

Budget Highlights

YTD September 8, 2025

Buildings-

- **Municipal Building**-Expenses include: Solar panel repairs, replacement of the two septic pumps, water softener maintenance and repairs to the HVAC in the Fire Station offices. The septic pump costs were paid from a transfer from the Building Maintenance Emergency Capitol Reserve Account.
- **Sam Lake House**-Solar panel repairs-short in underground junction box and security camera repairs.
- **Town Hall**-Repair furnace blower motor.
- **Town Center**- The FD has been watering the Cushman Elm, Kevin Bragg will be planting a replacement tree, a Service Berry, for the maple that was taken down last year next to the Cemetery. He is also going to plant an Evergreen near the big spruce in the center for the future when the big spruce has to come down.
- **Departments-**
- **FD** –The new engine has an estimated delivery date of June 2026. We will be taking the bond (\$400,000) for the balance due in January. We have been meeting with Boscawen, Salisbury, Merrimack County and Penacook Rescue on current and future costs and operations.
- **PD**-We have had a vacant Patrol Officer position since February, no real prospects. The Chief is working on a wage and step system that will hopefully attract someone.
- **HD** –We hired two full-time employees, both needed Commercial Drivers Licenses. The town paid for this training and they signed a contract for repayment if they left before 15 months of employment. We have been hiring seasonal help for plowing, (5 plow routes, 3 employees), we have been advertising for another full-time employee, but haven't had any luck. We will be working on hiring a seasonal driver or a seasonal rental truck with driver for winter operations. The ARPA funding, \$257,000, was spent on material and trucking for several dirt roads. Positive feedback from residents. Repairs to T-3 and T7.
- **Transfer Station**-Full staff for now, possible vacancy in January. Aries report is done. Recycling services budget is over because we reduced the budget from \$20,000 to \$5,000 in anticipation of not getting charged for cardboard and paper, however, we have experienced a higher-than-normal amount of C&D which gets charged to this line. We moved from Consolidated to Comcast for phones. There were fees for the move, but the annual costs will be less. The CRSWC sold a parcel for \$1.5 million behind the Winn-Waste facility that was purchased for a single stream recycling facility which was not pursued because of cost. The towns will receive a portion of the sale based on tonnage sent to Winn-Waste. Canterbury will receive \$8,472.98. The cost per ton will be going to \$100 in January with a \$3.50 per ton surcharge from NHDES which is refundable to NH Municipalities.
- **Town Office**-Hired Land Use Administrator in July. She is working with staff and Boards.
- We contracted for assessing of utilities this year because of all the work that Eversource did on the transmission lines. The assessment for Eversource went from \$6,456,200 in 2024 to \$35,314,700. The total utilities in Canterbury went from \$378,911,589 to \$411,104,728.

IT-

We purchased new/used computers for the Town Administrator, Tax Collector and Dept. Tax Collector, Building Inspector, 2 for Police Dept. and 1 for the Fire Dept.

- **Healthcare**-We switched to NH Interlocal Trust for 2026, mainly because their costs were substantially lower than the HealthTrust. In May we were notified that NHIT was going out of business. We investigated our options and because the HealthTrust has a two-year lockout policy, we ended up contracting with Schoolcare, which is another pool that is available to municipalities.

Taxes-

Taxes year to date-Collected \$4,685,872.42 which includes back taxes from previous years and interest and penalties. We have a total of \$116,563.00 in back taxes owed.

Revenue-Received \$11,233.87 from the Sam Lake Trust disbursement. To be deposited in the Capitol Reserve Account. Balance of \$85,730,25.

We have received \$69, 173 in Highway Block Grant funds and the Enterprise Fund (fees for solid waste) has collected \$65,893. In comparison, the Solid Waste expenditures are at \$98,604, so we are subsidizing 33% of the cost of solid waste with tax dollars. Other revenues are in expected areas.

Warrant Articles-The new voting machine has been purchased. Work is under way at the SLH garage. The library weatherization has been completed. The final cost was \$19,902 and we received \$7,210 from NH Saves. The Community Power Committee is still working on getting the funds from CPNH from our adder. The Household Hazardous waste day was held on May 24th. The W.A. was for \$10 The report from Aries Engineering is done. See handouts for options.

Broadband Expansion-The majority of the town now has accessibility to Broadband. There are still a few addresses that are being funded by the Broadband Equity grants that the state still hasn't awarded.

Budget lines are in expected areas of expenses, except for the Legal budget. Unfortunately, the Planning Board has already exceeded their budget and we have also had to use our attorney for several other issues.

Direct Assistance-We have had to over expend this line.

The Planning Board has been working on an update to the Capital Improvement Plan. It should be finalized by the end of the year. We have a proposal from TD bank on investing some of our funds to maximize our earned interest. See handouts.

Looking towards 2026, a big issue is going to be wages and benefits. The library is planning on no increases other than wages. The Trustees are proposing funding a larger portion of wages for 2026. As mentioned earlier, the Police Chief is going to propose a wage increase and step system to try to attract and retain officers and we still have a vacancy at the HD.

The HD is hoping to replace the water truck with a slide in tank and pump. The old water truck is OOS and repair costs would most likely exceed its value.

The HD pick-up truck (Ford F-150) has multiple issues, including brakes rocker panels, bed mounts, rust on bed, transmission and steering box. It is a 2014 and is the old PD truck and has over 129,000 miles.

We will work on a wage and benefit study of like towns in October and should have some information on what other communities are planning for any wage increases for our next meeting with you in December.