

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

**Town Warrant 2020**



**Please Take One**

Welcome to the 2020 Town of Exeter Deliberative Session. This year the Town Warrant includes a total of 28 articles to be discussed, debated and possibly amended at this year's session, unless the language of the article is prescribed by law.

The deliberative session affords town residents the ability to directly participate in their town government. Warrant articles include the proposed operating budget for the Town for 2020, along with several special, individual, and petitioned warrant articles proposed for various initiatives. This year, there are a total of 21 articles that are financial in nature, requesting an appropriation of funds. There are 3 proposed bond articles: articles 4, 5, and 6 on the town warrant. These bond articles are for capital projects requiring borrowing and will require 60% vote of the citizens to pass. Two are sewer related articles that contain some element of forgiveness from the NHDES ranging from 10% to 100%.

Article 7 is a customary article of the slate of town officers including the Budget Recommendations Committee nominees for 2020.

Articles 8, 9 and 10 are the town's operating, water, and sewer fund budgets. Article 18 requests funds for town sidewalks, and is an annual appropriation to a previously established capital reserve fund for sidewalks. Article 15 would add funds to the town parks improvement fund to continue improvements in the town's parks. Article 22 is a customary article which appropriates \$100,000 into the Town's sick leave trust fund. These funds are used to pay sick leave benefits upon an employee's retirement. Article 23 is a customary article which sets aside \$50,000 each year to allow for overages in the snow/ice budget. The total budget has increased by \$20,000 in the FY20 budget, however the town exhausted all of the snow/ice reserve funds in the FY19 budget year, using \$100,000 from the fund.

There are 2 zoning amendments this year, and that language is set by law and cannot be amended. Zoning amendments were subject to public hearings in December and January, and go onto the ballot as written for an up or down vote on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Article 24 proposes amending the current Epping Road Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan by reallocating \$1,000,000 of already approved bonding authority to be used for a corridor study and center lane project, along with potential improvements to the Route 27 interchange. All of these improvements would be made to support development in the corridor as well as improve safety.

This year's warrant also includes 4 citizen petition articles: Articles 25-28. These petitions are allowed by law when 25 or more signatures are obtained from registered voters. The Select Board makes recommendations on these articles at their discretion. A recommendation is required when a citizen's petition requests an appropriation. The Board is allowed to recommend on any petition article.

### **Overview**

Each article will be introduced and read by the Moderator, excepting those that are not subject to amendment. Discussion, if any, will then take place. Amendments that are proposed will be

discussed and deliberated by the meeting. Once discussion is complete and articles are finalized, the moderator will declare the item closed.

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

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

Articles that are ultimately amended (or not) will appear on the official ballot for popular vote at the Town Election on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Second session voting will take place at the Talbot Gymnasium at 40 Linden Street. Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a final vote on all town and school officers and warrant articles.

2020 Town Meeting Warrant - Draft Appropriations								
Articles	Appropriations	General	Bonds	Water	Sewer	Fund Balance	Other/Grants	
1 Town Election								
2 Zoning Amendments 2-3								
4 Rec Park	10,850,000		10,850,000					
5 Squamscott River Siphons	1,600,000		1,600,000					
6 Westside Drive Reconstruction Design/Engineering	100,000				25,000		75,000	
7 Choose Town Officers								
8 2020 Operating Budget	19,605,537	19,605,537						
9 2020 Water Budget	3,552,795			3,552,795				
10 2020 Sewer Budget	7,888,605				7,888,605			
11 Groundwater/Surface Water Program	200,000			200,000				
12 Folsom Acres Pump Station Rehabilitation	150,000				150,000			
13 Lincoln Street Parking Program	115,000					115,000		
14 Pickpocket Dam	110,000	110,000						
15 Parks Improvement Fund	100,000	100,000						
16 Communications Repeater Improvements	78,792	78,792						
17 Highway Truck Replacement	65,872	65,872						
18 Sidewalks CRF	60,000	60,000						
19 Parks/Rec Tractor Replacement with Mini Loader	58,000	58,000						
20 Conservation Fund	50,000	50,000						
21 Maintenance Sedan Replacement	24,000	24,000						
22 Sick Leave Trust Fund Appropriation	100,000					100,000		
23 Snow Ice Fund Appropriation	50,000					50,000		
24 Epping Road TIF Plan Amendment								
25 Petition: Granite Bridge								
26 Petition: Holiday Parade	1,500	1,500						
27 Petition: Healthy Climate								
28 Petition: Redistricting								
Total Appropriations 2020	44,558,101	20,153,701	12,450,000	3,752,795	7,861,605	285,000	75,000	44,558,101
		548,164	19,605,537					
<b>Appropriations Breakdown:</b>								
General Fund Appropriations - Non Fund Balance	20,153,701							
Bonds	12,450,000							
Loan Forgiveness 100%	75,000							
Fund Balance	285,000							
Water Fund	3,752,795							
Sewer Fund	7,861,605							
Gross Appropriations	44,558,101	-						
<b>Funding Sources:</b>								
Taxes	12,558,993							
Bond Proceeds	12,450,000							
Water Revenues	3,752,795							
Sewer Revenues	7,861,605							
Loan Forgiveness 100%	75,000							
Amount Voted From Fund Balance	285,000							
General Revenues	7,594,708							
Total Sources of Funding	44,558,101							

## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

### **Article 4**

#### **Article 4 - Parks/Recreation Building Design/Construction and Recreation Park Improvements (\$10,850,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten million eight hundred fifty thousand and zero dollars (\$10,850,000) for the design and construction of a building, playground and field improvements at the Recreation Park on Hampton Road, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$10,850,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Debt service will be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: assuming 10 year bond at 1.47% interest: .57/1,000, \$57/100,000 of assessed property value). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 3-2.

#### **Description**

The proposed project is the renovation and expansion of the existing Recreation Complex located at 4 Hampton Road. The project will utilize Town-owned undeveloped space on the property, as well as, renovate some existing areas within the park. Planet Playground will be taken down and replaced with a new and accessible playground for all. A multi-generational community center will be built to serve the needs of our entire community. Included in this building will be a dedicated space for Seniors to participate in daily programming, join various groups, and find much-needed community resources. The facility will also house a multipurpose gymnasium with an indoor walking track. This space will be used for youth programming, community gatherings, indoor rain space for summer camp, senior health and wellness programs and much more. Three multi-purpose rooms, a space for Meals on Wheels, Recreation Department administrative office space, bathrooms, and storage complete the multi-generational community center. The existing parking lot will be renovated for better traffic flow and connected to a new parking lot with 90 parkings spaces which will support the multi-generational community center.

#### **Rationale:**

In 2014, the Parks and Recreation Department partnered with the University of New Hampshire to conduct a town-wide recreation needs assessment. The needs assessment developed a comprehensive report which laid out the path in which the Department would follow to create quality recreation programs and facilities.

In 2015, the Town of Exeter commissioned a comprehensive facility study by H.L. Turner Inc. which ranked the Parks and Recreation building as the worst facility in Town. The Parks and Recreation building, at 32 Court Street, was built in 1848 and has housed the Department since 1959. Very few renovations have been done to either the Parks and Recreation building or the Senior Center since they opened. Both buildings have deficiencies that have not been addressed such as accessibility and ADA compliance which make offering access to the community challenging. The recommendation by H.L. Turner was to relocate Parks and Recreation, The Senior Center and Meals on Wheels to the Recreation Park as one building. This consolidation would open up the Court St property to be repurposed for other Town use or liquidated to create a taxable property.

In 2018, the Town Wide Master Plan reaffirmed the two previous reports and provided further guidelines that the Department followed in developing the current project.

The top priorities of the Master plan were:

- 1) Evaluate the needs of seniors today and in the future
- 2) Prioritize existing recreational facilities in need of improvements that address safety access, and general maintenance
- 3) Identify new facilities or programming, using the findings of the UNH Needs Assessment and Planning Report
- 4) Prioritize public facilities and spaces (including recreational sites) where ADA improvements are needed or could be improved.

If approved the Recreation Park project would satisfy all of these priorities and create a community space that meets the needs of all residents for the next 30 years.

In 2019, the Town voted to spend \$250,000 to design and engineer the Recreation Park by a 62% vote. The current park design was created using all the aforementioned reports.

The Recreation Park has only had slight modifications since 1974 when the population of Exeter was around 9,000 residents. The community has grown by 40% and the Department has maximized the property as currently constructed. This project allows the Department to expand the park for a future athletic field and outdoor, assessable walking track. The park is the centerpiece of the recreation facilities in the community.

### **Financing**

This project will be financed by a bond. The bonded amount would be \$10.85 million dollars, amortized over 10 years. Based on a bonded amount of 10.85 million dollars over 10 years at a projected interest rate of 1.47%, the first year debt service payment would be \$1,244,495. This equates to a first year impact of 57 cents per 1,000, or \$172 on a 300,000 home. The 10<sup>th</sup> year impact on the same home would be \$152 annually. The average impact over the 10 years is projected at \$162 per year for a 300,000 home.

