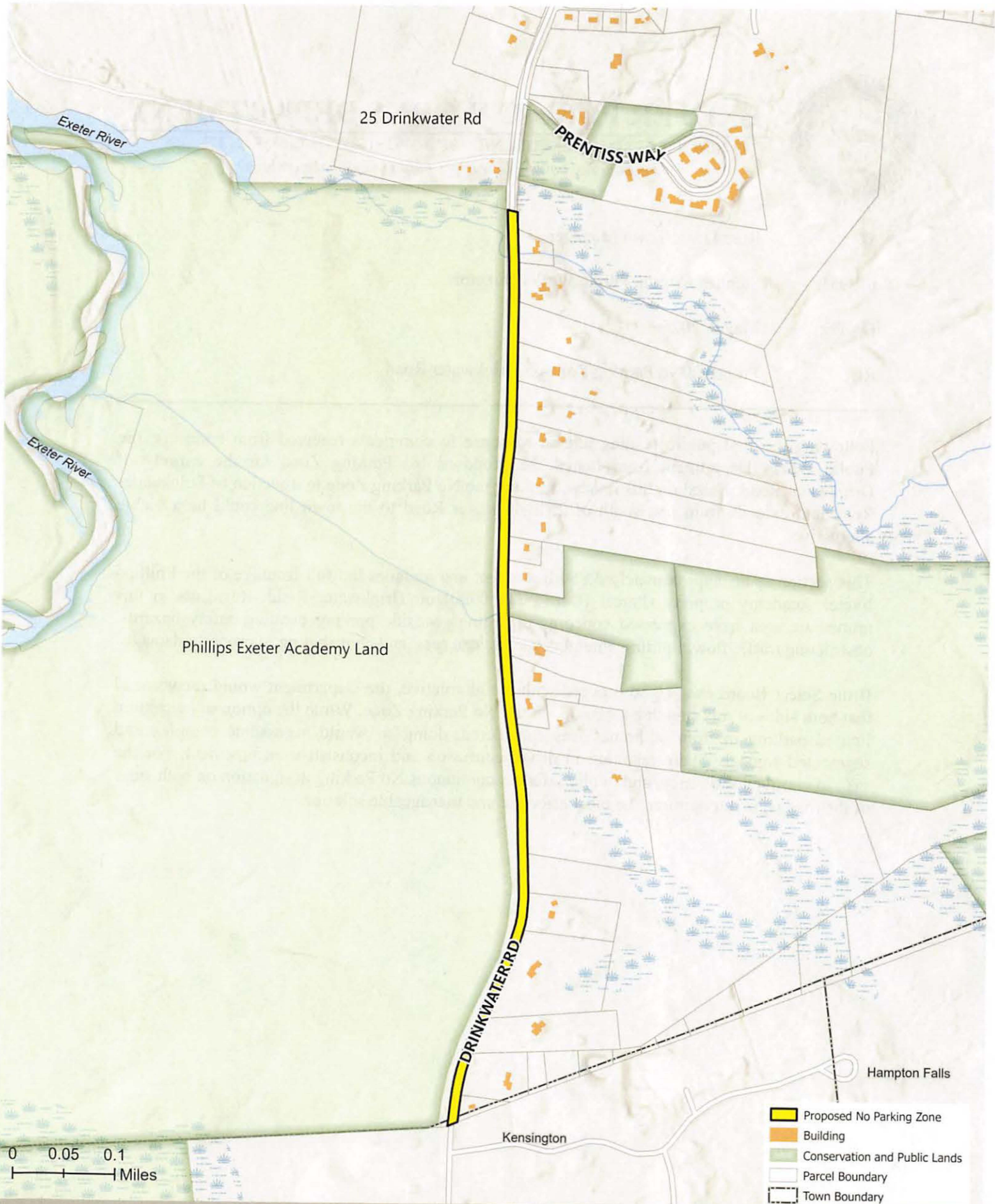
DATE: May 9, 2025

RE: Proposed No Parking Zone on Drinkwater Road

Following the first public reading and in response to comments received from residents, the Public Works Department re-evaluated the proposed No Parking Zone for the entirety of Drinkwater Road. Based on this review, limiting the No Parking Zone to a section of Drinkwater Road that extends from just south of 25 Drinkwater Road to the town line could be a viable alternative.

This section spans approximately 4,850 linear feet and includes the full frontage of the Phillips Exeter Academy property (Parcel ID 071-119-0000) on Drinkwater Road. Residents in this immediate area have expressed concerns regarding roadside parking creating safety hazards, obstructing traffic flow, limiting emergency vehicle access, and contributing to property damage.

If the Select Board chooses to proceed with the alternative, the Department would recommend that both sides of this stretch be included in the No Parking Zone. While the option of permitting limited parking in front of homes was considered, doing so would necessitate complex and segmented signage, likely resulting in driver confusion and inconsistent enforcement. For the sake of clarity, consistency, and public safety, a continuous No Parking designation on both sides of the road is, in our opinion, the most effective and manageable solution.



Proposed No Parking Zone



EXETER TOWN ORDINANCES AMENDMENT
CHAPTER 1
Parking Regulations

Add:

101.2 Parking Prohibited on Specific Streets

Drinkwater Road – Both sides of the street from 25 Drinkwater Road to the Town line.

Pickpocket Road – North side of the street for a distance of 450' west of Kingston Road.

Swasey Parkway – West side of the street from Newfields Road to turnaround.

Signed this 19th day of May, 2025
Exeter Select Board

Niko Papakonstantis, Chair

Molly Cowan, Vice-Chair

Nancy Belanger, Clerk

Julie D. Gilman

Daniel Chartrand

Tax Abatements, Veteran's Credits & Exemptions

List for Select Board meeting May 12, 2025

Timber Tax

Map/Lot/Unit	Location	Amount	Tax Year
103/5	111 Linden St	107.33	2025

Abatements

Map/Lot/Unit	Location	Amount	Tax Year
104/79/413	413 Friar Tuck Dr	217.04	2024
81/38	2 Scammon Ln	53.37	2024
69/3/302	61 Acadia Ln #302	238.39	2024
96/1	78 Deep Meadow	569.28	2024
74/11	7 Cottage St	727.61	2024
85/50	15 Granite St	750.74	2024
95/64/363	21 Sumac St	330.89	2024
65/80	42 Clover St	370.03	2024

Jeopardy Tax

Map/Lot/Unit	Location	Amount	Tax Year
87/14/5B	5 Second St Pinecrest Pk	\$1,173.00	2025

Permits & Approvals

Sewer Reserve Fund Request



TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

13 NEWFIELDS ROAD • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 773-6157 • FAX 772-1355

www.exeternh.gov

Memo

To: Russ Dean

From: Steve Dalton

CC: Melissa Roy, Stephen Cronin

Date: May 9, 2025

Re: Sewer Reserve Request for Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Pump Replacement

We are seeking \$17,000 from the Sewer Reserve Funds to be released to replace one of the two Boerger Biosolids Sludge Pumps.

The pump was taken out of service for regular maintenance in the fall of 2024 due to diminished pumping performance. Upon disassembly it was noticed there was an oil leak. New seals were ordered and installed. The oil leak was still present after the repair had been made. The vendor was contacted they recommended that the pump be sent back to the factory for evaluation. The factory evaluated the pump and recommended that due to the extent of the required repairs of \$9,144.29, it would be more cost effective to purchase a new pump for \$15,957.00 with a 4-week lead time.

We reached out to another manufacturer for a pump that uses a different technology but is comparable, Penn Valley. A site visit was done to Sanford, ME Wastewater Facility to see their Penn Valley retrofit that was done in 2018. They had experienced a similar failure with their sludge pumps and changed to Penn Valley. They are very happy with their decision. The pumps have been running 8 hours a day, 5 days a week without any issues and minimal maintenance. Penn Valley pumps are a simpler design and require much less maintenance than Boerger pumps.

The initial cost of the Penn Valley Pump is \$39,302 plus approximately \$5000.00 for additional parts for the retrofit and has an 8-week lead time. Although the initial cost is more for the Penn Valley the 20-year life cycle costs end up being less than the Boerger Pump. We anticipate including the cost of a Penn Valley Pump in the 2026 budget to replace the current in-service Boerger pump.

Enclosures:

Email – Boerger New Pump Recommendation
Boerger Pump Replace Quote 4-4-25
Boerger Pump Repair Quote 4-4-25
Penn Valley Quote 4-2-25
Boerger vs Penn Valley Life Cycle Analysis



Steve Dalton <sdalton@exeternh.gov>

SO 15402816 Exeter NH WWTP Borger Pump Issues

Eric Juchemich <ēju@boergerllc.com>
To: Steve Dalton <sdalton@exeternh.gov>
Cc: Ben Lippert <bli@boergerllc.com>

Wed, Mar 26, 2025 at 4:45 PM

Good Afternoon Steve,

We received the CL 390 pump last Thursday and have completed the evaluation.

I'm in the process of preparing a quote for the necessary repair parts, as well as a quote for a replacement pump.

Given the extent of the required repairs, it may be more cost-effective to purchase a new pump.

However, I will provide both quotes and a detailed report shortly.

[Quoted text hidden]

The Maher Corporation

Water & Wastewater Process, Pumping & Valve Systems

Quote

Quote No. :: 9396

Attention :: Steve Dalton

Phone :: (603) 773-6168

Fax ::

Pages :: 1 of 1

192 Pleasant Street
Rockland, MA 02370

Phone :: 781-421-2600

Fax :: 781-878-1219

Quote To: **Exeter, NH**

13 Newfields Road
Exeter, NH 03833

Ship To: **Exeter, NH**

13 Newfields Road
Exeter, NH 03833

Quote Date :: **04/04/2025**

Sales Rep :: **Matt Kibble**

Freight :: **Not Included**

Expires On :: **05/04/2025**

Terms :: **Net 30**

Desc. :: **Boerger Repair**

Quantity			Item Number	Description	Unit Price	Amount
Required	Shipped	B.O.				
1			R2812L1	Boerger Rotor body, CL 390 0.7040. tri-lobe, screw profile, ccw	2142.00	2142.00
1			R2813R1	Boerger Rotor body, CL 390 0.7040. tri-lobe, screw profile, cw	2142.00	2142.00
3			R3510L1	Boerger Lobe Tip, CL390 Screw Profile CCW NBR	271.60	814.80
3			R3511R1	Boerger Lobe Tip, CL 390 Screw Profile CW NBR	271.60	814.80
6			SET-CL390-G-ST	Boerger Mounting Set for Lobe Tip. Screw profile Typ CL390 steel Qty (1) Z90009 - Hexagon socket head cap screw M10 x 70 Qty (2) Z48205 - Screw Steel M8 x 16 Qty (1) Z73552 - T-plug, CL 390 + 520, PU for lobe tip, screw profile Qty (1) Z73571 - Spacer, CL 390, PU for Lobe Tip, Screw Profile	17.10	102.60
6			Z73502	Boerger clamping base, CL 390, 1.0038 (part 1) Lobe tip, screw profile	65.80	394.80
2			D35008	Boerger FL/CL; mechanical seal;	305.20	610.40
2			O25041	O-ring 145x3,5 NBR	6.83	13.66

Returned items subject to a 25% restocking fee.

