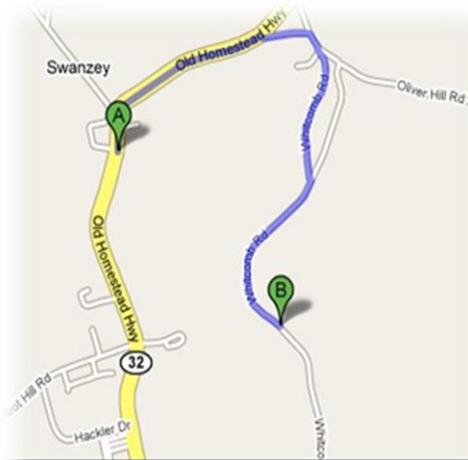




TOWN OF SWANZEY
NEW HAMPSHIRE
2020 VOTING GUIDE
OFFICIAL BALLOT VOTING

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020
8:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.



Location:

**Christian Life Fellowship Church
211 Whitcomb Road**

From Carlton Road: Church/voting site is 1 mile on right.

From Oliver Hill Road (Route 32 end): Church/voting site is ½ mile on the left.

It is not too late to register to vote!

You may do so at the polls before you vote.

Please remember to bring a valid photo ID.

Absentee Ballots are available through the Town Clerk's office. You must appear in person by March 9th. Please bring a valid photo ID.

Article 1 To choose by ballot town officers:

Selectman

For 3 Years (Vote for 1)
William Hutwelker III
_____ (Write-in)

Trustee of Trust Funds

For 3 Years (Vote for 1)
Steven D Bittel
_____ (Write-in)

Supervisors of the Checklist

For 6 Years (Vote for 1)
Lynda J Faulkner
_____ (Write-in)

Sewer Commissioner

For 3 Years (Vote for 1)
Glenn Page
_____ (Write-in)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

For 3 Years (Vote for 2)
Adam Mulhearn
Bryan Rudgers
_____ (Write-in)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

For 1 Year (Vote for 1)
Eric Kallio
Anne Laurel Karasinski
_____ (Write-in)

Planning Board

For 3 Years (Vote for 2)
Glenn W Page
Ruth C Snyder
_____ (Write-in)

Library Trustee for Mt. Caesar

For 1 Year (Vote for 1)
Robert J Kenney
_____ (Write-in)

**Library Trustee for
Stratton Free Library**

For 3 Years (Vote for 1)
Judith Perry
_____ (Write-in)

Moderator

For 2 Years (Vote for 1)
Bruce L Tatro
_____ (Write-in)

Article 2 To vote by ballot on the following amendments to the Town of Swanzey Zoning Ordinance:

Article 2 explanation: *The explanations for the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance proposed by the Planning Board are shown here. You can find the full text of the amendments in the Town Warrant (available on the Town's website and at Town Hall). The Planning Board sought public feedback on the proposed zoning amendments at a public hearing held on December 12, 2019. Should you have any questions, please contact Matthew Bachler, Director of Planning & Economic Development, at 603-352-7411, ext. 108, or by email at mbachler@swanzeynh.gov.*

Amendment 1: This would allow residential properties to construct one accessory storage shed 200 square feet or less in size up to 5 feet from a side or rear property line. Currently, these types of accessory structures are required to be located a minimum of 20 feet from side and rear property lines. The 30-foot front setback requirement would still need to be maintained. A Building Permit is not required for residential structures 200 square feet or less in size.

Amendment 2: This would revise the front setback requirement for properties located in the Business District. Currently, the front setback requirement for all properties in the Business District is 75 feet. The proposed amendment would reduce the front setback to 30 feet for properties in the Business District with frontage other than NH Route 10 or NH Route 12. Properties with frontage on NH Route 10 or NH Route 12 would still need to meet the current 75-foot setback requirement. Below is a list of streets in the Business District that would be impacted by the change to a 30-foot front setback:

*Westport Village Road
Old Homestead Highway
West Street
Base Hill Road
Birch Road
Walnut Place*

*Pine Street
Aylward Avenue
Kempton Road
Flat Roof Mill Road
Grove Street
Park Street*

*Cobble Hill Road
South Winchester Street
California Street
Sylvan Way
Kershaw Road*

Article 2 explanation (continued):

Amendment 3: This would revise the front setback requirement for properties located in the Commercial / Industrial District. Currently, the front setback requirement for all properties in the Commercial / Industrial District is 75 feet. The proposed amendment would reduce the front setback to 30 feet for properties in the Commercial / Industrial District with frontage other than NH Route 10. Properties with frontage on NH Route 10 would still need to meet the current 75-foot setback requirement. Below is a list of streets in the Commercial / Industrial District that would be impacted by the change to a 30-foot front setback:

<i>Atwood Way</i>	<i>Base Hill Road</i>	<i>Whittemore Farm Road</i>
<i>Forest Avenue</i>	<i>Ash Hill Road</i>	<i>Sawyers Crossing Road</i>

Amendment 4: This would revise the permitted uses in Village Business District II to include multi-family dwelling(s). The Zoning Ordinance defines a multi-family dwelling as: “a dwelling or group of dwellings on one lot containing separate dwelling units for three or more families, having separate or joint entrances, services or facilities.” Currently, Village Business District II is comprised only of one property located at 2 South Winchester Street, the former Homestead Woolen Mill building.