Town of Exeter

Rec Park Project      10 year bond

Amount                                \$10,850,000  
 Interest Rate                        1.47%  
 Years (up to 25)                      10  
 ANNUAL PAYMENT                    1,085,000

2,174,990,424      Home value (000s)      70

#	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL BALANCE	Tot Prin Plus Interest		Home value (000s)
			10,850,000			
1	1,085,000	159,495	9,765,000	1,244,495	0.57	40
2	1,085,000	143,546	8,680,000	1,228,546	0.56	40
3	1,085,000	127,596	7,595,000	1,212,596	0.56	39
4	1,085,000	111,647	6,510,000	1,196,647	0.55	39
5	1,085,000	95,697	5,425,000	1,180,697	0.54	38
6	1,085,000	79,748	4,340,000	1,164,748	0.54	37
7	1,085,000	63,798	3,255,000	1,148,798	0.53	37
8	1,085,000	47,849	2,170,000	1,132,849	0.52	36
9	1,085,000	31,899	1,085,000	1,116,899	0.51	36
10	1,085,000	15,950	0	1,100,950	0.51	35
11	0	0	0	0	-	0
12	0	0	0	0	-	0
13	0	0	0	0	-	0
14	0	0	0	0	-	0
15	0	0	0	0	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,850,000</b>	<b>877,223</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,172,722</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>38</b>
	<b>Total Principal</b>	<b>Total Interest</b>		<b>Average Payment</b>		

Town of Exeter

Rec Park Project      10 year bond

Amount                            \$10,850,000  
 Interest Rate                    1.47%  
 Years (up to 25)                10  
 ANNUAL PAYMENT                1,085,000

2,174,990,424      Home value (000s)      150

#	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL BALANCE	Tot Prin Plus Interest		Home value (000s)
			10,850,000			
1	1,085,000	159,495	9,765,000	1,244,495	0.57	86
2	1,085,000	143,546	8,680,000	1,228,546	0.56	85
3	1,085,000	127,596	7,595,000	1,212,596	0.56	84
4	1,085,000	111,647	6,510,000	1,196,647	0.55	83
5	1,085,000	95,697	5,425,000	1,180,697	0.54	81
6	1,085,000	79,748	4,340,000	1,164,748	0.54	80
7	1,085,000	63,798	3,255,000	1,148,798	0.53	79
8	1,085,000	47,849	2,170,000	1,132,849	0.52	78
9	1,085,000	31,899	1,085,000	1,116,899	0.51	77
10	1,085,000	15,950	0	1,100,950	0.51	76
11	0	0	0	0	-	0
12	0	0	0	0	-	0
13	0	0	0	0	-	0
14	0	0	0	0	-	0
15	0	0	0	0	-	0
=====						
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,850,000</b>	<b>877,223</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,172,722</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>81</b>
	<b>Total Principal</b>	<b>Total Interest</b>		<b>Average Payment</b>		



Town of Exeter

Rec Park Project      10 year bond

Amount                                \$10,850,000  
 Interest Rate                        1.47%  
 Years (up to 25)                     10  
 ANNUAL PAYMENT                    1,085,000

2,174,990,424      Home value (000s)      300

#	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL BALANCE	Tot Prin Plus Interest		Home value (000s)
			10,850,000			
1	1,085,000	159,495	9,765,000	1,244,495	0.57	172
2	1,085,000	143,546	8,680,000	1,228,546	0.56	169
3	1,085,000	127,596	7,595,000	1,212,596	0.56	167
4	1,085,000	111,647	6,510,000	1,196,647	0.55	165
5	1,085,000	95,697	5,425,000	1,180,697	0.54	163
6	1,085,000	79,748	4,340,000	1,164,748	0.54	161
7	1,085,000	63,798	3,255,000	1,148,798	0.53	158
8	1,085,000	47,849	2,170,000	1,132,849	0.52	156
9	1,085,000	31,899	1,085,000	1,116,899	0.51	154
10	1,085,000	15,950	0	1,100,950	0.51	152
11	0	0	0	0	-	0
12	0	0	0	0	-	0
13	0	0	0	0	-	0
14	0	0	0	0	-	0
15	0	0	0	0	-	0
=====						
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,850,000</b>	<b>877,223</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,172,722</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>162</b>
	<b>Total Principal</b>	<b>Total Interest</b>		<b>Average Payment</b>		

Town of Exeter

Rec Park Project      10 year bond

Amount                            \$10,850,000  
 Interest Rate                    1.47%  
 Years (up to 25)                10  
 ANNUAL PAYMENT               1,085,000

2,174,990,424      Home value (000s)      400

#	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL BALANCE	Tot Prin Plus Interest		Home value (000s)
			10,850,000			
1	1,085,000	159,495	9,765,000	1,244,495	0.57	229
2	1,085,000	143,546	8,680,000	1,228,546	0.56	226
3	1,085,000	127,596	7,595,000	1,212,596	0.56	223
4	1,085,000	111,647	6,510,000	1,196,647	0.55	220
5	1,085,000	95,697	5,425,000	1,180,697	0.54	217
6	1,085,000	79,748	4,340,000	1,164,748	0.54	214
7	1,085,000	63,798	3,255,000	1,148,798	0.53	211
8	1,085,000	47,849	2,170,000	1,132,849	0.52	208
9	1,085,000	31,899	1,085,000	1,116,899	0.51	205
10	1,085,000	15,950	0	1,100,950	0.51	202
11	0	0	0	0	-	0
12	0	0	0	0	-	0
13	0	0	0	0	-	0
14	0	0	0	0	-	0
15	0	0	0	0	-	0
<hr/>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,850,000</b>	<b>877,223</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,172,722</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>216</b>
	<b>Total Principal</b>	<b>Total Interest</b>		<b>Average Payment</b>		

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020

### Article 5

#### **Article 5 - Squamscott River Sewer Siphons Project (\$1,600,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million six hundred thousand and zero dollars (\$1,600,000) for the purpose of design, construction, and installation of siphons from Jady Hill to the Main Pump Station and design of improvements to the Webster Ave pump station and force main design as part of the project, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,600,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund for this purpose. The loan will be repaid as follows: a 10% forgiven by agreement with NHDES, and \$1,440,000 in sewer fees over 10 years. (Estimated Tax Impact: no tax impact, sewer funds plus 10% loan forgiveness).

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

#### **Description**

There are two parallel 8 inch inverted sewer siphon pipes under the Squamscott River that transport sewage from half of the Portsmouth Avenue area via the Webster Pump Station. Engineering analysis has determined the siphons are at capacity during normal dry weather flows and undersized for any further additional new connections or during extreme wet weather events. Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) have occurred immediately upstream of the two siphons at Duck Point at the bottom of Jady Hill Avenue.

This project would add another 12" or 14" inch siphon pipe to increase the current capacity of 1,800 gallons per minute (gpm) to 3,400 to 4,500 gpm. This new increased capacity would in turn allow improvements to the Webster Avenue sewage lift station, thereby increasing its pumping capacity as well. This project would provide future sewer user capacity such as sewer extension to Holland Way, Hospital expansion, or development along Portsmouth Avenue. This project will reduce the probability of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs)

This project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) including 10% loan principal forgiveness.



## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020

### Article 6

#### **Article 6 – Westside Drive Reconstruction Design/Engineering (\$100,000)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), for the purpose of planning and design of wastewater and drainage upgrades to the Westside Drive neighborhood area, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into a loan agreement of up to \$100,000 through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund for this purpose. The loan will be repaid as follows: \$75,000 will be forgiven by agreement with NHDES, and \$25,000 will come from sewer fees. (Estimated Tax Impact: no tax impact, sewer funds plus loan forgiveness).

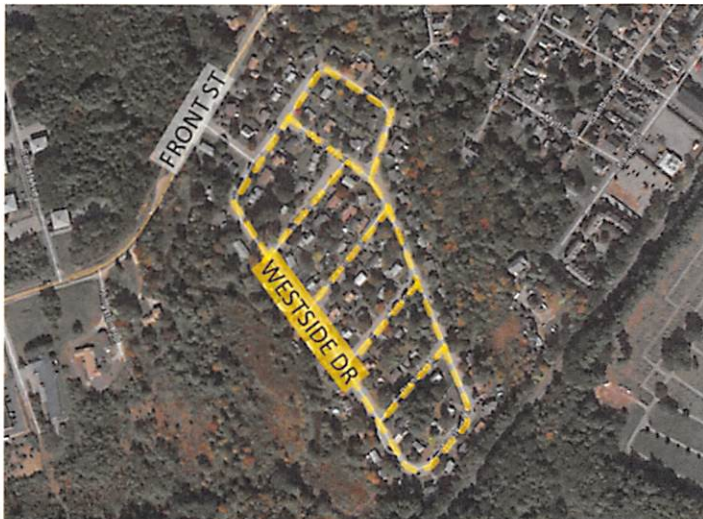
(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

#### **Description**

The Westside Drive area is an area of town with a large inflow/infiltration issue. The I/I comes mostly from the private portion of the sewer system. Homeowners have a difficult time removing the flows from the sewer service because of the high groundwater in the area, low permeability soils, and lack of available drainage systems. The roadways are wider than required by current town regulations which contributes excess stormwater due to the larger than normal impervious surfaces. The pavement will soon deteriorate to an unacceptable level, and the sidewalks need repair. This is the first stage of this project to address substandard infrastructure in this neighborhood.

#### **Financing**

This project is eligible for a \$100,000 loan from NHDES – the loan is the reason this article requires a 3/5 vote for passage. \$75,000 of the loan principal will be forgiven by NHDES. The balance of this project, \$25,000, will be funded via sewer fees.



**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

**Article 7**

**Choose Town Officers**

**Article 7**

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

**Description**

The slate of nominees for the 2020 Budget Recommendations Committee, Fence Viewer, Measurer of Wood and Bark, and Weigher, will be presented under this article.

**Tax Impact of Project**

No tax impact.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

**Article 8**

**Article 8 – 2020 Operating Budget**

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling 19,605,537. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$19,323,051, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Estimated Tax Impact: .18/1,000 assessed property value, \$18.00/100,000 assessed property value).

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

**Description**

Article 8 of the Town Warrant is the 2020 general fund operating budget request. As Exeter is an “SB2” Town there are two numbers on the warrant. The first is the operating budget recommended by the Board of Selectmen. The second number is the “default budget” which cannot be amended. The default budget goes into effect if the operating budget is voted down at the polls on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2020. The 2020 proposed operating budget is 2.83% higher than the 2019 budget. The dollar differential is \$538,680, and \$488,241 over the adjusted FY19 budget. If the operating budget is voted down, the default budget will go into effect for 2020.

The detail of the 2020 operating budget is contained on the MS636 form, which outlines all purposes for funding in 2020 for the general fund, the water fund, sewer fund, and other proposed warrant articles. The general fund is the Town’s main operating fund and pays for all Town operations. The Police, Fire, and Public Works budgets make up approximately 69% of the total 2020 general fund budget of \$19,605,537. In 2019, these departments also made up approximately 68% of the budget request.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2020 Default Budget</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over Default</u>
General	19,323,051	19,605,537	1.44%

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2019 Operating Budget</u>	<u>2020 Operating Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over 2019</u>
General	19,066,857	19,605,537	2.83%

As noted above, the Town’s operating budget request for 2020 is a 2.83%, or \$538,680 increase over the approved operating budget for 2019.