VISA, MASTERCARD and AMERICAN EXPRESS. subject to 2.5% service fee

The Maher Corporation

Water & Wastewater Process, Pumping & Valve Systems

Quote

Quote No. :: 9396

Attention :: Steve Dalton

Phone :: (603) 773-6168

Fax ::

Pages :: 2 of 2

192 Pleasant Street
Rockland, MA 02370

Phone :: 781-421-2600
Fax :: 781-878-1219

Quote To: **Exeter, NH**

13 Newfields Road
Exeter, NH 03833

Ship To: **Exeter, NH**

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Quote Date :: **04/04/2025**

Sales Rep :: **Matt Kibble**

Freight :: **Not Included**

Expires On :: **05/04/2025**

Terms :: **Net 30**

Desc. :: **Boerger Repair**

Quantity			Item Number	Description	Unit Price	Amount
Required	Shipped	B.O.				
				Shore 70		
1			O25121	Boerger O-ring, 314 x 8 mm, NBR	25.20	25.20
2			O25161	Boerger O-ring, 73 x 4 mm, NBR	6.48	12.96
2			O35808	Boerger CL/FL; O-ring; 67x4; NBR	6.48	12.96
2			O35708	Boerger CL/FL; O-ring; 110x3; NBR	6.48	12.96
2			S15011	Boerger Lip Seal 70 x 95 x 10 DUO, NBR	13.48	26.96
1			S15001	Boerger Lip seal, 60 x 85 x 8 AS, NBR	12.43	12.43
2			S15051	Inner ring, 60 x 70 x 25 1.3505, armored as shaft protection sleeve	115.50	231.00
1			S15061	Inner ring, 55 x 60 x 25 1.3505, Armored as Shaft Protection Sleeve	79.10	79.10
2			K22407	Boerger Sealing Washer A21x26x2.0, Cu DIN 7603	1.58	3.16
2			S14304	Self-align. Roller Bearing CL	311.50	623.00
1				Boerger O-Ring 310x3NBR Shore 70 P583 10089756	27.30	27.30

Returned items subject to a 25% restocking fee.

VISA, MASTERCARD and AMERICAN EXPRESS. subject to 2.5% service fee

The Maher Corporation

Water & Wastewater Process, Pumping & Valve Systems

192 Pleasant Street
Rockland, MA 02370

Phone :: 781-421-2600
Fax :: 781-878-1219

Quote

Quote No. :: 9396
Attention :: Steve Dalton
Phone :: (603) 773-6168
Fax ::
Pages :: 3 of 3

Quote To: **Exeter, NH**
13 Newfields Road
Exeter, NH 03833

Ship To: **Exeter, NH**
13 Newfields Road
Exeter, NH 03833

Quote Date :: **04/04/2025**

Sales Rep :: **Matt Kibble**

Freight :: **Not Included**

Expires On :: **05/04/2025**

Terms :: **Net 30**

Desc. :: **Boerger Repair**

Quantity			Item Number	Description	Unit Price	Amount
Required	Shipped	B.O.				
2			S14314	S14314 Cylindral Roller Bearing, CL NJ 2311	221.10	442.20
4.000				Boerger Hourly Service Rate	150.00	600.00
Quote subtotal						9144.29
Quote total						9144.29

Returned items subject to a 25% restocking fee.

VISA, MASTERCARD and AMERICAN EXPRESS. subject to 2.5% service fee

The Maher Corporation

Water & Wastewater Process, Pumping & Valve Systems

Quote

Quote No. :: 9397

Attention :: Steve Dalton

Phone :: (603) 773-6168

Fax ::

Pages :: 1 of 1

192 Pleasant Street
Rockland, MA 02370

Phone :: 781-421-2600
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Quote To: **Exeter, NH**

13 Newfields Road
Exeter, NH 03833

Ship To: **Exeter, NH**

13 Newfields Road
Exeter, NH 03833

Quote Date :: **04/04/2025**

Sales Rep :: **Matt Kibble**

Freight :: **Not Included**

Expires On :: **05/04/2025**

Terms :: **Net 30**

Desc. :: **Boerger Pump**

Quantity			Item Number	Description	Unit Price	Amount
Required	Shipped	B.O.				
1				Boerger Rotary Lobe Bare Shafted Pump Similar to s/n 17010217 1.1 Supplied w/o flanges Casing: One-piece Blockcasing from Grey Cast Iron EN-GJL-250 (GG25) with easily replaceable axial and radial casing liners Axial casing protection liners from Hard Metal Radial casing protection liners from Hard Metal (MIP®) Rotor geometry: Tri-lobe, screw form, almost pulsation-free, baseparts from EN-GJS-400-15 (GGG40), with pushed-on tips, easily replaceable Rotor coating: NBR Free ball entry D = 50 mm Displacement: 3,9 l/rev Shaft seal: single-acting mechanical seals, type LW Material code according EN 12756 [DIN 24960]: R1 R1 P D Seal faces: Duronit V/Duronit V Dynamic O-rings: NBR Seal holding bushes: 1.0503 Stationary O-Rings: NBR Lead Time 1 Week	15957.00	15957.00

Returned items subject to a 25% restocking fee.

VISA, MASTERCARD and AMERICAN EXPRESS. subject to 2.5% service fee

The Maher Corporation

Water & Wastewater Process, Pumping & Valve Systems

192 Pleasant Street
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Quote Date :: **04/04/2025**

Sales Rep :: **Matt Kibble**

Freight :: **Not Included**

Expires On :: **05/04/2025**

Terms :: **Net 30**

Desc. :: **Boerger Pump**

Quantity			Item Number	Description	Unit Price	Amount
Required	Shipped	B.O.				
				Quote subtotal		15957.00
				Quote total		15957.00

Returned items subject to a 25% restocking fee.

VISA, MASTERCARD and AMERICAN EXPRESS. subject to 2.5% service fee

Life Cycle Cost Analysis

Project: Exeter , NH WWTP
 Engineer: None
 Application: Centrifuge Feed
 Duty: 50 - 150GPM @ 45ft TDH

Life Cycle Cost Calculation: $LCC = C_{ic} + C_{in} + C_e + C_o + C_m + C_s + C_{env} + C_d$

Where:

C_{ic} = initial costs (pump and accessories)
 C_{in} = Installation and commission (training)
 C_e = energy costs
 C_o = Operation Costs (labor cost of normal supervision)
 C_m = Maintenance and repair costs
 C_s = downtime costs (loss of production)
 C_{env} = Environmental Costs (contamination from pumped liquid and equipment)
 C_d = Decommissioning / disposal costs

Description	Double Disc Pump	Rotary Lobe	
Purchase Price (\$) (EACH PUMP)	\$39,302	\$25,000	note 1
Installation Costs (\$)	\$5,000	\$0	note 2
# Hours Operation/Day (hrs)	7	7	
Elec cost \$ / Kwh (\$)	0.187	0.187	note 3
Motor HP	7.5	10.0	
Motor efficiency %)	91.0	91.0	
Pump Head (ft)	45	45	
Pump flow (gpm)	150	110	
BHP (pump curve)	6.7	8	
Pump Mean Time Between Failures (months)	66	12	note 4
Pump Failures per Service Life - calculated	3.6	20	
Pump Spares Cost (Mean \$ per Failure)	\$3,642	\$2,542	note 5
Avg. hours for Typ. Maintenance (hrs)	4	4	(Man hours per rebuild)
Labor rate per hour (\$)	\$100	\$100	
Additional Rebuild Costs	\$4,409	\$45,000	note 6
Maintenance Cost per year (\$)	\$735	\$2,942	(AVG Labor plus Parts cost calculated per year)
Years of Service	20	20	
Downtime Loss per year (\$)	\$0	\$0	
Environmental Costs per year (\$)	\$0	\$0	
Decommissioning Costs (\$)	\$0	\$0	
Energy Costs per year	\$2,620	\$3,128	
Life Cycle Cost (EACH PUMP)	\$115,810	\$191,408	

Notes:

1. Purchase cost of both pumps includes pump, motor, frame, suction/discharge dampeners, suction/discharge pressure gauges and switches and freight to jobsite.
2. Installation for either pump will done in-house. \$5000 is estimate of additional parts for retrofit to Penn Valley
3. Electricity costs based on average industrial rate for state from U.S. Energy Information Administration Monthly Report.
4. (TYP: PVP 10,000 hours between parts replacement, Rotary Lobe 1820 hours, yearly wear plate and lobe tip replacement)
5. (PVP: Standard wear part rebuid kit)(Lobe: New rotor tips and wear plates every year)
6. Suction and Intermediate housing for PVP pump once in 20 years, New Rotary Lobe pump end every 7 years based on current failure

Rotary Lobe Maintenance Cost Breakdown		Frequency Per			
		Cost	20 years	Annual Cost	Total Cost
Replacement Pump after 7 years	\$	15,000.00	3	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 45,000.00
Replacement Tips and Wear Plates Every Year	\$	2,542.00	17	\$ 2,160.70	\$ 43,214.00
			Total \$	\$ 4,410.70	\$ 88,214.00



The World Leader in Free-Disc
Pumping Technology



An Ingersoll Rand Business

To: Town of Exeter	Date: 04/02/2025	Quote No: 25069
	Project: Exeter, NH WWTP	
	Quoted by: Preston Campbell	

Qty	Description	Unit Price	Total Price
	Application: Centrifuge Feed, 0.50 – 1.0% solids		
	Duty: 50 – 175GPM @ 45ft TDH		
	Suction: Flooded on 6" diameter line		
	Proposed Equipment:		
1	6" Model 6DDSX76CNU-MK2 Penn Valley Double Disc Pump™ unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6" ASA/ANSI 150# flanged suction and discharge connections • Cast iron housing and neoprene elastomers • Maintain-in-place hinged housing design for ease of maintenance • Two-piece swan neck design with full port rigid clack valve • 7.5HP, 1160RPM 230-460/3/60 Severe duty, inverter ready motor • 175RPM Nominal pump speed achieved with V-belt and pulley drive • Suction and Discharge pulsation dampeners • 304SS Welded base with OSHA approved guards and covers • Pump and dampeners coated with industrial primer and topcoat • Per drawing PVD769 Side motor mount 	\$33,958.00	\$
1	Days of start-up and training services (one-trip)	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
1	Estimated transport to site. Estimated weight of shipment is 2,000lbs.	\$650.00	\$650.00
	Optional:		
1	Set of recommended spare parts to include: two (2) discs, two (2) trunnions, one (1) clack valve and one (1) set of gaskets	\$3,394.00	\$3,394.00
	Notes:		
	1. Existing pressure sensors and gauges to be reused. 2. The pump is being offered under our trial purchase program. Please see the attached information on this program.		

Commercial Information:

1. Shipment is 6 - 8 weeks after receipt of purchase order or approved submittals.
2. Submittals, if required, are 2 – 3 weeks after receipt of purchase order.
3. Freight terms are F.O.B. Factory, Warrington, PA with freight allowed to jobsite.
4. Terms are Net 30 days after receipt of invoice.
5. Quotation is valid for 60 days from date of issue.
6. Warranty is two (2) years from the date of shipment for manufacturer's defects in materials and workmanship.

