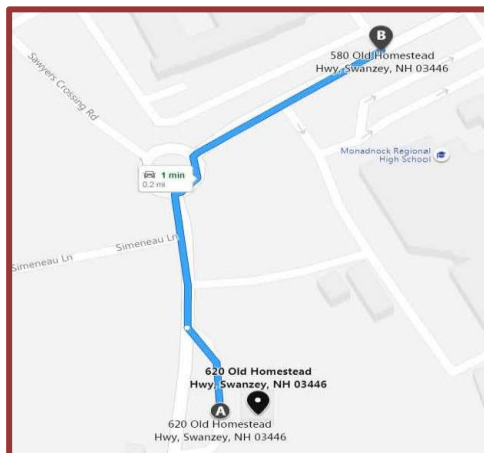


TOWN OF SWANZEY  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
2024 VOTING GUIDE  
OFFICIAL BALLOT VOTING

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024  
8:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.



Location:

**Monadnock Regional High  
School Gymnasium**  
**580 Old Homestead Highway**  
Thank you MRSD School District  
for hosting our elections!

From Town Hall: school/voting  
site is 0.2 mile north on right.  
From Lake Street: school/voting  
site is 2.4 miles south on the left.

**It is not too late to register to vote!**  
You may register to vote at the polls on voting day.  
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 11<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Please bring a valid photo ID.**

**Article 1** To choose by ballot town officers:

**Town Clerk**

For 3 Years (Vote for 1)  
Ashley Patnode  
Heather Estrella  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

**Moderator**

For 2 Years (Vote for 1)  
Ashlee Crosby  
Ann Heffernon  
Bruce L Tatro  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

**Zoning Board of Adjustment**

For 1 Years (Vote for 1)  
Adam Mulhearn  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

**Selectman**

For 3 Years (Vote for 1)  
Michael York  
Ronald F Fontaine  
Charles Harbeck  
Mark LaBelle  
James Tempesta  
Lisa Thorne  
James Ward  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

**Trustee of Trust Fund**

For 3 Years (Vote for 1)  
Mark Scalera  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

**Planning Board**

For 3 Years (Vote for 2)  
Michael York  
Mark Scalera  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

**Zoning Board of Adjustment**

For 3 Years (Vote for 2)  
Keith Thibault  
Anne Karasinski  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

**Stratton Free Library Trustee**

For 3 Years (Vote for 1)  
Susan Ells  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

**Supervisor of the Checklist**

For 6 Years (Vote for 1)  
Lee Dunham  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

**Mt. Caesar Union Library Trustee**

For 1 Year (Vote for 1)  
Kathryn Habiby  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

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

**Article 2 explanation:** The Planning Board's proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance 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 14, 2023 & January 11, 2024.

The purpose of **Amendment 1** is to update the description of the Village Business District I and Village Business District II Zones. The Zoning Map is further amended to show Village Business District I North of the Wilson Pond Dam and south of the Keene line. It is further amended to show Village Business District II along North Winchester Street and north & south of Main Street.

**Amendment 2** would permit the construction of Attached Accessory Dwelling Units on Rear Lots under the provision of Section III-AA Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance.

**Amendment 3** would rezone the Business District along State Route 32 from the Keene line to the outlet of Lower Wilson Pond Dam into Village Business District I. The airport property frontage along Route 32 affected by this extends 200 feet into the lot. Village Business District I includes along the eastern side of State Route 32 from the Keene line and continues South to Lake Street, on the north side. Additional lots located on Walnut Street extends, up to and including, Lot 24 on the north side of the street and 39 on the south side. Additional lots on Grove Street extend, up to and including, Lot 46 on the north side and 50 on the south side. On Park Street, lots up to and including Lot 30 on the north side and 35 on the south side are included. Lake Street includes lots up to 41 on the north side.

**Amendment 4** would update Section V, Article A.1 in the Zoning Ordinance, namely permitted uses within Village Business District I. This includes removal of: Hotel, Motel, Banking or Financial Institution, Nursing Home, and Club or Lodge.