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

Function	FY18 Approved	FY19 Approved	FY20 Proposed	% '20/'19
General Government	1,011,738	1,051,316	1,139,592	8.40%
Finance	632,763	650,455	708,888	8.98%
Planning & Building	527,173	545,582	568,810	4.26%
Economic Development	139,358	144,879	151,341	4.46%
Police	3,228,842	3,317,371	3,325,944	0.26%
Fire	3,721,847	3,745,617	3,851,911	2.84%
Communications/Health	602,394	580,738	552,092	-4.93%
Public Works – Gen Fund	3,993,517	4,230,693	4,394,953	3.88%
Maintenance - Garage	1,106,116	1,131,301	1,190,139	5.20%
Welfare/Human Services	144,887	174,796	176,857	1.18%
Parks/Recreation	526,256	537,916	562,592	4.59%
Other Culture/Recreation	38,001	32,002	32,000	-0.01%
Public Library	1,014,633	1,024,921	1,032,885	0.78%
Debt Service/Capital	1,524,253	1,571,948	1,476,303	-6.08%
Benefits/Taxes/Fixed Costs	434,866	327,322	441,230	34.80%
Total General Fund	18,646,644	19,066,857	19,605,537	2.83%

### **Town Budget and Warrant Process**

- August – September: Town Departments prepare preliminary budget and submit to Town Manager.
- September: Town Manager submits preliminary budget to Select Board and Budget Recommendations Committee, along with capital improvement requests.
- October: Town receives annual health insurance rating and budget is adjusted.
- October – November: Budget Recommendations Committee and subcommittees (Police/Fire, General Government, Rec/Library/Human Services, DPW General, DPW Water/Sewer) meet with departments, review budgets, and make recommendations on budget and capital improvement program. All meetings are open to the public. Minutes and streamed meetings available to the public.
- December: Select Board receives recommendations of BRC and discusses budget. Select Board finalize budget for proposal to deliberative session and town voters after January public hearing.
- Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, 9:00 a.m.. – Town Deliberative Session, discussion of warrant articles. Amendments for articles that are able to be amended are discussed. Registered voters can participate.
- Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Town vote on operating budgets and warrant articles. Talbot Gym, Linden Street, Exeter, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – voting on all town and school articles.

### **FY20 Budget Format – Town Warrant**

- Three separate operating budget warrant articles. General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund (2020 articles 8, 9 and 10).
- Warrant articles for operating budget in required format under RSA 40:13.
- Each operating budget has its own default budget (should the budget article be voted down, default budget goes into effect).
- Financial articles (bonds, individual, and special warrant articles) stand alone for separate vote on warrant.
- Budget forms MS636 and MSDTB reflect DRA approved format.

## **FY20 Budget Commentary – Wage/Benefit Categories**

Wages – Budgeted wages in the FY20 budget include a 2.50% step increase in the first pay period of July, 2020 plus a 1.0% COLA for eligible employees. The overall increase in general fund wages for FY20 is budgeted at \$219,439, or 2.5%. There are no new positions in the FY20 budget.

Health Insurance – The budgeted health insurance increase for FY20 is .7%, or \$14,116. This is based on the FY20 rates set by HealthTrust, an 8.7% increase in insurance premiums. Plan changes account for the necessary budgetary adjustments (as opposed to the premium increases).

Retirement Costs – Group 1 and Group 2 retirement costs are increasing .9%, or \$14,162, in the proposed FY20 budget.

## **FY20 General Fund Budget Discussion**

FY20 budget request is \$19,605,537, a 2.83% increase, or \$ over the FY19 approved budget of \$19,066,857. Increase is 2.55% over the adjusted FY19 budget of 19,117,296. Adjusted budget includes roll up of individual articles approved at 2019 election: DPW and Fire collective bargaining agreements. Town budget makes up approximately 24.5% of overall property tax bill.

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

General Government (Executive/Legislative, Human Resources, Town Clerk/Elections, Legal, Transportation, Information Technology, Trustees of Trust Funds, Town Moderator),

Finance/Treasurer/Tax Collection/Assessing,

Planning, Building, Economic Development, Land Use Boards,

Police, Animal Control, Communications, Fire/EMS, Emergency Management, Health,

DPW General Fund (Administration, Highways/Streets, Snow Removal, Solid Waste, Street Lights, Stormwater), DPW Maintenance, DPW Town Buildings (Utilities, Maintenance, Projects), DPW Mechanics/Garage,

Welfare/Human Services Agency Grants,

Parks/Recreation, Other Culture/Recreation,

Public Library,

Debt Service & Capital,

Benefits and Taxes.

## **FY20 General Fund Budget Notes**

### **Expenses**

- Largest three Town Departments are Police, Fire/EMS, and Public Works. These three functions make up approximately 70% of the total general fund.
- Personnel Requests – There are no new personnel requests in the 2020 budget.



- Personnel – There are full year allocations for part-time positions and position changes approved in the FY19 budget – Human Resources, Parks/Recreation, Fire.
- There are four elections in 2020 which have increased the elections budget.
- There are funds to conduct an audit of the town's IT systems including security capability.
- There are funds included in the public safety budgets to augment IT services in these two departments.
- There are funds allocated in the FY20 budget to update the Town's assessing software via Vision Appraisal.
- The DPW budget has \$25,000 allocated to begin planning work on an updated Highway Garage. This project is in the Town's capital improvement program.
- The DPW snow removal budget has been increased by \$20,000 based on prior year spending trends.
- The Parks/Recreation budget is carrying \$7,500 to increase programming specific to seniors.
- DPW Maintenance budget is carrying an increase of \$11,000 for contract cleaning at the Parks/Recreation buildings on Court Street.
- DPW Highways/Streets budget includes a one time expense of \$23,000 for a culvert replacement on Tamarind Lane, and \$7,000 for signalization improvements at the Hampton Road crosswalk abutting the Recreation Park.
- Benefits and Taxes have been adjusted by \$112,777 as the FY19 budget had a worker's compensation dividend/credit from Primex that is not included in the FY20 budget.

#### **FY20 General Fund Revenue Projections**

- Increase in motor vehicle permit estimate from \$3,025,000 to \$3,080,000– increase of \$55,000.
- Add restored general revenue sharing/local aid to estimates - \$158,990.
- Increase income from departments projected revenue from \$1,000,000 to \$1,075,000 (blue bag fees, brush dump fees, transfer station permit fees)
- EMS fund transfer of \$204,669 forecast.
- Interest income increase to \$115,000.
- Sale of real estate forecast of \$50,000 for sale of town property.
- Use of excess proceeds for Court Street Bridge project and Great Dam project – \$100,916
- Use of Fund Balance of \$700,000 to lower tax rate (planned)
- Total revenues applicable to budget - \$7,594,708
- Total Budget Estimate: \$19,605,537
- Total Taxes Estimated to be raised by 2020 budget: \$12,010,829 (2020 budget of \$19,605,537 - \$7,594,708 in estimated revenues = \$12,010,829).
- Total Taxes Raised by 2019 budget: \$11,503,454 (\$11,991,775 including warrant articles)
- Due to revenue increases and budget adjustments, budget as presented represents a
- .18/1,000 increase in town tax rate (see additional slide, \$5.47 vs. \$5.29 in FY19)
- FY19 town tax rate of \$5.71/1,000 includes warrant articles approved in 2019, veterans credits, and overlay for abatements.

**Town of Exeter FY20 Operating Budget Components**

Function	FY18 Approved	FY19 Approved	FY20 Proposed	FY20/19 \$\$	FY20/19 % base
General Government	1,011,738	1,051,316	1,139,592	88,276	8.40%
Finance/Tax/Assessing	632,763	650,455	708,888	58,433	8.98%
Planning and Building	527,173	545,582	568,810	23,228	4.26%
Economic Development	139,358	144,879	151,341	6,462	4.46%
Police	3,228,842	3,317,371	3,325,944	8,573	0.26%
Fire	3,721,847	3,745,617	3,851,911	106,294	2.84%
Communications/Health	602,394	580,738	552,092	(28,646)	-4.93%
DPW - General Fund	3,993,517	4,230,693	4,394,953	164,260	3.88%
DPW - Maintenance	1,106,116	1,131,301	1,190,139	58,838	5.20%
Welfare/Human Services	144,887	174,796	176,857	2,061	1.18%
Parks/Recreation	526,256	537,916	562,592	24,676	4.59%
Other Culture/Recreation	38,001	32,002	32,000	(2)	-0.01%
Public Library	1,014,633	1,024,921	1,032,885	7,964	0.78%
Debt Service/Capital	1,524,253	1,571,948	1,476,303	(95,645)	-6.08%
Benefits/Taxes	434,866	327,322	441,230	113,908	34.80%
	18,646,644	19,066,857	19,605,537	538,680	2.83%

**Default Budget**

- Budget goes into effect if operating budget is not approved
- Does not affect voting on separate warrant articles
- Definition of default budget in RSA 40:13; amended by state legislature in 2018.
- Certain contractual increases can no longer be counted due to new default definition
- Default budget form is MSDTB
- FY20 default budget: \$19,323,051
- Default budget is prior year budget minus one time expenditures plus obligations committed in prior years

**General Fund Budget Summary – Town Operations**

Article 8, Town Warrant

FY20 Proposed Budget: \$19,605,537 – 2.83% over FY19 budget

FY20 Default Budget: \$19,323,051 – 1.34% over FY19 budget

FY19 Budget: \$19,066,857

Budget Increase over FY19: 2.83%

Dollar increase over FY19: \$538,680

Operating Budget Tax Impact: \$5.47/1,000\*

Default Budget Tax Impact: \$5.34/1,000\*

\*Overlay and Veterans Credits add 19 cents to final rate.

