

RCL 2022 VOTER PREPARATION

Pre-deliberative recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Warrant Articles

[Click Here](#) to review the town ballot [Click Here](#) School Ballot
[Click Here](#) for the Feb 5th Delib Meeting Recording (jump to 57 minute mark
to start). [Click Here](#) for the Town Draft Deliberative Meeting minutes

Candidates Night February 24th 7pm [Click Here](#) Register on Zoom so
questions can be asked. [Flyer](#)

Learn more about [SB-2 Click Here](#) What happens with our Town Deliberative Meeting
and the Town Vote

[Go to www.ryecivicleague.org](http://www.ryecivicleague.org) election support to
access the links in this document

Contact: civicnews@ryecivicleague.org

Table of Contents

- Elected and Appointed Positions Update
- Warrant Articles
 - Town
 - School

Links to Warrant Article Information

Article 1	Elections	Article 20	\$3K Records Retention
Article 2	School	Article 21	Elderly Exemption
Article 3 Amdmt 1	Multi-family	Article 22	Rye Community Power
Article 3 Amdmt 2	Multi-family	Article 23	Ban Voting Machines
Article 3 Amdmt 3	Housing Appeal	Article 24	No Puppy Mills
Article 3 Amdmt 4	Driveway Setbacks	Article 25	Rename Columbus Day
Article 3 Amdmt 5	Stone Walls	Article 26	Sell Property
Article 4	\$11,151,534 Town Bdgt	School 1	\$15,709,801 Budget
Article 5	\$200K Backhoe	School 2:	\$90K Building Funds
Article 6	\$100K DPW Equip	School 3	\$80K Tuition
Article 7	\$100K Fire & Ambulance		
Article 8	\$100K Building Constr.		
Article 9	\$100K Town Employee		
Article 10	\$35K Bldg Maintenance		
Article 11	\$30K Sewer		
Article 12	\$20K 400th		
Article 13	\$15K Revaluation		
Article 14	\$10K Goss Farm		
Article 15	\$10 Library Employee		
Article 16	\$10K Library Maintenance		
Article 17	\$5K Library HVAC		
Article 18	\$5K Recreation Bldgs		
Article 19	\$3K Grove Rd.		

Position (bold is contested race)	Candidate(s) on ballot
1 Board of Selectmen (3 years)	Bill Epperson, Cathy Hodson
1 Town Moderator (2 years)	Bob Eaton
Budget Committee (2 seats, 3 years)	Scot Marion, Suzanne Barton
1 Cemetery Trustee (3 years)	Frank Drake
1 Library Trustees (3 years)	Victor Azzi, John Hart
1 Trustees of the Trust Funds (3 years)	Chis Nee
Planning Board (1 seats, 3 years)	Pat Losik
1 Planning Board (1 seat, 2 years)	Robert Wright
1 Planning Board (1 seat, 1 years)	Jim Finn
Zoning Board of Adjustments (1 seat, 1 year)	Sandra Chororos, Jenn Madden, John Mitchel
1 Zoning Board of Adjustment (1 seats, 3 years)	John Tuttle
Sewer Commission (3 years)	John McCune
School Treasure	Elizabeth Strandwitz
School Board (2 seats, 3 years)	Susan Ross, Katherine Errecart, Danielle Maxwell
School Clerk (1 seat, 2 years)	Margaret Honda
Supervisor of the Checklist (1 seat, 6 years)	Karen Oliver, Joanne Meyer

Article 3 Amendment 1; 2022-01 Multi-family Developments [Click Here](#)

Currently Rye allows eight (8) units per building and no more than a total of forty units. NH Workforce Housing Act says zoning can't limit units to less than five (5) units per building.

Multi-family developments are limited to 40 total units.

Explanation says "is more in keeping with the rural character of Rye"

Yes: Limits buildings to five units. What 1244 Washington (Washington Green) is.

No: Allow developments to have up to eight (8) units per building



1244 Washington Rd

Sea Glass Lane

Explanation says "is more in keeping with the rural character of Rye" Do these look semi-rural?

Article 3 Amendment 2; 2021-10 Multi-Family Development spacing [Click Here](#)

Increases the space between structures in a multi-family development from 25ft to 35ft. This would include detached garages.