**Article 2 explanation continued:**

**Amendment 5** would update uses within Section V, Article B.1, C.1 & C.2 for Village Business District I & Village Business District II permitted by issuance of a Special Exception. This includes the removal of: gasoline service stations, repair garage or body shop, motor vehicle dealership, wholesale or manufacturing facility, vehicle wash facility.

**Amendment 6** would update uses within Section V, Article A.2 in the Zoning Ordinance for uses in Village Business District I, permitted by issuance of a Special Exception. This includes removal of: Multi-family dwelling(s).

**Amendment 7** would amend Section V, Article A.3 in the Zoning Ordinance to update restrictions within Village Business District I to include: no building or structure in this district may exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height.

**Amendment 8** would amend Section V. Article B.2 in the Zoning ordinance to update uses in the Business District permitted by issuance of a Special Exception. This includes the removal of self storage facility.

**Amendment 9** would amend Section V. Article B.1 in the Zoning Ordinance to update permitted uses within Business District to include: the addition of one-family to two-family dwelling conversions that do not change the footprint of the existing one-family dwelling; Non-Retail Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

**Amendment 10** addresses parcels located along Main Street in West Swanzey to be rezoned into Village Business District II, including on Map 109 all lots consecutively numbered 83 through 92 along the southern part of North Winchester Street, and Lot 3, below the Mill. On Map 108 along the southern part of North Winchester Street Lots 23, 24, 37, and 38 will be included. Map 110's affected lots are Lots 45, 46, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, and 71, located east of the Ashuelot River, between Main Street and Ashuelot Street. Also affected by this rezoning includes Map 233 Lot 19 located on Summer Street, north of the intersection of Holbrook and Summer.

**Amendment 11** would amend Section V, Article C.1 & C.2 in Zoning Ordinance to update Uses by Special Exception: manufacturing facility, research and testing laboratories, utility generation, wholesale, warehouse or storage facilities with office, repair and customer service areas. These uses are currently permitted by right.

**Amendment 12** would amend Section V, Article C.1.s in the Zoning Ordinance to update restrictions within Village Business District II to include: Multi-family dwelling(s): The density requirement for a multi-family dwelling(s) shall be one (1) acre for the first dwelling unit and one half (1/2) acre for each additional dwelling unit, unless connected to public sewer. The maximum density permitted for a multi-family dwelling(s) connected to public sewer shall be six (6) units per acre.

**Article 3** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Million and Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000) 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; One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to be raised by general taxation, Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) from other grants, One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) from the Undesignated Fund Balance, and Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) 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 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 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 take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto?

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

**Article 3 explanation:** This article would fund a new 8,950 square foot fire station at 321 Old Homestead Highway to replace Station #2 in basement of Town Hall for a total estimated cost of \$5.28 million. This proposed fire station is 33% smaller than other recent fire station warrant articles and uses roughly \$700,000 in total in grants to lower the cost to taxpayers, \$200,000 of which may expire if this article is not approved. Not included in the warrant article is \$500,000 from InvestNH per unit affordable housing grant and \$300,000 available in the Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund.

### **Background**

The Board of Selectmen has been trying to replace Fire Station #2 with a modern clean new fire station for over 10 years. About five years ago the Town bought 321 Old Homestead Highway, about a mile and a half north of the current Station #2 and in 2019 voters approved an article funding designing a fire station at 321 Old Homestead Highway. The design developed at that time after eight community meetings was about 12,500 square feet; it received over 50% support in 2020, 2021, and 2022, but not the 60% needed for approval.

### **Design**

The proposed station is 8,950 square feet and was developed by KCS Architects and DEW Construction serving as the project's construction manager. If the project is approved, DEW will build the new station. The design priority was to get the cost as low as possible without compromising core program items (cancer prevention, call member spaces, etc.). This was accomplished by removing one of the double deep bays and shrinking the administrative areas. The sections of the building were also reorganized so additional bays can be added in the future if needed. The station has a dedicated training room, area for the emergency operations center, staff offices that are accessible to the public, four spots in two double deep bays for trucks, and locker and decontamination areas for the department's members. The proposed station does not include bedrooms or living quarters because Swanzey does not currently have full time / 24 hour staffing. If that space is needed in the future, there is the ability to add more usable space on the second floor.