Tax Rate Projection Including Overlay/Vets Credits: \$5.66/1,000

2019 Town Tax Rate: \$5.71/1,000

*Assumes 1% increase in net taxable valuation in 2020*

*Latest sales to assessment ratio is 94.5%*

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

**Article 9**

**Water Fund Budget**

**Article 9 – 2020 Water Fund Budget**

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a water operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$3,552,795. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$3,457,712 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

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

**Description**

The FY20 water fund budget is a 8.25% increase, or \$270,738 over the FY19 water fund budget.

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

<b><u>Budget Category</u></b>	<b><u>FY19</u></b>	<b><u>FY20</u></b>	<b><u>% Chg</u></b>	<b><u>\$\$ Chg</u></b>
Administration	367,994	393,161	6.84%	25,167
Billing	165,173	179,553	8.71%	14,380
Distribution	805,979	836,826	3.83%	30,847
Treatment	743,226	813,514	9.46%	70,288
Debt Service	1,062,113	1,164,650	9.65%	102,537
<u>Capital Outlay</u>	137,572	165,091	20.00%	27,519
Total Budget	3,282,057	3,552,795	8.25%	270,738

**FY20 Water Fund Budget Notes**

**Highlights**

- Water Fund programs: Administration, Billing & Collection, Water Distribution, Water Treatment, Debt Service, Capital Outlay.
- Water Treatment – Increase of \$70,288 or 9.46%.
- Debt service increased by \$102,537 or 9.65% due to first year payment on the TTHM remediation project that resulted in NHDES drinking water standards compliance.
- Capital outlay increased by \$27,519, or 20.00%.

**Budget Overview**

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2020 Default Budget</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over Default</u>
Water Fund	\$3,457,712	\$3,552,795	3.4%

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2019 Operating Budget</u>	<u>2020 Operating Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over 2019</u>
Water Fund	\$3,282,057	\$3,552,795	8.25%

### **Sewer Fund Revenues**

The water fund budget is paid for by fees and other revenues collected from users of the public water system, who are billed on a quarterly basis. The Select Board adjusted water rates in July, 2019 and these rates went into effect with bills issued after the September, 2019 billing (the October bill). Each district was billed once at the new rates at the end of 2019.

Current water rates are as follows: Tier 1: \$8.38 per 1,000 gallons, Tier 2: \$10.48 per 1,000 gallons, Tier 3: \$12.57 per 1,000 gallons. Gallon tiers are: Tier 1 – up to 21,000 gallons, Tier 2, 21,001 to 105,000 gallons, Tier 3, 105,001 gallons and above. Rates are based on quarterly consumption. Service fees are \$42 per quarter to cover administration and billing costs.

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020

### Article 10

#### **Article 10 – 2020 Sewer Fund Budget**

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a sewer operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$7,686,605. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,584,841 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

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

#### **Description**

The FY20 sewer fund budget is an increase of \$4,839,715, or 170.00%, over the FY19 Sewer Fund Budget.

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

The FY20 sewer fund budget looks markedly different than prior years. This is primarily due to additional costs of operating the new Wastewater Facility, and the initial full year debt service payment on the facility, main pump station upgrade, and new force mains connecting the main pump station to the new facility. These costs are in the Treatment and Debt Service portions of the FY20 sewer budget.

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>\$\$ Increase</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Administration	390,983	417,513	26,530	6.79%
Billing	162,398	176,328	13,930	8.58%
Collection System	665,456	708,202	42,746	6.42%
Treatment	924,358	1,415,476	491,118	53.13%
Debt Service	576,124	4,848,995	4,272,871	741.66%
Capital Outlay	127,571	120,091	(7,480)	-5.86%
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>2,846,890</b>	<b>7,686,605</b>	<b>4,839,715</b>	<b>170.00%</b>

#### **FY20 Sewer Fund Budget Notes**

##### **Highlights**

- Sewer Fund programs: Administration, Billing & Collection, Sewer Collection, Sewer Treatment, Debt Service, Capital Outlay.
- Sewer Treatment – Increase of \$491,118 – mainly due to increased personnel costs of \$110,000 for new plant operators, and \$332,000 in electric costs. In addition the budget is supporting a new expense of \$336,000 for bio solids removal as part of the new treatment process.
- Debt service increased by \$4,272,871 or 741.66%, mainly due to the new Wastewater Facility, Main Pump Station, and new sewer connecting force mains debt payment.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2020 Default Budget</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over Default</u>
Sewer Fund	\$7,541,841	\$7,686,605	14.5%

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2019 Operating Budget</u>	<u>2020 Operating Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over 2019</u>
Sewer Fund	\$2,846,890	\$7,686,605	170.00%

As noted above, the Town's sewer fund budget request for 2020 is a 170.0%, or \$4,839,715 increase over the approved 2019 sewer fund budget.

### **Sewer Fund Revenues**

The sewer fund budget is paid for by fees and other revenues collected from users of the public sewer system, who are billed on a quarterly basis. Sewer rates are reviewed regularly by the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen. In 2019, rates were adjusted by the Select Board.

Sewer rates were adjusted in July of 2019 anticipating the first year debt payment on the new facility and new operating costs. The rates became effective on bills issued after September 30, 2019 (the October bill). Each district was billed once in 2019 at the new rates.

The new sewer rates were adjusted as follows: Tier 1: \$13.63 per 1,000 gallons, Tier 2: \$17.04 per 1,000 gallons, Tier 3: \$20.45 per 1,000 gallons. Gallon tiers are: Tier 1 – up to 21,000 gallons, Tier 2, 21,001 to 105,000 gallons, Tier 3, 105,001 gallons and above. Rates are based on quarterly water use. Residents who do not have public sewer but have public water are charged a flat rate based on the number of bedrooms in their homes. These residents have the option to tie into the public system however have chosen not to do so.

## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

### **Article 11**

#### **Article 11 – Groundwater/Surface Water Assessment Program (\$200,000)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), for the purpose of groundwater and surface water rehabilitation, engineering, feasibility study, and land acquisition for water supply purposes. This sum to come from \$200,000 in water funds. (Estimated Tax Impact: no tax impact, water funds).

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

#### **Description**

The Town uses both a Surface Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) and a Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP) to produce the Town's drinking water and fire suppression water supply. The SWTP, originally built in 1886 with the last major upgrade in 1994, withdraws water from the Exeter River and Dearborn Brook Reservoir and provides up to 60% of the Town's water during peak demand of 1.8 million gallons per day (MGD), which typically coincides with summer dry weather conditions. The aging SWTP has been challenged with consistently meeting drinking water standards for disinfection byproducts (trihalomethanes) and manganese levels; the recent conversion to chloramines for secondary disinfectant has addressed the disinfection byproduct violations. Also, future in-stream flow regulations will restrict the withdrawal of water from the Exeter River during low flow periods. This surface water review will initiate long term planning needed for continued surface water use utilizing advanced treatment technologies and the potential for storage or groundwater recharge during high flow conditions.

The newer GWTP, constructed in 2015, consists of three pressure filters to remove iron, manganese and arsenic. Space for expansion for a fourth filter was provided in the design of the facility. The wells and GWTP have a total rated maximum capacity of 1.5 MGD. During the 2016 drought, safe withdrawal rates were decreased to 0.8 MGD. This groundwater exploration and permitting project would ultimately provide additional well supplies that would allow a rotation of wells for recovery resting periods. A proposed new additional well site would be determined by a hydrogeologist followed by permitting, engineering, well construction and new piping as needed to connect the well to existing well piping. A goal for this proposed new well would be to potentially provide up to 0.525 MGD (364 gallons per minute) or greater.

After approval of \$600,000 at Town Meeting in 2019, the Town commenced this assessment with the team of Underwood Engineers and Emery & Garrett. Existing water facilities are undergoing detailed assessments. A review and evaluation of the surface water treatment plant has been conducted. Lary Lane and Stadium wells have been rehabilitated and pump tested; Gilman well will be rehabbed in Spring 2020. Potential future groundwater resources (well sites) have been identified and preliminary investigations have begun. A Phase I comprehensive surface water/groundwater report is anticipated in Spring 2020. The \$200,000 requested in this warrant article will support additional groundwater exploration, surface water facility site feasibility, land acquisition, and conceptual designs to advance water supply.

#### **Financing**

This project will be financed by water fees. These funds are in addition to \$600,000 already approved at the 2019 Town Meeting.

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020

### Article 12

#### **Article 12 – Folsom Acres Lift Station Rehabilitation (\$150,000)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), for the purpose of rehabilitating the sewer lift station located in Folsom Acres off Prentiss Way. This sum to come from \$150,000 sewer fees. (Estimated Tax Impact: no tax impact, sewer funds).

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

#### **Description**

The Folsom Acres sewage pump station is located on Prentiss Way off Drinkwater Road. The enclosures, pumps and some electrical systems are over 30 years old and in poor condition. The station consists of an undersized fiberglass enclosure that houses the two sewer pumps and motors and some of the controls. Cumbersome and dangerous manhole covers are used for access to the wetwell versus modern lift hatches. A new stick-built building would be constructed by Town forces to house new pumps, motors and controls with upgraded security. This project will address decades of pump wear, provide safer and better access for employees, and provide a more secure facility with better protection of the new lift pumps and controls. This project will increase reliability and better protect the public health by reducing the probability of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

This project will complete the upgrades of older vintage sewer pump stations (9 of 9). All 10 sewer pump stations' equipment will have been installed within the last 10 years.

#### **Financing**

This project will be funded from sewer fees. It has no tax impact.





## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

### **Article 13**

#### **Article 13 – Lincoln Street Parking Program (\$115,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifteen thousand and zero dollars (\$115,000) for the purpose of implementing recommendations from the Lincoln Street parking report dated January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, to include paid parking along Lincoln Street with consideration of one hour free parking. The sum raised will be paid back to the town's general fund through parking fees. All parking revenues exceeding the initial program cost will be accounted for in the Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund adopted by the Town at the 2005 Town Meeting. This sum \$115,000 to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated tax impact: no tax impact).

