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EXETER TOWN WARRANT – 2016

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

First Session

You are hereby notified that the first session (the Deliberative Session) of the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2016 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts at Exeter High School, 1 Blue Hawk Drive. The first session will consist of explanation, discussion and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will also afford voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to warrant articles, except those articles in which wording is prescribed by state law.

Second Session

The second session of the annual town meeting, to elect town officers by official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles as they may have been amended at the first session, will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the Talbot Gymnasium at the Tuck Learning Center, 30 Linden Street. Polls for voting by official ballot will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Article 1

To choose the following: 2 Selectman for a 3-year term; 1 Checklist Supervisor for a 3-year term; 1 Checklist Supervisor for a 6-year term; 1 Trustee of Swasey Parkway for a 3-year term; 1 Trustee of the Robinson Fund for a 7-year term; 1 Trustee of Trust Funds for a 2-year term; 1 Trustee of Trust Funds for a 3-year term; 3 Library Trustees for a 3-year term.

Article 2 Zoning Amendment #1: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town zoning ordinance, as follows: Amend Article 2.2 Definitions, by adding the following (and renumbering the remaining list):

2.2.30 Fertilizer: Any substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrients which is designed for use in promoting plant growth such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Fertilizer as defined shall not include vegetable compost, lime, limestone, wood ashes, or any nitrogen-free horticultural medium (e.g. vermiculite).

Article 3 Zoning Amendment #2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town zoning ordinance, as follows: Amend Article 9.2, Section 9.2.3.K. Prohibited Uses, by adding the following:

12. The use of fertilizer as defined in 2.2.30.

- a. Per the intent of this ordinance, this prohibition may be waived by the Planning Board to supplement restoration or the establishment of new landscaping. Applicants shall provide written justification and identify specific location(s) within the property where the request applies. Waivers granted will provide for temporary allowance, not to exceed one year.

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Article 4 Zoning Amendment #3: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town zoning ordinance, as follows: Amend Article 9.3, Section 9.3.4.F. Prohibited Uses, by adding the following:

12. The use of fertilizer as defined in 2.2.30.
 - a. Per the intent of this ordinance, this prohibition may be waived by the Planning Board to supplement restoration or the establishment of new landscaping. Applicants shall provide written justification and identify specific location(s) within the property where the request applies. Waivers granted will provide for temporary allowance, not to exceed one year.

Article 5 Petitioned Zoning Amendment: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 submitted by Petition for the town zoning ordinance, as follows:

On the petition of Christopher Gilroy representing 25 Hampton Road #A3 in Exeter, NH and others, to see if the town will vote to:

Amend Article 4.2 Schedule I: Permitted Uses by adding the language: “A special exception for a community building in the R1; R2; R3; or R4 districts may not include a methadone clinic, marijuana dispensary; sexually oriented business; homeless shelter, nor homeless day-center”.

The Planning Board recommends this article.

Article 6 Petitioned Zoning Amendment: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #5 submitted by Petition for the town zoning ordinance, as follows:

On the petition of Christopher Surette and other registered voters of the Town of Exeter, to see if the town will vote to:

Amend Article 2, Definitions by adding a definition for “Mixed Use” to read as follows: “Mixed Use: the combination of residential and non-residential uses on one or more lots.

Amend Article 4, Section 4.2 Schedule I: Permitted Uses to allow “Mixed Use Multi-family Residential development” as a permitted use in the C-3, Epping Road Highway Commercial zoning district.

Amend Article 4, Section 4.4 Schedule III: Density and Dimensional Regulations – Non-Residential Minimum Lot Area/Dwelling Unit (Sq. Ft.) by adding reference to Note #21 to read as follows: Residential density for multi-family development is 5,000 square feet per dwelling unit.

Amend Article 4, Section 4.4 Schedule III: Density and Dimensional Regulations – Non-Residential Minimum Lot Area/Municipal Water & Sewer by adding a reference to Note #22. Amend Schedule III: Notes by adding Note #22 to read as follows: Municipal water and sewer and underground utilities are required.

Amend Article 4, Section 4.4 Schedule III: Density and Dimensional Regulations – Non-Residential Minimum Yard Setbacks – Front by adding reference to Note #23. Amend Schedule III Notes by adding Note #23, to read as follows: Minimum front yard setback of 500 feet required from Epping Road for Mixed Use Multi-family Residential development.

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The Planning Board does not recommend this article.