If this article is **approved**, work will begin promptly to finalize architectural and engineering plans and construction is expected later in 2024 or early in 2025. If this article is **not approved**, the Town will continue to spend time and money studying this issue and/or developing different plans to replace Station #2.

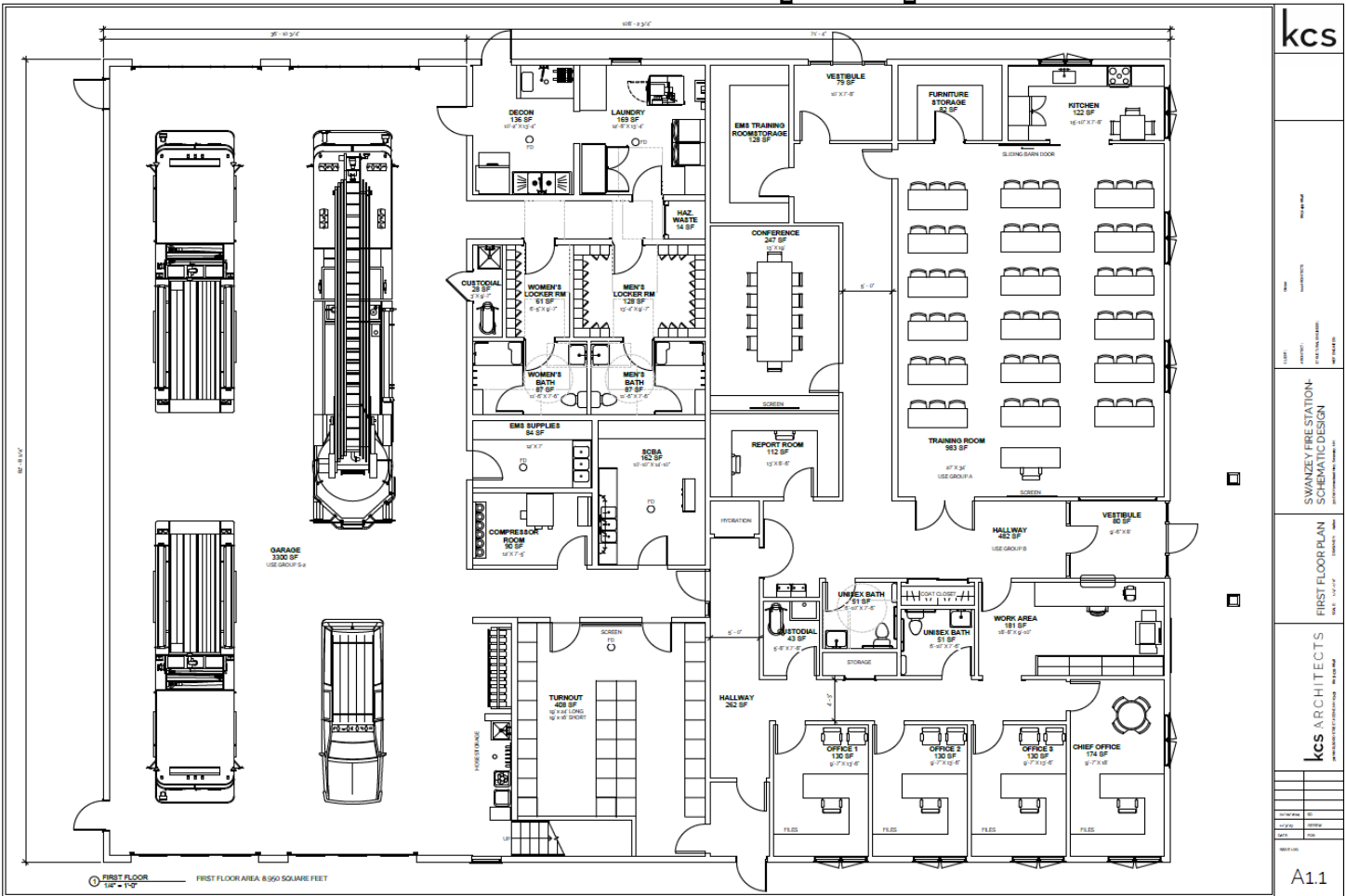
The current Station #2 in the basement of the Town Hall cannot continue to be used because it is undersized, does not meet health and life safety code requirements, makes town hall employees sick, and has a number of other challenges. Modern fire trucks barely fit through the doors, under the ceiling, 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 into the station through the building's foundation. There is only one way in or out of the 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.