The following items have not been included:

- Installation
- Foundations, anchor bolts, grouting and foundation design
- Motor starters, Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's) or Controls



An Ingersoll Rand Business

The World Leader in Free-Disc Pumping Technology



Design Notes

- **Suction Piping Design:** It is imperative that the application has a properly designed suction piping system based on the hydraulic conditions. The importance of a properly sized system cannot be over emphasized. Most pump operational problems and pump failures are created by improper suction line conditions. The length and diameter of the suction line along with the static suction conditions must be provided to ensure pump(s) are properly sized. The system must be designed for the maximum flow if multiple pumps will operate simultaneously through common suction piping. PVP will run the appropriate calculations and verify the application.
- **Piping:** All piping should be independently supported near the pump so that pipe strain will not be transmitted to the pump. The use of pipe hangers/supports must rigidly support and laterally brace the piping to prevent pipe movement. Adequate support and bracing close the pump is the best method to prevent pipe movement. We do **NOT** recommend the use of flexible connections/expansion joints on the suction and discharge connections of the pump. Our long-term experience has found these items do not reduce vibration, but rather can allow pipe movement since the connections are not rigid. To maximize the pump's "Maintain-in-Place" design the suction flange should be attached rigidly to the suction piping. The use of slip joints and mechanical pipe joining systems (i.e. Victaulic style) is also highly discouraged. These mechanical systems do not provide the same rigid connections as traditional flanged piping systems. These mechanical systems can be difficult to properly brace leading to pipe vibration issues. If mechanical piping joining systems will be used, the engineer, contractor or owner must ensure the manufacturer's installation method for rigid pipe cutting and coupling connections is strictly adhered to.
- **Check Valves:** The use of check valves is required when there are multiple double disc pumps connected to a common discharge line or the pump will be installed on a common discharge line with other styles of pumps. If a check valve is required for the application, we recommend using a lever and spring style.
- **Low or No Discharge Head:** Very low or no discharge pressure applications (negative head, downhill flow) may require the introduction of artificial head to ensure proper pump operation and prevent siphoning. The creation of artificial head can be achieved by: 1) elevating discharge piping above suction source high liquid level elevation and installing anti-siphon valve, 2) installing a back-pressure valve as provided by PVP or 3) installing mechanically/pneumatically actuated pinch valves. PVP will verify the requirement for these devices based upon a review of the hydraulic conditions at time of quotation generation.
- **Motors:** Our standard motor is a Toshiba EQP Severe Duty NEMA Premium efficiency. This motor is inverter rated and exceeds NEMA MG31 Part 31 and suitable for 20:1 constant torque turndown range. Motor is suitable for CI 1, Div 2 GRP A, B, C, D/Zone. Other motors and accessories are available such as: thermal overload, space heaters and motor shaft grounding rings.
- **Controls:** The double disc pump can be operated by a motor starter for constant speed applications or a variable frequency drive (VFD) for variable speed applications. If using a motor starter, we recommend a soft-start feature to allow the pump speed to ramp up to maximum operating speed to minimize start-up pressure spikes. This feature is especially important on long suction and/or discharge lines. If using a VFD (recommended option) the unit must be sized as heavy duty for constant torque applications. This may mean the horsepower of the VFD has to be one size larger than the motor size. A drive that is undersized may experience DC bus issues requiring the addition of dynamic braking resistors.
- **Suction and Discharge Pressure Sensor Assemblies:** You will normally find these items included in our quotation. The suction sensor and gauge assembly provides indication of a potential line restriction (closed valve or clog) that can be flushed or cleaned before it is too hard to remove. The discharge pressure sensor/switch and gauge assembly provided pump protection to prevent damage due to over pressurization or plugged line. The switch must be wired to the controls to shut the pump down and requires a manual reset.

Town Manager Report

Select Board Committee Reports

Correspondence

Rockingham County

Kathryn Coyle, Chair
Steven Goddu, Vice Chair
Thomas Tombarello, Clerk
commissioners@co.rockingham.nh.us



Board of Commissioners
119 North Road
Brentwood, NH 03833
Telephone: 603-679-9350
Facsimile: 603-679-9354
www.rockinghamcountynh.org

April 24, 2025

To: The Members of the Rockingham County Delegation, the 36 Chair-Board of Selectmen of Rockingham County, Mayor-City of Portsmouth, the NH Department of Revenue, and the NH Secretary of State.

From: The Rockingham County Commissioners

Re: Rockingham County Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget and Public Hearing Notice

Enclosed please find a copy of the Rockingham County Commissioners' Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget. On April 24, 2025, a request for publication of legal notice for the Rockingham County Commissioners' public hearing was sent to the New Hampshire Union Leader and displayed in the following two (2) Public Posting Places: Rockingham County, NH website: <http://www.rockinghamcountynh.org>, and Rockingham County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 117 North Road, Brentwood, NH 03833. Notice of the hearing is as follows:

Legal Notice

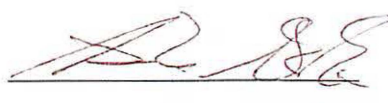
Public Hearing


Rockingham County Board of Commissioners
Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget (RSA: 24:13-C)
For an estimated new appropriation of \$106,260,596.
Conducted by the Chair of the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners
Thursday, May 8, 2025 @ 5:00pm.
Hilton Auditorium, Rockingham County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
117 North Road, Brentwood, NH
Kathryn Coyle, Chair
Rockingham County Board of Commissioners

Access to the Hilton Auditorium will be in the rear of the Rehabilitation & Nursing Center and will be clearly marked. Remote access will be available by contacting Leila Mattila by 4:30 pm, Wednesday, 5/7/25 at 603-679-9350 or email lmattila@co.rockingham.nh.us.

Best Regards,


Kathryn Coyle, Chair


Steven Goddu, Vice Chair


Thomas Tombarello, Clerk

Enclosure: Copy of the Rockingham County Board of Commissioner's proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

RECEIVED

MAY - 1 2025

Town Manager's Office



Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

Re: NH Electric Distribution Rate Case; Unitil

2 messages

Russ Dean <rdean@exeternh.gov>
To: "Beaulieu, David" <beaulieu@unitil.com>
Cc: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

Fri, May 2, 2025 at 8:21 AM

Received, thank you David, I'll reach out with any questions we have.

Russ

On Thu, May 1, 2025 at 4:42 PM Beaulieu, David <beaulieu@unitil.com> wrote:

Hi Russ,

Today, Unitil filed an electric distribution rate case with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission. I'm reaching out to ensure you are aware of this filing as it occurs.

Unlike supply rates, which represent the market cost of electricity and change with filings every six months, distribution rates reflect the cost of maintaining local electric infrastructure and delivering energy to customers. These filings are more infrequent; our last distribution rate filing was in 2021, and was based upon operation costs in 2020. Distribution rate cases are required to ensure that the distribution portion of the bill accurately reflects all changes to the cost of providing service to customers in the years since the previous filing. Once filed, included new costs are then reviewed thoroughly by the Public Utilities Commission to ensure any changes are prudent and in the public interest of delivering safe, reliable service to all affordably.

If the rates are approved as filed, a residential electric customer using an average of 600 kWh a month would see an increase of \$11.23 per month. For a customer on Unitil's Default Service, this would equate to an increase of approximately 9.2 percent to monthly bills. Actual proposed increases for customers will vary depending upon class and usage.

Typically, The Public Utilities Commission will issue a temporary rate order shortly after the filing that reflects a portion of the proposed increase, with the rest of any approved increase to take affect at the end of the review process. We anticipate a final order from the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission in 2026.

Attached is our press release announcing our filing. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

All the best,

Dave Beaulieu

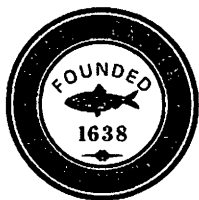
David Beaulieu
Municipal & Community Services Executive



325 West Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801

T 603.294.5144 | E Beaulieu@unitil.com
unitil.com

--
Russ Dean
Exeter Town Manager
10 Front Street
Exeter, NH 03833
(603) 773-6102
rdean@exeternh.gov



Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>
To: Russ Dean <rdean@exeternh.gov>
Cc: "Beaulieu, David" <beaulieu@unitil.com>

Fri, May 2, 2025 at 8:25 AM

Thank you. I'll add this information to the next Select Board packet for 5/12/25.
[Quoted text hidden]

--
Pam McElroy

Town of Exeter
Senior Executive Assistant, Town Manager's Office
603-773-6102



Fwd: continue allowing parking on Drinkwater Rd

1 message

Russ Dean <rdean@exeternh.gov>

Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 3:35 PM

To: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

For the 5/12 packet.

Russ Dean
Exeter Town Manager
10 Front Street
Exeter, NH 03833
(603) 773-6102
rdean@exeternh.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Niko Papakonstantis** <npapakonstantis@exeternh.gov>

Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 3:33 PM

Subject: Fwd: continue allowing parking on Drinkwater Rd

To: Russ Dean <rdean@exeternh.gov>, Melissa Roy <mroy@exeternh.gov>

Please include in the May 13 packet.

NP

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Niko Papakonstantis** <npapakonstantis@exeternh.gov>

Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 3:32 PM

Subject: Re: continue allowing parking on Drinkwater Rd

To: Drew Sunstein <drews.sailor@gmail.com>

CC: <selectboard@exeternh.gov>, Deborah Twombly <DebTwombly@gmail.com>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email. Your correspondence will be included in the next Select Board packet.

This evening is the first of three readings. The next two are scheduled for May 12 and May 19, respectively. Hopefully one of those dates will be convenient for you to attend, should you choose to. Regardless, the Board will take your suggestion into consideration. No action will be taken until the third reading on May 19.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or additional thoughts. I appreciate you writing to us.

Respectfully,

Niko

On Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 3:25 PM Drew Sunstein <drews.sailor@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Select board,

I cannot attend the meeting tonight, but want to express my support to continue allowing parking along Drinkwater Road.

We are fortunate to live on Prentiss Way, across from the PEA woods, just off Drinkwater. So it is easy for us to access the woods and trails, via the road across John Sanborn's land, that he allows the public to use.

At times in prior years, we used to park near a trail entrance about 1/2 mi or so further south. This parking was blocked several years ago. I never did know why. Maybe to keep fire lanes open? It was quite convenient.

For people living beyond walking distance, they can park on the side of the road near the gates, out of traffic, to enjoy the trails and nature.

I think Exeter should continue to allow people to park on Drinkwater Road, like now, as long as they are not greatly obstructing traffic.

PEA has allowed the public to enjoy the woods, and the Town of Exeter should keep the woods accessible for all.