Amendment 5: This would make two revisions to the Zoning Ordinance section on non-conforming buildings and structures.

The first revision would clarify that the restoration, reconstruction, alteration, or replacement of nonconforming buildings and structures is allowed provided that the “cubic footage” of the building or structure stays the same or smaller. Currently, the Zoning Ordinance refers to the “cubic content” of the building or structure, which has created confusion in the past.

The second revision would allow a legally nonconforming building or structure that is nonconforming due to setbacks to be enlarged or changed provided that the expansion does not further encroach into a setback. For example, if a residential dwelling encroached 5 feet into the required 20-foot side setback, it could be expanded without the need for a variance so long as the nonconforming 15-foot side setback is maintained and all other setbacks are met. This provision includes a condition that an expansion cannot be closer to a property or right-of-way line than ½ (one-half) of any setback distance requirement for the Zoning District that the property is located in. As an example, the setback distance requirements for the Residence District are 30 feet for the front and 20 feet for the side and rear. This condition would ensure that an expansion of a nonconforming structure could not be closer than 15 feet from the front lot line or 10 feet from the side or rear lot line. Property owners would still be able to apply for a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment for any project that does not conform to this exception.

Article 3 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Nine Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,950,000) for the purpose of preparing plans and specifications, and constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Fire Station at Town owned property located at 321 Old Homestead Highway; Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) to be raised by general taxation, Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) from the Undesignated Fund Balance, and Three Million and Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000) of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto?

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN – 3/5 Ballot Vote Required)

Article 3 explanation: *With the voters strongly approving the 2019 warrant article authorizing funding to design a fire station at 321 Old Homestead Highway, the Town got to work developing a new plan to get the firefighters and Station #2 out of the basement of Town Hall. The Town hired KCS Architects (Katie Sutherland) of Keene to prepare conceptual plans and to engage the community in the process of designing a new fire station. Throughout the summer and fall the Town hosted eight meetings with the Swanzey Fire Department and members of the community, where real members of the community made real decisions to shape this project. These meetings focused on specific subjects such as building construction materials, utilities / infrastructure, and community engagement and also reviewed and provided feedback on drafts of the floor and site plans.*

Article 3 explanation (continued): The proposed station is roughly 12,300 square feet and is made up of essentially three sections: the hot zone, the warm zone, and a cold zone. The station does not include bedrooms or living quarters because Swanzey does not currently have full time / 24 hours staffing. If that space is needed in the future there is a dedicated area on the site for an addition.

The **hot zone** shows the Town is serious about the health and safety of Swanzey's almost fully on-call fire department. Due to the materials found in modern homes and developing science, according to New Hampshire laws if firefighters develop certain cancers and other health issues it is presumed that the medical issues are work-related. The **hot zone** is focused on providing Swanzey's firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) a safe and clean station where their gear can be away from contaminants, space where they can properly clean their gear and their persons so they don't bring contaminants home to their families, and dedicated facilities for both men and women.

The **warm zone** is primarily the area where the trucks, apparatus, and equipment will be stored. During this process the design team visited three local recently constructed fire stations and all of them had double deep / drive through bays with doors on both ends. This is the most efficient use of space as opposed to side by side bays. The **warm zone** will have a diesel exhaust treatment system to capture the fumes from the trucks so they are not in the air the firefighters and members of the public in the station breathe. There is also a small work area for working on gear and equipment.

The **cold zone** is dedicated space separated from the contaminants in the **hot zone** and the **warm zone** and it has public and administrative areas. The **public cold zone** includes a training / meeting room that will be used for the training sessions the Swanzey Fire Department hosts multiple times per month. Unlike current spaces in the fire stations, this area will be large enough for the full Swanzey Fire Department. The training room is separate from the rest of the fire station so it may be used by the Town for public meetings. The **administrative cold zone** also replaces the current fire department offices housed in Station #3 on Main Street in West Swanzey. The current offices are not well laid out, do not meet building codes, and are only accessible through a steep staircase. The **administrative cold zone** will have a conference room for meetings with business developers and residents for fire department business. There is also a report room where staff will be able to work privately on documentation with confidential medical information. In addition, the **cold zone** will serve as the Town's emergency operations center, which will add grant opportunities for equipment.

