

New London-Springfield Water Precinct Annual Report 2024



Cover designed by KRSD student Logan Palmer

**Providing Water to the Towns of
New London and Springfield NH since 1925**



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New London-Springfield Water System Precinct Commissioners

Kenneth Jacques Chairman Term expires 2025

Richard (Rip) Cross Term expires 2026

John MacKenna Term expires 2027

New London-Springfield Water System Officers

Robert Bowers, Moderator Term expires 2025

Marion Hafner, Treasurer Term expires 2025

Tracey MacKenna, Clerk Term expires 2025

Report to the Voters

The Annual Meeting of the New London- Springfield Water System Precinct was held on March 19, 2024.

James Cricenti served as Moderator for the Annual Meeting in place of Robert Bowers, who was unable to attend due to illness.

All articles set forth on the warrant for the 2024 annual Meeting were passed.

In review, the following actions were approved for 2024: two (2) fire services and a domestic service for five (5) apartments on Main Street in New London. Additionally, two (2) service line leaks were addressed and repaired along with two (2) water main breaks - one on Job Seamans Acres and one on Edmunds Road. Once again, thank you to the New London DPW and Sunapee Water and Sewer for your continued support and assistance.

Most importantly, the major project of replacing 1.1 miles of the primary transmission main (Main Street) has been successfully completed. While the Project began in late Spring and ran into early fall, the work moved very efficiently and was completed well ahead of schedule. We are very pleased to report that the costs will come in under budget. The Commissioners would like to thank our staff, SUR West (the successful bidder), Underwood Engineers, Hanson Bridge Works, Colby Sawyer College and all the Town of New London Departments to help facilitate this undertaking. Additionally, sections of the old wooden and cast-iron mains were donated to the Icehouse Museum for their existing water main exhibit.

The Asset Management Plan has made significant progress, particularly with Phase 2 (GIS locations) and the Service Line inventory. The inventory, which initially included approximately eleven hundred (1,100) services has now been narrowed down to around seventy-seven (77) unknowns. This puts the Precinct in a strong position to complete the project well within the state's 10-year deadline.

Another project completed this year was the installation of the Chlorination System at the Booster Station.

In August the Twin Pines commercial Housing Project reapplied for domestic water service. The application request was once again denied, as the same conditions applied. Unfortunately, this led to a legal suit being filed against the Precinct with the NH Housing Appeals Board. Through the end of 2024 a joint stay was requested to allow both parties to enter into mediation. Due to the ongoing status of the legal action, little information can be shared at this time. Legal costs have significantly exceeded the 2024 budget, and we anticipate more challenges in 2025.

As of 2024, the New London Place Project (aka Continuum Project) which is adjacent to the New London Hospital has not moved forward resulting in the lapse of their application and all associated design plans.

The Commissioners entered into a contract with Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations to re-evaluate the Colby Point well field following some conflicting viewpoints on what exactly Colby

Point has provided in the past and its potential capacity today and in the future. NH DES has expressed a different opinion than our Engineers and our Well and Pump Maintenance Company. To be sure that all options that may be available are evaluated, Emery & Garrett started in late November and expected to complete the findings report by late Spring of 2025. A Scope of Services is posted on the website.

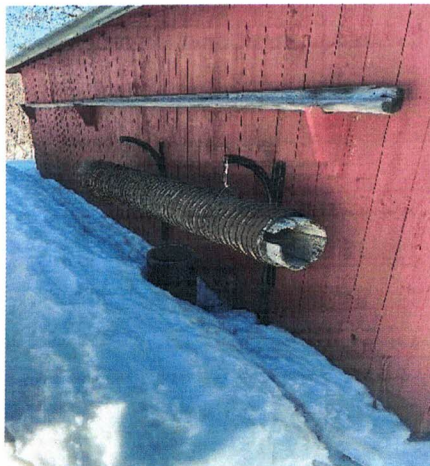
On a less positive note, Rhonda Gauthier submitted her resignation to the Board in late November indicating that the position has evolved into more responsibility and time than originally anticipated when she was hired. This is a major loss for the Precinct, but Rhonda has agreed to help as a consultant to train her replacement going forward. We wish to thank Rhonda for all she has done over the last three (3) years, and she will be greatly missed.

As always, many thanks to our dedicated staff; Rob Thorp, Superintendent, Rod Reyelt and Jon Dame, Water System Operators who have put in at times, 7 days a week, keeping our water system maintained and working efficiently. Under the administration of Rhonda Gauthier, our Office Manager, the Precinct office is operating very efficiently, and she is a pleasure to work with.

The Board of Commissioners would once again like to remind everyone to practice best water conservation. Also, the staff is available during normal business hours to answer questions and our Consumer Confidence Report and a link to pay your bills online are located on our website, www.nlswp.com.