Regards,
Drew Sunstein

~~~~~  
Drew Sunstein  
Deborah Twombly  
6 Prentiss Way  
Exeter NH 30833  
[drews.sailor@gmail.com](mailto:drews.sailor@gmail.com)







Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

## Bulletin #17: It's Crunch Time for Zoning Mandates – Stay Involved!

1 message

NHMA Government Affairs <governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org>

Fri, May 2, 2025 at 12:56 PM

To: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

### New Hampshire Municipal Association

THE SERVICE AND ACTION ARM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPALITIES

# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Legislative Bulletin 17

2025 Session

May 2, 2025



[Live Bill Tracker](#)  
[Bill Hearings Schedule](#)

### Zoning Mandates: House Edition

On **Tuesday, May 6**, beginning at **10:00 a.m.** in **LOB Room 305** the **House Housing Committee** will hold executive sessions on eight zoning mandates opposed by NHMA that have already been passed by the Senate, including four priority bills.

As we head into the home stretch of the legislative session, **we're asking our members to redouble their efforts to advocate against all these proposals by emailing or calling** members of the **House Housing Committee** and your own representatives before next Tuesday. Honestly, the odds are long that any of these proposals can be stopped—this session, the committee has already recommended ten zoning mandates as ought to pass (OTP) on a combined vote of 166-2 (not a typo!)—but garnering enough opposition to keep these bills off the consent calendar so there can be an actual debate on the House floor is still a worthwhile goal. Priority bills are denoted with an asterisk (\*).

\* **SB 84** mandates zoning ordinances adhere to specific lot sizes for all single-family homes, overriding current zoning regulations. The bill also requires municipalities to provide empirical evidence that the sewer system cannot support the lots, which adds a layer of complexity and bureaucracy in local government.



\* **SB 163** prohibits local moratoria and limitations on building permits.

\* **SB 170** relative to development and related requirements in cities, towns, and municipalities. This bill is, frankly, a mess. The bill has several conflicting and unworkable zoning mandates, such as, but not limited to, ending most connectivity requirements for subdivisions, mandating unlimited development at the end of dead-end roads or cul-de-sacs, tying maximum dead-end roads lengths to the state fire code (the state fire code does not regulate road lengths), preventing or limiting cluster developments and other innovative land uses, and banning any setback or frontage requirements larger than 50 feet. It also establishes a new, convoluted, and conflicting process for recording of plats and plans at the registry of deeds, which would conflict with RSA 674:37.

**SB 174** prohibits planning boards from considering the number of bedrooms a given unit or development has during the hearing and approval process.

\* **SB 188** allows property owners or developers to use licensed, insured private providers for building code plan reviews and inspections related to the state building code and any local technical amendments, excluding fire prevention and fire safety codes, and creates a “building permits by default” model if communities fail to meet strict deadlines.

**SB 281** prohibits municipalities from denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances. Municipalities currently may restrict building on class VI to prevent overdevelopment of undeveloped infrastructure and, in this case, unmaintained roads and to control scattered and premature development. While the bill requires that landowners sign a liability waiver, it does not consider whether the class VI roads and abutting properties can sustain new development.

**SB 282** allows residential buildings with four or fewer floors to have only one stairway, provided that the building is equipped with a compliant sprinkler system and meets specific fire code requirements and outlines the conditions under which residential buildings with 5 or 6 floors may also have only one stairway.

**SB 283** mandates that municipalities exclude below-grade areas, which include basements and sublevels, from the calculation of floor-area-ratios for new construction projects.

**It’s essential for local officials and residents to continue to engage with legislators, share their concerns, and advocate for balanced, practical approaches to zoning and housing development.**

You many have begun seeing commercials about these mandates in recent weeks, which indicates that there’s money to be made through stripping away local control, but continue to remind lawmakers that **these sweeping, one-size-fits-all statewide mandates do nothing to incentivize or encourage the building of affordable housing and disregard the will of the voters.**

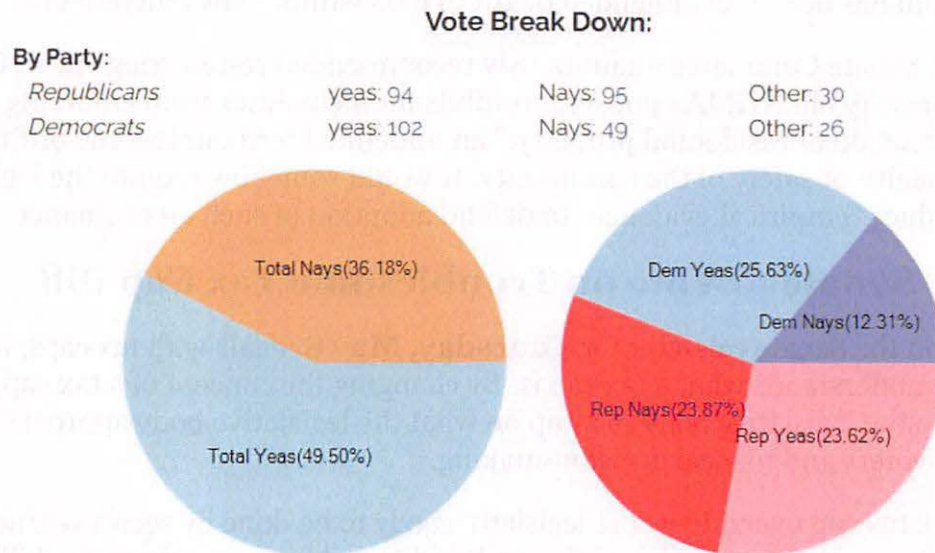
**Also in the House ...**

On Thursday, the House—on a [197-144 roll call vote](#)—passed **SB 284**, a priority bill opposed by NHMA that reduces the number of residential parking spaces per residential housing unit from 1.5 to one. As one representative stated on the floor, this bill prioritizes “profit over residents’ needs.” We encourage you to look at the vote and see how your representative(s) voted.

The version of this zoning mandate passed by the House differs from the version of **SB 284** passed by the Senate, which means the Senate will have to concur, non-concur, or a request a committee of conference on the bill. Please **contact your senator now and ask them to vote for non-concurrence.**



The amended version passed by the House is identical to **HB 382**, which the Senate used for a non-germane amendment. **SB 284**, as amended, did not gain a plurality of Republican votes, despite the original **HB 382** having multiple sponsors in Republican leadership, including the majority leader. Perhaps the floor speeches in opposition to the bill had an effect, including one that stated, “We should not be passing legislation telling the voters that you do not count anymore.” We agree.



## Zoning Mandates: Senate Edition

On **Tuesday, May 6**, beginning at **10:20 a.m.** in **SH Room 100**, the **Senate Commerce Committee** will hold back-to-back public hearings on a pair of zoning mandates.

**HB 342** allows property owners to build on their property without seeking a variance for minimum lot size or lot coverage if the proposed building density conforms to that of the surrounding neighborhood.

**HB 457** prohibits municipalities from adopting any ordinance that discriminates based on the familial or non-familial relationships or marital status among the occupants of the dwelling unit or restricts the number of occupants of any dwelling unit to less than 2 occupants.

Municipalities that would be impacted by these proposals are encouraged to attend the hearings or use the Senate [remote sign-in sheet](#) to oppose these bills. Written testimony can be submitted via the “Email Entire Committee” link found on the [Senate committee page](#).

On **Thursday, May 8**, the Senate will act on two zoning mandates that followed the same smooth path through **Senate Commerce Committee** that most of these mandates have experienced. However, thanks to the one senator on the committee voting to oppose these mandates, these priority bills opposed by NHMA will be on the regular calendar, which means they can be debated.

**Contact your local senator now and tell him or her that these bills are bad for taxpayers and municipalities.** Also mention that forcing all municipalities to adhere to a uniform set of zoning mandates undermines the autonomy that has long been a cornerstone of local governance in our state and will lead to unintended consequences.

**HB 631** permits residential building in commercial zones by right, mandating mixed-use development in nearly every zoning district in New Hampshire. While promoting urban density, it may lead to conflicts over land use priorities and contradicts one of the key purposes of zoning in RSA 674:17: to “consider the character of the area involved and its peculiar suitability for particular uses.”



**HB 685** mandates manufactured housing by right in residentially zoned areas. The bill's language directly conflicts with RSA 674:32, the existing statute that says, "Municipalities shall afford reasonable and realistic opportunities for the siting of manufactured housing..." and mandates several updates to local zoning ordinances. **HB 685** establishes a conflicting requirement that will create confusion for municipalities, local land use boards, voters, and developers. We have continually raised this issue, yet the bill has been recommended ought to pass without any amendments.

On a positive note, Senate Commerce unanimously recommended re-referring **HB 410** to committee. The bill, another priority bill NHMA opposes, prohibits municipalities from enforcing or adopting any "extraordinary restriction of residential property," an undefined term, unless the ordinance is directly necessary for the health or safety of the community. It would somehow require the legislative body (the voters) to produce "empirical evidence" to defend adoption of such an ordinance.

## Senate to Vote on Troublesome Tax Cap Bill

**HB 200**, which is on the Senate calendar for **Thursday, May 8**, deals with tax caps, but in a way that fundamentally misunderstands what a tax cap is. By changing the concept of a tax cap from a cap on what is proposed to the legislative body to a cap on what the legislative body approves, the bill is detrimental to the voters and to local decision-making.

**HB 200** requires a tax cap override by the legislative body to be done by secret yes/no ballot as provided in RSA 40:4-a. In SB 2 municipalities and traditional town meetings, the bill mandates a 3/5 majority to override the tax cap rather than a majority vote as currently required.

Then there's the "Hotel California" aspect of the bill ("You can check in, but you can never leave"): Any municipality with an existing tax cap would automatically have to implement this new override provision—there's no requirement that the voters readopt the tax cap statute, even though the bill would fundamentally change what the voters originally adopted. Since rescinding a tax cap already requires a 3/5 majority, some communities that adopted caps may find themselves "prisoners of their own device."

Finally, the bill is also an invitation for chaos and litigation due to conflicting language which in one sentence says towns should follow the usual procedures to override, but goes on to say the supermajority is needed. There's also a timing issue. How do you know *when* an appropriation has taken the town over the tax cap? This is especially tricky for an SB 2 town that vote by ballot on appropriations. Do you go in reverse order up the ballot, invalidating any warrant article votes with money that exceeded the tax cap? The bill does not say.

No matter how you slice it, this bill undermines the voters. **Contact your local Senator** and ask him or her to relegate this muddled mess to oblivion.

## Work Session on Risk Pool Bill

On **Wednesday, May 7**, beginning at **10:00 a.m.** in **LOB Room 302-304**, the **House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee** will hold work sessions on multiple bills, including **SB 297**, a priority bill opposed by NHMA. The bill, which relates to the operations and oversight of pooled risk management programs that are created by cities, towns, counties, and school districts to reduce risks and associated insurance costs, is opposed by NHMA for two primary reasons: The effect it would have on the operations of insurance risk pools and the effect it would have on municipalities that choose to participate in health pools. **Municipal officials who have not yet done so are encouraged to contact the committee to register their opposition to SB 297 and also reach out to their local senator and representatives** to encourage them to support legislation that will further maintain the integrity of the risk pools, not regulate them out of existence.

## Hearings Next Week on Other Priority Bills



**HB 123** (support), allows municipalities to tax standing timber that's on land used for carbon sequestration, which would make up for any lost timber tax revenues that towns and cities would have otherwise received if the timber were cut. **Status:** [Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#) public hearing scheduled for **Tuesday, May 6, at 9:00 a.m. in SH Room 103.**

**HB 67** (support), makes permanent last year's pilot program regarding Accessible Voting Systems, ensuring that the state provides accessible voting systems through agreements with municipalities. Under this bill, the state would pay for the systems and municipalities would continue to be responsible for programming costs. **Status:** [Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee](#) public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, at 10:00 a.m. in LOB Room 103.

**SB 291** (oppose), modifies the law regarding property tax exemptions for religious entities and allows for up to six residential housing units or congregate housing units used residential purposes to be exempt, provided they are owned by the religious organization on or before January 1, 2025, or for a minimum of five years. **Status:** [House Ways and Means Committee](#) public hearing scheduled for **Tuesday, May 6, at 10:00 a.m. in LOB Room 202-204.**

## State Budget Update

It's getting real, folks. The [Senate Ways and Means Committee](#) received **an update** Wednesday from the Department of Revenue Administration and others and the news was ... OK-ish.

DRA estimates business taxes—the state's largest single source of revenue—will grow between 2% and 8% over the next two years, which is more optimistic than House estimates based on previous data. However, business tax revenues are still running below estimates in the current fiscal year.

Ways and Means is meeting on **Wednesday, May 7, at 9:30 a.m. in SH Room 100** to vote on the revenue estimates that the [Senate Finance Committee](#) will rely on as it modifies the House version of the FY 26-27 state budget, **HB 1** and **HB 2**. Expectations are that the Senate revenue estimates will be much higher than the House, but probably less than the governor's numbers.

Meanwhile, **Senate Finance** wrapped up the agency presentation phase of the budget process earlier this week and will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 6, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in Representatives Hall**. This is the one remaining chance for interested parties to speak in person on the budget.

The budget currently contains several provisions that would have an adverse impact on municipalities, including suspension of the 30% municipal share of the rooms and meals tax, which would be replaced with a flat \$137 million appropriation annually in FYs 26-27. This change is projected to reduce municipal aid by \$11 million compared to the current statutory formula.