**Assuming** a 25 year bond through the Municipal Bond Bank with an estimated 5.75% interest rate, the full projected annual payment once the bond has been issued (assumed to be in 2025) will be approximately \$290,000 (\$0.47 / \$1,000 on the tax rate **using 2023 assessed values**).

Cost per **year** by assessed value: \$100,000 - \$47; \$200,000 - \$94; \$300,000 - \$141

Cost per **day** by assessed value: \$100,000 - \$0.13; \$200,000 - \$0.26; \$300,000 - \$0.38

The approximate tax rate impact of this article in 2024 is \$0.23 / \$1,000 **based on 2023 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 the sum of One Million and One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$1,110,000) to reconstruct North Winchester Street and the portion of California Street east of Route 10, such sum to be raised as follows: Three Hundred and Five Thousand Dollars (\$305,000) of such sum through the acceptance of a grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission; and Eight Hundred and Five Thousand Dollars (\$805,000) 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 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 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 take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto? Of the bonding authority One Hundred and Eighty-One Thousand (\$181,000) is expected to be a forgivable loan and Six Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand (\$624,000) is expected to be a low interest loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

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



**Article 4 explanation:** North Winchester Street is one of the worst paved roads in town and has been near the top of the list for reconstruction for several years. It was delayed when South Winchester and surrounding streets were moved up in the priority list due to grant funds specific to them. South Winchester, Swanzey, and West Streets were reconstructed in 2021 and 2022. Grant funds, forgivable loans (effectively a grant), and low-interest loans to help pay for improvements to North Winchester and California Streets (east of Rt. 10) were awarded in 2022 and 2023, some of which require this warrant article. In 2023 the Selectmen appointed an advisory committee to assist in designing this project, including looking at possible changes to the traffic flow. Based on this committee's work, this project maintains the current two way traffic on both streets. This project will reconstruct both roads and sidewalks, improve the intersection with Main Street, and make drainage and stormwater improvements.

If this article is **approved**, construction is expected to begin later in 2024 or in 2025.

This project's total estimated cost is \$1.9 million, broken down as follows:

Forgivable loan – \$181,000

Low interest loan – \$624,000

Northern Borders Grant - \$305,000

MAST Sidewalk Grant – \$75,000

Local Capital Reserve and Sidewalk Committee Funds – \$715,000

*This article is not expected to have a direct impact on the 2024 tax rate.*

**Article 5** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the purpose of constructing a solar array for the Town's waste water collection system and making other energy efficiency measures, such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes not to exceed \$500,000 under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; 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 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 take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto? Additionally, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept grants or other funds that may reduce the amount to be repaid by up to \$500,000 and participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486.14 established for this purpose, and to allow the Board of Selectmen to expend such monies as become available from the federal and state governments and pass any necessary vote relating thereto.

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

**Article 5 explanation:** With the Sewer Commission dissolving after Town Meeting 2023, the Board of Selectmen and Town staff have become more involved with the Town's wastewater operations. Wastewater treatment plants are significant electricity users and in 2023 the State funded an energy audit of the West Swanzey Wastewater Treatment Plant. That energy audit recommended some ways to lower electricity usage at the plant and a 122.7kW solar array to offset the remaining electricity usage, which currently costs about \$32,000 per year. The solar array will be owned by the Town, will be on the treatment plant's property on Denman Thompson Highway, and the cost is expected to be primarily offset by grants and tax credits. Any local funds will be paid for by the users of the system through the Sewer Fund. The Town Sewer Fund cost is estimated to be around \$80,000 after State grants, forgivable loan (effectively a grant), and federal tax credits. The payback on the array is estimated to be about 3 years. After being awarded State funding, the Town issued a request for qualifications and selected ReVision Energy to construct the array.