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

#### **Description**

The Select Board has been discussing the topic of a paid parking program on Lincoln Street for over a year. Lincoln Street parking issues have been part of discussions for several years. In the fall of 2019, the Board commissioned a parking consultant to give a report on various options for parking in the area, given the new construction on Lincoln Street, the success of the Downeaster, and overall parking patterns and needs in the area for businesses and patrons. Another element recently added to this issue was a court ruling out of Michigan which declared "tire chalking" unconstitutional. This particular ruling has put a chilling effect on the Town's parking enforcement due to the possibility of a similar lawsuit. All of these issues combined have led to the need to implement a new regulatory schematic along with a parking plan for Lincoln Street. John Burke, a noted parking consultant, drafted a report and presented the results to the Select Board at the public hearing on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The Board discussed the report and subsequently recommended this article to begin the implementation of a program for Lincoln Street. The parking report is noted in the warrant article.

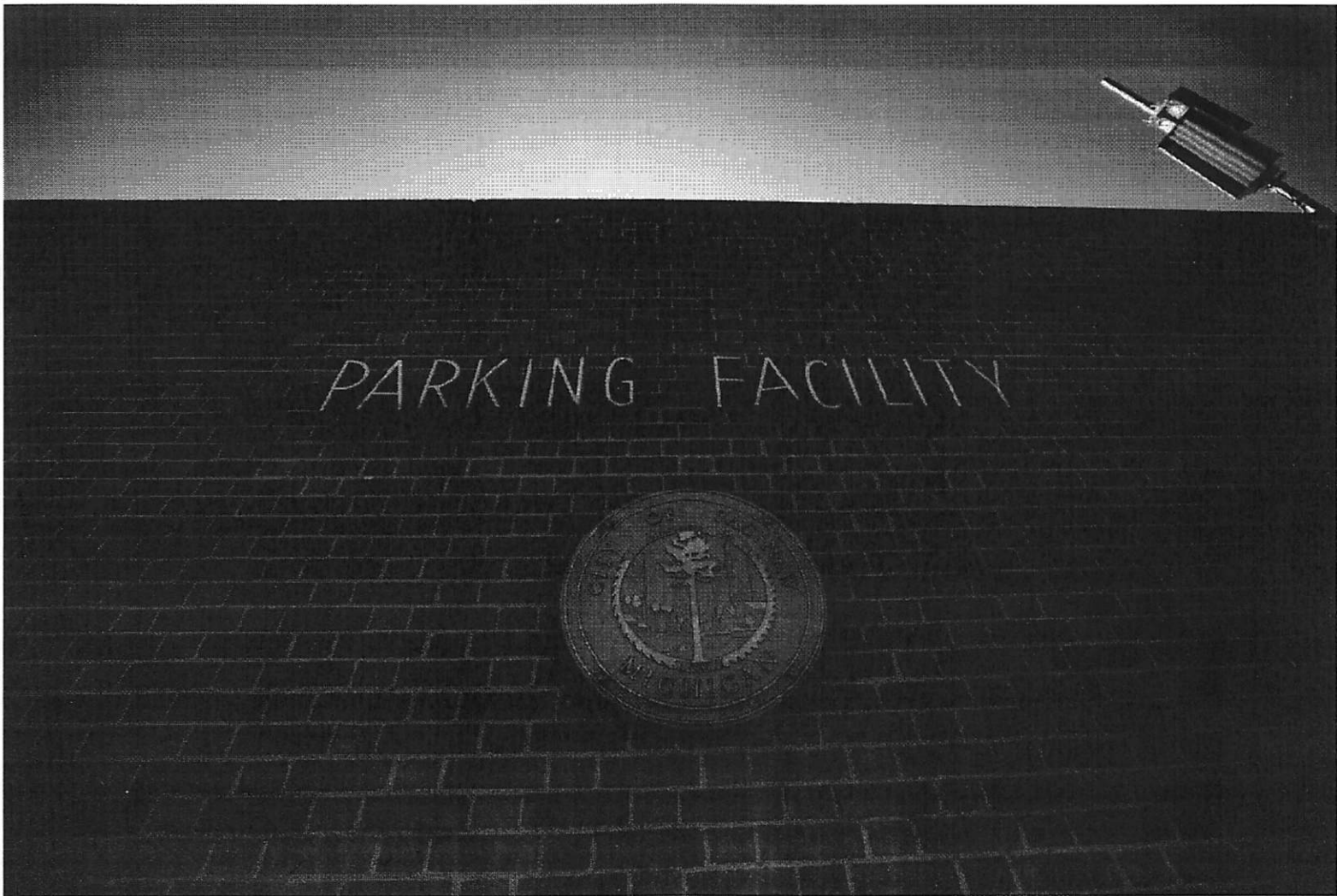
#### **Tax Impact of Project**

Funding for this project will come from the Town's unassigned fund balance. The money appropriated would be used to purchase meters and related enforcement equipment. There are no additional personnel costs as the enforcement equipment will be utilized by current staff. Revenues from this appropriation will be credited to the general fund until the initial investment is paid. Therefore it does not impact the tax rate.

Saginaw and Bay City News

# Lawsuit against tire-chalking for parking enforcement wins another round in court

Posted Jun 19, 2019



The sign for the Saginaw parking facility in Old Town Saginaw on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. Rachel Ellis | MLive

5

53  
shares

By Cole Waterman | Cole Waterman  
Weather

erman@mli



Michigar

Subscribe

Sign In

Search

CINCINNATI – The ongoing court saga that started in Saginaw on whether chalking

tires to enforce parking limits is unconstitutional may be heading to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Tuesday, June 18, the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati declined to review a prior decision from a three-judge panel that found chalking of tires to be a search under the Fourth Amendment. The circuit comprises Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Advertisement

“We’re quite pleased with the outcome,” said attorney Philip L. Ellison, representing plaintiff [Alison P. Taylor](#).

---

### **Saginaw parking ticket lawsuit could have ‘major effects across the country’**

---

The case has its origins in Ellison and fellow attorney Matthew E. Gronda having filed a federal lawsuit on Taylor’s behalf against the City of Saginaw in April 2017. The suit states that since 2014, the city marked Taylor’s tires with chalk and issued 14 parking tickets — some for \$15, others for \$30 — for allegedly exceeding the 2-hour limit on a parking spot in Old Town Saginaw in a lot where she worked.

In June 2017, attorney Brett T. Meyer, representing Saginaw, filed a motion to dismiss. In it, Meyer argued that chalking tires does not amount to a search under the Fourth Amendment and, even if it did, the search is reasonable and therefore not a constitutional violation.

---

Menu

Set  
Weather



Michigan

Subscribe

**‘It’s a big win,’ says attorney in court ruling on chalking tires that began in Saginaw**

Search

---

On April 22, a three-judge panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled chalking of tires violates the Fourth Amendment's clause banning unreasonable searches and seizures. Three days later, the panel issued an amended ruling stating that while the judges still hold chalking of tires is a search under the Fourth Amendment, it does not mean such action violates the amendment.

After the ruling, attorney Gregory W. Mair on May 6 filed what's called an *en banc* petition on Saginaw's behalf, asking the entire Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to review the prior decision.

"Those are rarely granted," Ellison said. "Normally, the losing party (Saginaw) can ask the full court to rehear it. The side that won (Taylor's) doesn't get a chance to respond unless the full court orders to be brief, which means they're possibly considering it."

In this instance, the court ordered Ellison to respond, which he did. Despite the indication that the judges were considering reviewing the matter, they opted not to.

Advertisement

---

## **Appeals court clarifies 4th Amendment ruling in tire-chalking lawsuit**

---

Of the 30 judges the appellate court comprises, none voted to review the previous ruling, Ellison said.

Menu

"Nobody supported the city's position," Ellison said.



Subscribe

Sign In

Search

---

Ellison said that while the city still has options, "a lot of their gunpowder got wet."

Their options are to try getting the matter before the Supreme Court or let the case revert to Ludington's court to play out.

MLive was unable to reach Mair for comment on if he plans to take the case to the nation's highest court.

"Our next move, if it goes back to Ludington, is to start getting data from the city on who's received tickets and getting class certification," Ellison said, meaning the lawsuit would be considered a class action. "The question will be how many years can we go back; it'll be three or six."

Regardless of the time frame, if the suit obtains class certification and is then won by Taylor's side, anyone who received a ticket from chalking in the span could be entitled to a refund, Ellison said.

The case also could apply to other cities who use tire chalking as a method of parking enforcement.

Advertisement

"We still gotta win the case yet," he said.

[View Comments \(5\)](#)

**Note to readers: if you purchase something through one of our affiliate links we may earn a commission.**

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020

### Article 14

#### **Article 14 – Pickpocket Dam (\$110,000)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000), for the purpose of completing tasks related to a letter of deficiency from the NHDES on Pickpocket Dam. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .050/1,000, \$5.01/100,000 assessed property value).

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 3-2.

#### **Description**

The Pickpocket Dam is located on the Exeter River upstream of the bridge on Cross Road near the Pickpocket Road intersection. Although the dam is bisected by the town line between Exeter and Brentwood, the dam is owned in its entirety, operated and maintained by the Town of Exeter. In March 2011 the NHDES Dam Bureau issued a Letter of Deficiency (LOD) to the Town of Exeter requiring a dam breach (failure) analysis. The Town commissioned and submitted the breach analysis and subsequently in March 2018 NHDES Dam Bureau reclassified the dam from low-hazard to high-hazard due to the severe consequences of dam failure. The State issued a Letter of Compliance for the original LOD, and issued a new LOD in July 2019. The new LOD requires the Town to develop an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) by January 2020 (*complete*), **conduct an engineering evaluation and report to make the dam compliant with the current standards for high hazard dams\***, submit an application to reconstruct the dam by June 2022, and complete the dam reconstruction by December 2025. The \$110,000 requested this year will enable the commencement of the of base storm hydraulics evaluation. \$310,000 will be needed next year to conduct a dam feasibility alternatives study in 2021.

\*State regulation [Env-Wr 303.11 (a)(3)] requires a high hazard dam to have sufficient discharge capacity to pass the runoff generated by 2.5 times the 100-year storm event with one foot of freeboard without manual operations.

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

This project has a onetime estimated tax rate impact of .05 cents per 1,000 of assessed valuation or \$15.05 for a \$300,000 home.





