1 2	TOWN OF EXETER PLANNING BOARD
3	NOWAK MEETING ROOM
4	10 FRONT STREET
5	AUGUST 8, 2024
6	APPROVED MINUTES
7	7:00 PM
8	I. PRELIMINARIES:
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10	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT BY ROLL CALL: Chair Langdon Plumer, Clerk, John Grueter, Gwen
11	English, Jennifer Martel, and Nancy Belanger Select Board Representative
12	
13	STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Russell Dean, Town Planner Dave Sharples (remotely) Conservation &
14	Sustainability Planner Kristen Murphy
15	
16	II. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Plumer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and introduced the
17	members.
18	
19	III. OLD BUSINESS
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21	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
22 23	July 11, 2024
23 24	July 11, 2024
25	Chair Plumer indicated approval of the July 11, 2024 minutes would be waived tonight.
26	
27	IV. <u>NEW BUSINESS:</u>
20	Dublic beauting on the 2025 Capital Incompute Discrete (CID) are justed as presented by the Taylor
28 29	Public hearing on the 2025 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) projects as presented by the Town Departments. Copies of the proposed document(s) will be available at the Planning Department Office
30	prior to the meeting
31	Town Manager Russ Dean thanked the Departments for being at the meeting for the Capital
32	Improvements Program. He indicated a 60% increase in the Town's valuation with a 26.78% lower tax
33	rate projected to be set in November of this year.
34	Mr. Dean briefly reviewed some of the projects being presented such as the Linden Street Bridge which
35	had an escalation in cost. He noted that the Town is working with Phillips Exeter Academy for a drinking
36	water source at Drinkwater Road, the Select Board voted to replace Pickpocket Dam, and the Town is
37 29	looking for grant funding with a warrant article for that project in FY 25. He noted the substation is underway and the Town has an architect for that.
38	underway and the TOWITHAS all altillection that.
39	

- 40 Mr. Dean indicated that the Departments reviewed the proposed CIP as a team.
- 41 PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Steve Cronin indicated that Paul Vlasich, Steve Dalton and Jay Perkins were alsopresent.

- 44 Groundwater Source \$6.8 m
- 45 Mr. Cronin discussed the groundwater source project evaluated in 2024. A site was identified on
- 46 Drinkwater Road which is part of a known aquifer and connected to the Lary Lane Treatment Plant.
- 47 Drilling and testing is happening this month. Private wells will be monitored. The Project will have final
- design and connection with work on a building, transmission lines and rehabilitation of the Lary Lanewell.
- 50 Mr. Grueter asked about PEA's involvement and Mr. Cronin indicated there would be an easement
- 51 purchased which is included in the projected cost.
- 52 Great Bay Nitrogen General Permit \$395,000
- 53 Mr. Cronin noted as part of this project the street sweeper would be replaced at a cost of \$385,000 and
- 54 \$10,000 would fund the enhanced sweeping program. Mr. Cronin explained that funding was applied
- 55 for and is available with the Clean Water SRF (State Revolving Fund).
- 56 Pickpocket Dam \$2,100,000
- 57 Mr. Cronin indicated the dam was reclassified as a high hazard dam in 2018 and a feasibility study
- 58 completed in 2024. The Select Board voted in June to remove the dam. There is a deadline for
- completion in December, 2027 and multiple grants are being pursued, four that they are already awareof.
- 61 Chair Plumer asked about the area of impact and work needed after removal. Paul Vlasich reviewed the 62 area from Haugh Road to Little River and noted there would be some monitoring afterward.
- 63 Mr. Grueter asked about the deadline in 2027 and Mr. Vlasich indicated the request for action resulted
- 64 in a negotiated date, the Select Board decided what to do and notified DES (Department of
- 65 Environmental Services).
- 66 Mr. Grueter asked if Mr. Vlasich thought there would be enough time and Mr. Vlasich indicated if the 67 Town secures funding but if the deadline isn't able to be met, they would talk about it.
- 68 Clemson Pond (pg. 29) \$500,000
- 69 Mr. Cronin noted this is part of Wastewater Treatment to remove sediment and inspected and assessing
- 70 the condition of the combined sewer overflow (CSO) barrels at the discharge point.
- 71 Mr. Grueter asked if the tide gates are inspected regularly, and Mr. Cronin indicated this was inspected
- 72 and is known to be leaking.
- 73 Wastewater Treatment Effluent Flume (pg. 33) \$245,000