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-nine million nine hundred and eighty thousand dollars (\$49,980,000) for the purpose of constructing a new wastewater facility and site improvements at Newfields Road and improvements to the Main Pumping Station and sewer force mains to meet the requirements of USEPA and NHDES for treatment of wastewater before it is discharged to the Squamscott River in accordance with the Administrative Order on Consent between USEPA and the Town of Exeter, and authorize the issuance of not more than forty-nine million nine hundred and eighty thousand (\$49,980,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project. Debt service to be paid by the sewer fund.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 8

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

Article 9

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 17,576,735. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$17,411,021 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.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 10

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 \$2,975,555. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$2,946,611 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 Board of Selectmen 5-0.

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Article 11

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 \$2,400,549. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,321,900 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 Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the SEIU Local 1984 which calls for the following salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary/Benefits Increase		
	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund
FY16	\$11,492	\$2,872	\$2,325

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of sixteen thousand six hundred eighty nine dollars (\$16,689) for the 2016 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0.

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the Exeter Professional Firefighters Local 3491 which calls for the following salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary/Benefits Increase
FY16	\$11,484
FY17	\$35,260

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of eleven thousand four hundred and eighty-four dollars (\$11,484) for the 2016 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0.

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Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one-hundred eight thousand and thirty five dollars (\$108,035), for the support of various human service agencies that will serve Exeter residents in 2016:

Agency	
A Safe Place	\$7,334
Area Home Care	\$10,334
Big Brother/Big Sister	\$7,500
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)	\$500
Child and Family Services	\$12,000
Crossroads House	\$3,500
Families First	\$5,000
Friends Program (formerly RSVP)	\$2,200
Meals on Wheels – Food	\$9,200
New Generation Shelter	\$2,000
New Heights (formerly New Outlook)	\$3,000
NHSPCA	\$1,400
Richie McFarland Center	\$9,900
Rockingham Community Action	\$11,000
Seacoast Family Promise	\$1,500
Seacoast Mental Health	\$8,500
Seacoast VNA	\$4,167
St. Vincent De Paul	\$5,000
Womenade of Greater Squamscott	\$3,000
End 68 Hours of Hunger	\$1,000
Total	\$108,035

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-1.

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy five-thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the Sick Leave Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from general fund surplus.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-1.

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease/purchase agreement for \$243,275 for the purpose of lease/purchasing fund accounting, tax and utility billing software for the Finance, Tax, and Water/Sewer Departments, and to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-three thousand three hundred forty three (\$63,343), which represents the first of 4 annual payments for that purpose. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-

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appropriation) clause. Appropriation amounts \$31,671 general fund; \$15,836 water fund; \$15,836 sewer fund.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-1.

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to establish a non capital reserve fund under RSA 35:1-c for the purpose of making updates to the Town's Master Plan under the jurisdiction of the planning board, and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in this fund and further the Board of Selectmen shall be named agents of the fund and be authorized to make expenditures from the fund.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-1.

Article 18

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 general fund surplus.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-1.

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease/purchase agreement for \$159,438 for the purpose of lease/purchasing a dump truck for the Exeter Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-six thousand and one dollars (\$36,001), which represents the first of 5 annual payments for that purpose. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-1.

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate via special warrant article the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) for the purpose of conducting a parking study of the downtown area of Exeter to include Water Street, Lincoln Street, and all municipal parking lots.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-1.

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Article 21

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into lease/purchase agreements for \$93,229 for the purpose of replacing various light duty vehicles within the Exeter Public Works Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-one thousand and fifty two dollars (\$21,052), which represents the first of 5 annual payments for that purpose. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. Appropriation amounts \$17,416 general fund; \$1,818 water fund; \$1,818 sewer fund.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-1.

Article 22

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter into a long term lease of up to 99 years on Town owned land described as Tax Map 100 Lot 4, for the purpose of installing a cellular tower on the property, a portion of which will benefit the Town of Exeter communications systems.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue as public highways the following two ancient, abandoned roadways:

- a. A portion of 3 Rod Road from its easterly starting point at its intersection with the already discontinued portion of Garrison Lane, westerly to its intersection with the boundary between Lot 4 on Tax Map 46 and the Town Conservation land, Lot 2 on Tax Map 56. This road was laid out in 1699, as documented in Book 2, Page 136, N.H. State Records.
- b. A portion of Garrison Road from its northerly intersection with 3 Rod Road to its southwesterly intersection with the boundary between Lot 3, Tax Map 56 and the Town Conservation land, Lot 2, Tax Map 56. This road was laid out in 1699, as documented in Book 2, Page 90, N.H. State Records.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 24

By petition of Robert Eastman and others, "Shall the Town of Exeter affirms that, within the town limits, the navigable airspace for drone aircraft shall not be expanded below the long-established airspace for manned aircraft; and that the Town of Exeter affirms that within the town limits, landowners have exclusive control of the immediate reaches of the airspace and that no drone aircraft shall have the "public right to transit" through this private property."