**Article 5 explanation continued:** This project will offset around 159,000 pounds of carbon, which is equivalent to annually removing 16 passenger cars from the road, brewing over 8 million cups of coffee, lighting a home with LED lightbulbs for 56 years, or planting over 1,100 trees.

If this article is **approved** the Town will finalize the funding package, make the energy improvements, and prepare to construct the solar array.

*This article is not expected to have a direct impact on the 2024 tax rate.*

**Article 6** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of funding a comprehensive facility planning study for the Town's wastewater collection system, such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes not to exceed \$100,000 under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; 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 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 take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto? Additionally, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept grants or other funds that may reduce the amount to be repaid by up to \$100,000 and participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486.14 established for this purpose, and to allow the Board of Selectmen to expend such monies as become available from the federal and state governments and pass any necessary vote relating thereto.

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

**Article 6 explanation:** With the Sewer Commission dissolving after Town Meeting 2023, the Board of Selectmen and Town staff have become more involved with the Town's wastewater operations. The West Swanzey Wastewater Treatment Plant on Denman Thompson Highway is currently near its treatment limit for some measures, such as phosphorus. The system is over 40 years old and needs a comprehensive operational review to identify improvements to treat the solid waste in its service area while meeting State and Federal requirements. Pending approval of this warrant article the Town has been awarded a \$100,000 forgivable loan (effectively a grant) to fund a qualified engineering firm to review the system and make recommendations for improvements.

If this article is **approved** the Town will select an engineering firm to perform the comprehensive facility planning study and make recommendations.

*This article is not expected to have a direct impact on the 2024 tax rate.*

**Article 7** 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 \$7,961,500? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,468,834, 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 7 explanation:** The Board of Selectmen's 2024 Operating Budget is \$7,961,500, which is an increase of 7.2% from last year. Since Swanzey is a SB2 community, the voters are given two options when voting on this article, the first is for the recommended budget and the second is the default budget, which is \$7,468,834 and would go into effect if this article were to fail. 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 as follows.

**Article 7 explanation continued:**

Following are the major **increases** to the 2024 budget compared to 2023:

- Executive – dedicated full time human resources coordinator position instead of current position combined with human services (welfare)
- Elections – four elections in 2024 compared to one in 2023
- Health Insurance – 15% premium increase
- Recycling Center – third full-time employee as part-time employees get harder to find and retain
- General Assistance – increase in need for assistance and higher costs
- Debt Service – Upper Wilson Pond Dam bond payments
- Sewer Fund – Contracted operations & chemicals

The major **decreases** to the 2024 budget compared to 2023 is in Cultural Services based on a reduction for public access TV budget.

**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 2024 default budget is \$7,468,834, \$44,000 higher than the 2023 budget and \$492,000 lower than the 2024 recommended budget.

The increases in the **default budget** compared to the 2023 budget are for additional elections to pay for the debt service on the Upper Wilson Pond Dam project.

The decreases in the **default budget** compared to the 2023 budget are due to debt service being paid off.