If this article is approved, work will begin promptly to finalize architectural and engineering plans and construction is expected later in 2020 or early in 2021.

If this article is not approved, the Town will continue to spend time and money studying this issue and/or developing different plans until the Town appropriates money at a future Town Meeting for a fire station. The current Station #2 in the basement of the Town Hall cannot continue to be used. The current Station #2 is undersized, does not meet health and life safety code requirements, and has a number of other challenges. Modern fire trucks barely fit through the doors, under the ceiling, and between the columns in the truck bays. The firefighters' lockers and gear are in the truck bays with the diesel exhaust from the trucks. Water leaks in the Fire Station throughout the year through the building's foundation. There is only one way in or out of the Fire Station, which is through the truck bays. The diesel fumes also go upstairs into the Town Hall where employees and members of the public are doing business. For more info, go to www.swanzeynh.gov.

Financial overview

The total budgeted cost including all construction, equipment, outfitting, engineering, and architectural work is \$3.95 million. That total cost is broken down as follows:

- \$3.35 million – site and building construction
- \$270,000 – Architectural, engineering & related expenses
- \$180,000 – Firefighting focused and cancer preventative equipment
- \$145,000 – Furniture, equipment, contingency, and other costs

The Town plans to aggressively pursue grants to further reduce the overall cost to the taxpayers.

Article 3 explanation (continued): Financial overview

Assuming a 20 year bond through the Municipal Bond Bank at a 3.75% interest rate, the full projected annual payment once the bond has been issued (assumed to be in 2021) is approximately \$250,000 (\$0.40 / \$1,000 on the tax rate **using 2019 assessed values**).

Cost per **year** in 2019 by assessed value: \$100,000 - \$40; \$200,000 - \$80; \$300,000 - \$120

Cost per **day** in 2019 by assessed value: \$100,000 - \$0.11; \$200,000 - \$0.22; \$300,000 - \$0.33

The approximate tax rate impact of this article in 2020 is \$0.32 / \$1,000 **based on 2019 assessed values**

This information is provided for informational purposes only and is not a guarantee of actual bond costs.

Article 4 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations 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 ~~\$6,303,000~~ **\$6,330,000**? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$6,072,735, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town 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. (RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 4 explanation: The Board of Selectmen's 2020 Operating Budget recommendation (after being increased \$27,000 at the Deliberative Session for the intended purpose of additional funding towards the Police Department) is \$6,330,000, which is a decrease from the 2019 budget of about \$174,000 (- 2.67%). Voters' choice is between the recommended budget and the default budget, which is \$6,072,735. Due to rising costs that cannot be incorporated in the default budget for items such as insurance rate increases, adoption of the default budget would likely result in reductions in services and staffing levels in addition to not funding the increases outlined below.

Following are the major **increases** to the 2020 recommended budget compared to 2019:

- Debt service – increased for the payments on the first half of the road improvement bond (payments on \$1.5 million of the total \$3 million authorized)
- Police – additional part-time staffing to provide support for investigations without adding benefit costs
- Highways – funding for additional winter expenses (i.e. road salt), contracted services (roadside mowing, catch basin cleaning), and for pavement maintenance
- Recycling Center – adding a seasonal summer full time employee to provide additional support
- Fire Department – money to repair apparatus needing repair early in 2020 and for some part-time weekend staffing to improve emergency response
- Elections – four elections in 2020 compared to only one in 2019

Following are the major **decreases** to the 2020 recommended budget compared to 2019:

- Carpenter Home – the assisted living home running at the Carpenter Home was closed in May so staffing and other operational expenses are not budgeted for 2020
- Economic Development – the Town has entered a different phase of its effort working with a marketing consultant
- Revaluations – legal cases with Eversource and FairPoint have been settled

Default Budget

By law, the default budget is the same budget as last year with increases for contracted and legal obligations and decreases for one-time expenses and reductions in debt service. The 2020 default budget is \$6,072,735, \$431,200 lower than the 2019 budget and \$257,265 lower than the 2020 recommended budget.

Increases in the **default budget** compared to the 2019 budget are for debt service approved by the voters and for additional elections.

Decreases in the **default budget** compared to the 2019 budget are due to the closure of the Carpenter Home.

Article 4 explanation (continued):

Operating Budget Summary

Overall 2020 recommended budget decrease from 2019 of about \$174,000 (– 2.67%)

The 2020 recommended budget is \$257,265 higher than the 2020 default budget

Net estimated non-property tax revenues are approximately \$398,000 lower than 2019 (\$542,000 reduction is the “loss” of projected Carpenter Home room rentals)

Net **amount to be raised by taxes** for the budget is about \$3,185,200, an increase of \$224,000 (7%)

The approximate tax rate impact of the recommended budget is \$5.103 / \$1,000 **based on 2019 assessed values**

Article 5 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 by general taxation to be placed in the following expendable trust and capital reserve accounts of the Town?