Yes: Increases minimum structure separation to 35ft. from 25ft.

No: Keep the minimum structure separation at 25ft.

Article 3 Amendment 3 2022-06 Housing Appeals Board [Click Here](#)

Instead of disputes with Land Use Boards going to the courts, they will now go first to this three person board. [Read more here.](#)

Wording associated with an appeal now includes this board as an arbitrator of a dispute.

Yes: Helps educate that disputes now first go to this appeals board.

No: Appeals will still first go to this board, but people reading ordinances will be responsible for knowing this.

Article 3 Amendment 4; 2022-7 Calls attention to Driveway rules [Click Here](#)

Land Use Development Regulations Chapter 202: [Click Here](#) Appendix E is page 412 section 5E
b)
In Section .

Yes: Just calls out the Land Development Regulations for Driveways and a reminder that a permit is required for driveways.

No: Leave wording as is.

Article 3 Amendment 5; 2021-9 Stone Walls, Retaining Walls and Fences [Click Here](#)

A retaining walls less than 6ft high will be allowed within the setback.

Retaining walls can be over six feet and do not require a variance like Fences and other types of walls.

New or replaced walls will now require a permit, same as with fences. Same setback rules as with fences.

Yes: Differentiates retaining walls and groups “stonewalls” to be the same as fences.

No: Do not make these changes for stonewalls and retaining walls.

2022-10 Reference Change [Click Here](#)

Section referenced on the July 31, 2021 ballot was not correct.

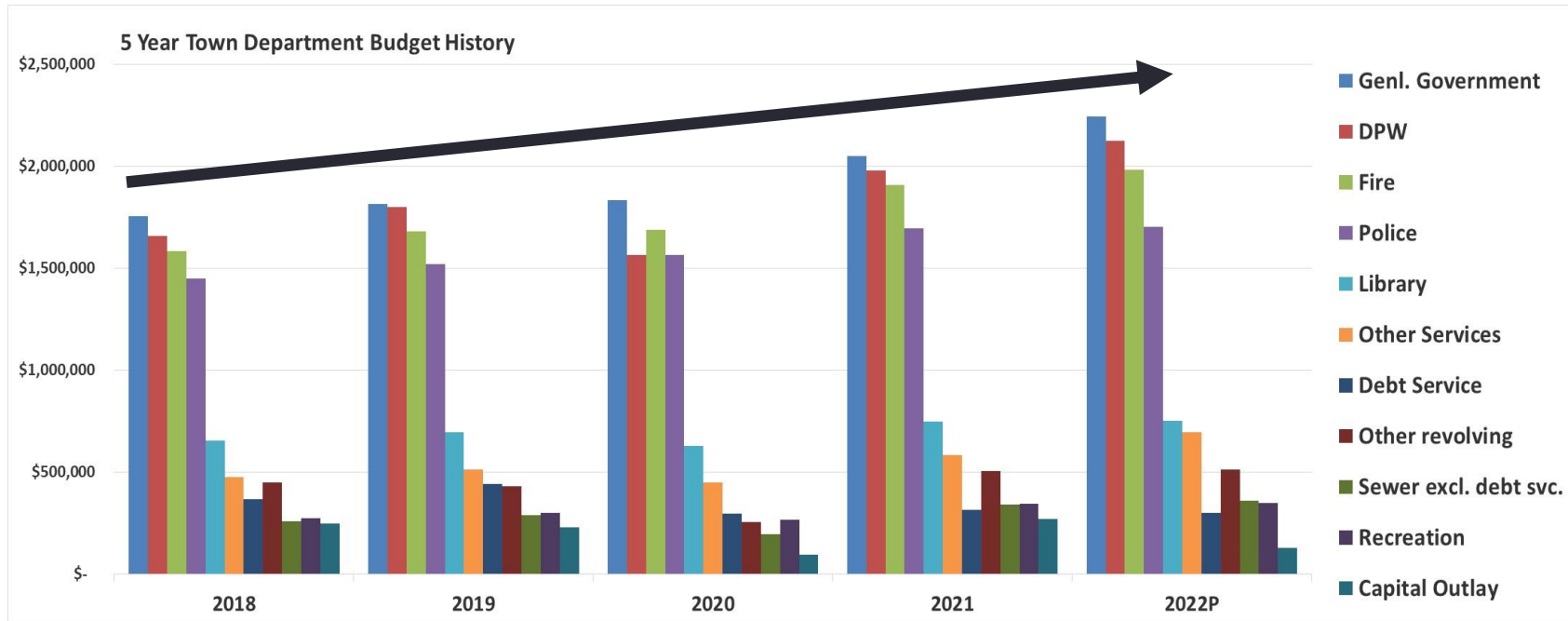
This was moved and implemented by vote of the planning board.