**Operating Budget Summary**

Overall 2024 recommended budget increase from 2023 of about \$536,500 (+ 7.2%)

The recommended budget is \$492,000 higher than the default budget

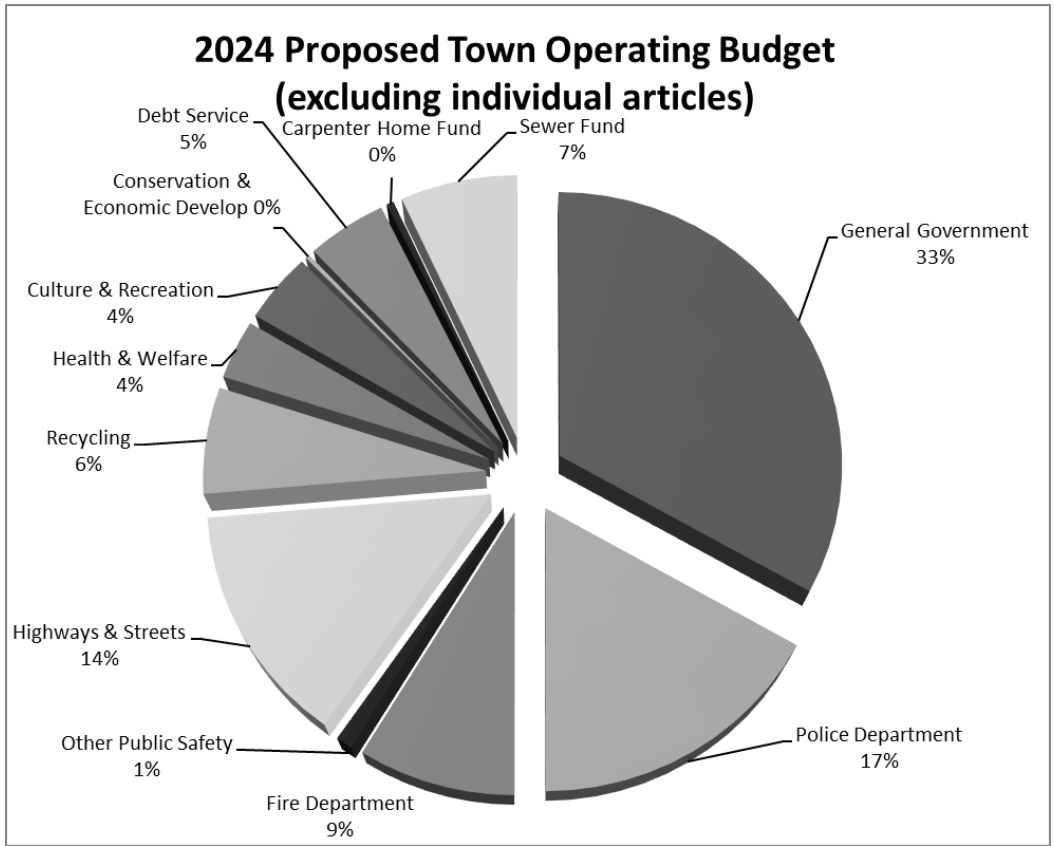
Net estimated non-property tax revenues are approximately \$87,000 higher than 2023

Net **amount to be raised by taxes** for the budget is \$4,287,930, an increase of \$449,000 (11.7%)

*The approximate tax rate impact of the recommended budget is \$6.65 / \$1,000 **based on 2023 assessed values.***

Purpose of Appropriation	Approved	Expended	Proposed	Increase	%	Default
	2023	2023	2024	2023-24	Change	2024
General Government	2,372,700	2,293,750	2,641,675	268,975	11.3%	2,378,100
Police Department	1,268,250	1,194,869	1,339,420	71,170	5.6%	1,268,250
Fire Department	692,275	607,350	695,281	3,006	0.4%	692,275
Other Public Safety	73,000	44,245	73,350	350	0.5%	73,000
Highways & Streets	1,095,000	1,470,373	1,113,200	18,200	1.7%	1,095,000
Recycling	446,500	439,614	504,045	57,545	12.9%	446,500
Health & Welfare	248,500	258,878	280,500	32,000	12.9%	248,500
Culture & Recreation	316,500	293,732	334,160	17,660	5.6%	316,500
Conservation & Economic Develop	20,400	18,221	20,400	0	0.0%	20,400
Debt Service	335,875	335,811	375,799	39,924	11.9%	375,799
Carpenter Home Fund	35,000	35,273	33,800	(1,200)	-3.4%	35,000
Sewer Fund	521,000	494,925	549,870	28,870	5.5%	519,510
<b>Proposed Operating Budget</b>	<b>7,425,000</b>	<b>7,487,043</b>	<b>7,961,500</b>	<b>536,500</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>7,468,834</b>





