



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **FY 2024-FY 2033 Capital Improvement Program**

In July of 2022, the Planning Board appointed a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) subcommittee to complete the process of updating the CIP. The subcommittee consists of four members of the Planning Board and a member from the Budget Committee. The CIP Committee undertook the process of gathering information from the Departments and Committees of the Town of their projected capital needs over the next ten years. The information was collected in spreadsheets that summarize the project, the total cost of the project and the year(s) in which the money is planned to be spent. Some of the projects span multiple years. Following meetings with Department Heads and Officials, the CIP Committee deliberated to determine any changes or recommendations from the plan. The attached CIP Spreadsheet is the comprehensive FY2024-2033 Plan. Some projects are highlighted in the comments of the CIP Committee below.

### **General Comments**

As the projects in this plan are implemented, we encourage Departments to utilize energy efficient methods and equipment to achieve the Town's 2018 goal of 100% renewable sources for electricity by 2030 and 100% renewable fuel for heating and transportation by 2050.

The CIP is a planning document of recommended capital projects not a funding source. As the needs of the town evolve and projects are completed, the plan will be updated.

Capital investments shape and define the character, sense of place and economic vitality of this community. The CIP process is governed by State Law RSA 674:5.

### **Tracy Memorial Library**

The Committee recognizes that the facility has ongoing maintenance projects scheduled over the next decade and recommends completion of the projects outlined in the attached spreadsheets.

### **Department of Public Works**

#### *Highway*

The Committee notes that a significant portion of the Public Works Department's capital needs include equipment purchases. The Committee feels that the Department should consider purchasing and implementing an asset management program to help track Town equipment and facility needs as well as maintenance and ownership cost. This program would be helpful for future CIP and budget processes to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of operational alternatives such as leasing equipment. The Committee recommends that the Department of

Public Works work closely with the New London-Springfield System Water Precinct on the coordination of infrastructure work along Main Street as the Water Precinct prepares for their water main replacement to the extent possible.

The Department of Public Works capital needs also include significant expenditures for sidewalks for the 2025 fiscal year. The Committee encourages these and perhaps additional expenditures as consistent with the Master Plan recommendations that mobility enhancement is a top overall priority of residents.

#### *Sewer*

The Committee would like to highlight the advantage of an Asset Management Program that the Department uses to track their equipment, systems, and management expenses.

#### **New London-Springfield Water System Precinct**

The Committee recognizes the significant infrastructure project that the Water-Precinct faces with the replacement of the water main under Main Street. To the extent possible, the work on Main Street should be coordinated with the Department of Public Works to allow for the most efficient process.

The CIP Committee would also like to highlight the long-term concern of the capacity and sustainability of the wells on Colby Point that supply water to the Town of New London. Though the need for any major maintenance or replacement extends beyond the ten-year scope of this plan, the Town and the Water-Precinct should begin identifying any potential issues and corresponding solutions.

#### **Fire Department**

A significant concern identified in the CIP is the potential need to expand the Fire Station. The Ladder 3 replacement is anticipated to be taller and will not fit in the current 11' garage doors. The conceptual solution to the issue is that an addition could be built with a bay that has a 14' door to accommodate the larger truck. Though the expansion is not anticipated for ten years, the Committee recommends the Fire Department and Town begin the planning process, as well as begin to plan financially for the project.

The Committee feels the Fire Department should consider the usefulness of an Asset Management Program to help track their equipment and apparatus.

Though there is no immediate need for the Town to take-over ambulance service that is currently provided by New London Hospital, there is concern that at some point the Hospital may discontinue such service and the Town will need to provide a solution, and the Fire Department's proposal for including this at the current Fire Station is a possible solution to address this contingency.

#### **Conservation Commission**

The Conservation Commission continues to identify and pursue the purchase of desirable land where conservation adds value to the Town. The Commission feels that by 2033 they will need

an additional \$500,000 to pursue their mission. Due to the opportunistic nature of their land purchases, it is difficult to identify specific parcels now; however, the Committee feels it is important to plan financially to take advantage of the opportunities when they arise. We recommend that the budgeting toward this goal be carried out through 2033.

### **Town Administration**

The Committee recommends that the Town fund projects at the Town Office for record management. There are two individual projects that have been identified, one that would digitize the Town Records for property files, planning & zoning files, Town Clerk files, etc. The second project would be for the completion of the Archives shelving system. The Committee believes that digitization of all records where it is possible to do so, consistent with statutory requirements, is important.

### **Police Department**

The Committee recognizes the Police Department's need for a new facility. The committee supports an organized planning process to acquire land, design and construct a new facility to accommodate the department now and in the future.