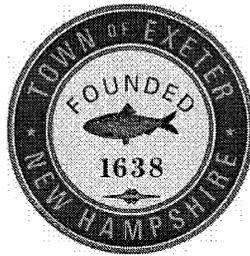


Town of Exeter
Fact Sheets and Explanatory
Information
Town Warrant 2014



Please Take One

Welcome to the 2014 Exeter Deliberative Session. This year the Town Warrant includes a total of 24 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 citizens a direct influence on the operations of their community. The warrant includes the proposed operating budget for the Town for 2014, along with several special articles proposed for various projects. This year, there are a total of 11 articles that are financial in nature, requesting an appropriation of funds. Three of these eleven articles seek bonding authorization.

There are also 4 zoning amendments, whose language is prescribed by statute and therefore cannot be amended. These amendments were approved by the planning board at a public hearing and will go onto the ballot as written.

This year's warrant also includes 4 citizen's petitions. These petitions are allowed by law when 25 or more signatures are obtained from registered voters. Citizen's petitions go onto the Town Warrant as written and cannot be altered by the Selectmen. Since one of the citizen's petitions is a bond issue, it has been included as Article 8, to set it along with other proposed Town bond issues (articles 6, 7, 8 would all require bonding if approved).

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.

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 on each article except the citizen's petitions which will be addressed on the floor. 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 11th, 2014. Second session voting will take place at the Talbot Gymnasium at 30 Linden Street.

Enjoy the day!

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014
Article 6
New Wastewater Facility Design/Engineering Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five million and zero dollars (\$5,000,000) for the engineering design of a Wastewater Treatment Facility, Main Pump Station, and CSO Abatement Upgrades. The Town will authorize the issuance of not more than (\$5,000,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; Debt service will be paid from the sewer fund (\$5,000,000).

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Description

The Town is under an administrative order of consent (AOC) issued by the US EPA to construct wastewater treatment facilities capable of treating a total nitrogen limit as low as 3 mg/l. These facilities must be under construction by June 30, 2016 and meet an interim nitrogen limit of 8 mg/l. The Town commenced the wastewater facility study phase via a warrant article that was approved in 2012. This appropriation would provide "next step" funding of \$5,000,000 for the final design and engineering of the preferred option.

Financing

The financing for this project will come from the sewer fund. The expected financing is a 20-year amortization at 3.0% interest. This will result in a first year payment of \$400,000, and a year 20 payment (final year) of \$257,500. Total interest over the life of a 20 year loan is estimated at \$1,575,000.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014

Article 7

Replace/rehabilitate Water/Sewer Lines: Lincoln Street, Winter Street, Daniel Street, Tremont Street

Article 7

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 replacement and rehabilitation of water mains and sewer lines on Lincoln Street from Front Street to Main Street, Daniel Street, Tremont Street, and Winter Street. The Town will 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 to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; Debt service will be paid from the water fund (\$1,400,000) and the sewer fund (\$200,000).

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Description

This project replaces approximately 2,200 linear feet of water line on Lincoln Street, 750 linear feet of water mains on Tremont and Daniel Streets. Watermain sizes will be increased from 6" to 12" on Lincoln Street and from 4" to 6" on Tremont and Daniel streets. The replacement of the Winter Street watermain from Columbus Avenue to Main Street is also proposed as part of this project. Winter Street has experienced many water breaks and exhibits very poor hydraulic characteristics. The Winter Street replacement project replaces 1,240 feet of 6" cast iron watermain. A 2009 town report on inflow and infiltration identified 1,000 linear feet of sewer needing rehabilitation or replacement on Lincoln Street, and 830 linear feet on Tremont and Daniel Streets needing rehabilitation or replacement. These are also included in the project costs.