Expendable Trust Funds	Amount	Capital Reserve Funds	Amount
Revaluations & Updates	\$20,000	Fire Trucks	\$5,000
Police IMS	\$3,000	Recreation Facilities Improvements	\$10,000
Police Facilities	\$3,000	Police Cruisers	\$40,000
Emergency Communications	\$5,000		
Fire Ponds	\$25,000		
Fire Tools & Equipment	\$20,000		
Town Hall IMS	\$15,000		
Mt. Caesar Union Library	\$3,000		
Stratton Library	\$1,000		

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 5 explanation: An article similar to this one appears on the warrant each year to save money in a number of the Town’s various capital reserve and expendable trust funds (contributing to these funds is separated into two articles this year). These funds are critical to the Town’s operations and are used throughout the year to make major capital purchases of vehicles and equipment, to make repairs and improvements to the Town’s buildings and infrastructure, and for a number of other purposes. Funds are held and invested by the Trustees of Trust Funds and expenditures are restricted to the purposes approved by voters when each fund was created. All funds are reviewed by the Capital Improvements Plan Committee, which recommends annual funding levels to the Board of Selectmen.

The major funds that are having their contribution **reduced** in 2020 compared to 2019 are Whitcomb Hall, Town Hall Improvements, Carpenter Home, and Revaluations based on the capital plan recommended by the Capital Improvements Plan Committee.

This article is critical to the implementation of the Town’s six-year capital improvement plan and if it were to fail it would have a significant impact on the Town’s ability to deliver key services.

The approximate tax rate impact of this article is \$0.240 / \$1,000 **based on 2019 assessed values.**

Article 6 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$375,000 by general taxation to be placed in the following expendable trust and capital reserve accounts of the Town?

Expendable Trust Funds	Amount	Capital Reserve Funds	Amount
Road Rehab. & Reconstruction	\$150,000	Town Bridges	\$40,000
Winter Maintenance	\$10,000	Highway & Cemetery Equipment	\$160,000
		Town-owned Dams	\$10,000
		Covered Bridges	\$5,000

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 6 explanation: An article similar to this one appears on the warrant each year to save money in a number of the Town's various capital reserve and expendable trust funds (contributing to these funds is separated into two articles this year). See the Article 5 explanation for more information regarding capital reserve and expendable trust funds.

The major funds that are having their contributions **increased** in 2020 compared to 2019 are DPW Equipment to replace equipment at the end of its useful life and Road Rehabilitation to continue the Town's road improvement plan.

This article is critical to the implementation of the Town's six-year capital improvement plan and if it were to fail it would have a significant impact on the Town's ability to deliver key services.

The approximate tax rate impact of this article is \$0.601 / \$1,000 **based on 2019 assessed values.**

Article 7 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$225,000 for an update of the Town's tax maps and to purchase and install GIS (Geographic information system) mapping software with such sum to be raised from the undesignated fund balance? This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner.

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 7 explanation: The article would fund an update to the Town's tax maps, which were created in the 1970s and have significant inaccuracies. This project will take place over three years and will involve significant property deed research and aerial mapping. At the end of the project the Town will have GIS mapping for use by Town officials and the public, improving information available, including for development.

This article has no direct tax impact because it is appropriating money from the undesignated fund balance, not from general taxation.

Article 8 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$800,000 for construction and construction engineering for the replacement of the Christian Hill Road Bridge over the Ashuelot Rail Trail (NH DOT Bridge No. 098/122), a Town-owned and maintained bridge, which has been closed due to critical deficiencies? The Town will be reimbursed 80% in the amount of \$640,000 by the NH Department of Transportation Bridge Aid and \$160,000 from the Town Bridges (Other than Covered) Capital Reserve Fund. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner.

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 8 explanation: Christian Hill Road Bridge was constructed around 1930 and goes over the Ashuelot Rail Trail. This bridge has been closed to traffic since 2014 at the recommendation of the State Department of Transportation due to critical deficiencies. In 2016 the Board of Selectmen created the Christian Hill Road Bridge Committee, which reviewed various options and determined that replacing this bridge was the most cost effective solution. This project is funded through the State Bridge Aid Program, so the Town's share of the project is \$160,000 (20%) and the State will fund 80%. The bridge is expected to be reconstructed in 2022 or 2023 when State funds become available.

This article has no direct tax impact because it is appropriating funds deposited into a capital reserve fund created for this purpose.