The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

Ms. Jennifer Perry  
Town of Exeter Public Works  
13 Newfields Road  
Exeter, NH 03833

July 25, 2019  
**Letter of Deficiency**  
**DSP #19-016**

RE: Pickpocket Dam #D029007, Brentwood

Dear Ms. Perry:

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Dam Bureau (NHDES) is responsible for ensuring the safety of dams in New Hampshire through its dam safety program. In accordance with RSA 482:12 and Env-Wr 302.02, inspections of the subject dam were conducted on March 7, 2018 and July 1, 2019. Based upon the results of these inspections, NHDES is issuing this Letter of Deficiency (LOD) to advise you that it believes the following deficiencies can be remedied in accordance with the deadlines indicated:

**By October 1, 2019:**

1. Remove the log from the spillway. (Photos: L, O & P).
2. Repair the sinkhole on the left embankment crest. (Photo: F).
3. Update the Operations, Maintenance and Response form (OMR) form included the following items, at a minimum,
  - a. High hazard classification;
  - b. Downstream area description; and
  - c. Observation and recording of seepage in the old mill foundation and adjacent to the fish ladder.
4. Remove the trees and brush from the crest, upstream and downstream portions of the embankment, within 15 feet of the spillway abutment walls and within 15 feet of the toe of the embankments. (Photos: B - E, G - N).
5. Repair the erosion and loss of material adjacent to left downstream spillway abutment wall on the left embankment section. (Photo: G).
6. Repair the erosion and loss of material, likely due to foot traffic, left of upstream wing wall on the left embankment section. (Photo: H).
7. Repair the erosion and loss of material adjacent to end of the right spillway abutment wall on the right embankment section. (Photos: N & O).

**By January 1, 2020:**

8. As required by RSA 482:11-a and in accordance with Env-Wr-500, the owner shall develop and Emergency Action Plan (EAP).

**By June 1, 2020:**

9. Engage the services of a consultant qualified in dam-related work to complete an engineering evaluation or analysis of, at a minimum, the items noted below and submit a report to NHDES. The report should include all investigation findings and include

[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

29 Hazen Drive • PO Box 95 • Concord, NH 03302-0095  
(603) 271-3503 • Fax: (603) 271-6120 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

recommendations and a schedule for reconstruction, as warranted, to make the dam compliant with the current standards for high hazard dams. In order to insure that the selected consultant meets the requirements of Env-Wr 403.03(a)(1), NHDES recommends that you submit the resume of your proposed engineering consultant for review in accordance with Env-Wr 403.03 (a)(1) prior to contracting services.

- a. NHDES has reviewed the December 30, 2016 (Revised: December 15, 2017) VHB Dam Breach Analysis memo received by NHDES by e-mail dated January 26, 2018. NHDES met with VHB and Mr. Paul Vlasich on June 27, 2019. Many of the comments from the DRAFT February 2018 LOD have been addressed and removed from this revised LOD. NHDES has the following comments which should be reviewed and addressed by your engineering consultant:
  - i. The HEC-HMS model used for the dam breach evaluation was a portion of the model used to evaluate the downstream Exeter Great Dam D082001 and was reviewed and revised by the consultant using Atlas 14 rainfall and distribution and is suitable for use in the dam breach analysis;
  - ii. Inundation maps;
    1. Layout of maps is difficult to use;
    2. Sunny day inundation limits difficult to see through 100-yr shading;
    3. Edge of 100-yr breach inundation limits not distinct;
    4. Potential high or significant hazard impacts;
      - a. No elevation information, contours, etc. included on maps or tables for residence located northeast of Powder Mill Road and shown surrounded but not flooded by the 100-yr inundation breach limits on Maps 2-4 and 2-5. This residence is located within the FEMA floodway and 100-yr flood hazard zone;
      - b. Residence/building at Green Gate Hall is shown on the edge of the 100-yr inundation breach limits on Map 2-11. This structure is partially located within the FEMA floodway and 100-yr flood hazard zone;
      - c. No elevation information included on maps or tables for residence located north of the Exeter River and west of Court Street and shown surrounded and possibly flooded by the 100-yr inundation breach limits on Map 2-10. This residence is located within the FEMA floodway and 100-yr flood hazard zone; and
      - d. No elevation information included on maps or tables for residence located south of the Exeter River and west of Court Street and shown flooded by the 100-yr inundation breach limits on Map 2-10. This residence is located within the FEMA floodway and 100-yr flood hazard zone.
- b. The hydrologic model referred to in item 9 a.i. indicates that the dam does not have sufficient discharge capacity to pass the runoff generated by the 2.5 x 100-year event required for a high hazard dam [Env-Wr 303.11 (a)(3)]. As such, a more detailed assessment of the watershed hydrology will likely be required for



use in designing reconstruction of the dam to pass this event with a minimum of one foot of remaining freeboard and without manual operations.

**By June 1, 2022:**

10. Submit an application for reconstruction of the dam, or a plan to otherwise comply with Env-Wr 303.12. Permits from other programs, including NHDES' Wetlands Program may be required.

**By December 1, 2025:**

11. Complete the reconstruction of the dam.

As part of the most recent inspection, NHDES completed detailed assessments related to the hydrology of the contributing watershed and the hydraulic capacity of your dam. Further, we performed a review of the areas downstream of the dam in order to reassess the dam's current hazard classification. The observations and recommendations in this LOD include the findings related to these more detailed analyses.

Please note that under New Hampshire's state statute RSA 482:89, NHDES may commence proceedings to levy fines of up to \$2,000 per violation per day against a dam owner who does not respond within 45 days of receipt of a written order, directive, or any notice of needed maintenance, repair, or reconstruction issued by NHDES. To avoid proceedings under this provision, you **must respond** to this LOD. If you fail to return this form within 45 days or fail to otherwise respond in writing within 45 days indicating your intent to remedy the identified deficiencies, you will not have the benefit of the compliance deadlines indicated on the form and NHDES will commence a proceeding under RSA 482:89 to seek administrative fines for the identified deficiencies. Please note that responding as required does not preclude NHDES from pursuing other appropriate action for the identified deficiencies, in accordance with NHDES Compliance Assurance Response Policy, available on-line at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/carp/index.htm>.

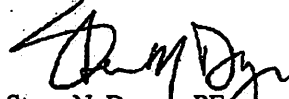
We believe the easiest way to respond is to sign and return the attached "Intent to Complete Repairs" form, either agreeing to correct the identified deficiencies by the dates indicated OR by proposing amendments to the listed work items or dates, which you may do by writing directly on the form. NHDES will evaluate and respond to any reasonable requests for proposed amendments in a timely manner. We have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope for you to return this form. You may also scan and e-mail the completed form to [damsafety@des.nh.gov](mailto:damsafety@des.nh.gov) or fax it to (603) 271-6120.

Our intent in issuing this LOD is to make you aware of items that require your attention to ensure the continued safe operation of your dam. It is our hope that, through the return of the attached form and correction of the identified deficiencies, you will develop and maintain a commitment to keeping a safe and well-maintained dam.

Letter of Deficiency  
Dam #D029007/DSP #19-016  
June 25, 2019  
pg. 4

If you have any questions or comments regarding this LOD or would like to be present at future inspections, please contact Jim Weber, P.E. at 271-8699 or me at 271-3406 or write to the address for the Water Division listed on the bottom of the cover page.

Sincerely,



Steve N. Doyon, PE  
Administrator  
Dam Safety & Inspection Section

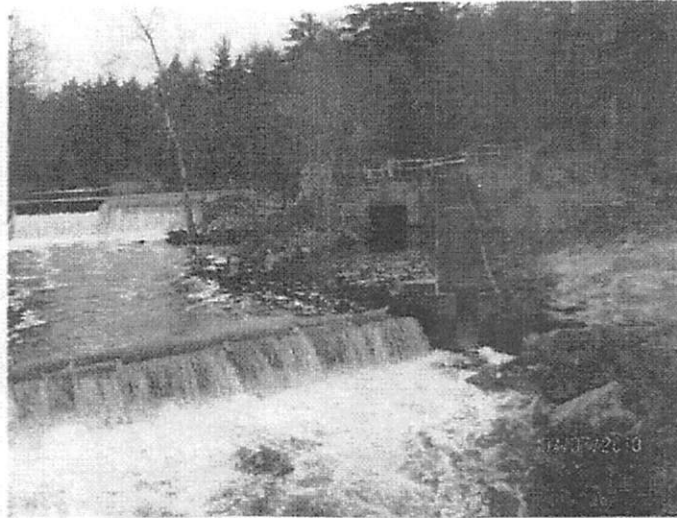
Attachments: Photos, Aerial, Copy of 2014 OMR, Blank OMR form, DB8, DB13  
cc: NHDES Legal Unit  
Town of Brentwood

Certified #7016 1970 0000 4865 8413  
SND\JRW\was\s:\WD-Dam\damfiles\D029007\LOD\20190725 D029007 LOD.docx

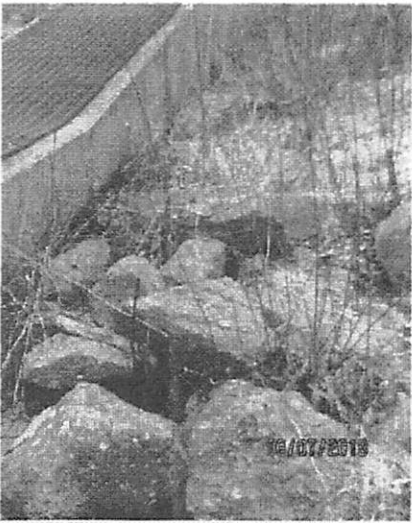
Dam# D029007, Pickpocket Dam, Brentwood, Inspected: 03/07/18