Article 5: \$11,151,534 Town Budget (was \$10,754,665 last year)

See Full Presentation on Town Budget. [Click Here](#) Budget table from the Town [Click Here](#)

If the budget fails, the town uses the Default budget that is based on last year and mandatory increases. The Town has been operating on the 2021 budget limits since January 1st. \$10,685,851

Voters can make changes to the budget (no more than 10%). Go to the MS-7 to identify the account number and include that in the amendment to change a budget line time. [Click Here](#)



Article 9: DPW Highway Equipment 2022

<u>Department Designation</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Purchase Price</u>	<u>Replacemen Cost</u>	<u>Service Life</u>	<u>Replacemen Life</u>	<u>Replacement Year</u>
204	1996	Cat.	IT28F	Wheel Loader	\$111,900	\$200,000	25	26	2022
114	2012	Ford	F450	One Ton Rack	\$63,748	\$70,000	10	11	2023
107	2008	International	7400	Six Wheel Dump	\$70,664	\$180,000	15	16	2024
116	2014	Ford	F450	One Ton Dump	\$65,569	\$70,000	10	11	2025
206	1989	Woodchuck	W/C-17	Chipper	\$10,000	\$30,000	30	38	2027
117	2015	Ford	F350	3/4 Ton Pick Up	\$61,882	\$70,000	10	11	2026
115	2014	International	7400SFa4	Six Wheel Dump	\$148,009	\$180,000	15	15	2029
120	2020	Ford	F450	One Ton Dump	\$69,260	\$75,000	10	10	2030
118	2016	International	7400SFa4	Six Wheel Dump	\$175,000	\$180,000	15	15	2031
119	2017	International	7400SFa4	Six Wheel Dump	\$175,000	\$180,000	15	16	2033
210	2018	John Deere	316GR	Skid Steer	\$39,876	\$40,000	15	16	2034
209	2018	John Deere	5075M	Mow/Tractor	\$45,000	\$45,000	15	17	2035
208	2014	Volvo	L60G	Wheel Loader	\$177,839	\$200,000	25	25	2039
211	2021	John Deere		Backhoe		\$200,000	10	11	2032
				TOTAL	\$1,213,747	\$1,720,000	16	17	AVERAGE
					Minimum Yearly Cost		\$109,455	\$102,178	

Article 5 \$200,000 New Backhoe (Front End Loader)

Replaced JD #207 for \$158K last year.

This is to replace #204 Cat IT 28F Wheel Loader. The 1996 loader is used for moving Transfer station bins and containers. \$200K coming out of the DPW Equipment Fund (leaves \$69K)

There will be a swap, Two loaders from Highway will move to the Transfer Station staff and this will go to Highway.

Yes: Allow town to use \$200K from reserve funds for a new Loader for Highway Dept.

No: Do not allow funds to be used to replace backhoe. Continue to use existing equipment.

Cat Loader #1 also designated Equipment #204 is a Caterpillar IT 28F Wheel Loader, purchased in 1996 for \$114,900. It is used for moving all of the demo containers and rubbish containers. It is currently 25 years old and has 11,500 hours on it. Its service life expectancy is 25 years. This loader is scheduled for replacement in 2022. Replacement cost for this Wheel Loader is anticipated to be \$200,000. Upon replacement of this Loader, Loader #2 (Equip.#208) the 2014 Volvo loader will be turned over to the Transfer Station staff, and the new loader will be assigned to the Highway Division.