The Board wishes to extend to the voters their appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Precinct and looks forward to continued service in 2025.

Thank you,
The Board of Commissioners
New London-Springfield Water System Precinct





Article 1 Election of Officers

To Elect the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct Officers: one Commissioner to serve a three-year term; one Treasurer to serve a one-year term; one Clerk to serve a one year term; and one Moderator to serve a one year term.

Yes No

Article 2 Operating Budget for the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct

To see if the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Two Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$1,257,485) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Yes No

Article 3 Funding for Water System Improvements and Lead & Coppler Rule Compliance

To see if the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose of funding improvements to the Water System, including but not limited to necessary upgrades, repairs, and replacements of pipes, equipment, and infrastructure, as well as compliance with the New Hampshire Lead and Copper Rule, which may require specific actions to address lead service lines or other related work. This sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) will be taken from the unassigned fund balance and not raised by taxes. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the improvements are completed or by 12/31/2028, whichever is sooner. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).

Yes No

Article 4 Funding for the exploration of water resources on Colby Point

To see if the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct will vote to appropriate the sum of Fifty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred Dollars (\$56,900) for the purpose of funding the exploration and assessment of water resources on Colby Point, including but not limited to feasibility studies, testing, and necessary evaluations to determine the availability and suitability of water sources for future use. The sum of Fifteen Thousand (15,000) will come from the NH DES Strategic Planning Grant (grant award is a 50% match grant not to exceed \$30,000) with the remaining Forty-one Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$41,900) to be taken from the unassigned fund and not raised by taxes. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the work is completed or by 12/31/2028, whichever is sooner. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Yes No

2025 Budget Worksheet

	2024 Approved	2024 Expenditures	2025 Proposed
Salaries, Benefits, Taxes	394,242.00	393,268.17	\$ 471,694.13
Maintenance	35,000.00	27,911.75	\$ 35,000.00
Pump and Tank Maintenance	35,000.00	36,855.00	\$ 50,000.00
Meter maintenance	10,000.00	7,658.50	\$ 10,000.00
Utilities	80,000.00	83,327.10	\$ 85,000.00
Supplies	25,000.00	24,664.99	\$ 30,000.00
Insurance	15,445.00	15,445.00	\$ 17,348.00
Administration	15,000.00	14,095.11	\$ 18,500.00
Audit Expense	15,000.00	15,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Legal Expense	2,000.00	15,421.00	\$ 40,000.00
Election/Annual Meeting	600.00	342.40	\$ 600.00
Engineering Review	5,000.00	-	\$ 5,000.00
Equipment(capitalized)	3,000.00	-	\$ 3,000.00
Contingency		-	\$ -
Payment in lieu of taxes	3,500.00	4,218.85	\$ 4,219.00
Interest (Long Term)	-		\$ 223,473.42
Principal (Long Term)	-		\$ 218,650.00
Interest (Short Term)	1,000.00	-	\$ 1,000.00
Lease Expense	32,000.00	32,000.00	\$ 32,000.00
TOTAL	671,787.00	670,207.87	\$ 1,257,484.55



Interior of the Booster Station

New London-Springfield Water System Precinct Annual Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2024

Chairman Jacques opened the meeting at 6:30 and explained that the newly appointed Moderator for the Precinct was ill. Jacques said that James Cricenti kindly said that he is willing to fill in for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Cross made a motion to appoint James Cricenti as interim Moderator for tonight's annual meeting, John MacKenna seconded the motion. "James Cricenti will be the Moderator for tonight's meeting", said Jacques.

Cricenti showed the open ballot box to show that it was empty and opened the voting.

ARTICLE 1 - Election of Officers

To elect the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct Officers: one Commissioner to serve a three-year term; one Treasurer to serve a one-year term; one Clerk to serve a one-year term; and one Moderator to serve a one-year term.

The results: John MacKenna is Commissioner with 31 votes, Bob Bowers is Moderator with 28 votes, Tracey MacKenna is clerk with 31 votes and Marion Hafner is Treasure with 31 votes. There were no write-in votes cast.