Another area of concern is state funding for significant changes to NH Retirement System benefits for first responders hired prior to July 1, 2011, and not vested prior to January 1, 2012, referred to as Group II-Tier B. Although the House budget currently contains \$55 million over two years to begin funding these changes—with language to continue this funding through 2034—there is no guarantee future legislatures will continue to fund the ongoing cost of these changes over a multi-year period. Should the state cut back or eliminate funding for these benefit changes, municipal employer rates will increase significantly. As it is, even with the annual \$27.5 million in state funding assumed to continue for 10 years, the NHRS actuary estimates that FY 28-29 NHRS **Group II employer contribution rates will increase** by 4.3% (1.34% of payroll) for police and 5.0% (1.46% of payroll) for firefighters due to these changes—**an increase in municipal and county contributions of nearly \$6.6 million in FY 28.**

NHMA has a one-page budget summary [here](#). You can read a more detailed letter about the budget that NHMA submitted to Senate Finance [here](#).



## House, Senate Act on Multiple Bills

The House and Senate were in session Thursday and acted on several bills NHMA has taken a position on.

Along with **SB 284** (see above) the House also passed **SB 91** (oppose) as part of the consent calendar. The bill allows owners of residences in industrial/commercial zones to submit a single application for a special appraisal based on current residential use and removes the requirement for annual reapplication.

### Senate actions (with NHMA position)

**HB 124** (support), enabling a municipal forest committee or conservation commission to offer surplus money to the municipality for deposit in the municipal unreserved fund balance. **Passed** with amendment.

**HB 230** (oppose), amends the existing authority of town health officers by removing the phrase “and such other regulations relating to public health,” thereby narrowing the scope of regulations that health officers can enact to only those for the prevention and removal of nuisances. **Passed.**

**HB 451** (support), establishing a paint product stewardship program. **Re-referred to committee.**

**HB 474** (oppose), requiring a second witness at the counting of write-in votes. **Passed.**

**HB 569** (support), relative to the establishment of county-wide communication districts. **Passed.**

**HB 250** (support), enabling local governing bodies to regulate the muzzling of dogs. **Passed.**

**HB 272** (support), exempting certain agricultural practices from municipal noise regulation. **Passed.**

**HB 146** (oppose), relative to the use of body-worn cameras. **Inexpedient to legislate.**

**HB 737** (support), creating local options for games of chance. **Passed** with amendment.

## House, Senate Back in Action Next Week

The House and Senate will meet on **Thursday, May 8**, and several bills that NHMA has a position on are up for a vote. Please contact your **local senator** or **representatives**—particularly on the previously referenced **HB 200**, **HB 631**, and **HB 685**—before next Thursday and share your opposition. NHMA’s position on each bill is shown in parenthesis after the bill number. Priority bills are denoted with an asterisk (\*).

### Bills with the House

**SB 42** (support), relative to notice of death affidavits. **Recommendation:** OTP-consent calendar.

**SB 78** (oppose), changing the zoning board of adjustments appeal period to 45 days.  
**Recommendation:** OTP-A-consent calendar.

**SB 173** (oppose), relative to residential property subject to housing covenants under the low-income housing tax credit program. **Recommendation:** OTP-consent calendar.

**SB 217** (oppose), relative to public notice of historic tax rates and tax impacts of proposed projects.  
**Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

**SB 225** (oppose), requiring public notice before reassessment of property values for local tax purposes. **Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.



## Bills with the Senate

\* **HB 66** (oppose), relative to material subject to disclosure under the right to know law.

**Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

**HB 138** (oppose), relative to tax impact notation on warrant articles with multi-year tax impacts.

**Recommendation:** OTP-consent calendar.

**HB 154** (oppose), enabling voters to request to have their ballots hand-counted. **Recommendation:** OTP-A-consent calendar.

\* **HB 200** (oppose), see article above. **Recommendation:** OTP-A-consent calendar.

**HB 247** (support), authorizing municipalities to hold a referendum on whether to allow historic horse racing. **Recommendation:** ITL-regular calendar.

**HB 284** (oppose), requiring tax impact statements on municipal warrant articles.

**Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

\* **HB 410** (oppose), see article above. **Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

**HB 514** (oppose), allowing private persons to sue for violations of election laws. **Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

**HB 522** (oppose), relative to the expectation of privacy in personal information maintained by the state. **Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

**HB 584** (oppose), relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty. **Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

\* **HB 631** (oppose), see article above. **Recommendation:** OTP-regular calendar.

**HB 666** (oppose), relative to adding restitution payment for violations of the confidentiality of the library use records and adding library cards and membership status to the list of confidential matters. **Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

\* **HB 685** (oppose), see article above. **Recommendation:** OTP-regular calendar.

## House and Senate Deadlines

### House

- Thursday, May 8: Last day to report Senate Bills going to a second committee.
- Thursday, May 15: Last day to act on SBs going to a second committee
- Thursday, May 29: Last day to report all remaining SBs and last day to report list of retained SBs
- Thursday, June 5: Last day to act on SBs.

### Senate

- Thursday, May 15: Deadline for Policy Committees to act on all House bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
- Thursday, June 5: Deadline to act on all House bills.

## House and Senate



- Thursday, June 12: Deadline to form Committees of Conference.
- Thursday, June 19: Deadline to sign Committee of Conference Reports.
- Thursday, June 26: Deadline to act on Committee of Conference Reports.

## How to Make your Voice Heard

The adage goes that “life is all about showing up.” The same can be said for legislative advocacy. If a bill is of importance to your municipality, it’s always best to make your case – for or against – in person. Every Friday, NHMA posts a [Bill Hearings Schedule](#) for the upcoming week. However, if you can’t make it to Concord, you can use the Legislature’s online portal to put your position on the hearing record.

The House has an [online testimony submission system](#) that allows you to indicate your position on the bill with an option to attach testimony. If you want to email all the members of a House committee, you will have to copy their email addresses individually from the [committee page](#).

The Senate has a [remote sign-in sheet](#) where you can indicate whether you are supportive of a bill, opposed, or neutral. Written testimony can be submitted via the “Email Entire Committee” link found on the [Senate committee page](#).

If you have time to follow along, livestreams of [House](#) and [Senate](#) sessions and committee meetings are available on YouTube. Prior sessions and committee meetings are also archived.

Finally, if you just want to contact your legislators, there are [Contact a Senator](#) and [Contact a Representative](#) links on the [General Court](#) website.

Note: For anyone who prints these emails out, all of the above links are available on the General Court website at: <https://gc.nh.gov/>

Because the House and Senate have moved to digital calendars, committees can now reschedule when there is bad weather, absences, or when issues with bills haven’t been worked out. If you are planning to attend a hearing or work session in person, we strongly recommend checking the [House Digital Calendar](#) and [Senate Digital Calendar](#) before heading to the State House. For those of you with an interest in a particular bill or set of bills, please use the ‘subscribe’ feature on [FastDemocracy](#) to get email updates when those bills are scheduled or rescheduled.

## Reminder: Sharing is Caring ... About Good Public Policy!

If you know of anyone who may benefit from the NHMA Legislative Bulletin feel free to pass this email along and encourage them to sign up!

Members can subscribe to the Bulletin through our member portal at: <https://nhmunicipal.weblinkconnect.com/portal>

Once you are logged in, click “edit this profile” and “newsletter management.” You can sign up for the *Legislative Bulletin*, *Newslink*, and *Town & City* magazine in one place! (If you are having trouble logging into your account, [follow these steps](#).)

Nonmembers can email [info@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:info@nhmunicipal.org) to be added to our email list for the *Legislative Bulletin*.

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RECEIVED

MAY - 6 2025

Town Manager's Office

May 1, 2025

Town Of Exeter  
C/O Russell Dean  
10 Front Street  
Exeter, NH 03833

Dear Town Of Exeter,

Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire thanks you for your donation of \$3,000 to support one-to-one youth mentoring in the Granite State.

For over 58 years and with the help of our village, BBBSNH has served thousands and thousands of youth in one-to-one mentoring matches! The impact of these mentoring relationships changes the trajectory of many lives not only the "Littles" we serve, but also our "Bigs".

In 2023, our organization served over 400 children, including creating and supporting 105 new matches. Our team conducted 3,818 child-safety check-ins, 437 new volunteer reference checks and completed 319 assessments to make the strongest, long-lasting matches.

Our volunteer mentors dedicated more than 20,000 hours helping youth across New Hampshire unlock their fullest potential.

*"We talk a lot about what mentoring younger people can do for them, but not as much about what it can do for us as well. I always knew planning a meeting with my Little would be something to look forward to and no matter what I was going through I'd always leave feeling so much better, even if just for the day." - Big Sister, Jessica*

When you share your time, talent or treasure with BBBSNH, you support free programming for all participants, equity among underserved communities and pave the way towards a brighter, better future for all. Your investment is one that lasts a lifetime.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michaela Kneuer'.

Michaela Kneuer  
Development Manager

For your records, our Federal Tax ID number is 02-0348477. No goods and services were provided in exchange for this donation.

Business Office: 3 Portsmouth Avenue #2, Stratham, NH 03885 (603) 430-1140  
Regional offices serving: Southern, Central, Seacoast, West, and the Lakes Region  
1-844-NH4-BIGS - [www.bbbsnh.org](http://www.bbbsnh.org)

Thank you for your continued support of youth mentoring in New Hampshire!





Lindsey M. Stepp  
Commissioner

Ora M. LeMere  
Assistant Commissioner

# State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration

109 Pleasant Street  
PO Box 487, Concord, NH 03302-0487  
Telephone (603) 230-5000  
www.revenue.nh.gov



MUNICIPAL & PROPERTY  
DIVISION  
Samuel T. Greene  
Director

Adam A. Denoncour  
Assistant Director

May 1, 2025

TOWN OF EXETER  
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN  
10 FRONT STREET  
EXETER, NH 03833

Dear Selectmen/Assessing Officials,

This is your official notification of the 2024 Total Equalized Valuations. We used your municipality's weighted mean ratio to calculate these valuations.

We calculated two equalized figures for your municipality. The "Total Equalized Valuation Including Utilities and Railroads" is used for your portion of the county tax and your portion of any cooperative school district taxes. The "Total Equalized Valuation Not Including Utilities and Railroad" is used to calculate your portion of the state education property tax. We adjusted your modified assessed valuation as reported on your 2024 MS-1 to bring the valuation to fair market value.

|                                         | Including<br>Utility Valuation and Railroad<br>Monies Reimbursement | Not Including<br>Utility Valuation and Railroad<br>Monies Reimbursement |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Town Name: Exeter                       |                                                                     |                                                                         |
| 2024 Modified Local Assessed Valuation  | \$3,680,184,775                                                     | \$3,609,565,275                                                         |
| + D.R.A. Inventory Adjustment           | \$247,427,589                                                       | \$242,679,425                                                           |
| = 2024 Equalized Assessed Valuation     | \$3,927,612,364                                                     | \$3,852,244,700                                                         |
| + Equalized Payment in Lieu of Taxes    | \$2,377,614                                                         | \$2,377,614                                                             |
| + Equalized Railroad Tax                | \$0                                                                 | \$0                                                                     |
| = 2024 Total Equalized Valuation        | \$3,929,989,978                                                     | \$3,854,622,314                                                         |
| 2024 Equalized Assessed Valuation       | \$3,927,612,364                                                     |                                                                         |
| + Adjustment RSA 31-A (Shared Revenues) | \$0                                                                 |                                                                         |
| = Base Valuation for Debt Limits        | \$3,927,612,364                                                     |                                                                         |

You have the right to appeal these valuations to the N.H. Board of Tax and Land Appeals within 30 days of the date of this letter. Call our office to discuss any concerns or questions you may have at (603) 230-5950. We will continue working with you to resolve any issues but please be advised that the appeal period will not be extended.

We have enclosed informational sheets that show how each of the figures were calculated.

Sincerely,