Article 9 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$815,000 for improvements to the Cheshire and Ashuelot Rail Trails? The Town will be reimbursed 80% in the amount of \$652,000 by the NH Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program and \$163,000 from the undesignated fund balance or other grants and fundraising. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner.

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 9 explanation: *In 2019 the Town was awarded a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to fund improvements to the Cheshire and Ashuelot Rail Trails. Portions of the Ashuelot Rail Trail have already been improved; this grant will fund improvements to the rest of the Ashuelot Rail Trail (about 2.9 miles) and the full Cheshire Rail Trail from Swanzey Factory Road to Webb Depot Road (about 4 miles). The Town is in the process of hiring an engineering firm to design the project during 2020. It is anticipated the Rail Trail Advisory Committee will be fundraising a significant portion or all of the Town match, which is 20% of the project cost. The State will fund 80% of the project. The rail trails are important recreational and transportation assets for the community and these projects are part of a larger regional effort to improve the trails in other towns as well.*

This article has no direct tax impact because it is appropriating money from the undesignated fund balance, not from general taxation.

Article 10 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000, such sum representing six months funding of a school resource officer and to be offset by \$27,000 from the Monadnock Regional School District and \$3,000 from the from the undesignated fund balance? If approved, full year funding for this position estimated at \$60,000 shall be included in the 2021 operating and default budgets.

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 10 explanation: *The Town and Monadnock Regional School District are hoping to reinstitute the School Resource Officer (SRO) program that was in place for many years, but has not existed for the last several years. The proposal in 2020 is to fill the SRO with a part-time sworn Police officer who will be a Town of Swanzey employee with the costs for the position to be paid by the School District, with the exception of some uniform and training expenses. The SRO will be assigned to the high school to work with the staff to provide a high level of service to the student body and will respond to police incidents at the school. By having a dedicated SRO, the rest of the Police Department will be able to focus on law enforcement in the rest of the community. In addition to improving student safety, this position is also important to help build positive relationships between young people and the Police.*

Because the School District is on a different fiscal calendar than the Town only six months' worth of expenses are being appropriated this year. If this position is approved by both the Town and the School District, the full year of expenses for this position will be included in the Town's 2021 operating and default budgets.

This article has no direct tax impact because it is appropriating money from the School District and the undesignated fund balance, not from general taxation.

Article 11 Shall the Town vote to adopt, pursuant to RSA 72:81, a new construction property tax exemption for commercial and industrial uses (as defined in RSA 72:80)? The intent of the exemption is to provide incentives to businesses to build, modernize, or enlarge within the Town. The exemption shall apply only to municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the Town. State education and county taxes are excluded from the exemption. The exemption shall be granted for a maximum of 50 percent of the increase in assessed value attributable to the improvements, and shall remain in effect for a maximum period of 10 years. If adopted, the exemption shall apply to all properties within the municipality for which a proper application is filed. The percentage rate and duration of the exemption shall be granted on a per case basis based on the amount and value of public benefit provided, as determined by the Board of Selectmen. For the purpose of this exemption, in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement a minimum of one of the following must be provided: enhance economic growth and increase the Town's tax base; creation of needed services or facilities not currently available in the Town; redevelop and revitalize commercial or industrial area; prevent or eliminate blight; or, retain local jobs, increase local job base, and/or provide diversity in the job base. If approved this exemption shall take effect in the tax year beginning April 1, 2020 and shall remain in effect for a maximum of 5 tax years.

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 11 explanation: *If approved, this article would establish a new construction property tax exemption for commercial and industrial uses in Town. Under RSA 72:81, the Town is able to adopt such an exemption by vote of the legislative body. The intent of the exemption is to provide incentives to businesses to build, rebuild, modernize, or enlarge within the Town. The exemption shall apply only to municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the Town. State education and county taxes are excluded from the exemption.*

The proposed exemption would be for a maximum of 50 percent of the increase in assessed value attributable to the construction of new structures, and additions, renovations, or improvements to existing structures. The exemption would remain in effect for a maximum period of 10 years following the completion of the new construction or improvements. If adopted by the Town, the exemption would apply to all properties within the municipality for which a proper application is filed. The percentage rate and duration of the exemption would be granted on a per case basis based on the amount and value of public benefit provided, as determined by the Board of Selectmen.

All applicants for the exemption would be required to demonstrate a measurable public benefit to the Town as a whole in order to be eligible for the exemption. State law requires that the public benefit be defined by the local legislative body. For the purpose of the proposed exemption, a public benefit would be defined as providing a minimum of one of the following:

Enhance economic growth and increase the Town's tax base;

Creation of needed services or facilities not currently available in the Town;

Redevelop and revitalize commercial or industrial area;

Prevent or eliminate blight; or

Retain local jobs, increase local job base, and/or provide diversity in the job base.