Financing

The financing for this project will come from the water and sewer funds. Project estimates are \$200,000 for sewer improvements, and \$1,400,000 for water improvements. The expected financing is a 10-year amortization at 3.0% interest. This will result in a first year payment of \$208,000, with \$182,000 from the water fund, and \$26,000 from the sewer fund.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014
Article 8
Citizen's Petition: Great Dam Removal

On petition of Thomas Stanek and others, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one-million seven hundred eighty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty-eight dollars (\$1,786,758) for the purpose of removing the Great Dam and restoring the Exeter River, and to authorize the issuance of not more than (\$1,786,758) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any state, federal and other grants and gifts related to the project.

(The purpose of this article is to restore the Exeter River back to its natural condition, stop environment damage, reduce flooding, correct and comply with all current deficiencies and orders pending against the Town)

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2.

Description

This citizen's petition provides funding for removal of Great Dam. The petitioners will speak to the article.

Financing

The Exeter River Committee feasibility report cites the following costs related to removal of the Great Dam: Initial construction and mitigation costs: \$1,244,758. Adjustment of Exeter Mills intake to meet water requirements with removal: \$271,000 to \$542,000. The higher number has been used for budgeting purposes (\$1,244,758 + \$542,000). In addition, a grant is being pursued ("Hurricane Sandy" grant) to offset costs of removal. This grant will be awarded in April of 2014. Due to the overall project cost, the project is being pursued through bonding. Any grants realized to the Town will be used to offset the total project cost.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014
Article 10
Town Operating Budget: General Fund

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 \$17,075,046. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$16,943,390 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 4-1.

Description

Article 10 of the Town Warrant is the 2014 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 11, 2014. The 2014 operating budget is .78% (less than 1%) higher than the 2014 default budget. The dollar differential is \$131,656. If the operating budget is voted down, the default budget will go into effect for 2014.

The detail of the 2014 operating budget is contained on the MS6 form, which outlines all purposes for funding in 2014 for the general fund, the water fund, sewer fund, and other 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 69.34 % of the total 2014 general fund budget of \$17,075,046. In 2013, these departments made up 69.86% of the budget request.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2014 Default Budget</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over Default</u>
General	16,943,390	17,075,046	.78%

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2013 Operating Budget</u>	<u>2014 Operating Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over 2013</u>
General	16,619,718	17,075,046	2.74%

As noted above, the Town's operating budget request for 2014 is a 2.74 %, or \$455,329 increase over the general fund budget for 2013.

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

<u>Function</u>	<u>FY12 Budget</u>	<u>FY13 Budget</u>	<u>FY14 Recommended</u>	<u>% '14/'13</u>
General Government	888,934	866,351	930,436	7.40%
Finance	562,110	586,148	595,956	1.67%
Planning & Building	447,615	467,543	484,927	3.72%
Economic Development	1,500	1,500	69,149	4509.93%
Police	3,409,251	3,541,810	3,646,020	2.94%
Fire	3,491,803	3,637,603	3,696,775	1.37%
Public Works – Gen Fund	3,322,973	3,340,780	3,554,799	6.41%
Maintenance	981,694	1,009,992	942,666	-6.67%
Welfare/Human Services	156,789	92,615	86,855	-6.22%
Parks/Recreation	489,444	446,659	448,673	.45%
Other Culture/Recreation	35,200	36,300	36,300	0%
Public Library	879,787	894,822	910,837	1.79%
Debt/Capital	1,123,717	1,201,258	1,311,292	-1.82%
Benefits/Taxes/Fixed Costs	<u>340,805</u>	<u>352,660</u>	<u>360,361</u>	<u>2.18%</u>
Total General Fund	16,131,621	16,619,718	17,075,046	2.74%

General Overview

There are several priorities impacting the FY14 Town budget request. These include a vote of the Budget Recommendations Committee, supported by the Board of Selectmen, to move \$150,000 in paving funds from last year's special warrant article into the operating budget. The FY14 budget also includes the anomaly of a 53rd payroll week in 2014. This increase represents a \$150,735 additional expense to the general fund. This expense represents .86% of the total budget increase and will not be part of the FY15 budget.