Article 6 DPW Highway Equipment Capital Reserves (\$100K)**DPW:**

- ~ \$1.4M of DPW trucks/equipment used for the transfer station and road maintenance. Lifetimes vary. Rolling replacement plan works out to about \$100K per year.
- Rolling replacement rotates out the oldest equipment as maintenance costs and inconveniences increase; and smooths taxes with contributions each tax year to this capital equipment reserve.
- DPW staff plans on purchasing one vehicle a year, each purchase consumes a fair amount of DPW time and effort, so multiple purchases in a year should be avoided

Current Fund Balance is **\$168,782 at the Deliberative Meeting**

Yes: Add \$100K to the reserve fund to support the rolling replacement plan. Keep tax rate steady despite periodic large ticket items purchased

No: Leave the reserve fund balance as is with no additional funds this year.

What do we already own:

- 1) Ambulance 1 2008 Chevrolet C-4500 w/ Advanced Life Support
- 2) Ambulance 2 2017 Ford F550 4-wheel drive w/ Advanced Life Support
- 3) Engine 3 2003 Emergency 1 Typhoon
- 4) Engine 1 1994 KME Navstar Pumper
- 5) New Pumper/Ladder
- 6) Utility 1 2006 4X4 Chevrolet Pick-up
- 7) Air 1 – Breathing Air Unit – One of three units in the 42-town district
- 8) 1931 Ford Antique engine

[Click Here](#) to see this table

Table produced by Steven Borne for the Select Board October 10, 2018

Category	Rye	N. Hampton	Greenland	New Castle	4 Town Total	Portsmouth II	Hookset	Windham	Exeter	Milford
Population	5,440	4,456	4,035	979	14,910		14,175	14,562	15,082	15,449
Ambulance (Rescue)	2	1	1	1	5	1	3	2	2	1
Engine - Pumper	2	2	2	2	8		4	2	4	3
Ladder	1	1			2	2	1	1	1	1
Pumper/Tanker		2	1		3		1	2		
Command Vehicle	1	2	1		4			3	3	2
Utility Vehicle	1	1	1		3	2	1	1	2	
Forestry Unit		1		1	2	1	2	1		1
Air Unit	1				1		1			
Marine - Boat				1	1		1	1		
Hose Truck				1	1					
John Deere Gator							1			
Resue or Maintenance Truck								1	1	
HazMat Truck						1				

Article 7: Fire and Ambulance Capital Reserve fund**Fire & Ambulance:**

- Request \$100K for this year
- The separate Ambulance & Fire Vehicle Fund is funded through Grove Rd. Cell Tower at \$50K a year now goes into this fund.

Current Balance of Fund: **\$282,232 (as of 10/31/21)**

Yes: Add \$100K to the reserve fund to support future equipment purchases

No: Leave the reserve fund balance as is with no additional funds this year

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Article 8: \$100,000 for Municipal Buildings Construction and Renovation Fund

Fund was established in 2020 and portions of the Trolley Barn (\$280K) went to this fund, with the remainder from that sale going into the general fund.

Current Balance: **\$256,051 (as of 10/31/21)**

While this fund can be used for “any” municipal building, it is anticipated that the first use will be for the Town Hall Annex and the Town Hall renovation work.

At the Deliberative Meeting – Town Administrator emphasized the Transfer Station buildings.

Yes: Add \$100K to the maintenance fund

No: Leave the fund balance as is with no additional funds this year

Article 10: \$35,000 for Municipal Buildings Maintenance Fund

Current Balance: **\$140,850 (as of 10/31/21)**

Select Board discussed projects that will extract funds from this account.

Fund is used for major repairs to municipal buildings

The similarly named Municipal Building Construction and Renovation Fund with **\$256,051** (as of 10/31/21) is used for construction and renovation. Adding \$100K in Warrant Article 8

Yes: Add \$35K to the maintenance fund

No: Leave the fund balance as is with no additional funds this year

Article 9: Town Accumulated Leave Fund: \$100,000

Current Balance: **\$195,281 (as of 10/31/21)**

Estimated liability:

Fund created in 1990 to fund Town Employee's Accumulated Leave Accounts

Fund should have 50% of the liability, so this is \$50,000 more than in past years
Unclear what changed to make the number say we needed this much more.

Liability was reported as \$677,092, so we are still less than half.

Town Administrator did not address why the increase this year and not in past years.