If the exemption is approved, it would go into effect beginning April 1, 2020. The exemption would remain in effect for a maximum of 5 tax years and would automatically expire at the end of 2024 tax year unless extended by Town voters. However, for any application that has already been approved prior to the expiration of the 5-year tax period, the exemption would be continued to apply at the rate and for the duration in effect at the time it was granted.

Article 12 Shall the Town vote to discontinue absolutely, pursuant to RSA 231:43, the Class VI portion of Old Winchester Road, so-called, from its intersection with the Class V highway known as Cobble Hill Road in a southwest direction approximately 736.9 feet to a point in line with the southern property line of Map 72, Lot 93 and northern property line of Map 72, Lot 92, and which runs between the properties identified in the Town's assessing records as Map 71, Lot 18 (currently owned by Gilbert L. and Mary E. Faulkner), Map 71, Lot 17 (currently owned by Town of Swanzey), and Map 72, Lot 93 (currently owned by Knotty Pine Antique)?

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 12 explanation: *This article is related to a short section of the Class VI highway known as Old Winchester Road, located between its intersection with West Swanzey Road (Route 10) and Cobble Hill Road. If approved, this article would discontinue an approximately 736.9 foot section of this road from its intersection with Cobble Hill Road in a southwesterly direction. This portion of the Class VI highway is not currently in use and no evidence of a traveled way is apparent. Once a highway is discontinued, all Town responsibility ends and the public right of way ceases to exist. The right to use and possession returns to whoever owns title, which is presumed to be the highway's abutters (Tax Map 71, Lot 17, Tax Map 71, Lot 18, and Tax Map 72, Lot 93).*

Article 13 Shall the Town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA 35:1 titled the "Golden Rod Grange Hall Capital Reserve Fund" for the purpose of building, property, and other improvements to the Golden Rod Grange Hall, to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000) to be placed in this fund with such sum to be raised by taxation, and further to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend?

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 13 explanation: *The Golden Rod Grange Hall is a historic building at 625 Old Homestead Highway, across the street from the Town Hall. The Town acquired the building from the Golden Rod Grange in 1994, with restoration and maintenance to be performed by the Swanzey Preservation Society. While some progress has been made with the building over the years, significant improvements are still needed to allow the building to be used. The Town hired architect Mike Petrovick to put together a historic structure report using a grant and money from fundraising. This study identified improvements for the building in the range of \$655,000 - \$700,000. While the community tries to decide what to do with this building, this article seeks to set up a capital reserve for the Golden Rod Grange and to appropriate some money to help close in the building from the weather and other minor improvements. The Board of Selectmen would be agents to expend on the fund.*

The approximate tax rate impact of this article is \$0.027 / \$1,000 based on 2019 assessed values.

Article 14 Shall the Town vote pursuant to RSA 261:157-a to adopt an ordinance waiving the fee to be charged for a permit to register one motor vehicle owned by any person who: is a former prisoner of war and was captured and incarcerated for at least 30 days while serving in a qualifying war or armed conflict as defined in RSA 72:28, V, including those serving in military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and who was honorably discharged, provided that such person has furnished the town clerk with satisfactory proof of these circumstances; or was awarded the Purple Heart medal and who was honorably discharged or is still on active duty, provided that such person has furnished the town clerk with satisfactory proof of these circumstances; or Survived Pearl Harbor and was honorably discharged, provided that such person has furnished the town clerk with satisfactory proof of these circumstances?

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 14 explanation: *This is a new provision in State law to allow communities to waive the motor vehicle registration fee for one vehicle owned by a former prisoner of war, recipient of the Purple Heart medal, or a survivor of Pearl Harbor.*

Article 15 Shall the Town allow the operation of sports book retail locations within the town?

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 15 explanation: *House Bill 480 in 2019 legalized online sports betting and gave communities the option to allow sports book retail establishments in the town. These are physical locations where people can place wagers on sporting events and there will be up to 10 across the state. The Board of Selectmen hosted a public hearing about allowing the operation of sports book retail locations on February 19th. If this article passes it is possible that a sports book retail location will open in Swanzey. If this article is not approved, the Monadnock Regional School District will continue to receive State educational aid through Lottery Commission profits, which must go to educational funding.*

Article 16 Shall the Town vote to modify the Provisions of RSA 72:35 for an optional tax credit of \$4,000 for a Service-Connected Total Disability on residential property?

(BY PETITION)

Article 16 explanation: *This petitioned article would increase the tax credit for veterans with a service-connected total disability on residential property from \$2,000 to \$4,000. The Town currently has 25 of these tax credits so this would be roughly equivalent to a \$50,000 expenditure per year.*

The approximate tax rate impact of this article is \$0.08 / \$1,000 based on 2019 assessed values.