The FY14 budget also includes additional elections, which are accounted for in the general government increase. The recommended budget includes three position changes in total, with one new position. The two changes are moving a part-time deputy health officer to full time, the addition of an economic development director, and changing a part-time custodial position in public works to full time status.

Financing

The operating budget carries an estimated tax rate of \$7.79 per 1,000 of assessed valuation, including overlay and veterans credits. This estimate is based on the current net taxable valuation of \$1,606,450,382. The Town's most recent tax rate was set at \$7.81 per 1,000 of assessed valuation, including overlay and veterans credits in Fall of 2013.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014

Article 11
Water Fund

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 \$2,538,457. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$2,409,803 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.

Description

The Water Fund budget for 2014 now has its own article. In prior years, the water fund budget was included as part of the general budget article. New legislation has created a default amount for this budget and therefore it can now be shown separately from the general fund. The water budget has a total of six programs: administration, billing, distribution, treatment, debt service, and capital outlay. Of the proposed budget increase of \$236,330, \$80,332 is related to new debt service on recently approved projects including the Portsmouth Avenue waterline improvements, and the Wastestream Reduction project at the Water Treatment Plant on Portsmouth Avenue. The other significant increase of \$102,448 is attributable to a new rehabilitation program for the Fuller Lane water tank. This program will commit dollars annually to this rehabilitation work, avoiding the need to issue a long term bond for a major capital improvement on the tank. The Town will retain ownership of the tank while it participates in the program.

The water/sewer advisory committee and budget recommendations committee support using \$297,355 in reserves to offset the FY14 water budget. These funds are part of the water fund balance. It is therefore expected rate increases will not occur or be minimal in 2014.

Budget Overview

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2014 Default Budget</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over Default</u>
Water	2,409,813	2,538,457	5.34%

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2013 Operating Budget</u>	<u>2014 Operating Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over 2012</u>
Water	2,302,127	2,538,457	10.27%

As noted above, the Town's water fund operating budget request for 2014 is a 10.27 % increase over the water fund budget for 2013.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014
Article 12
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 \$2,412,706. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,432,299 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.

Description

The Sewer Fund budget is an enterprise fund funding all sewer operations in the Town. All sewer costs are paid by users of the system through sewer rates. The sewer budget, like the water budget, is composed of six programs: administration, billing, collections, treatment, debt service, and capital outlay.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2014 Default Budget</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over Default</u>
Sewer	2,432,299	2,412,706	-.81%

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2013 Operating Budget</u>	<u>2014 Operating Budget</u>	<u>% Increase over 2012</u>
Sewer	2,369,180	2,412,706	1.84%

As noted above, the Town's sewer budget request for 2013 is a 1.84% increase approved in 2013. The water/sewer advisory committee and budget recommendations committee support using \$187,374 in the sewer reserve account to offset the FY14 budget.

Financing

There is no anticipated sewer rate increase to fund the FY14 budget as presented.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014
Article 13
Exeter SEIU 1984 Collective Bargaining Agreement

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 SEIU 1984 (Public Works/Town Office unit) which calls for the following salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary and Benefits Increase	Health Insurance Savings
FY14	\$42,728	(\$35,904)
FY15	\$16,522	(\$71,809)

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand eight hundred and twenty four dollars (\$6,824) for the 2014 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 5-0.

Description

Article 13 of the 2014 Town Warrant is a request to approve cost items related to a new two year contract between the Town and the Exeter SEIU 1984, which represents Public Works, Town Office, and other administrative/clerical employees. The terms of the agreement include a slotting on a revised pay grid in July of 2014. A step increase of 2.23% would also be granted in 2014. In the second year of the contract, there is a 1.5% COLA adjustment, and no step increase. The net wage adjustment is 2.98% annually. As part of the new agreement the public works and administrative employees have agreed to co-pay changes in health insurance resulting in significant savings to the Town. Under the new agreement, the prescription drug co-pay, office visit co-pay, and emergency room and urgent care co-pay will increase. The savings to the Town will go into effect if the warrant article is approved at the March ballot. This bargaining unit has been out of contract since 2010.