Article 20: Records Restoration Fund \$3,000

Current Balance: **\$5,084 (as of 10/31/21)**

Yes: Add the requested funds to each account to accrue funds over time

No: Do not add the requested funds to each account

Article 11: \$30,000 Wastewater Asset Management (\$300 only for interest payment)

Leverages NH DES Clean Water Revolving Fund for \$30,000 to be used to develop a Wastewater Asset Management Plan for Rye Town Sewer.

We borrow \$30,000, pay \$300 in Interest payment and then the \$30,000 principal

Yes: Agree with leveraging the DES Clean Water Fund so the Sewer Department can develop an asset management plan.

No: Do not want to allow the Sewer Department to leverage these funds.

Article 12 \$20,000 for 400th Anniversary Celebration Trust Fund

Committee has been active for the 2023 400th Year celebration activities.

Select Board member King is leading this for the town. One or two others are helping.

[Click Here](#) to see charter

Yes: Provides funds for this group to commit and plan activities

No: Will prevent the town from spending any money on this event or allocating resources

Article 13: Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund \$15,000

Fund was established in 2020 to fund revaluation. State law requires property revaluation at a minimum every five years. The last was completed in 2017. Next must be completed for 2022 and will start in 2021.

Total cost is estimated to be \$60,000. \$30k per year over two years fully funds the revaluation.

2020 \$30K was approved for this fund. (\$30,000 as of 10/31/21) – Assume we paid \$30K, for the current evaluation

Yes: Add \$15k to the fund Reduced the 5th year cost of funding the re-evaluation.

No: Leave the fund balance as is with no additional funds this year

Article 14 Goss Barn Maintenance Expendable Trust \$10,000

Current Balance in the fund is: UNKNOWN?

Note this was not included in the CIP list of reserve funds

Yes: Add to this fund that was created in 2021 for helping maintain Goss Barn

No: Do not make an annual contribution to this fund, leaving the current balance as is.

Article 15: Library Accumulated Leave Fund: \$10,000

Current Balance: **\$29,768 (reported at the deliberative meeting)**

Estimated Balance:

Estimated Liability:

Fund created in 2018 and \$10,000 was put in it. Plan is to fund at \$10K per year until the fund is at 50% of the liability.

Yes: Allows this fund to increase

No: We will not make a contribution to this fund this year

Article 16: Rye Public Library Building Maintenance Fund: \$10,000

Current Balance: **\$35,622 reported at the Deliberative Meeting**

Fund created in 2005 as a maintenance fund for Library 2021 only contributed \$5K to this fund.

Yes: Add the requested funds to each account to accrue funds over time

No: Do not add the requested funds to each account

Article 17: Rye Public Library HVAC Fund \$10,000

Current Balance: **\$60,687 (as of 10/31/21)**

We are working our way up \$70,000. When it fails, then we will get a new system.

Yes: Add the requested funds to each account to accrue funds over time

No: Do not add the requested funds to each account

Article 18: Recreation Building Reserve Fund \$5K

Current Balance is: \$12,625 as of 10/31/21

This is a name change from Capital Reserve to Buildings and Maintenance so that funds can be used for both.

At the Deliberative meeting it was pointed out that this requires a 2/3 majority, not a simple majority.

It was not made clear why the Select Board are the agents and not the Recreation Commission.

Recreation Master Plan update is in process.

Yes: Add \$5K to the building maintenance fund

No: Leave the fund balance as is with no additional funds this year

Recreation allocated \$10K to help develop an update to the Recreation Master Plan

Article 19: Grove Rd. Land Fill Capital Reserve \$3K

Current Balance is: \$6,833 as of 10/31/21

Annual Cost estimates are: Not disclosed

3/31/2021 \$12K balance dropped to \$6K in October. Explanation was to cover testing that is not done every year.

Fund covers the cost of the monitoring and testing of the samples for PFOA.