Adam Denoncour, Assistant Director  
Municipal and Property Division

**RECEIVED**

MAY - 6 2025

**Town Manager's Office**

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Department of Revenue Administration are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the Department.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION 2024 EQUALIZATION INFORMATION SHEET

This informational sheet has been provided to explain and summarize the information contained in each municipality's notification of "Total Equalized Valuations," the appeal process, Assessing Standards Board, etc.

The following is a brief explanation of how each municipality's "Total Equalized Valuations" were calculated:

**MODIFIED ASSESSED VALUATION:** It may be helpful to refer to page 2 of the MS-1 report provided by your municipality to the Department of Revenue Administration in the fall of 2024.

**"GROSS LOCAL ASSESSED VALUATION"** - Sum of all assessed values in the municipality

- Certain Disabled Veteran's: RSA 72:36-a
- ~~Improvements to Assist Persons who are Deaf: RSA 72:38-b V~~
- Improvements to Assist Persons with Disabilities Exemption: RSA 72:37-a
- School Dining/Dormitory/Kitchen Exemption: RSA 72:23 IV (\$150,000 max per exemption)
- Water & Air Pollution Control Exemption: RSA 72:12-a

= **"MODIFIED ASSESSED VALUATION"**

- Blind Exemption: RSA 72:37
- Elderly Exemption: RSA 72:39-a & b
- Deaf Exemption: RSA 72:38-b
- Disabled Exemption: RSA 72:37-b
- Wood-Heating Energy System Exemption: RSA 72:70
- Solar Energy System Exemption: RSA 72:62
- Wind Powered Energy System Exemption: RSA 72:66
- Electric Energy Storage Systems: RSA 72:85
- Renewable Generation Facilities & Electric Energy Storage Systems: RSA 72:87
- Additional School Dining/Dormitory/Kitchen Exemption: RSA 72:23 IV (exemption amount > \$150,000).

= **"NET LOCAL ASSESSED VALUATION"** - The municipal, county, and local school tax rates are computed using the net local assessed valuation.

**TAX INCREMENT FINANCE DISTRICTS (TIFS):** RSA 162-K:10 III - The retained captured assessed value is added to the modified assessed value and will be equalized for all TIF districts created after 4/29/99. The original assessed value is used to set a municipality's tax rates.

**DRA INVENTORY ADJUSTMENT:** The sum of the adjustments of the modified local assessed valuation is divided into three categories.

**Category 1:** The total modified local assessed value of land (excluding land in current use, conservation restriction assessment, discretionary easements, and utilities), buildings and manufactured housing is equalized by the 2024 equalization ratio. This category includes discretionary preservation easements, taxation of farm structures and land under farm structures. The difference between the modified local assessed valuation of land, buildings and manufactured housing and the equalized value equals the DRA adjustment for land, buildings, and manufactured housing.

**Category 2:** An adjustment for land assessed at current use, conservation restriction assessment, and discretionary easement values is made. This adjustment is calculated by dividing the total net local assessed valuation for land in these two categories by the 2023 equalization ratio to obtain the equalized value of current use, conservation restriction assessments and discretionary

easements. If a municipality has had a full revaluation, cyclical revaluation or statistical update as defined by Rev 601.16, 601.24 or 601.40, a ratio of 100.0 is used.

The difference between the local assessed value of the land and the equalized value equals the DRA adjustment for current use, conservation restriction assessments and discretionary easements.

Category 3: The total modified local assessed value of public utilities, as defined by RSA 83-F is equalized by the 2024 equalization ratio. The value of public utilities is not added into the "Total Equalized Value Not Including Utility Value or Equalized Railroad Taxes."

**EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUATION:** The sum of the "modified local assessed valuation" plus the inventory adjustment. The equalized assessed valuation represents the equalized value of all "taxable" properties in a municipality.

**PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES:** The equalized value for payments received in lieu of taxes includes State & Federal Forest Land Reimbursements, Recreation Land Reimbursements, Flood Land Reimbursements, and others. The equalized value for payments in lieu of taxes for renewable generation facilities is not included in the "Total Equalized Valuation Not Including Utilities" in accordance with RSA 72:74 II (effective 7/21).

**RAILROAD TAX:** The equalized value for monies received from the railroad tax. This figure is not included in the "Total Equalized Valuation Not Including Utility Values and Equalized Railroad Taxes."

**TOTAL EQUALIZED VALUATIONS INCLUDING UTILITY VALUE AND EQUALIZED RAILROAD TAXES:** The sum of the equalized assessed valuation, the equalized value of payments in lieu of taxes and the equalized value of the railroad tax monies.

The Total Equalized Valuation including the value of utilities and equalized value of railroad monies reimbursed to municipalities represents the equalized value of all property in a municipality including utilities and will be used to:

- Apportion county taxes for the 2025 tax year;
- Calculate state reimbursements, and;
- Apportion cooperative school taxes for the 2025 tax year;

**TOTAL EQUALIZED VALUATIONS NOT INCLUDING UTILITY VALUE AND EQUALIZED RAILROAD TAXES:** The sum of the equalized assessed valuation and the equalized value of payments in lieu of taxes.

The 2024 "total equalized valuation not including utility and equalized value of railroad monies reimbursed to municipalities" will be used to apportion the state education property tax for the tax year 2026. The 2023 total equalized valuation not including utilities and the value of railroad monies reimbursed to municipalities will be used to apportion the state education property tax for the tax year 2025.

**ADJUSTMENT RSA 31-A SHARED REVENUES:** The equalized value of monies received from the shared revenues distributed pursuant to RSA 31-A. These values are NOT part of the "Total Equalized Valuation" of a municipality (RSA 21-J:3 XIII change eff. 2002). Meals and Rooms Tax revenues distributed to municipalities pursuant to RSA 78-A:26 are not equalized and, therefore, are not included in this amount. *RSA 31-A has been suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2025 as provided by Chapter Law, 2017, 156:86) Therefore, no monies were equalized.*

**BASE VALUATION FOR DEBT LIMITS - RSA 33:4-b:** The sum of the equalized assessed valuation plus the equalized valuation of the shared revenues. The base valuation for debt limits is used to determine a municipality's, school district, or village district's bonding capacity. This figure is provided to municipalities, banks, bonding companies, and other interested parties who request a "Base Valuation for Debt Limit Certificate."

**TOTAL EQUALIZED VALUATION:** The total equalized valuation for each municipality does not include the equalized value of monies received from shared revenues. The base valuation for debt limit, however, does include the



equalized value of monies received from shared revenues.

**% PROPORTION TO COUNTY TAX:** The percentage of proportion to \$1,000 of tax that is to be allocated to each town within the county comparing each municipality's total equalized value to the total equalized value of the county.

**% PROPORTION TO STATE TAX:** The percentage of proportion to \$1,000 of tax that is to be allocated to each town within the state by comparing the town's total equalized value to the total equalized value of the state.

**LOCAL TAX RATE:** The actual tax rate as calculated by the Department of Revenue Administration, Municipal and Property Division. The tax rate includes the municipal, county, local school and state education property tax rates.

**EQUALIZATION RATIO:** The 2024 equalization ratio as determined by a ratio study conducted by the Department of Revenue Administration's equalization staff. As a rule, the municipality's weighted mean ratio point estimate calculated to a tenth of 1% will be used to adjust the municipality's modified local assessed valuation.

If there were insufficient sales and/or it is determined that the weighted mean does not accurately reflect the level of assessment in a municipality, another ratio may be used.

**FULL VALUE TAX RATE:** The 2024 gross local property taxes to be raised as reported by the Department of Revenue Administration, Municipal & Property Division, divided by the total equalized valuation including utility values and equalized railroad taxes. This figure represents the estimated tax rate for a municipality if all the taxable property was assessed at 100% and includes the equalized value of properties for which a payment in lieu of property taxes is made.

#### **APPEAL OF TOTAL EQUALIZED VALUATION**

Municipalities were sent their 2024 Notification of Total Equalized Valuations on May 1, 2025.

Per RSA 71-B:5, II, any municipality aggrieved by the total equalized valuation as determined by the DRA must appeal to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals in writing within 30 days of the town's notification of the municipality's total equalized valuation.

The appeal period is not extended due to any communication, either verbal or written, between the DRA and a municipality regarding the total equalized valuation.

#### **ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD – RSA 21-J:14-a**

The duties of the Assessing Standards Board (ASB) included:

- Review the procedures of the prior year's ratio studies conducted by the Department of Revenue Administration;
- Establish procedures for improving the ratio studies for the forthcoming property tax year;
- Develop standards for equalization; and
- Review, revise and approve the equalization manual published by the Department of Revenue Administration.

#### **MUNICIPAL & PROPERTY DIVISION MONITORING STAFF**

The Municipal & Property Division staff plays an active role working with towns on their ratio studies. Some of the services they provide include:

- Training municipal officials to data enter the assessment information electronically;
- Reviewing the sales information with municipalities prior to the ratio setting process; and
- Explaining the meaning and significance of the statistics resulting from the ratio study process.

## **“STATEWIDE EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX” WARRANT - RSA 76:8**

Each municipality was sent a “statewide enhanced education tax” warrant for the tax year 2025 before December 15, 2024. The new 2024 total equalized valuation figures do not affect the warrant amounts because they were calculated using the 2023 total equalized values without utilities.

**DRA WEBSITE** - <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/> Subcategories: NH Icon, Municipal & Property Division, Equalization, and choose Tax Year

The following items are available or will be available soon on the DRA website:

- Assessment Report - exemptions & tax credits for each municipality
- Blind Exemption Report
- Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) List
- Comparison of Full Value Tax Rates
- Current Use Report
- Base Valuation for Debt Limit
- Elderly Exemption Report – Taxes Lost
- Equalization Survey including Utilities
- Equalization Survey not including Utilities
- Equalization Manual
- Median Ratio List
- Price Related Differential (PRD) List
- Property and Exclusion Codes
- Equalization Ratio List (Weighted Mean)
- Tables by County
- Veteran’s Tax Credit Report

The 2024 Equalization Survey and associated reports should be completed and placed on the web by June 15, 2025. We invite you to take the opportunity to browse the website. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for documents you would like put on the website.

### **THANK YOU**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation with this year’s equalization study and to invite you to make suggestions or express concerns regarding the equalization process. Questions regarding the equalization process in general or how specific numbers were calculated; please feel free to contact this office at 230-5950.



Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

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## **Fwd: Opposition to Rockingham County cooperation with ICE!**

2 messages

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**Melissa Roy** <mroy@exeternh.gov>  
To: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>  
Cc: Russ Dean <rdean@exeternh.gov>

Wed, May 7, 2025 at 12:29 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Niko Papakonstantis** <npapakonstantis@exeternh.gov>  
Date: Wed, May 7, 2025 at 12:15 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to Rockingham County cooperation with ICE!  
To: Russ Dean <rdean@exeternh.gov>, Melissa Roy <mroy@exeternh.gov>

For the packet....

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <meredithjordan@comcast.net>  
Date: Wed, May 7, 2025 at 11:14 AM  
Subject: Opposition to Rockingham County cooperation with ICE!  
To: Erin Coker <ecoker@rockso.org>  
CC: <selectboard@exeternh.gov>

To our Rockingham County Commissioners, the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office and the Exeter Board of Selectmen:

I want to state my strong opposition to the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office cooperating with any attempts made by ICE to arrest, detain or otherwise remove for deportation without due process any residents of Rockingham County who are in the legal process of applying for and obtaining US citizenship.

- As you well know, there are students and families of Rockingham County who are here because they had to flee their own countries for their lives; they are here with the help and support of American born citizens and are taking all the right steps to become citizens themselves. They have not committed criminal actions and, in fact, have jobs that serve our communities. They have the right to due process under our Constitution, as does every citizen born and raised here. They are our neighbors and friends, and we will not stand by as ICE attempts to treat them as anything less.



- As you also know, there is considerable concern about who “ICE” even is. They frequently present themselves without warrants or credentials of any sort, dressed ominously in all black, driving unmarked cars, not allowing those they “detain” to call their families or for legal help. The truth is that we don’t (and you don’t) know whether these are legitimate officials or common thugs pretending to be. The people of Rockingham County will not stand for this.
- Further, operational costs of this collaboration with ICE would be largely borne by the taxpayers of Rockingham County. We did not vote for this, nor will we agree to it.
- The indiscriminate (and highly likely illegal) actions of ICE will significantly diminish community trust in the County Sheriffs.