Article 17 Shall the Town vote to modify Veteran's Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II from its current tax credit of \$250 per year to \$500?

(BY PETITION)

Article 17 explanation: *This petitioned article would increase the tax credit for veterans from \$250 to \$500. The Town currently has over 300 of these tax credits so this would be roughly equivalent to a \$77,000 expenditure per year.*

The approximate tax rate impact of this article is \$0.123 / \$1,000 based on 2019 assessed values.

2020 Town Expenditure Summary

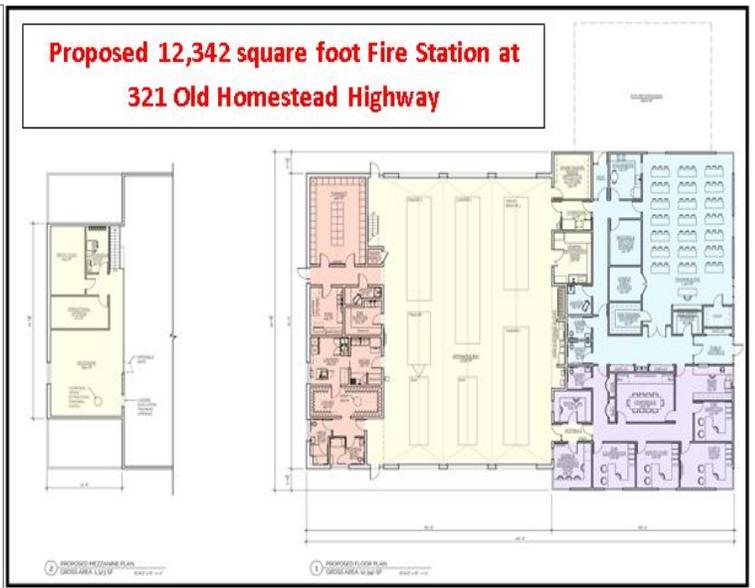
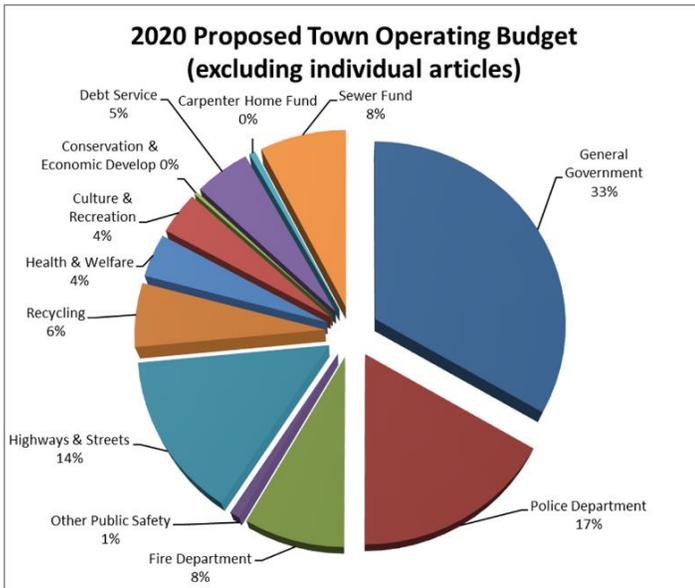
Articles 3 through 6, 13, and 16 through 17 are the articles that have a direct impact on the 2020 Town Tax Rate. Article 3 will also result in additional tax rate increases in future years as the full bond is issued. If all articles pass the result in 2020 would be:

- A net **\$4,054,198** to be raised by property taxes, which is an overall increase of \$434,000 (+ 12%).
- A projected Town portion of the tax rate based on 2019 assessments is **\$6.49 / \$1,000**.
- For a property valued at \$100,000, a Town portion of 2020 taxes of \$649 (an increase of \$69 from 2019).

Projected Town tax payment increase in 2020 by assessed value:

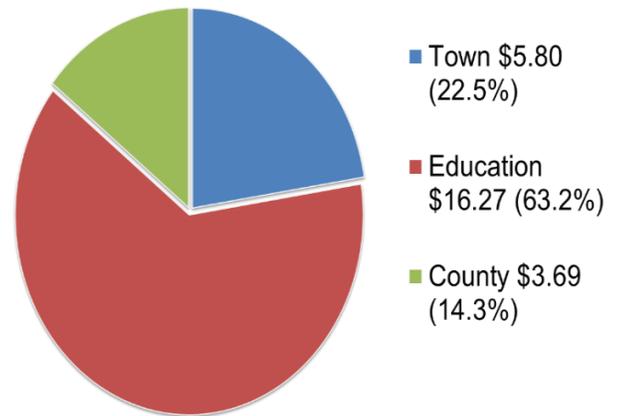
\$100,000 property - \$69; \$200,000 property - \$138; \$300,000 property - \$207

NOTE: Tax rate estimates are based on estimated revenues and 2019 assessed values, which are subject to change. Also, for reference in 2019 the Town portion made up roughly **22.5%** of the **overall** tax rate, meaning – for example – if your total property tax bill was \$1,000, the Town's portion was roughly \$225.



