



Municipal Matters



The Academy Building serves as the New London Town Offices

Repairs to Academy Building to be addressed at Town Meeting on May 13th **\$350,000 loan authorization will be requested of voters**

The Selectmen and Budget Committee agree that the time has come to make extensive repairs to the Academy Building. Voters will be asked to authorize the Selectmen to borrow up to \$350,000 for needed repairs. The Academy Building, formerly known as the Old Colby Academy building, was donated to the Town by Colby-Sawyer College in 1999. The building was raised and set on a new foundation and the interior was renovated to create the town offices now being used. Opened in the summer of 2000, it serves as the Town Offices including the Town Administrator, Finance, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Planning & Zoning, Assessing, Archives, and the Sydney Crook Conference Room where Selectmen’s Meetings, and various other public meetings, are held.

The 1999-2000 renovation project did not include the replacement of the siding which has deteriorated over the years. It is impossible to say how much damage will be found when the siding is removed, but the Selectmen and Budget Committee believe that \$350,000 will be adequate. If there are funds remaining after the siding project is completed, other outstanding maintenance issues in town buildings may be addressed.

The pictures below show some of the damage at the Academy Building to be addressed.

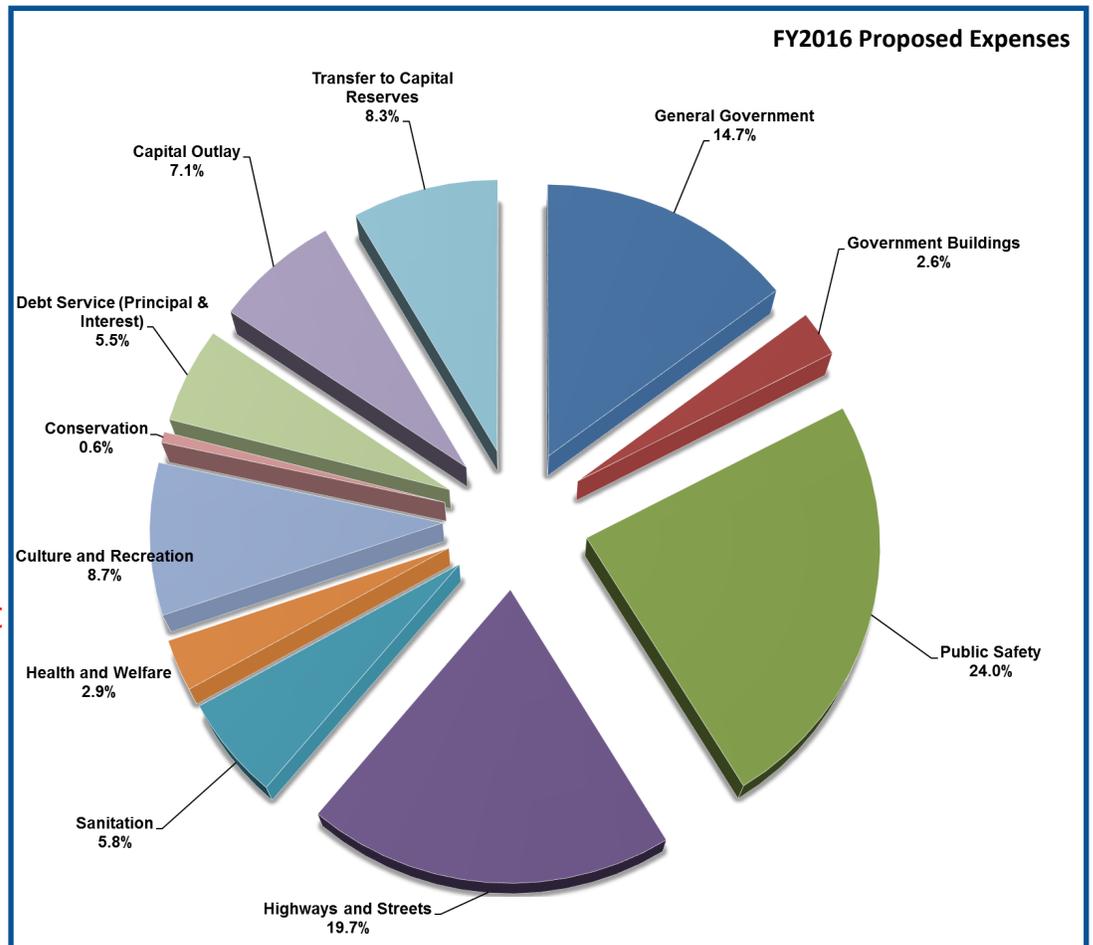
For more information on this project, please attend a Public Hearing on April 13th at 6:00pm at the Academy Building—Town Offices—2nd floor.



Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Highlights

On Wednesday, April 8th at 7:00pm, the New London Budget Committee held its public hearing to present its recommendations for the town’s fiscal year 2016 budget. This budget covers expenditures from July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016. Highlights include:

- ◆ 4% across the board increase for town employees. This follows raises of 1.5% in FY2015, 2% in FY2014 , 2% in FY2013 , and 1.7% in FY2012. The overall increase in employee related expenses is 3.2%.
- ◆ Addition of one full-time person in the Public Works Department . This position was eliminated in the FY2013 budget, and an attempt was made to use part-time labor instead. Upon review, it was determined that it would be more effective to reinstate the full-time position.
- ◆ 55% increase in debt service principal and interest due to first payment on the \$5.2 million dollar Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant bond and the first payment on the anticipated \$350,000 note for the repair of the Academy Building (as noted on page one).
- ◆ 20% increase to transfers to Capital Reserve Funds (CRF). Capital Reserve Funds are the town’s savings accounts, allowing the town to save for a future purchase. This year payments to the Highway Department Equipment CRF, GIS Mapping CRF, Sidewalk Project CRF, Fire Vehicle CRF, and Library Improvements CRF are increased over FY2015. Two new CRF will be requested at Town Meeting: one for fire department radios in the amount of \$15,000 and one for communications (dispatching) equipment in the amount of \$5,000.
- ◆ 75% of the FY2016 increase comes from debt service and transfers to Capital Reserve Funds.
- ◆ The recommended FY2016 budget, including transfers to Capital Reserves Funds, represents a 5.1% increase over FY2015.



NOTE:

All FY2016 Budget materials may be reviewed on the town website: www.nl-nh.com

\$8 million dollar Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project Completed



Photos: Above: Main Office Building; Headworks Building; Control panel in Headworks, Chemical Building. Right: Grit remover, Aeration ditches

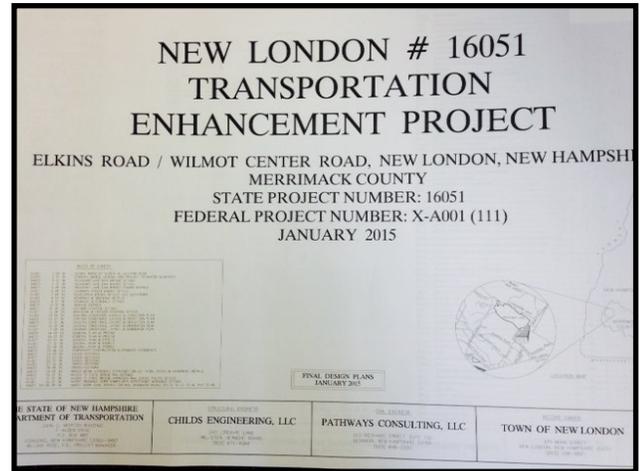
The Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project began in 2009 when New London voters approved \$385,000 for engineering to determine how best to upgrade the aging plant. In 2011 New London voters approved a bond in the amount of \$5.2 million dollars as its share of the upgrade project. (Sunapee voters approved \$2.8 million for its share). New London voters agreed that 1/3 of the bond would be paid by all property owners and 2/3 would be paid by sewer users. Construction began in August 2012 and was substantially completed in September 2014 .

Plant upgrades mean the plant operates more efficiently and in a cost effective manner; safer for the staff and safer for the environment. Approximately 125 million gallons of sewage is treated at the plant each year. The towns of New London and Sunapee share expenses related to the operation of the plant based on the percentage of flow attributed to each town. For the past several years New London has paid 65% and Sunapee 35% . This ratio is currently being reviewed for adjustment. New London will begin repaying the bond in FY2016.

Elkins Sidewalk Project

The State Department of Transportation is reviewing the final design of the Elkins Sidewalk project and once that review is completed, it is expected that the project will go out to bid. The project must be out for public bidding a minimum of three weeks. Once the winning bid is selected the project will proceed, including construction of sidewalks from the post office to the Wilmot town line, the repair of five culverts to improve drainage, a pedestrian bridge and repaving of Elkins Road. We expect the project to take the entire summer and we thank everyone in advance for their patience with the inevitable inconvenience that road construction brings. Efforts will be made to minimize disruptions, understanding that Pleasant Lake is a popular destination for swimming and boating.

This project would not be possible without the support of the Elkins Community, especially those property owners along the project route who generously donated drainage easements and easements to allow the temporary use of their property during construction. Those property owners are: **Neil Wallace, Jane Smedley, Betsy Mudie, The MacMichael Family, The Ladies Benevolent Society of Elkins, Masonic Association of King Solomon, Chip & Paul Mathewson, David Cahill, and Eversource (formerly PSNH).** *Thank you very much!*



Stay Informed!

There are many ways to stay informed on what is happening in New London:

- ⇒ Sign-up to have Selectmen's meeting agendas and minutes e-mailed directly to you. E-mail your request to townadmin@nl-nh.com
- ⇒ Visit the town's website at www.nl-nh.com. Meeting notices, meeting minutes and other information is posted here.
- ⇒ Sign up for Citizen News, Recreation News and CodeRED emergency notifications from the town website: www.nl-nh.com

Mark Your Calendar



April 13th: 6:00pm: Public Hearing on \$350,000 bond at the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Offices

May 12th: 8:00am-7:00pm. Town Elections: Whipple Memorial Town Hall.

May 13th: 7:00pm: Town Meeting: Kearsarge Learning Campus Gymnasium—Cougar Court.

May 13th: 5:30pm: Annual Potluck Dinner before Town

Meeting— join in on the tradition of the Town Meeting Potluck Dinner! Bring a dish to share and enjoy dinner and conversation with your friends and neighbors before heading to Town Meeting. Contact: Janet Roberts: jsidmore@tds.net for more information. Don't miss this Town Meeting tradition!



POTLUCK DINNER

Municipal Matters is published by the staff of the Town of New London. Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator, 526-4821 ext.13; townadmin@nl-nh.com