- 74 Mr. Cronin indicated the concrete coating had failed and concrete is exposed. The cost is to replace the75 coating.
- 76 Linden Street Bridge Rehabilitation (pg. 21) \$1,257,900
- 77 Mr. Cronin indicated settlement and bulging were identified and the guardrail does not meet crash
- ratings. Bids came in significantly higher than estimated (orig. est. \$500,000-\$600,000). There is
- 79 \$310,000 available in bridge aid.
- 80 Ms. Martel asked if the bridge was for vehicular traffic and Mr. Cronin indicated yes.
- 81 Mr. Grueter asked if the cost of construction was going down and Mr. Cronin indicated it was leveling 82 out but not dropping.
- 83 Fuel Island for Public Works Facility (pg. 2) \$575,000
- 84 Mr. Cronin indicated the siphon pumps were at the end of their life and the canopy and base are
- 85 deteriorating. Public Works would also like to be able to track usage. A new location would be found.
- 86 Mr. Grueter asked if the cost included the underground tanks and Mr. Cronin indicated yes.
- 87 Front at Pine, Linden Street Intersection Improvement (pg. 16) \$250,000
- 88 Mr. Cronin noted a proposed roundabout was funded and they have the design and are working with
- 89 abutters now. Easements are a part of that process, but this project is for inspecting drainage and sewer
- 90 pipes with advanced deterioration.
- 91 Transfer Station Improvement \$100,000
- 92 Mr. Cronin indicated that the Sustainability Advisory Committee recommended a Styrofoam recycling
- 93 program which Kristen Murphy will detail. This cost is for paving and widening the entry, marking and
- 94 signage and relocating the cardboard and construction platform.
- 95 Truck #33 (pg. 68) \$160,000
- 96 Mr. Cronin noted the 2008 International Dump would be replaced with a smaller F-550 with hook lift97 and sander.
- 98 Sidewalk Tractor #58 (pg. 72) \$50,000
- 99 Mr. Cronin indicated the existing tractor with a 20-year life span was purchased in 1991 and is used for 100 sidewalk snow plowing, and trimming brush.
- Ms. English asked if it will continue to be used and Mr. Cronin indicated it would be traded or sold whenthe replacement is acquired.
- 103 Surface Water Treatment Plant (pg. 3) \$2 m in FY 2026 and tbd in FY 2027
- 104 Mr. Cronin indicated the plant is in the 100-year floodplain. This will be a costly item with \$2 million for
- design work in FY 2026 and an amount to be determined in FY 2027. A request for quote (RFQ) will be
- 106 advertised this month.

- 107 Water Street Reconstruction (pg. 27) \$600,000 in FY 2026 and \$6,305,000 in FY 2027
- 108 Intersection Improvement Program (pg. 20) \$50,000 in FY 2026 (Phase III)
- 109 High Street Cross Country Sewer Rehabilitation \$3,42 m in FY 2026
- Mr. Cronin noted design funding in FY 2023 and an application for funding from the State RevolvingFund.
- 112 Washington Street Improvements (pg. 26) \$250,000 in FY 2027 and \$2,230,000 in FY 2028
- 113 Court Street Pumping Station (pg. 30) \$500,000 in FY 2027, tbd in FY 2028 for building upgrades
- 114 Green Street Utility Reconstruction (pg. 19) \$750,000 for design in FY 2028 and \$11,500,000 FY 29
- 115 Portsmouth Avenue Reconstruction (pg. 23) \$75,000 FY 28, \$300,000 FY 29, \$4,910,000 FY 30
- 116 Mr. Cronin discussed traffic flow, stormwater, sidewalk and street 'scapes, water and sewer and traffic
- 117 and signal coordination needs.
- 118 RECREATION
- 119 Parks & Recreation Director Greg Bisson presented the CIP for Park Improvement detailed on Page 6
- 120 with funding of \$100,000. He indicated there were many projects and discussed in detail Gilman Park
- 121 which needed drainage, regrading and guardrail work. The depression where the playground used to be
- needs to be leveled. He discussed the use of robotic mowers at other locations which is going well and
- enclosing the portapottys. He noted the spray pad is 16 years old and will have repairs next year to
- address the loss of hundreds of gallons of water from leaking pipes.
- 125 Mr. Bisson discussed rehabilitation of the pool house and repainting with help from PEA volunteers,
- 126 replacing windows and counter tops, removing cement walls and replacing with more modern poly,
- making changing stalls ADA compliant and resurfacing the floor and painting walls. He noted the
- 128 facilities assessment recommended replacement, but he felt the rehabilitation would get another 20
- 129 years out of it.
- 130 Mr. Bisson discussed plans to continue the pathway to 10 Hampton Road.
- 131 Mr. Bisson discussed ADA accommodations for senior programming in FY 2025. A van would cost
- 132 \$90,000 used and he is looking for grants.
- 133 Mr. Bisson discussed the condition of the tennis courts (pg. 14) and engineering. There was no drainage
- 134 considered in 1974 when they were constructed. Different concrete is recommended that will be crack
- resistant. The property is eligible for land and water relief. Fencing will be replaced and there will be
- 136 ADA accommodation and potentially lighting until 9 PM.
- 137 PLANNING
- 138 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Downtown (pg. 8)
- 139 Conservation & Sustainability Planner Kristen Murphy presented a proposal recommended by the
- 140 Sustainability Adv. Committee for four electric vehicle charging stations at the municipal lot. She