Financing

The first year net cost of the contract, \$6,824, will be added to the 2014 operating budget if the article passes. The estimated tax rate impact of the first year of the agreement is less than 1 cent per 1,000 of assessed value (.004).

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014
Article 14
Human Service Agency Funding

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one-hundred nine thousand five hundred and ninety five dollars (\$109,595), for the support of various human service agencies that will serve Exeter residents in 2014:

Agency	Amount
A Safe Place	\$5,500
Area Home Care	\$13,000
Big Brother/Big Sister	\$9,000
Child and Family Services	\$12,000
Crossroads House	\$3,500
Families First	\$3,000
Friends Program (formerly RSVP)	\$2,200
Great Bay Kids	\$2,495
Meals on Wheels – Food	\$9,200
New Generation Shelter	\$2,000
New Outlook Teen Center	\$2,700
Richie McFarland Center	\$9,000
Rockingham Community Action	\$11,000
Seacoast Family Promise	\$1,500
Seacoast Mental Health	\$8,500
Seacoast VNA	\$5,000
Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS)	\$3,000
St. Vincent De Paul	\$5,000
Womenade of Greater Squamscott	\$2,000
Total	\$109,595

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Description

Each year the Town takes applications from various human service agencies for funding for non-profits that serve Exeter residents. Each agency's application is screened through a rigorous application process that assures each agency documents the numbers of service units provided to Exeter residents. In 2013, each agency has been identified via this warrant article if they have received funding in prior years. The roles that the agencies play support the community safety net; and assist the Town by not having to pay for these services through direct welfare dollars.

Tax Impact of Project

In 2013, Human Service agency funding accounted for 7 cents per 1,000 of the overall tax rate. This amount will remain unchanged in 2014. Numbers in italics represent an increased level of agency funding over 2013.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014

Article 15

Establish Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund and Appropriate \$80,000 into fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under RSA 35:1 for the purpose of making capital improvements to town sidewalks including construction and replacement of new town sidewalks, and repair and replacement of existing town sidewalks and to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-thousand dollars (\$80,000) 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 5-0.

Description

This article establishes a capital reserve fund for sidewalk repair, replacement, and rehabilitation in the Town. The sidewalk network in the Town is approximately 35 miles. Investments in sidewalks in Town have been almost non-existent in recent years except for emergency repairs and sidewalks associated with capital projects such as the Main Street/Epping Road sidewalk during the water tank project.

The Public Works Department has initiated a Sidewalk Management Program, similar to the Pavement Management Program, that rates sidewalks based on their condition, location and type of use (for instance proximity to schools, downtown area), and relationship to other capital and paving projects. Sidewalk inspections and condition assessments are complete: 11 miles of sidewalk are in poor condition, 14 miles are fair and 10 miles are good. Over \$2 million dollars of sidewalk improvements are needed; the Department has recommended budgeting \$120,000 per year for sidewalk improvements. The Budget Recommendations Committee and Board of Selectmen support establishing a capital reserve fund with \$80,000 in appropriations for the first year of this program.

Tax Impact of Project

This project has an estimated tax rate impact of 5 cents per 1,000 of assessed valuation, which translates to \$15 for a \$300,000 home.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014

Article 16

Town-wide Facilities Plan

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000), for the purpose of conducting a Town-wide Facilities Plan, to include building use recommendations on short and long term needs for all town buildings.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Description

The Board of Selectmen determined during their April 2013 goal setting session that a long term town-wide facilities plan was in order. The Town currently owns and operates several municipal facilities: Town Offices, Town Hall, Parks/Recreation Building, Senior Center, Recreation Park/Pool, Public Safety Complex, DPW Complex, and Library. Some of these facilities are utilized by community groups (such as the Senior Center) more so than the Town. In addition, the Town is faced with a number of important longer term decisions about its primary facilities. The library was built in 1987, and is approaching 30 years of age. The Town's public safety building was built in 1979 and will be 35 years old this year. The Town currently has no comprehensive master plan for implementation for town facilities; however it does have master plan recommendations regarding town facilities that date back to 2002. This plan will review those recommendations, and look at the current uses of all town buildings, and it will take into account the local school needs as well. The work will also encompass the work completed by the Town wide Building Committee back in 2008, which specifically reviewed options relative to the future of the municipal offices.