Purpose of Appropriation	Approved 2019	Expended 2019	Proposed 2020	Increase 2019-20	% Change
General Government	2,041,355	1,941,523	2,104,438	63,083	3.1%
Police Department	989,070	964,951	1,051,200	62,130	6.3%
Fire Department	502,005	500,663	522,025	20,020	4.0%
Other Public Safety	53,700	49,460	53,685	(15)	0.0%
Highways & Streets	855,445	849,202	900,600	45,155	5.3%
Recycling	328,755	315,541	355,750	26,995	8.2%
Health & Welfare	233,155	232,851	241,780	8,625	3.7%
Culture & Recreation	223,610	224,740	237,365	13,755	6.2%
Conservation & Economic Develop	27,750	17,649	17,625	(10,125)	-36.5%
Debt Service	194,090	144,071	308,287	114,197	58.8%
Carpenter Home Fund	585,040	309,153	33,875	(551,165)	-94.2%
Sewer Fund	469,960	456,542	476,370	6,410	1.4%
Proposed Operating Budget	6,503,935	6,006,346	6,303,000	(200,935)	-3.1%

2019 Tax Rate Breakdown (\$25.76 total)



Estimated Revenues	Budgeted 2019	Estimated 2020	Increase
Taxes (excluding Property Taxes)	163,895	166,895	3,000
Property Taxes	2,771,804	2,968,860	197,056
Licenses, Permits & Vehicle Registrations	1,462,700	1,562,700	100,000
Intergov't Revenue & Grants	756,311	754,896	-1,415
Income from Departments	130,000	130,000	0
Miscellaneous Revenue	70,000	115,000	45,000
Carpenter Home Fund Income	542,000	0	-542,000
Sewer Fund Income	413,225	420,774	7,549
From Trust and Fiduciary Funds	150,000	37,877	-112,123
Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes	150,000	150,000	0
Total Estimated Revenues	\$6,503,935	\$6,303,000	-\$200,935

2020 Expenditures & Revenues as Proposed by Board of Selectmen



Town of Swanzey
 620 Old Homestead Highway
 PO Box 10009
 Swanzey, NH 03446-0009
 (603) 352-7411
www.swanzeynh.gov

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BRING IT TO THE POLLS!

Town Ballot		Town Ballot	
Zoning Amendments (Article 2)		Article 7	Y N
Amendment 1	Y N	Article 8	Y N
Amendment 2	Y N	Article 9	Y N
Amendment 3	Y N	Article 10	Y N
Amendment 4	Y N	Article 11	Y N
Amendment 5	Y N	Article 12	Y N
Article 3	Y N	Article 13	Y N
Article 4	Y N	Article 14	Y N
Article 5	Y N	Article 15	Y N
Article 6	Y N	Article 16	Y N
		Article 17	Y N

**Postal Patron
 Swanzey, NH 03446**

**Town & School District Official Ballot
 Voting Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Polls are located at the
 Christian Life Fellowship Church,
 211 Whitcomb Road, Swanzey

This voting guide previews Town offices to be filled by election and the official ballot questions that resulted from our deliberative session on February 4th. The guide explains each ballot question in everyday terms.

The Town's Annual Report contains additional information about matters to be considered by official ballot as well as finances and activities of the Town during the past year. The Annual Report is available at Town Hall, and may be viewed at www.swanzeynh.gov.

Selectmen, board and committee members, the Town Administrator and other department leaders welcome your questions. Your vote does count! Participate in making the decisions that will shape the future of our town and come to the polls on March 10th!

Bill Hutwelker
 Kenneth P. Colby, Jr
 Sly Karasinski
Swanzey Board of Selectmen

Town Hall hours on Election Day

On Election Day (March 10th), the Town Clerk's Office will be closed but the other offices in Town Hall will hold regular business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Make a difference

Your town needs you! The Board of Selectmen often seeks nominations for positions on Town boards, committees and commissions. Consult the Annual Report to see which groups most interest you, contact Town Hall staff or volunteers with any questions, and find nomination forms and additional information at www.swanzeynh.gov.

Town Hall Hours

Town Hall Hours are: Monday 9:30 – 6, Tuesday – Thursday 8:30 – 5, & Friday 7:30 – 4. Did you know you can do many transactions online 24/7 from the comfort of your own home? If you want to see if you can do your business online, check our website or contact the Tax Collector or Town Clerk.