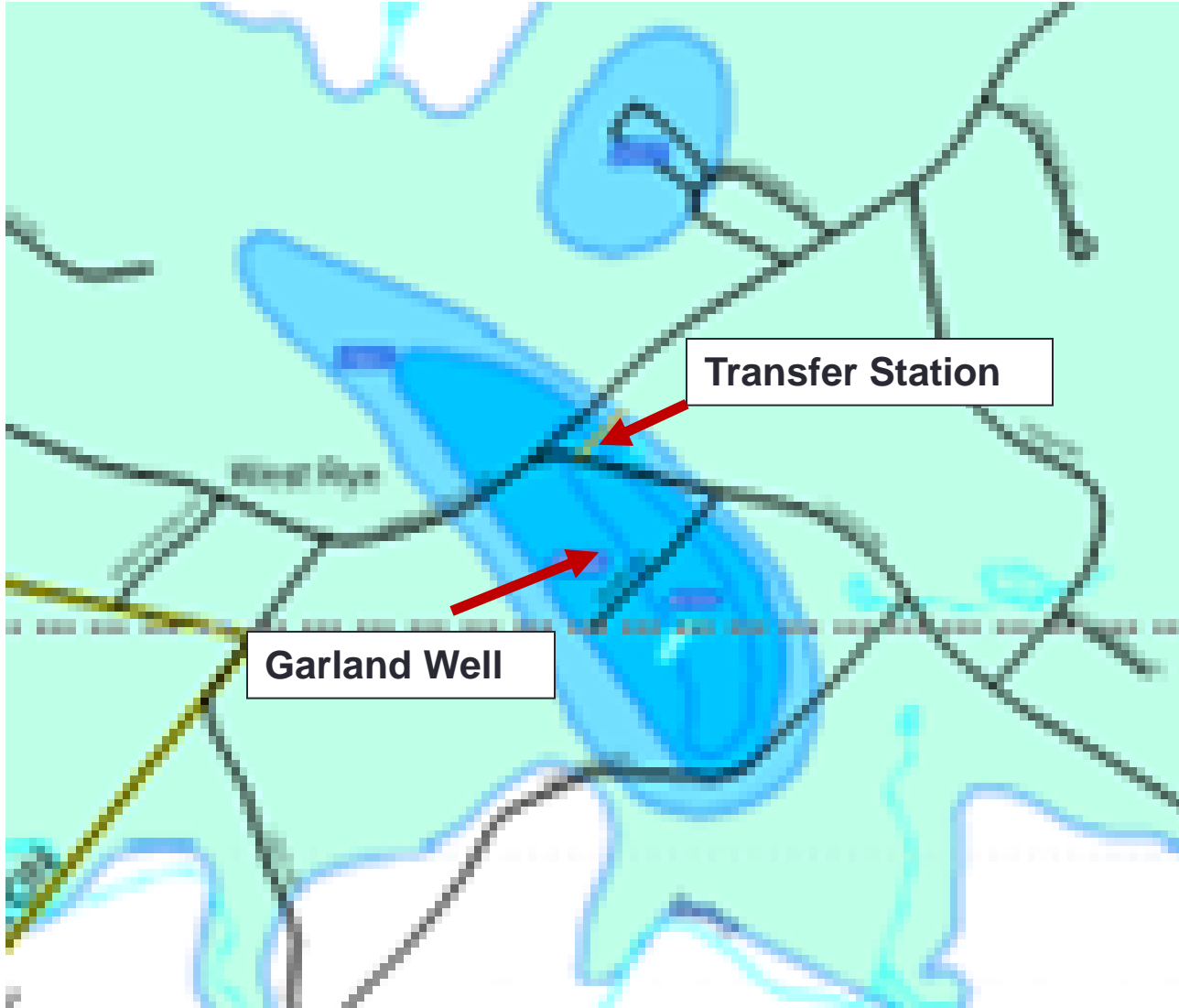
This is the old Rye Town Dump. When Testing for PFOA started, readings in the harmful range were recorded around the landfill.

This dump and the current Transfer Station are uphill from the Garland well. The soil here is transmissive (i.e., pollutants are less abated as they make their way toward our drinking water)

Yes: Add \$3K to the fund to maintain the testing and monitoring

No: Leave the fund balance as is with no additional funds this year

The darker the blue, the higher the transmissivity.
Transfer Station is 1,610 ft. uphill from the Garland Well



See the Water in Rye presentation to see more information about our Hydrology.

[Click Here](#)

DPW washed the “blue safe paths paint” near the Salt shed and the paint leaked from the trucks and ran down towards the aquifer. (August 21, 2018 photo)



Article 21: Increased the dollar value of the Elderly exemptions

See the current Exemption. [Click Here](#) Form must be filed by April 15th

Qualifications:

NH Resident the past 3 years, Own Property

Net Income: Single not more than \$40,000, combined \$59,900 and assets less than \$199,000 (does not include the primary residence). NOTE THESE HAVE NOT CHANGED since 2003.