- explained the recommendation of spots per registered vehicle by the US Dept. Energy at 3.4% with 22
- needed and 17 available (including spots in Stratham) this would bring in more spots and business to
- downtown. Revision Energy provided a high range quote for the four ports of \$120,000. The 30%
- 144 federal tax credit would be eligible and an 80/20 federal/local grant from the Department of
- 145 Transportation could be applied for next year.
- 146 The Board discussed how to keep vehicle charger users from leaving their cars parked after charging and
- 147 Ms. Murphy indicated there could be penalties and charging can be set up in a host of different ways.
- 148 Mr. Grueter noted there is a Walmart with electric vehicle charging stations that continues to charge a
- 149 fee while the car is parked in the station even after the vehicle is 100% charged.
- 150 Styrofoam Recycling (pg. 10)
- 151 Conservation & Sustainability Planner Kristen Murphy presented the proposal for funding a Styrofoam
- recycling system at the transfer station. She noted that the Town of Gilford has one which takes the
- 153 Styrofoam and reduces it to long coils which are stored on pallets and marketed for sale at \$750/ton.
- 154 She noted this would also save on hauling fees. She noted of the \$80,000 cost there is a \$50,000 grant
- available. Ms. Murphy noted there will be a Styrofoam recycling event this fall and that would be
- 156 hauled to Gilford who accepts the Styrofoam from other communities. The Styrofoam is hand fed into
- the unit and there would be no food containers accepted. Ms. Belanger asked about additional
- 158 personnel and Ms. Murphy indicated possibly additional hours for the part-time staff.
- 159 Master Plan Update FY 2028 \$50,000*
- Town Planner Dave Sharples indicated the Master Plan was last updated in 2018 and all but one of the
 66 or 67 items has been implemented. There were over 1000 responses to the survey.
- Ms. Martel asked if \$50,000 would be enough. *Mr. Sharples indicated the figure would be updatedwhen closer to FY 2028.
- 164 Train Station (pg. 1)
- 165 Mr. Sharples indicated the proposal to upgrade the Downeaster Train Station and have design,
- 166 engineering and surveying.
- 167 Mr. Grueter asked about cost sharing and Mr. Sharples indicated he would have more information on
- 168 that at the next meeting. Chair Plumer noted it would be nice if the state stepped forward. Mr. Dean
- noted there may be grant funding available for the right project. The State of Maine funds quite a bit ofit.
- 171 ADA Improvements (pg. 7)
- 172 Mr. Sharples noted the Building Inspector is the ADA coordinator for the Town. \$25,000 would be 173 funded for upgrades annually.
- 174 Police & Fire (pg. 11)
- 175 Mr. Sharples indicated the records management system would be upgraded to a cloud storage system.
- 176 The upfront cost is \$35,000 and then \$80,000/yr. with a cost of \$360,000.

- 177 Court Street Fire Station Renovation (pg. 5)
- 178 Mr. Sharples noted that the voters approved the new police and fire substation and all but five or six
- items will be addressed with that new facility. The plan is to go back to the original design for Court
- 180 Street Station which was designed for four firefighters. After a break in period to see how things are
- 181 going with the new substation, they would like to address the hot, warm and cold zones for
- 182 decontamination and turnout gear.
- 183 Chair Plumer asked if the call center would remain. and Mr. Sharples noted that would be moved to the184 new substation.
- 185 Radio Repeaters (pg. 12)
- 186 Mr. Sharples indicated this will be deferred until the new substation is built to see what coverage the 187 area would have.
- 188 Complete Street Study
- 189 Mr. Sharples noted there is a change in funding CIP from a minimum cost of \$25,000 to \$75,000 so the
- 190 Complete Street Study, one of the remaining items identified in the 2018 Master Plan, will be put in the
- 191 budget. Ms. Martel noted that study will be helpful with design for Portsmouth Ave.
- 192 V. OTHER BUSINESS
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- 194 Master Plan Discussion
- 196 Field Modifications
- 198 Bond and/or Letter of Credit Reductions and Release
- 199
- 200 VII. TOWN PLANNER'S ITEMS
- Mr. Sharples reminded that the meeting on August 22nd will be the public hearing and begin at 6:30 PM
 with the regular meeting to begin at 7 PM.
- 203 VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S ITEMS

204 IX. PB REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT ON "OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITY"

205 X. ADJOURN

206 Ms. Belanger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. Mr. Grueter seconded the

- 207 *motion.* A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.
- 208 Respectfully submitted.
- 209 Daniel Hoijer,
- 210 Recording Secretary (Via Exeter TV)