



Amherst Town Newsletter

January 2024

*Amherst, NH Chartered January 18, 1760
Vol. 2, Issue 1*



Welcome to 2024 and the Town's first newsletter of the new year!

The Board of Selectmen, Ways and Means Committee and town employees have been very busy with preparing a FY25 budget that is taxpayer sensitive but meets the needs of the town and residents. You can view the latest version of the FY25 Budget and Warrant Articles on the town website and the link is located under the December 29 BOS meeting highlights. Mark January 8th on your calendar to attend the Budget Public Hearing as well.

Join us on Thursday, January 18 to celebrate the 264th Anniversary of the chartering of the Town of Amherst. There will be cake and refreshments and some town historical artifacts to view. All are invited!

Amherst Elderly/Blind/Disabled Exemptions and Tax Credits Information

Elderly and disabled or blind Amherst residents may apply for an exemption for the property taxes on their primary residence, providing that they meet all State requirements and the Town's income and asset criteria. Veteran's tax credits are also available.

The Town has prepared this handy chart to assist residents in determining their eligibility for applying for the various tax credits and tax exemptions available.

Further information is available at www.amherstnh.gov or by contacting the Assessing Office at mboudreau@amherstnh.gov or 603-673-6041 Ext. 202

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 15th FOR THE UPCOMING TAX YEAR

| EXEMPTIONS OFF ASSESSED VALUATION | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| Apply 2023 Tax Rate | | | |
| Elderly Exemption: RSA 72:39-a | Reduces Valuation | Reduces Annual Tax | Basic Qualifying Criteria for Primary Residence |
| Age 65 to 74 | 104,120 | 2,278 | NH Resident 3 Years Prior to April 1st |
| Age 75-79 | 156,180 | 3,417 | Annual Income Max: Single Person 54,300 and Married Couple 73,325 |
| Age 80+ | 206,870 | 4,526 | Net Asset Maximum: \$165,000 Excluding Home and Up to 2 Acres |
| Blind Exemption: RSA 72:37 | 50,690 | 1,109 | Legally Blind In Accordance With RSA 72:37 |
| Disabled Exemption: RSA 72:37-b | 89,050 | 1,948 | Totally and Permanently Disabled in Accordance with RSA 72:37-b |
| Solar Energy Exemption: RSA 72:62 | Tax Neutral | Tax Neutral | 100% of the Added Value With a \$30,000 Maximum (Ex. Batteries) |
| TAX CREDITS OFF ANNUAL TAX | | | |
| Optional Veterans' Tax Credit: RSA 72:28 | n/a | 500 | NH Resident 1 Year prior to April 1st/Honorably Discharged |
| All Service Veterans' Tax Credit: RSA 72:28-B | n/a | 500 | 90 Continuous Days of Service in the Armed Forces |
| Service-Connected Total Disability: RSA 72:35 | n/a | 4,000 | Total and Permanent Service-Connected Disability RSA 72:35 |
| Certain Disabled Veterans: RSA 72:36-a | n/a | Totally Exempt | In Accordance with RSA 72:36-a |
| Surviving Spouse: RSA 72:29-a | n/a | 700/4000 or Exempt | Spouse of Veteran Qualifies Until Remarried |



IMPORTANT DATES

Mark your calendar for these upcoming meeting dates (Subject to change)

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| January 1 | New Year's Day – Town Offices Closed |
| January 3 | Public Hearing: Zoning Amendments Planning Board Meeting, 7 PM |
| January 8 | Public Hearings: Sale of Land and Acceptance of Easements, and Acceptance of Unanticipated Funds AND Budget FY25, 6:30 PM |
| January 8 | Board of Selectmen Meeting, 6:30 PM |
| January 9 | Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting, 7 PM |
| January 10 | Conservation Commission Meeting, 7 PM |
| January 11 | Heritage Commission Meeting, 6:30 pM |
| January 11 | Souhegan Regional Landfill District Meeting, 5 PM |
| January 15 | MLK Jr. Day – Town Offices Closed |
| January 16 | Zoning Board of Adjustment, 7 PM |
| January 17 | Planning Board Meeting, 7 PM |
| January 18 | Celebrate Amherst's 264 th Anniversary! 4-5 PM at Town Hall |
| January 18 | Historic District Commission Meeting, 7 PM |
| January 22 | Public Hearing: Sale of Land and Acceptance of Easements, 6:30 PM |
| January 22 | Board of Selectmen Meeting, 6:30 PM |
| January 23 | Presidential Primary: Voting at Souhegan HS, 6 AM -8 PM |
| January 24 | Conservation Commission Meeting, 7 PM |
| January 24 | Trustees of the Trust Fund Meeting, 6 PM |
| January 24 | Filing Period for Town and School Elected Positions opens |

Board of Selectmen Meeting Highlights

December 4:

- Marion Kastner was appointed to a 3 yr term on the Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee
- Representatives from the Souhegan Cooperative School District requested the use of impact fees for a project at the high school; the BOS will confer with Town Counsel on the appropriate application of these funds
- Tracie Adams presented the action plan of the Village Streets Study Committee; the BOS voted to authorize the DW director to move forward with the design engineering and grant application as recommended by the committee's action plan
- FY25 Operating Budget -Draft 2, with warrant articles, was presented with considerable discussion
- An addendum to the Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement (Building Inspector) with the Town of Hollis was approved
- Continuing efforts to Quiet Title in the property at 7 Thorntons Ferry Road 1 were approved
- Discussion was held on the recent NRPC Traffic Survey on BPR; possible No Thru Trucking ordinance was discussed
- A donation of land from town residents, and a separate sale of land were discussed and referred to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Heritage Commission for their review and comment

December 11:

- The BOS held a public hearing to accept block grant monies from the DOT in the amount of \$94,204.42.
- The ACC proposed a Bond be included as a Warrant Article on the March ballot for \$10M for open space acquisition. The Board felt that this may not be the proper year to place on the ballot.
- The Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee returned to the BOS with more information about a state grant that has been awarded to Amherst for a portion of a rail trail from Birch Park to Walnut Hill Road in the amount of \$1.68M over the course of 4 years. It would require a Town match of \$336,000 and they have secured a Bean Foundation grant of \$70,000 and are working on other grant opportunities and donations. The BOS overall was in favor of the project but made the decision to ask the voters if they are willing to commit to the cost of this project through a referendum on the March ballot.
- FY25 Operating Budget – Draft #3 was presented; discussion was held on joining the NH Retirement System, offering an increased 457b town contribution and changes to the health insurance policies.

December 18:

- The BOS appointed 3 property owners to the Baboosic Lake Community Septic Committee: Michael Cullen, Bruce Bowler and Leslie Brenker
- The Energy Committee presented their recommendation to the BOS to move forward with Standard Power and a community power plan for Amherst; the proposal will be a Warrant Article on the March ballot and requires town approval
- A No Thru Trucking Ordinance was discussed for BPR through the village; referred to the Highway & Safety Committee
- FY25 Operating Budget – Draft #4 was discussed with changes made at the most recent BOS meeting; 2024 Warrant article Draft #1 presented
- The BOS approved an updated Town Purchasing Policy
- Robert Soares hiring was approved, Communications Specialist; and the re-hiring of Carl Weichert as a Call Firefighter was also approved

December 29:

- An additional meeting of the BOS was noticed for the purpose of reviewing the FY25 Operating Budget – Draft #5 with FY25 Revenue estimates; and FY25 Default Budget
- Proposed Warrant Articles were also reviewed
- A Public Hearing will be held on January 8, 2024, on these FY25 Budget and Warrant Articles (see below).

Link to this most recent Town Budget Information:

https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4u6/f/agendas/2023.12.29_bos_meeting_agenda_packet.pdf

Mark your calendars!

January 8 – Public Hearings on the FY25 Budget and Warrant

January 23 – 2024 Presidential Primary (voting at Souhegan HS)

February 7 – Town Deliberative Session (Souhegan HS, 7 PM)

March 12 – Town Meeting/Local and School Elections (Souhegan HS)



Town of Amherst, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Barbara Landry Meeting Room, Town Hall – 2 Main Street

Monday January 8, 2024, 6:30 PM

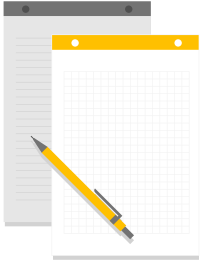
Pursuant to New Hampshire RSA 32:5, I, the Amherst Board of Selectmen hereby announces to the citizens of Amherst the convening of a Public Hearing to take input on the proposed FY25 Town Operating Budget, bonds and notes, and proposed warrant articles.

All citizens are invited to attend.



Employment Opportunities

The Town of Amherst has an exciting employment opening. Please take a look and pass along to anyone who may be interested in working for the town.



Town Planner, FT
Office of Community Development

For more information and to locate the town employment application, click here:

<https://www.amherstnh.gov/human-resources/files/employment-opportunities>

*WELCOME TO THE NEWEST TOWN
EMPLOYEES: ROBERT, COMMUNICATIONS
SPECIALIST; CARL, FIREFIGHTER; LOIS, POLICE
OFFICER; AND CONGRATULATIONS TO SGT.
MAHONEY ON HIS PROMOTION TO CAPTAIN
IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT!*

Food Composting Year-End

The food composting program at the Transfer station has completed it's first year (11 full months) and it's been wonderfully successful!

December totals are: 2600 lbs of food scraps being diverted from the landfill.

For the year ending 12/21/2023, **25,570 lbs** of food waste was used for composting and not transported away as trash. The momentum is here and 2024 will garner even better results.

Totals by month (2023):

| | |
|-------------|------|
| February - | 770 |
| March - | 2780 |
| April - | 2860 |
| May - | 2200 |
| June - | 2040 |
| July - | 2720 |
| August - | 2180 |
| September - | 2280 |
| October - | 3020 |
| November - | 2120 |
| December - | 2600 |