- Studies have shown that these actions result in racial profiling and create division in our communities through stereotyping and racial/ethnic animus.

There is no “upside” to cooperation with ICE. Their actions are designed to generate fear and anger throughout our cities and towns. In a time when communities must band together to support and protect our most vulnerable citizens, ICE swoops in to do just the opposite. Consider this letter a vehement “NO!” to the Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office working in collaboration with ICE to threaten or remove any members of our communities here in an earnest process of citizenship.

Sincerely,

Meredith H. Jordan  
31 Chestnut St  
Exeter, NH 03833

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**Pam McElroy** <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>  
To: Melissa Roy <mroy@exeternh.gov>  
Cc: Russ Dean <rdean@exeternh.gov>

Wed, May 7, 2025 at 12:31 PM

Got it.  
[Quoted text hidden]  
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*Pam McElroy*



Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

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## Bulletin #18: New Revenue Estimates Impact State Budget

1 message

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NHMA Government Affairs <governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org>

Fri, May 9, 2025 at 2:38 PM

To: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

### New Hampshire Municipal Association

THE SERVICE AND ACTION ARM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPALITIES

# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Legislative Bulletin 18

2025 Session

May 9, 2025



[Live Bill Tracker](#)  
[Bill Hearings Schedule](#)

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## New Revenue Estimates Impact State Budget

The [Senate Ways and Means Committee](#) met Wednesday and voted on revenue estimates for the next biennium, which the [Senate Finance Committee](#) will use as it tweaks the state budget, [HB 1](#) and [HB 2](#), adopted last month by the House.

Having the benefit of more up-to-date state revenue data than the House had back in February, the Senate's numbers are nearly [\\$230 million more](#) than the House estimate—but more than [\\$170 million less](#) than the governor counted on in her budget proposal. State officials acknowledge that [estimating future state revenue is particularly challenging](#) in this budget cycle, so **Senate Ways and Means** tended to stick with the mid- to low-end revenue projections provided by the Department of Revenue Administration.

Representatives Hall was packed Tuesday as more than 400 people signed up to speak at the **Senate Finance Committee** public hearing on the budget that ran past sundown. Most of the speakers criticized the \$15.5 billion House-passed budget, citing cuts to health and social services, the university and community college systems, and Medicaid provider reimbursement rates. The House budget also contains several provisions that have an adverse impact on municipalities, including suspension of the 30% municipal share of the rooms and meals tax, which would be replaced with a



flat \$137 million appropriation each year in FYs 26-27. This change is projected to reduce municipal aid by more than \$10 million compared to the current statutory formula.

And with such a focus on housing issues and zoning mandates this year, another area of concern is the lack of funding in the House Budget for critical programs like Housing Champions, regional planning commissions, and wastewater projects under State Aid Grants (SAG).

NHMA has a one-page budget summary [here](#). You can read a more detailed letter about the budget that NHMA submitted to Senate Finance [here](#).

The **Senate Finance Committee** is meeting today at **1:00 p.m.** in **SH Room 103** for an initial discussion on agency budgets. The committee is expected to make several changes to the budget over the next few weeks, so the process is far from over and NHMA and our members can and will **continue to advocate for the interests of municipalities**. The Senate must pass its budget by June 5 and both chambers must agree on a spending plan to send to the governor by June 26.

**And one more thing:** On the looming state financial issues front—which already includes a pending education funding lawsuit before the NH Supreme Court and a dwindling settlement fund for hundreds of victims abused while under state care at the Youth Development Center—we can add discussions in Congress about reforming or eliminating federal Medicaid reimbursements tied to state medical provider taxes, which account for [more than 30%](#) of federal Medicaid funds received by the state. The Granite State pioneered leveraging this loophole in the late 1980s and 49 states now take advantage of it. Because it is so widely used, it will be difficult for Congress to eliminate it, but it's worth watching. An outcome that doesn't go the state's way on any of these issues could have a seismic impact on the budget, which is why we remain concerned with the state's ability to commit \$275 million over 10 years to fund pension benefit increases for 1,500 public employees that is included in **HB 2**. The impact of expensive pension enhancements for existing members is [being felt in New York State](#), which passed benefit restorations last year. Should the state of New Hampshire pull back from any of that pension funding, those costs would be directly passed on to property taxpayers.

## Senate Passes More Zoning Mandates

The Senate, on voice votes, passed a pair of zoning mandates on Thursday. NHMA is grateful to the senators who [spoke in opposition](#) to these bills on the floor.

**HB 631** allows residential building in commercial zones, mandating mixed-use development in nearly every zoning district in New Hampshire. The definition of “commercially zoned land” in the bill is very broad and is not consistent with the way zoning ordinances differentiate between uses. While promoting urban density, it may lead to conflicts over land use priorities and contradicts one of the key purposes of zoning in RSA 674:17: to “consider the character of the area involved and its peculiar suitability for particular uses.” The bill will be enrolled and sent to the governor.

**HB 685**, as amended (am-2005s), mandates manufactured housing by right in residentially zoned areas. The bill's language directly conflicts with RSA 674:32, the existing statute that says, “Municipalities shall afford reasonable and realistic opportunities for the siting of manufactured housing...” and mandates several updates to local zoning ordinances. **HB 685** establishes a conflicting requirement that will create confusion for municipalities, local land use boards, voters, and developers. As amended, the bill does not include modular homes in the definition of manufactured housing. The bill will return to the House, which can concur, non-concur, or a request a committee of conference.

On a positive note, the Senate voted to re-refer **HB 410** to committee. The bill, another priority bill NHMA opposes, prohibits municipalities from enforcing or adopting any “extraordinary restriction of residential property,” an undefined term, unless the ordinance is directly necessary for the health or safety of the community based on “empirical evidence” supporting the adoption of such an ordinance.



## Amendment Inverts Local Option for Keno

**HB 737**, creating local options for games of chance and changing charitable gaming license fees and reporting requirements, was a bill NHMA originally supported. As passed by the House, the bill allowed municipalities to vote to prohibit games of chance. This newly proposed local option would allow voters to prohibit new charitable gaming casinos from being licensed in their municipality, with existing casinos being grandfathered.

However, the **Senate Ways and Means Committee** amended the bill to change the local option for Keno to an opt-out, rather than the current opt-in that has existed since 2017. The newly proposed Keno-by-default in **HB 737** would override previous votes in municipalities to not allow Keno or where the governing and legislative bodies never wanted to take up the question on their warrant.

An attempt to add Keno by default in the House budget was already defeated, so there's a chance the House may not agree to this change. **Contact your representatives** and ask them to request a committee of conference to maintain the House version of **HB 737**.

## House to Vote on (More) Zoning Mandates

The **House Housing Committee** unanimously recommended seven zoning mandates on Tuesday, all of which will be on the consent calendar at the next House session, most likely on **Thursday, May 22**.

The committee amended six of the seven bills, in some cases making marginal technical improvements and in others adding brand-new mandates. NHMA continues to oppose all these bills because they usurp the decisions of local voters.

**Contact your local representatives now and tell them that these bills are bad for taxpayers and municipalities. Ask your representatives to rally enough colleagues to take these bills off the consent calendar** so they can be debated when the House meets, which is expected to be **Thursday, May 22**. (A minimum of 10 House members are needed to pull a bill from the consent calendar.) **Also mention that forcing all municipalities to adhere to a uniform set of zoning mandates undermines the autonomy that has long been a cornerstone of local governance in our state and will lead to unintended consequences.** As one senator said when speaking out against zoning mandates on the floor yesterday, "One of the reasons people love this state is because local zoning has kept it beautiful." Priority bills are denoted with an asterisk (\*).

\* **SB 163**, as amended (am-1950h), prohibits local moratoria and limitations on building permits for housing developments and adds the language from the **House version of HB 685**, mandating manufactured housing by right in residentially zoned areas. **Recommendation:** OTP-A, 17-0, Consent Calendar.

\* **SB 170**, as amended (am-1948h), relative to development and related requirements in cities, towns, and municipalities. As amended, **SB 170**:

- Prohibits municipalities from adopting any ordinance that discriminates based on the familial or non-familial relationships or marital status among the occupants of the dwelling unit and adds "school enrollment status" to the list of protected classes under the equal housing statute. Collectively, these changes mandate that group homes, fraternities, and any other congregate living arrangements be allowed in all residential areas. The language is similar to **HB 457** (now with the Senate), but worse.
- Gives municipalities *seven days* from the initial planning review to adjust or alter their recommended changes to the submitted plans.



- Prevents municipalities from enforcing more stringent test-pitting and well-siting requirements than required by the Department of Environmental Services, regardless of any unique local characteristics, such as developments on waterfront lots or other environmentally sensitive areas.

It's particularly important to get **SB 170** killed because the Senate version includes a different set of equally troubling mandates and if the bill goes to a committee of conference, there is the possibility that all of the House and Senate language will be merged into an omnibus of bad zoning mandates, several of which were unable to be passed as stand-alone bills. **Recommendation:** OTP-A, 16-o, Consent Calendar.

**SB 174**, as amended (am-1639h), prohibits planning boards from considering the number of bedrooms a given unit or development has during the hearing and approval process, provided that the proposal makes adequate provision for water supply and sewage disposal in accordance with RSA 485-A and if applicable, the planning board's site plan review regulations or subdivision regulations. The amendment clarifies the circumstances under which the number of bedrooms may be considered.

**Recommendation:** OTP-A, 16-o, Consent Calendar.

**SB 188**, as amended (am-1951h), allows property owners or developers to use licensed, insured private providers for building code plan reviews and inspections related to the state building code and any local technical amendments, excluding fire prevention and fire safety codes, and creates a "building permits by default" model if communities fail to meet strict deadlines. The amendment gives municipalities the ability to approve private providers and makes some positive changes recommended by stakeholders, although NHMA continues to oppose the bill. **Recommendation:** OTP-A, 17-o, Consent Calendar.

**SB 281** prohibits municipalities from denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances. Municipalities currently may restrict building on class VI roads to prevent overdevelopment of undeveloped infrastructure and, in this case, unmaintained roads and to control scattered and premature development. While the bill requires that landowners sign a liability waiver, it does not consider whether the class VI roads and abutting properties can sustain new development. **Recommendation:** OTP, 17-o, Consent Calendar.

**SB 282**, as amended (am-1701h) allows residential buildings with four or fewer floors to have only one stairway, provided that the building is equipped with a compliant sprinkler system and meets specific fire code requirements. The amendment removed references to residential buildings with 5 or 6 floors. **Recommendation:** OTP-A, 16-o, Consent Calendar.

**SB 283**, as amended (am-1596h), mandates that municipalities exclude below-grade areas, which include basements and sublevels, from the calculation of floor-area-ratios for new construction projects. The amendment removed language enabling municipalities to review and revise height limitations to maximize height potential for new construction. **Recommendation:** OTP-A, 16-o, Consent Calendar.

The committee has one final zoning mandate to act on no later than May 29, **SB 84**, a priority bill opposed by NHMA that mandates zoning ordinances adhere to specific lot sizes for all single-family homes, overriding current zoning regulations. The bill also requires municipalities to provide empirical evidence that the sewer system cannot support the lots, which adds a layer of complexity and bureaucracy in local government.

For those keeping score, the House Housing Committee has now recommended 16 zoning mandates as ought to pass (OTP) this year on a combined vote of 281-2.

## Work Session on Risk Pool Bill



The **House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee** held a work session Wednesday on **SB 297**, a priority bill opposed by NHMA, which deals with the operations and oversight of pooled risk management programs that are created by cities, towns, counties, and school districts to reduce risks and associated insurance costs. No action was taken, and the committee will meet on **Tuesday, May 20, at 10:00 a.m. in LOB Room 302-304** to review an as-yet-undrafted amendment that would transfer the oversight of risk pools from the secretary of state's office to the Department of Insurance.

