

**Town of Rye Select Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 18, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Rye Town Hall**

**Public Hearing - Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant**

The purpose of the hearing is to hear public comment on acceptance and expenditure of a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant to complete a sewer infrastructure vulnerability assessment for the Town of Rye. The total expenditure for this project is \$74,000.00. The amount of the Federal portion of this grant is \$55,500.00. The amount for the local cost share is \$18,500.00.

**Summary**

The New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) has awarded FFY 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant to complete a sewer infrastructure vulnerability assessment for the Town of Rye. The Federal portion of the grant is \$55,500.00 and the local cost share is \$18,500.00, of which the Town of Rye will satisfy through the sewer budget which is supported by user fees.

The Town of Rye Sewer System consist of 6.9 miles of gravity sewer, three pump stations, one of which is in an existing FEMA 100-year designated flood zone, and 3.5 miles of force main that directly abuts the Atlantic Ocean, which runs through the towns of North Hampton and Hampton where it discharges to the Town of Hampton sewer system. This critical infrastructure is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including increased flooding from heavy rainfall and projected sea level rise based on projections derived from the State of New Hampshire.

The goal of the grant proposal was to develop a vulnerability assessment for the Town of Rye's existing sewer infrastructure to evaluate impacts associated with climate change and develop specific goals and options for increasing infrastructure resiliency. The town will engage consulting engineering firm in the development of the vulnerability assessment. The process for developing the vulnerability is anticipated to be as follows: Step 1: Inventory existing sewer infrastructure in Rye; determine existing conditions, location, past impacts from extreme weather events, etc. Step 2: Determine extent of flood risk to existing infrastructure using sea level rise and groundwater rise data projections as well as projected increases in extreme precipitation derived from the New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Guidance Part 1: Science. Step 3: Using data from Step 2, determine the existing infrastructure's tolerance for flood risk and areas most vulnerable to damage or disruption from flooding. Step 4: Identify and evaluate adaptation strategies for mitigating flood risk to existing infrastructure. Step 5: Prioritize adaptation strategies for future implementation. The intent of the grant proposal is to result in a complete project application for future funding opportunities to support the mitigation activities derived from the assessment. It is worth noting that that Rye's Hazard Mitigation Plan (2022) identifies completing a vulnerability assessment of the Town's sewer infrastructure as an explicit mitigation strategy.

The project grant period ends on November 13, 2026 and a final performance and expenditure report needs to be sent to the State by December 13, 2026. All applicable federal and state laws, rules, regulations, and requirements need to be followed. The Town needs to maintain financial records, supporting documents, and all other pertinent records for a period of three years from the grant period end date. In these records, the 25% cost share required by this grant needs to be documented.

An audit in compliance with OMB Circular 2 CFR 200 is required, if applicable. If a compliance audit is not required, at the end of each audit period the Town will need to certify in writing that the amount of federal funds that would require a compliance audit (\$750,000), have not been expended.

January 13, 2024

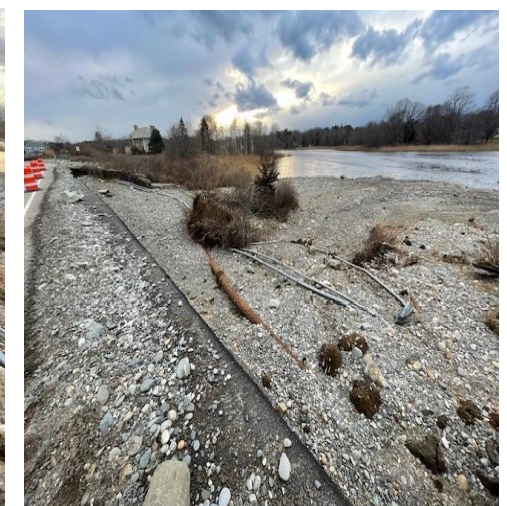
Jenness Beach Sewer Pump Station



Church Road Sewer Pump Station



Sewer Force Main – North Hampton



*Sewer Force Main was not exposed but is directly beneath these utility lines.*