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Article 25

By petition of Daniel W. Chartrand and others, “Shall a charter commission be established for the purpose of establishing a municipal charter?”

Article 26

By petition of Herb Moyer and others, “To see if the town will urge: That the next President and Congress fight big money politics and restore government of, by, and for the people by championing the We the People agenda: 1. Ban Super PACs and overturn Citizens United; 2. Expose secret donors and require full transparency; 3. Ban bribes from big-money lobbyists and government contractors; 4. Establish small-donor, citizen funded elections; 5. End gerrymandering and modernize voter registration; 6. Close loopholes and enforce campaign finance laws.

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support concrete legislation to enact the We the People agenda. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the selectmen to the NH congressional delegation and to Exeter’s state legislators, and to the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

Article 27

On the petition of Andrew F. Hirst and others, due to the high increase in the cost of living in the past eight years to see if the town will vote: For the purpose of amending Article 43: from 2/2/08

Which reads as follows:

“Shall the voters modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Exeter, based on assessment for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age and up to age 75 years, \$152,251; for a person; 75 years of age up to 80 years \$183,751; for a person 80 years of age and over \$236,251. To qualify person must have been a resident of New Hampshire for at least three (3) consecutive years, own the real estate individually or if owned by such person’s spouse, they must be have been married to each other for at least five (5) consecutive years. In addition the taxpayer must have a net income of no more than \$40,426; or if married, a combine net income of not more than \$51,976; and own net assets not in excess of \$194,251; excluding the value of the persons residence. The combined net asset amount for married persons shall apply to a surviving spouse until the sale or transfer of the property by the surviving spouse or until the remarriage of the surviving spouse.”

Amend to read as follows:

“Shall the voters modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Exeter, based on assessment for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age and up to age 75 years, \$152,251; for a person; 75 years of age up to 80 years \$183,751; for a person 80 years of age and over \$236,251. To qualify person must have been a resident of New Hampshire for at least three (3) consecutive years, own the real estate individually or if owned by such person’s spouse, they must be have been married to each other for at least five (5) consecutive years. In addition the taxpayer must have a net income of no more than \$50,426; or if married, a combine net income of not more than \$61,976; and own net assets not in excess of \$194,251; excluding the value of the persons residence. The combined net asset amount for married persons shall apply to

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a surviving spouse until the sale or transfer of the property by the surviving spouse or until the remarriage of the surviving spouse.”

Article 28

On petition of Joan E. Sullivan and others, to see if the Town will vote to: raise and appropriate the sum of \$175,000 for the purpose of adding brick paver enhancements to the downtown area sidewalk project.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2-0-2.

Article 29

On petition of John M. Maull and others, to see if the Town will vote to place road markings (center yellow lines and side shadow lines) in a manner to enhance the safety of the motoring public and those using the town roads for bicycles, jogging and walking. This will involve adopting a 10 foot travel lane for vehicles (which has been shown to reduce vehicle speed) and placing shadow lines to provide room for safer use of the shoulders for pedestrians, joggers and cyclists.

As background, narrower vehicle travel lanes on town roads encourage vehicles to travel at slower, safer speed. This enhances the safety of all and can require less speed enforcement. Currently the town is marking the travel lane at a 12-14 foot width in areas where the speed limit is 25 MPH. These wider travel lanes present the appearance of a high speed highway and encourage travel at a speed that exceeds the speed limit. The current wider travel lanes have left inadequate space outside the white “shadow” lines. Leaving more space outside of the vehicle travel lanes provides enhanced safety for walkers, joggers, citizens using scooters and bicycles. Many towns in New Hampshire have adopted this approach to enhance safety. This measure will not cost the town any more money than the placement of current lines; it will require a consistent focus on the part of the Exeter Highway Department to see that the lines are placed properly to enhance safety in our town.

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

Given under our hands and seal this ____th day of January, 2016.

Julie D. Gilman, Chairwoman

Don Clement, Vice-Chairman

Nancy Belanger, Clerk

Anne L. Surman

Daniel W. Chartrand

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We certify that on the ____th of January, 2016, we caused a true copy of the within warrant to be posted at the Exeter Town Hall on Front Street, the Exeter Public Library at Founder's Park, Exeter High School at 1 Blue Hawk Drive, Talbot Gymnasium at Tuck Learning Campus, 30 Linden Street, and the Town Clerk's Office, 10 Front Street.

Given under our hands and seals this _____th day of January, 2016.

Julie D. Gilman, Chairwoman

Don Clement, Vice-Chairman

Nancy Belanger, Clerk

Anne L. Surman

Daniel W. Chartrand