Recommendations will be drawn up with the long term road map in mind so the Board of Selectmen can present well thought out recommendations to the voters at future Town Meetings. The plan will take into account past studies as necessary to further that work. If funding is approved a firm will be hired with expertise in the facility planning field to conduct the study. Recommendations will be made to the Board of Selectmen sometime in late 2014.

Tax Impact of Project

This project has a onetime estimated tax rate impact of 3 cents per 1,000 of assessed valuation, which translates to \$9 for a \$300,000 home.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014

Article 17

Elliott Property Acquisition

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one-hundred forty-nine thousand five-hundred dollars (\$149,500) for the purpose of purchasing for conservation the approximately 34-acre Elliott property (Tax Map 26, Lot 15) (known as the 'Growing Oaklands' project) located east of Watson Road and abutting the western portion of the Oaklands Town Forest. The Growing Oaklands project adds a critical portion of a popular trail into town ownership and conserves wildlife habitat for several rare species. The total cost of the project is \$149,500, with the following revenue funding sources: \$26,490 from general taxation, \$33,510 from 2003 conservation bond proceeds; \$25,000 from the Conservation Commission's Conservation Fund; \$54,000 from a US Natural Resources Conservation Service grant; and \$10,500 to be privately raised by Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire; furthermore, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any state, federal and other grants and gifts related to the project. As part of this purchase, the property will be subject to a conservation easement granted to the US Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2.

Description

Acquisition of the Elliot property would add to an existing 610 acre area of contiguous conserved land including and surrounding the Oaklands Town Forest. This project would provide permanent protection to a critical potion of the main loop of the Oaklands "red" trail network open to hiking, biking and seasonally to snowmobiles. It would also conserve wildlife habitat for several rare species including Blanding's and Spotted turtles, several functional vernal pools, and protect the headwaters of Bloody Brook. This parcel was identified as a key focus area in the 2012 Natural Resource Inventory and Conservation Strategy, meets Master Plan conservation criteria and was recommended for protection by the Conservation Commission.

Tax Impact of Project

This project has a onetime tax impact of 2 cents per 1,000 of assessed valuation, which translates to \$300,000

\$6 for a home.

2014 Deliberative Session	
Article 17. Elliott Property	
	

2014 Deliberative Session



Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014

Article 18 Adopt RSA 79-E

Article 18

To see if the Town will adopt the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive outlined in Chapter 79-E of state law and to designate four commercial areas as meeting the standards for an eligible district as set forth in RSA 79-E:2? (The four districts will consist of areas zoned C-1 "Central Area Commercial" and WC "Waterfront Commercial". A map of these districts is available on the Town's website and Town Clerk's Office.)

Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Description

This legislation encourages investment in central business districts, neighborhood business districts, downtowns, and village centers. Its goal is to *encourage the rehabilitation and active reuse of under-utilized buildings* and, in so doing, to

- Promote strong local economies and,
- Promote smart, sustainable growth, as an alternative to sprawl, in accordance with the purpose and objectives of RSA Ch. 9-B (State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy)

How it works:

- In a municipality that has adopted this enabling legislation, a property owner who wants to substantially rehabilitate a building located in a designated district may apply to the local governing body for a period of temporary tax relief.
- The temporary tax relief, if granted, would consist of a finite period of time during which the property tax on the structure would not increase as a result of its substantial rehabilitation. In exchange for the relief, the property owner grants a covenant ensuring there is a public benefit to the rehabilitation.
- Following expiration of the finite tax relief period, the structure would be taxed at its full market value taking into account the rehabilitation.