The current bill is opposed by NHMA for two primary reasons: The effect it would have on the operations of insurance risk pools and the effect it would have on municipalities that choose to participate in health pools.

**Municipal officials who have not yet done so are encouraged to contact the committee to register their opposition to SB 297 as it is currently written and to express support for putting the pools under the insurance department, which has the expertise to effectively safeguard the integrity of the risk pools, not regulate them out of existence.**

### **Does Anyone Remember Majority Rule?**

At the State House, sweeping changes on spending, local zoning and many other issues, can sometimes pass by a single vote. However, when it comes to local decision making, a pair of tax cap bills display a fundamental lack of faith in local voters to manage their own finances.

**HB 200, amended and passed by the Senate on Thursday**, is a priority bill opposed by NHMA. The bill deals with tax caps, but in a way that fundamentally misunderstands what a tax cap is. By changing the concept of a tax cap from a cap on what is proposed to the legislative body to a cap on what the legislative body approves, the bill is detrimental to the voters and to local decision making. **HB 200** requires a tax cap override by the legislative body to be done by secret yes/no ballot as provided in RSA 40:4-a. In SB 2 municipalities and traditional town meetings, the bill mandates a 3/5 majority to override the tax cap rather than a majority vote as currently required. Any town with an existing tax cap under this section would **automatically** have to implement this new override provision—there's no requirement that the voters readopt the tax cap statute, even though the bill would fundamentally change what the voters originally adopted. The bill will return to the House, which can concur, non-concur, or a request a committee of conference.

**SB 105**, amended and passed by the House on Thursday, creates a new tax cap option. The bill would allow voters, by a three-fifths majority, to cap future spending using a formula based on the current expenditure per resident, multiplied by the number of residents, with future adjustments for inflation—so municipal officials and voters would have no idea how much the cap is from year to year. Any effort to change or override a spending limit, or repeal the cap, would also require a three-fifths vote. The bill also prevents the question of adopting the cap from being amended. Unlike **HB 200**, which has real-world implications for towns that have adopted tax caps, **SB 105** is a new local option, no town has adopted it—and none ever may. However, NHMA opposes the bill because of year-over-year uncertainty regarding the cap, as well as the high bar to modify or repeal it and the limitation of the legislative body to amend the warrant article at Town Meeting. The bill will return to the Senate, which can concur, non-concur, or a request a committee of conference.

Contact your local senator and ask the Senate to non-concur on **SB 105**. Contact your local house members and ask the House to non-concur on **HB 200**. If 50 percent plus one is good enough for state legislators, it should be good enough for the voters who elected them; and voters should also be given a chance to readopt a local option if the legislature fundamentally changes how it works.

Another tax cap bill that NHMA is neutral on, **HB 374**, clarifies and updates tax cap statutes. This bill was amended by the Senate on Thursday and is going back to the House.

### **Update: Election Bills**



The **Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee** reported four election-related bills out of committee this week.

**HB 67**, a bill supported by NMHA that allows municipalities to continue to use the accessible voting systems provided by the Secretary of State's office for local elections with the municipality only bearing the cost to program the ballot, was recommended ought to pass (OTP). During prior testimony, the Secretary of State's office stated that it will keep the programming costs in mind when reviewing the responses to an RFP for accessible voting systems.

**HB 151** was amended to change the current six-year term for supervisors of the checklist to two years and recommended OTP. The House version of the bill called for three-year terms.

**HB 274**, a bill opposed by NMHA that established annual verification of the voter checklist, was recommended inexpedient to legislate (ITL). This was done because the Committee favors a Senate bill (**SB 221**), changing checklist verification from the current 10-year period to every four years. **SB 221** has been heard by the **House Election Law Committee**, but an executive session has yet to be scheduled. In fact, House Election Law held hearings on nine Senate bills at the end of April but has yet to take further action. These bills include **SB 218** (relative to absentee ballot outer envelopes), **SB 103** (relative to the number of polling stations that are available for certain towns), **SB 45** (clarifying the placement of advertising signs on state owned property), and **SB 44** (relative to hand counts of ballots in elections).

**HB 340**, an attempt to clarify the statute on public employee electioneering, opposed by NHMA, was recommended to be re-referred to the committee.

On **Tuesday, May 13**, beginning at **9:40 a.m.** in **LOB Room 103**, the **Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee** will hold public hearings on two bills concerning default budgets opposed by NHMA.

**HB 475** (9:40 a.m.), relative to the reductions from the default budget for official ballot town meetings.

**HB 613** (9:55 a.m.), relative to enabling local political subdivisions to vote and set a reduced default budget option.

## **Update: Ground Ambulance Reimbursements**

On **Tuesday, May 13**, at **1:15 p.m.** in **LOB Room 302-304**, the **House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee** will hold a public hearing on **SB 245**, a priority bill supported by NHMA that eliminates balance billing with the reimbursement rate set at 325% of the current urban, rural, or super-rural Medicare rates, depending on the geographic area where the ambulance service originated.

There's broad agreement in the ambulance community and the legislature for eliminating balance billing—*i.e.* billing a patient for the difference between the full cost of the service and the amount their insurance plan pays—but the House and Senate have very different ideas about where to set reimbursement rates for private insurers to offset the loss of revenue from balance billing. NHMA believes municipal ambulance services are essential services and not profit-driven; thus, appropriate reimbursement rates are crucial for their sustainability.

Last month, the **Senate Health and Human Services Committee** held public hearing on **HB 316**, which NHMA opposes, that eliminates balance billing and sets a reimbursement rate for non-Medicare/Medicaid health insurance carriers at approximately 200% above the current Medicare reimbursement rate. The bill remains in committee.



**SB 130**, which creates a study committee on ambulance billing, was recommended inexpedient to legislate (ITL) last week by the **House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee**.

## House and Senate Actions This Week

The House and Senate met on **Thursday, May 8**, and several bills that NHMA has a position on were acted on. In addition to acting on **HB 631**, **HB 685** and **HB 200** (see above), here is a roundup of other Senate and House votes this week. NHMA's position on each bill is shown in parenthesis after the bill number. Priority bills are denoted with an asterisk (\*).

### Bills with the Senate

\* **HB 66** (oppose), relative to material subject to disclosure under the right to know law. **Status:** ITL.

**HB 138** (oppose), relative to tax impact notation on warrant articles with multi-year tax impacts. **Status:** Passed; bill will be enrolled and sent to the governor.

**HB 154** (oppose), enabling voters to request to have their ballots hand counted. **Status:** Passed; amended bill will go back to the House.

\* **HB 200** (oppose), see above. **Status:** Passed; amended bill will go back to the House.

**HB 247** (support), authorizing municipalities to hold a referendum on whether to allow historic horse racing. **Status:** ITL.

**HB 284** (oppose), requiring tax impact statements on municipal warrant articles. **Status:** ITL.

\* **HB 410** (oppose), see article above. **Status:** Re-refer to committee.

**HB 514** (oppose), allowing private persons to sue for violations of election laws. **Status:** ITL.

**HB 522** (oppose), relative to the expectation of privacy in personal information maintained by the state. **Status:** ITL.

**HB 584** (oppose), relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty. **Status:** ITL.

\* **HB 631** (oppose), see article above. **Status:** Passed; bill will be enrolled and sent to the governor.

**HB 666** (oppose), relative to adding restitution payment for violations of the confidentiality of the library use records and adding library cards and membership status to the list of confidential matters. **Status:** ITL.

\* **HB 685** (oppose), see article above. **Status:** Passed; amended bill will go back to the House.

### Bills with the House

**SB 42** (support), relative to notice of death affidavits. **Status:** Passed; bill will be enrolled and sent to the governor.

**SB 78** (oppose), changing the zoning board of adjustments appeal period to 45 days. **Status:** OTP-A-consent calendar. **Status:** Passed; amended bill will go back to the Senate.

**SB 173** (oppose), relative to residential property subject to housing covenants under the low-income housing tax credit program. **Status:** Passed; bill will be enrolled and sent to the governor.

**SB 217** (oppose), relative to public notice of historic tax rates and tax impacts of proposed projects. **Status:** ITL.



**SB 225** (oppose), requiring public notice before reassessment of property values for local tax purposes. **Status:** ITL.

## Senate Meets Next Week

The Senate will meet on **Thursday, May 15**, and several bills that NHMA has a position on are up for a vote—although all of them are on the consent calendar. Please contact your **local senator** before next Thursday to share your position on any bills that matter to your municipality. NHMA's position on each bill is shown in parenthesis after the bill number. Priority bills are denoted with an asterisk (\*).

\* **HB 67** (support), relative to agreements with the secretary of state for the use of accessible voting systems. See above for more information. **Recommendation:** OTP-A-consent calendar.

**HB 105** (support), creating a new conservation license plate and directing the additional fee to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund. **Recommendation:** Re-refer to committee-consent calendar.

**HB 274** (oppose), relative to the verification of voter rolls annually. **Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

**HB 340** (oppose), relative to electioneering by public employees. **Recommendation:** Re-refer to committee-consent calendar.

**HB 413** (oppose), relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits. **Recommendation:** OTP-consent calendar.

**HB 421** (oppose), relative to notice of tax-exempt status filing procedures by town officials or offices. **Recommendation:** OTP-A-consent calendar.

**HB 428** (oppose), prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code. **Recommendation:** OTP-A-consent calendar.

**HB 489** (oppose), allowing volunteer emergency workers to use a rear facing blue light on their private vehicles when involved in emergency service. **Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

**HB 616** (oppose), relative to the confiscation of animals from persons suspected of or charged with abuse of animals and establishing a committee to study the animal cruelty statutes. **Recommendation:** ITL-consent calendar.

## House and Senate Deadlines

### House

- Thursday, May 15: Last day to act on SBs going to a second committee.
- Thursday, May 29: Last day to report all remaining SBs and last day to report list of retained SBs?.
- Thursday, June 5: Last day to act on SBs.

### Senate

- Thursday, May 15: Deadline for Policy Committees to act on all House bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
- Thursday, June 5: Deadline to act on all House bills.



## House and Senate

- Thursday, June 12: Deadline to form Committees of Conference.?
- Thursday, June 19: Deadline to sign Committee of Conference Reports.?
- Thursday, June 26: Deadline to act on Committee of Conference Reports.

## How to Make your Voice Heard

While there are very few public hearings left to be held this session, if a bill is important to your municipality, it's always best to make your case – for or against – in person. Every Friday, NHMA posts a [Bill Hearings Schedule](#) for the upcoming week. However, if you can't make it to Concord, you can use the Legislature's online portal to put your position on the hearing record.

The House has an [online testimony submission system](#) that allows you to indicate your position on the bill with an option to attach testimony. If you want to email all the members of a House committee, you will have to copy their email addresses individually from the [committee page](#).

The Senate has a [remote sign-in sheet](#) where you can indicate whether you are supportive of a bill, opposed, or neutral. Written testimony can be submitted via the "Email Entire Committee" link found on the [Senate committee page](#).

If you have time to follow along, livestreams of [House](#) and [Senate](#) sessions and committee meetings are available on YouTube. Prior sessions and committee meetings are also archived.

Finally, if you just want to contact your local legislators, there are [Contact a Senator](#) and [Contact a Representative](#) links on the [General Court](#) website.

Note: For anyone who prints these emails out, all the above links are available on the General Court website at: <https://gc.nh.gov/>

## Reminder: Sharing is Caring ... About Good Public Policy!

If you know of anyone who may benefit from the NHMA Legislative Bulletin feel free to pass this email along and encourage them to sign up!

Members can subscribe to the Bulletin through our member portal at: <https://nhmunicipal.weblinkconnect.com/portal>

Once you are logged in, click "edit this profile" and "newsletter management." You can sign up for the *Legislative Bulletin*, *Newslink*, and *Town & City* magazine in one place! (If you are having trouble logging into your account, [follow these steps](#).)

Nonmembers can email [info@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:info@nhmunicipal.org) to be added to our email list for the *Legislative Bulletin*.

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### NHMA Events Calendar 2024 Final Legislative Bulletin

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## **Review Board Calendar**