A



B

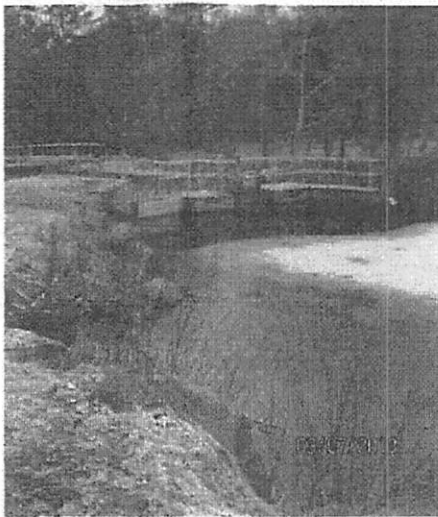


C

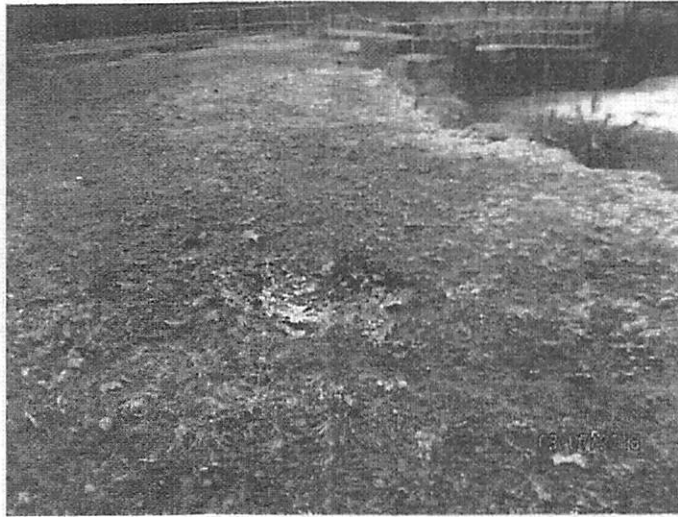


D

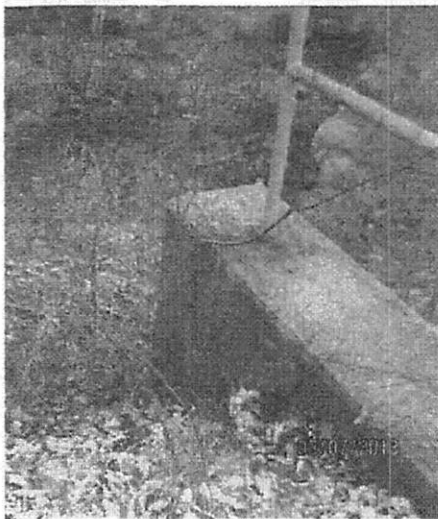
Dam# D029007, Pickpocket Dam, Brentwood, Inspected: 03/07/18



E



F



G



H

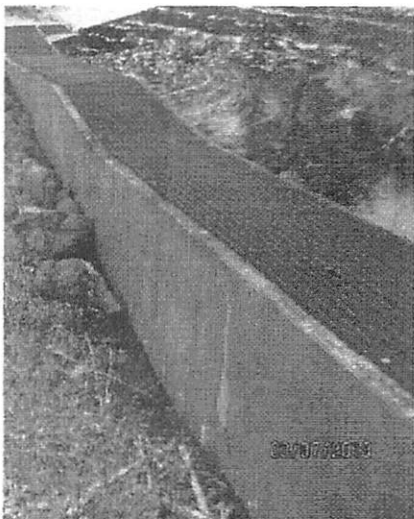
Dam# D029007, Pickpocket Dam, Brentwood, Inspected: 03/07/18



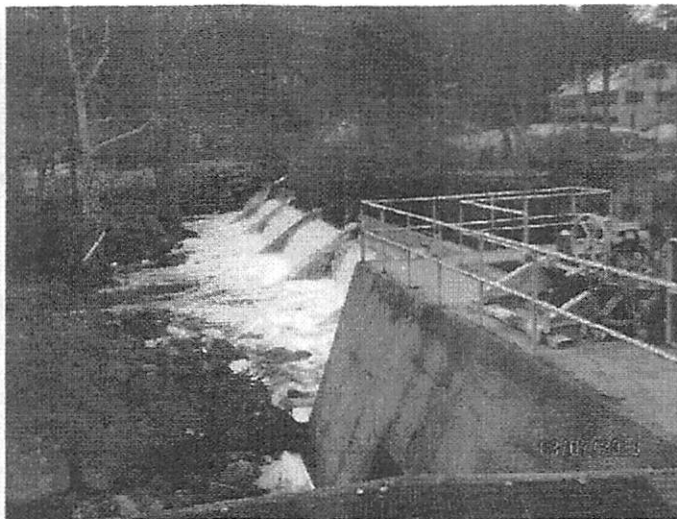
I



J

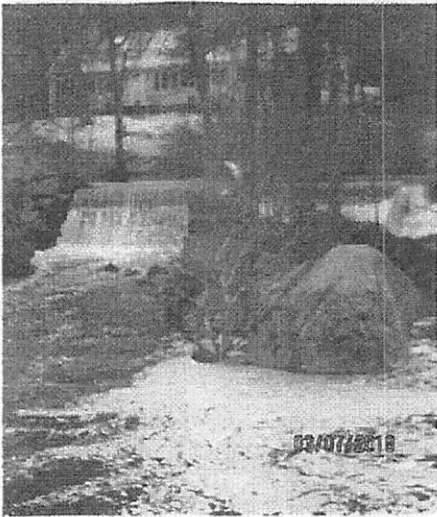


K



L

Dam# D029007, Pickpocket Dam, Brentwood, Inspected: 03/07/18



M



N



O



P

D029007 Pickpocket Dam - Inspected 03/07/2018

All references of left and right are facing in the downstream direction

Left



No Scale

Right

## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

### **Article 15**

#### **Article 15 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – Parks Improvements (\$100,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .046/1,000, \$4.55/100,000 value).

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

#### **Description**

In 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department started to chip away at the aging parks infrastructure. The list of projects funded via the 2019 Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund are as follows:

- Tennis court resurfacing
- Townhouse common fencing
- Town dock expansion
- ADA Pool Lift engineering and install
- Kid's Park playground renovation (Completion date of May 2020)
- Gilman Park Pavilion (Completion date of May 2020)

For the 2020 budget cycle the Parks and Recreation Department, with the support of the Recreation Advisory Board, would like to complete the following:

- Pool resurfacing and purchase of a safety cover
- Park Street Common renovation
- Gale Park renovation
- Finish Townhouse common fencing
- Replacement of various water fountains throughout the park system.

The advantage to a capital reserve fund over conventional funding for individual projects is the fund will not lapse, giving the Department time to work with the Recreation Advisory Board to design and vet projects with the public, for maximum benefit. Under normal conditions, funding lapses on December 31st, giving the Department little time once a project is approved in March, to design and implement. As an example, two of the biggest projects funded in 2019 will be completed in 2020. Another advantage of the capital reserve fund is the ability to "rollover" any savings from projected project costs into the next year. As improvements are finished and assessed, the annual monetary request is likely to stabilize as various projects are completed.

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

The estimated tax impact of the contract is approximately .046 per 1,000 of assessed valuation, or \$4.55 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.



## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

### **Article 16**

#### **Article 16 – Communications Repeater Site Improvements (\$78,792)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of seventy eight thousand seven hundred and ninety two dollars (\$78,792), for the purpose of making improvements to the town's public safety communications systems. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .036/1,000, \$3.59/100,000 value).

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

#### **Description**

This project would continue buildout of the public safety communications system by installing a microwave repeater site on the Fuller Lane Water Tower. This system will allow both Fire and Police personnel to talk on a 5 watt portable radio and have confidence that the signal will be received by the dispatcher. This project began approximately four years ago with the first phase being the completion of a microwave link between the public safety complex and the Epping Road water tower. Future build outs include a microwave link from a new cellular tower planned for the Town owned Simpson property on Kingston Road, or if that tower is significantly delayed, the equipment can be installed on the Cross Road water tower. The Fuller Lane site will require two (2) GTR 8000 base radios (Police & Fire), antennas and mounting system, and necessary factory programming. An outdoor shelter suitable for electronic equipment and a power source are currently on site.

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

The estimated tax impact of the contract is approximately .036 per 1,000 of assessed valuation, or \$3.59 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. This is an estimated one time impact in 2020.

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020

### Article 17

#### **Article 17 – Highway Truck Replacement (\$65,872)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of sixty five thousand eight hundred and seventy two dollars (\$65,872), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for Highway Truck #9, purchased in 2007. This vehicle is primarily used for light duty hauling, landscaping, asphalt work, drainage and catch basin maintenance. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .030/1,000, \$3.00/100,000 assessed property value).

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

#### **Description**

Truck #9 is a 2007 one ton diesel Ford F450 truck with a dump body, used daily by the Highway Department for light-duty hauling, landscaping, asphalt work, drainage and catch basin maintenance, material and tool transport. The current odometer reading is 126,500 miles (121,089 miles in June 2019). Major repairs for this truck include replacement of the dump body and diesel particulate emissions control. The replacement truck will be equipped with a cleaner burning gasoline engine and more durable stainless steel dump body.

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

The estimated tax impact of the contract is approximately .030 per 1,000 of assessed valuation, or \$3.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. This is an estimated one time impact in 2020.



## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

### **Article 18**

#### **Article 18 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – Sidewalks (\$60,000)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to be added to the Sidewalk Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .027/1,000, \$2.73/100,000 value).

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

#### **Description**

The Town is charged with maintaining over 35 miles of public sidewalks. In 2014 the Public Works Department developed a sidewalk asset management program to repair and replace sidewalks in town. This appropriation would put \$60,000 additional dollars in the currently established capital reserve fund to be used toward a sidewalk replacement and repair project. The town has recently completed successful projects including Water Street downtown area, the lower part of High Street, and the northern end of Front Street. In 2019 the Select Board authorized \$17,828 from this Capital Reserve Fund for a State match to assist with a sidewalk project on Epping Road, Winter Street and Spring Street.

Additional information on the sidewalk management plan is available on the Town website at [https://www.exeternh.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public\\_works/page/14771/sw14\\_presentation\\_june\\_30.pdf](https://www.exeternh.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public_works/page/14771/sw14_presentation_june_30.pdf)

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

This project has an estimated tax rate impact of .027 cents per 1,000 of assessed valuation or \$2.73 per \$100,000 of assessed value. This is a one-time impact in 2020.

## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

### **Article 19**

#### **Article 19 – Replace Parks/Recreation Tractor with Mini-Loader (\$58,000)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of fifty eight thousand dollars (\$58,000), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement of the Parks/Recreation Department 1999 tractor with a mini-loader. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .026/1,000, \$2.64/100,000 assessed property value).

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

#### **Description**

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting the replacement of a 1999 John Deere Tractor that is no longer functional to the Department. The tractor is vital in the day to day operations of the Department's parks division assisting in functions such as landscaping, mulching, excavating, ball field maintenance, and snow removal. The tractor no longer has the power needed to perform these functions. The tractor would correct the Department's deficiencies while increasing efficiency and productivity.

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

This project has a onetime estimated tax rate impact of .026 cents per 1,000 of assessed valuation or \$2.64 per \$100,000 of property value.

## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

### **Article 20**

#### **Article 20 – Conservation Fund (\$50,000)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), to the Conservation Fund established pursuant to RSA 36-A:5. These funds will be used for purposes consistent with the Conservation Fund including the purchase of interests in real property to be held for conservation purposes. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .023/1,000, \$2.28/100,000 assessed property value).

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

#### **Description**

Conservation land acquisition is often opportunistic. It comes in various forms ranging from donations or bargain sales, to full property purchase. Having a viable conservation fund enables the Commission to take advantage of opportunities as they occur and makes leveraging grant dollars possible by providing matching funds. All options require some funds to move them forward. This is even true for land donations which require due diligence costs such as property surveys, title insurance, legal counsel deed review, and recording fees. During the past 3 years the Conservation Commission has been approached by conservation partners or willing landowners, and was unable to move projects forward, including some potential donations, due to lack of sufficient funds.

Though Exeter has been proactive with land protection, our rivers and streams bear indications of the degree of impervious cover in our community. Exeter has the 9th highest amount of effective impervious cover (impervious cover that does not get treated through stormwater structures before discharging to a river or stream) in the Great Bay watershed and is above the recommended threshold for when water quality impacts occur. As a result, the majority of our rivers and streams are listed as impaired, meaning they do not meet state standards for water quality.

Land conservation provides numerous economic benefits. It increases the property value of abutting properties, provides recreation opportunities that can draw visitors to local businesses from other towns, and most importantly, provides free ecosystem services such as absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide, protecting and encouraging groundwater recharge, providing flood protection and storage and naturally cleaning pollutants from developed areas.

A viable conservation fund will assist in meeting both economic and environmental goals set forth in the master plan and prioritized by our Natural Resource Inventory to ensure preservation of our most sensitive resources.

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

This project has a onetime estimated tax rate impact of .023 cents per 1,000 of assessed valuation or \$2.28 per \$100,000 of property value.

## Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020

### Article 21

#### **Article 21 – Maintenance Sedan Replacement (\$24,000)**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of twenty four thousand dollars (\$24,000), for the purpose of replacing a 2008 Crown Victoria maintenance vehicle with a transit van. This sum to come from general taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: .011/1,000, \$1.09/100,000 assessed property value).

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

#### **Description**

Vehicle #24 is a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria sedan which has had 3 service lives with the Town. It is a retired front-line police cruiser, a retired detective's car and currently used daily by the maintenance custodian. The custodian uses it for transportation between multiple municipal buildings to perform daily cleaning duties. The custodian distributes bulk cleaning supplies, paper products and equipment between buildings. The odometer reading is 138,100 miles (January 2020). Issues of concern with the existing sedan include weak transmission, rusted floorboards, tired suspension, body rust and high mileage.

A new small transit van will be better suited to safely and ergonomically carrying supplies and equipment, provide better fuel economy and reduce vehicle maintenance costs.

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

The estimated tax impact of the contract is approximately .011 per 1,000 of assessed valuation, or \$1.09 per 100,000 of assessed valuation. This is an estimated one time impact in 2020.



## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

### **Article 22**

#### **Article 22 – Appropriate to Sick Leave Trust Fund (\$100,000)**

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

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

#### **Description**

The Town established a sick leave trust fund in 1989 to fund sick leave buyouts when an employee retires. The current benefit allows employees to buy back 50% of their accrued sick leave at retirement. Due to recent retirements, the fund needs a replenishment of funds to meet obligations from 2019 and anticipated obligations in 2020. This fund currently has a balance of approximately \$834. The general fund is owed \$13,191 for 2019 sick leave payouts due to retirements.

#### **Operating Budget Impact**

This proposed warrant article would be funded from general fund surplus and will not have an impact on the 2020 tax rate.

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

No tax impact.

## **Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

### **Article 23**

#### **Article 23 – Snow and Ice Fund Appropriation (\$50,000)**

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

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

#### **Description**

Article 23 of the 2010 Town Warrant established a reserve fund for snow and ice budget deficits. Due to the timing of the fiscal year, which ends December 31<sup>st</sup>, it is always difficult to forecast snow and ice spending. Overspending this budget (a necessity) puts pressure on other budgets at fiscal year end. Each storm has variability and depending on the type, length, and severity of storm, and snow and ice budgets can be exhausted and easily overspent. This emergency fund allows the Board of Selectmen to approve withdrawals in years the snow and ice budget is overspent. Recently in years 2018 and 2019, the Town overspent the snow and ice budgets by \$22,756 and \$150,460, respectively. The Select Board approved the use of \$100,000 from the Snow/Ice Fund to cover the deficit in 2019. The 2020 appropriation seeks to replenish the Snow/Ice fund with \$50,000. The current balance in the fund is \$ 2,969 and reflects the withdrawal of \$100,000 to cover the 2019 snow/ice deficit. Once the fund reaches an approximate balance of \$100,000, the fund will be re-examined for the further appropriations, with corresponding annual appropriations to ensure adequate snow and ice reserves exist in the event of a bad winter. Adequate funding of this reserve also allows the Town to maintain near level funding with the general fund snow and ice budget year over year.

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

These funds are being requested to be taken from the general fund surplus. Therefore, if approved, there will be no impact on the 2020 tax rate.



**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**  
**Article 24**  
**Amend Epping Road TIF Financing Plan**

**Article 24 – Epping Road Tax Increment Financing Plan Amendment**

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of the Epping Road Tax Increment District Financing Plan Amendment (dated January 7, 2020) in accordance with RSA 162-K:9 IV which allocates the use of tax increments for retirement of bonds and notes as outlined in the plan amendment.

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

**Description**

The Epping Road TIF District, since its adoption in 2015, has been a major success, adding 43 million dollars in incremental additional value to the Town's tax base. This article would amend the current bonding authority under the TIF by reallocating 1 million dollars of already authorized authority to a different purpose within the TIF. The project would allow for a corridor study of Route 27 and provide funding for improvements needed in the corridor due to anticipated development. Any money used in this allocation would be paid back via tax increments from the TIF and not by general taxation. Therefore, the article has no tax impact.

**Tax Impact of Project**

This article has no tax impact. Current TIF bonding authority would be used to complete these changes.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**  
**Article 25**  
**Citizen's Petition Article – Granite Bridge Project**

**Article 25 – Citizen's Petition Article – Granite Bridge Project**

By petition,

Shall the town express its opposition to the Granite Bridge Pipeline project.

The scope of this project vastly exceeds the current and future energy demands in New Hampshire. The likely changes in energy production could result in ratepayers paying for technology that will be obsolete before it's operational. Public Utilities Commission contracted consultants reviewing the project have said the proposed plan is excessively costly and overbuilt for the long term energy needs of New Hampshire.

As proposed by Liberty Utilities, the project includes a 27 mile fracked gas pipeline along Rt. 101 from Manchester to Exeter, a metering station at the site of the Exeter water treatment plant and the construction of a 2 billion cubic foot storage tank (larger than the rainbow tank in Boston) in the Epping quarry. The pipeline would cross the Lamprey River twice and run alongside Lake Massabesic potentially threatening drinking water supply.

The safety risks of gas pipelines is evident in the recent leaks and explosions in Keene and Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Furthermore this fossil fuel project with its methane emissions is in opposition to the principles of Exeter's "Right to a Healthy Climate Ordinance" passed in 2019 and the Select board's vote to support the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Upon passage the voters request that the Select board send copies of this resolution with a record of the vote to Liberty Utilities, the Public Utilities Commission, the Site Evaluation Committee, and all State Senators.

**Discussion**

This article was submitted via a citizen's petition. The Select Board have taken no formal position on the article.

**Tax Impact of Project**

This article has no tax impact.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**  
**Article 26**  
**Citizen's Petition Article – Holiday Parade**

**Article 26 – Citizen's Petition Article – Holiday Parade**

By petition, Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 dollars and no cents to defray the expense of the annual Exeter Holiday Parade for the public under the direction of the Selectmen or a committee to be appointed to serve gratuitously for this purpose.

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

**Discussion**

This article was submitted via a citizen's petition. As it contains an appropriation, the Select Board must make a recommendation on the article. The Select Board voted 5-0 to recommend this article at the public hearing on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. If passed, this article would increase the Town's appropriation to the Holiday Parade from \$3,000 to \$4,500.

**Tax Impact**

The tax impact of this article is .001 per 1,000 or .07 per 100,000 of assessed valuation.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**

**Article 27**

**Citizen's Petition Article – Resolutoin to Take Action on Climate Pollution**

**Article 27 – Citizen's Petition Article – Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution**

By petition,

**New Hampshire Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution**

We the town of EXETER hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect households, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire's economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety.

We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of New Hampshire's natural resources upon which we all rely.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to EXETER's State Legislators, to the Governor of New Hampshire, to EXETER's Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by EXETER's Select Board, within 30 days of this vote.

**Discussion**

This article was submitted via a citizen's petition. The Select Board did not take a formal position on this article at the public hearing on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

**Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2020**  
**Article 28**

**Article 28 – Citizen’s Petition Article – New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Redistricting**

By petition,

To see if the town will urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census, will do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. That in order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular political parties or candidates.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the selectmen to the town of Exeter’s state legislators and to the Governor of New Hampshire informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.  
the Select Board 5-0.

**Discussion**

This article was submitted by citizen’s petition. The Select Board did not take a formal position on this article at the hearing on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020.