The legislation offers strong community process and discretion:

- Any city or town may adopt this program with the majority vote of its legislative body.
- Applications by property owners are made to the governing body and are accompanied by a public notice and public hearing.
- The governing body may grant tax relief if the application meets the guidelines and public benefit test.
- The governing body may deny the application in its discretion: "such denial shall be deemed discretionary and shall not be set aside by the Board of Tax and Land Appeals or the Superior Court except for bad faith or discrimination." (79-E:4 V)

Qualifying Properties:

A property owner can apply for the tax relief only if:

- The building is located in the proposed districts: portions of C-1 Commercial, or specific areas of designated Waterfront Commercial.
- The rehabilitation costs at least 15% of the building's pre-rehab assessed value, or \$75,000 whichever is less, and
- The rehabilitation is consistent with the municipality's master plan or development regulations.



RSA 79E Reference Map of Proposed District Areas:

C-1 Lincoln Street, C-1 Central/downtown, WC- Waterfront Commercial, and C-1 Portsmouth Ave

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014

Article 19

Adopt RSA 162-K

To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 162-K of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes, which if adopted will allow the Town to establish tax increment financing districts upon approval of the legislative body.

Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2.

Description

TIF, or tax increment financing, is commonly used as an economic development tool and several TIF districts of different types have been utilized in New Hampshire for a variety of reasons. Two recent examples are Newmarket and Durham, which have used TIF to fund downtown improvements. Other examples are Keene, which has used the TIF model to fund infrastructure improvements through private developer agreements used to create a successful business park.

RSA 162-K is enabling legislation that if adopted by a vote of the Town, would allow the Town to consider specific tax increment financing districts in Exeter.

To gain approval for a specific district, that district would have to be proposed independently to another Town Meeting; voters would have to approve the specific TIF and the Financing Plan to support the TIF. Adopting this legislation does not result in a specific TIF district being approved – specific proposals would need to be brought to a future Town Meeting for approval.

The specifics of a TIF would include a “TIF Plan” including projections of value, improvements to be made, and a proposed TIF Advisory Board to oversee those improvements.

A tax increment financing district, is a district approved by the Town Meeting to allow *incremental* valuation in a district to be “captured” to fund specific improvements in the district. Once the district has existed for a certain amount of time and the improvements have been made, the district ceases to exist and all incremental valuation realized goes to the general valuation base of the Town.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014

Article 20

Local Transportation Fee

To see if the Town will vote to increase the current motor vehicle local option fee from \$3.25 to \$4.00 to fund transportation services for senior and disabled residents and transportation service needs consistent with RSA 261:153 VI. Proceeds from the fee will be deposited into the Town's Municipal Transportation Improvement Fund. This article will not impact the tax rate.

Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2.

Description

See attached memorandum from Don Woodward, Transportation Committee Chairman, to Board of Selectmen regarding local option fee.



Town of Exeter Transportation Committee
MEMORANDUM

TO: Don Clement, Board of Selectmen Chairman
Russ Dean, Town Manager

FROM: Don Woodward, Transportation Committee Chairman

DATE: September 4th, 2013

RE: Recommended Registration Fee Increase To Cover Budget Increases

At the Transportation Committee's September 3rd meeting, the group discussed upcoming budget needs from the various transportation providers that service Exeter. For several years these providers have maintained a "level funded budget". However, due to increases in gasoline prices and other expenses, decreases in federal funds, and increases in service needs for ADA users at least two of Exeter's providers, Meals on Wheels and Coast have requested additional funding. These increases are \$2,000 to \$9,227 respectively.

One acknowledged solution to cover these increases is to increase the registration fee. After much discussion, the motion was made to raise the fee from its present rate of \$3.25 to \$4.00. The motion was seconded and the members unanimously supported the recommendation. It should be noted that .75 cents would yield approximately \$11,250 if an estimated 15,000 vehicles were registered, which would cover the increases.