**Article 8** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ~~Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$436,000)~~ **Five Hundred and Forty Six Thousand Dollars (\$546,000)** 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
Revaluation & Updates	\$27,000	Fire Stations	\$25,000
Emergency Communications	\$10,000	Fire Trucks	\$40,000
Fire Ponds	\$30,000	Police Cruisers	\$75,000
Fire Dept. Tools & Equip.	\$20,000	Recreation Facility Improvements	\$25,000
Mt. Caesar Library	\$100,000	Recycling Center Improvements	\$50,000
Police Facilities Maintenance	\$3,000	Golden Rod Grange Hall	<del>\$1,000</del> <b>\$111,000</b>
Police IMS	\$5,000		
Stratton Free Library	\$5,000		
Town Hall IMS	\$20,000		

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

**Article 8 explanation:** An article similar to this one and Article 9 appear on the warrant each year to save money in the Town's various capital reserve and expendable trust funds. 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.

**Article 8 explanation continued:** Article 8 was amended at Deliberative Session to increase the appropriation to the Golden Rod Grange Hall Capital Reserve Fund by \$110,000 to help match grants and to improve the roof structure of the Grange Hall across from Town Hall. The other major funds having their contributions **increased** compared to last year are: Mt. Caesar Union Library + \$80,000, Recycling Center + \$40,000, and Police Cruisers + \$20,000. 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 and complete projects.

*The approximate tax rate impact of this article is \$0.85 / \$1,000 based on 2023 assessed values.*

**Article 9** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$675,000) by general taxation to be placed in the following expendable trust and capital reserve accounts of the Town?

<b>Expendable Trust Funds</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Capital Reserve Funds</b>	<b>Amount</b>
DPW Facilities	\$15,000	Highway & Cemetery Equipment	\$200,000
Road Rehab & Reconstruction	\$400,000	Sidewalk	\$25,000
		Town Owned Dams	\$10,000
		Town Bridges	\$25,000

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

**Article 9 explanation:** An article similar to this one and Article 8 appear on the warrant each year to save money in the Town's various capital reserve and expendable trust funds. See the Article 8 explanation for more information regarding capital reserve and expendable trust funds.

The major fund having its contribution **increased** compared to last year is Highway Equipment + \$50,000 due to increases in the costs of public works vehicles and equipment.

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 \$1.04 / \$1,000 based on 2023 assessed values.*

**Article 10** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ~~Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000)~~ **Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000)** to be placed in the Fire Stations Capital Reserve Fund with such sum to be raised ~~One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000)~~ **Fifty Thousand (\$50,000)** by taxation and One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) from the undesignated fund balance? If Article 3 passes this article shall be null and void.

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

**Article 10 explanation:** An article similar to this one appeared on the warrant beginning last year instead of a Fire Station bond article. This year's article is contingent on Article 3 and was amended at Deliberative Session to decrease the total appropriation and taxation portion by \$100,000. This article is contingent on Article 3 so if Article 3 fails the Town can continue to save towards fire station improvements or a new station. If Article 3 passes, regardless of the vote on this article it will not be approved. If Article 3 fails and this article passes, \$200,000 will be added to the Fire Stations Capital Reserve Fund. This money could then be used to maintain or repair the Town's three current fire stations or to save towards a new fire station, helping to reduce the amount of money that would need to be borrowed. \$50,000 of this proposed article will be funded by general taxation and \$150,000 will be from the undesignated fund balance.

*The approximate tax rate impact of this article is \$0.08 / \$1,000 based on 2023 assessed values.*

**Article 11** Shall the Town vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a titled the "Rail Trails Expendable Trust Fund" for the purpose of maintaining, improving, and other expenses associated with the Cheshire and Ashuelot Rail Trails, to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund with such sum to be raised from the undesignated fund balance, and further to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend?