Estimated cost to town is only \$28K.

Exemptions based on age:

65 Years to 74 years: Change from \$75,000 to \$140,000

75 years to 79 years: Change from \$90,000 to \$170,000

79 years and older: Change from \$105,000 to \$200,000

The value of the bottom part of the housing market has increased faster than the most expensive homes. The lower end of the market will be carrying more of a burden for local government since these homes value have had larger percentage increases than the more expensive prices.

	<u>2017 Value.</u>	<u>2020 Value.</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Home A:	\$500,000	\$625,000	\$125,000
Home B:	\$2,000,000	\$2,050,000	\$50,000

Yes: Increase property tax relief for elderly residents to account for increased property values.

No: Make no changes in property tax relief for elderly residents.

Article 22: Rye Community Power

Approves the Rye Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan [EAP Final 1 04-2022](#)

2 page summary of the agreement: [Click Here](#)

Short presentation for Feb. 5th Town Meeting [Click Here](#)

Public Presentation slides: [Click Here](#)

Enables Rye residents to get lower rates and/or how their energy is generated.

Yes: Enters Rye into the Community – Select Board is the authority, with “guidance and representation by the Rye Energy Committee”

No: Will keep Rye from participating.

What is Community Power?



Pooled Purchasing Power
for **Energy Supply**



Eversource
Delivers Power



Value Added
Services Benefit Community

Article 23: Ban the use of Voting Machines in Rye

Would force all Town, State and Federal election ballots to be counted by hand.

Amendments to change this were defeated, leaving the wording unchanged.

Yes: Move Rye to counting all ballots by hand

No: No change in how Rye votes are counted.

Article 24: Voice of the People – No Puppy Mills

This is a will of the people vote, with the record of this vote going to our State Legislators and Governor.

Supports a National movement since Dogs and Cats are being bred in commercial in-humane facilities. Pet Stores tend to be the sales channel for these mass scale breeders.

Yes: Select Board will send the record of this vote

No: No action will be taken

Article 25: Has the Town stop referring to this holiday as Columbus Day

Currently the Town of Rye refers to the employee holiday on the second Monday of October as Columbus Day. This petitioned warrant article led by a Rye Senior attending Portsmouth High School

This would have the town now refer to that holiday as Indigenous People Day.

Amended by the Select Board to have this be reversed if the State or Federal Gov't create an Indigenous People's Day.

Yes: Town and employees would now refer to this employee holiday as Indigenous People Day.

No: Would keep the town referring to this holiday as Columbus Day

Article 26: Allows the Selectmen to sell Surplus Equipment

Note: Allows for public auction or sealed bid. Potential for surplus to be acquired at less than market value.

Yes: Permit the Town to sell surplus equipment through auction and receive revenue without needing to wait for Town Meeting approval.

No: Keep the current process

School Article 1: Operating Budget of \$15,709,861

See RCL Budget analysis: [Click Here](#)

School Budget Table: [Click Here](#) (rotate)

Explanations of increases from the SAU office. [Click Here](#)

Yes: Approves the proposed budget and over the Default Budget of \$15,176,595

No: Rejects the proposed budget and requires School Board and administration to use the Default Budget

School Article 2: School Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

As of June 30, 2022 if there are funds in the unassigned fund balance, then Up To \$90,000 can be put aside for future building maintenance.

Current balance of **\$294,967**

Yes: Allows up to this amount to be reserved for this purpose

No: Funds will not be moved to this fund

School Article 3: Tuition Expendable Trust Fund

As of June 30, 2022 if there are funds in the unassigned fund balance, then Up To \$80,000 can be put aside to fund spikes in Tuition payments (can be for PHS or Special Education).

Current balance of \$1,217

This amount will cover up to four PHS tuitions.

Yes: Will allow the School Board to send up to this amount if there are available surplus funds

No: No contributions will be made

This Presentation

Was created by the Rye Civic League to help taxpayers be prepared for the deliberative town meeting

The Rye Civic League publishes the monthly Rye Civic News. You can add yourself to the Rye Civic News at www.ryecivicleague.org