Please consider this memo as the Transportation Committee's official recommendation to the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen in support of a registration increase from \$3.25 to \$4.00.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Don Woodward, Chairman

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014

Article 21

Long Term Lease Great Bay Kids Company

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate a long term lease with Great Bay Kids Company on Town owned property located on Hampton Road (Tax Map 69, Lot 4) with terms and conditions to be determined by the Board of Selectmen.

Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2.

Description

Approval of this article would allow the Board of Selectmen to negotiate a long term lease with Great Bay Kids Company for a new child care facility to be located on Town owned property behind the Daniel Healy Memorial Pool.

Town of Exeter Fact Sheet 2014

Article 22-24

Citizen's Petition Articles

Article 22

On petition of Stephanie Marshall and others, "to see if the Town will vote to express its opposition to the transport of toxic tar sands oil through New Hampshire, and further, to (1) communicate this opposition to the Governor and NH General Court and to the New Hampshire delegation in the US Congress requesting they take all reasonable steps to oppose the transport of tar sands oil through New Hampshire, and (2) to send a copy of this resolution and the official results from the Town Meeting vote to all relevant state and federal officials, including the NH Office of Energy and Planning, the N.H. Site Evaluation Committee and the U.S. State Department, as well as the chief executive officers of those companies directly involved in the production and proposed transportation of tar sands oil including Portland Pipe Line Corporation, Montreal Pipe Line Limited, Imperial Oil, ExxonMobil, and Enbridge, Inc."

Majority vote required.

Article 23

By petition of Herb Moyer and other eligible voters of the Town of Exeter, NH, "to see if the town will vote to urge:

That the New Hampshire State Legislature join nearly 500 municipalities and 16 other states, including all other New England states, in calling upon Congress to move forward a constitutional amendment that: 1) guarantees the right of our elected representatives and of the American people to safeguard fair elections through authority to regulate political spending, and 2) clarifies that constitutional rights were established for people, not corporations.

That the New Hampshire Congressional delegation support such a constitutional amendment.

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support such an amendment once it is approved by Congress and sent to the State for ratification.

And furthermore, that this Town Meeting vote be a record that We the People want Congress and our state legislature to:

- Institute full, effective and immediate electronic disclosure of all election-related spending by any individual, group, corporation, party or institution.
- Provide for fair, nonpartisan and vigorous enforcement of existing campaign laws and regulations by federal and state agencies.
- Enact an absolute ban on campaign contributions by foreign governments, foreign agencies, foreign corporations or their subsidiaries and employees in the U.S.
- Enact legislation that would cut down on the influence of big bankroll donors by multiplying the power of small donations through the use of voter vouchers, tax credits and matching public funds.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Exeter's congressional delegation, and to Exeter's state legislators, and to the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents by the Board of Selectmen within 30 days of the vote.

Majority vote required.

Article 24

By petition of Jill and Allan Mayo and others, "to see if the Town will vote to help lessen our nation's dependence on fossil fuels and to promote the use of solar energy in our town, by adopting the provisions of RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:64 inclusively, which allows for each New Hampshire city and town, to adopt an exemption from the assessed value of the solar-related equipment, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. The property tax exemption shall only be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying solar related equipment under these statutes. Per RSA 72:61, a "solar energy system" means a system which utilizes solar energy to heat or cool the interior of a building or to heat water for use in a building and which includes one or more collectors and a storage container. "Solar energy system" also means a system which provides electricity for a building by the use of photovoltaic panels. (A majority vote of yes would continue the Town's current practice of not increasing home valuation due to the solar installation for assessment purposes and would preclude the Town from, in the future, potentially collecting property tax on the assessed value of the solar-related equipment, as such a tax would reduce the benefit of installing such a system and would disincentivize installing one.)

Majority vote required.