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

**Article 11 explanation:** This article would create a new expendable trust fund to save money from year to year to maintain and improve the Cheshire and Ashuelot Rail Trails. The Rail Trails Advisory Committee has made great progress improving the condition of the rail trails and this article would provide some funds to continue the progress and/or match grants. The Board of Selectmen would be agents to expend from this fund.

*This article is funded from the undesignated fund balance and has no direct tax rate impact.*

**Article 12** Shall the Town vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a titled the "Ambulance Expendable Trust Fund" for the purpose of funding expenses related to providing ambulance services including but not limited to contributing towards an outside entity providing ambulance services, to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be placed in this fund with such sum to be raised from the undesignated fund balance, and further to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend?

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

**Article 12 explanation:** This article would create a new expendable trust fund to save money from year to year for ambulance related expenses. The three-year contract between the Town and Cheshire County EMS provides relatively minor increases during its term, however when federal subsidies run out the Town is expecting more significant cost increases. This fund will provide some money to help offset future increases to ambulance costs. The Board of Selectmen would be agents to expend from this fund.

*This article is funded from the undesignated fund balance and has no direct tax rate impact.*

### **2024 Town Warrant Summary**

Articles 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are the articles that have a direct impact on the 2024 Town Tax Rate. Articles 3 & 4 will also impact the tax rate in future years when the bonds are issued. If **Article 3 fails and Article 10 passes** the net amount to be raised by taxes would be **\$5,559,000** for a projected Town tax rate of **\$8.62** (+ 14% from 2023). If all articles pass as amended the result in 2024 would be:

- A net **\$5,659,000** to be raised by property taxes, which is an overall increase of \$786,000.
- A projected **Town portion** of the tax rate based on 2024 assessments is **\$8.77 / \$1,000** (+ 16% from 2023).
- For a property valued at \$100,000, a Town portion of 2024 taxes of \$877 (an increase of \$122 from 2023).

Projected annual Town tax payment increase in 2023 by assessed value:

\$100,000 property - \$122; \$200,000 property - \$244; \$300,000 property - \$366

NOTE: Tax rate estimates are based on estimated revenues and 2023 assessed values, which will be changing significantly in 2024 when the Town reassesses all property.

For reference in 2023 the **Town portion** made up roughly **28%** of the **overall** tax rate, meaning – for example – if your total property tax bill was \$1,000, the Town's portion was \$280.

**2024 is a revaluation year for Swanzey and all property assessments will be reviewed and updated based on sales data. Do not compare your new property values to the 2023 tax rate or these tax rate projections!**



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

PRSR.T. STD.  
 PAID  
 Swanzey, NH  
 Permit #11  
 ECRWSS

## **BRING IT TO THE POLLS!**

Town Ballot		Town Ballot	
Zoning Amendments		Article 3	Y N
Amendment 1	Y N	Article 4	Y N
Amendment 2	Y N	Article 5	Y N
Amendment 3	Y N	Article 6	Y N
Amendment 4	Y N	Article 7	Y N
Amendment 5	Y N	Article 8	Y N
Amendment 6	Y N	Article 9	Y N
Amendment 7	Y N	Article 10	Y N
Amendment 8	Y N	Article 11	Y N
Amendment 9	Y N	Article 12	Y N
Amendment 10	Y N		
Amendment 11	Y N		
Amendment 12	Y N		

**Postal Patron  
 Swanzey, NH 03446**

**Town & School District Official Ballot  
 Voting Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

**8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
 Polls are located at the  
 Monadnock Regional High School Gym,  
 580 Old Homestead Hwy, 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 6<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.swanzeynh.gov) under the Community tab.

The Selectmen, board and committee members, the Town Administrator and other department leaders welcome your questions and feedback. Your vote does count! Participate in making the decisions that will shape the future of our town and come to the polls on March 12<sup>th</sup>!

Ken Colby  
 Sly Karasinski  
 Bill Hutwelker  
*Swanzey Board of Selectmen*

**Town Hall hours on Election Day**  
 On Election Day (March 12<sup>th</sup>), 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](http://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.