ARTICLE 2 - Financing for Water Main Replacement

The Moderator read the article "To see if the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,900,000 for the replacement of the main on Main Street in New London, with \$4,800,000 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1, et seq, as amended and with \$100,000 of such sum to come from the unreserved Fund Balance; to authorize the Commissioners to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Commissioners to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Commissioners to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Commissioners recommend this article. (3/5 ballot vote required)"

Moved by Peter Stanley, seconded by Laurie Jacques. Commissioner Cross, speaking on the article, gave a brief history of the installation of the main, the increased number of breaks and the scope of the Project. Tanner Jacques- what is the cost of one main break for the water department? Commissioner Jacques answered - around fifteen thousand dollars. Following brief discussions about the value in the water precinct (\$62,000,000), what the unreserved fund balance is and information on the bond issue, the Moderator reread Article 2 as written and explained that it will be a ballot vote and gave instructions on what to use for your ballot. The Moderator showed the empty box before voting began. After everyone voted, the Moderator explained that the polls will stay open for 1 hour and then the votes will be tallied. Everyone that was present finished voting by 7:14 PM. The polls stayed open until 8:14 PM. The votes were tallied. There were 28 YES votes and 0 No votes.

ARTICLE 3 - Operating Budget

The Moderator read the article "To see if the New London-Springfield Water System District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$671,787 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The Commissioners recommend this Article. (Majority vote required)" ***Moved by Peter Stanley, seconded by Mike Todd. Jacques explained how the operating budget came about. Chairman Jacques read each line of the budget. John Ellis asked why pump and tank maintenance went down. Chairman Jacques explained that the Pump and tank budget line fluctuates depending on what care it needs that year. Karen Epstein asked what the cost of Colby Point Lease is- Jacques answered with \$32,000. The Moderator reread Article 3 as written. Article 3 passed by majority vote.***

ARTICLE 4 - Main Street Project

The Moderator read the article "To see if the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$300,000 for the purpose of the Main Street Project. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Main Street project is completed or by 12/31/2027, whichever is sooner. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)". ***Moved by Mike Todd, seconded by Peter Stanley. Commissioner Cross explained the article. The money will go towards the Main Street project. If Article 2 does not pass, the money will be put away for the project for a future date. No discussion. The Moderator reread Article 4 as written. Article 4 passed by majority vote.***

ARTICLE 5 - Asset Management Program

The Moderator read the article "To see if the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$24,000 for the purpose of further implementing the GIS Asset Management Program with said amount to come from the unreserved Fund Balance. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Asset Management Plan is put into place or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. The Commissioners recommend this Article. (Majority vote required)" ***Moved by Cara Leone, seconded by John Ellis. MacKenna and Jacques explained this article. Following brief discussions, the Moderator reread Article 5 as written. Article 5 passed by majority vote.***

ARTICLE 6 - Phase II-Water Evaluation

The Moderator read the article "To see if the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$20,000 for the purpose of evaluating the future water supply needs of the Precinct. The intention of this scope of work is to explore the geophysics of areas LON-1 and LON-2 as identified in Phase I of the ground water resource assessment report prepared by Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations in May of 2023. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Phase II-Water Evaluation is completed or by 12/31/2027, whichever is sooner. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)" ***Following***

brief discussions, the Moderator reread Article 6 as written. Article 6 passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 7 – Report of Officers

The Moderator read the article “To hear the reports of Officers for the coming year”.

Moved by Peter Stanley, seconded by Mike Todd. Ken explained that all reports are in the warrant. The financials this year will be public after the audit. Article 7 passed by majority vote.

ARTICLE 8 – Other Business

The Moderator read the article “To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting (Majority vote Required). John Ellis asked how communications can improve between the Town and the water Precinct. Chairman Jacques said he feels the communication has gotten better. Bill Helm shows up at every precinct meeting and the Commissioners have been at a Selectmen’s meeting. Jacques continued explaining that there was an issue with Continuum and Twin Pines getting Planning Board approval before going to the water Precinct for water. In the past there was a checklist that the Planning Board used to prevent that from happening. Jacques said that the checklist is no longer used.

After tallying up the votes. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey MacKenna

New London-Springfield Water System Precinct Staff

Robert Thorp, Superintendent
Rhonda L Gauthier, Office Manager
Roderic Reyelt, Water Operator
Jon Dame, Water Operator

Administrative Office hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Shop hours: Monday through Friday 7:30 – 4:00

Phone: 603-526-4441
Email: nlswp@tds.net



ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

DWGB-12-12

2024

Clean Drinking Water: It's Up to You!

Why do you need to help protect drinking water?

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater or surface water source, both of which can be vulnerable to contamination from routine household activities. As water flows through the watershed, it can pick up contamination along the way. While some pollutants can be filtered out by soil, groundwater can be easily contaminated by a variety of chemicals. Surface water can be contaminated by soil erosion and pollutants picked up as water flows over land. A little bit of pollution can affect a lot of water.

To access an electronic version of this fact sheet (with live links), use this QR code.



What can you do to help prevent contamination of drinking water sources?

- **Dispose of Waste Properly**
 - Visit the [NHDES "Managing My Waste" website](#) for information on how to dispose of different types of household waste.
 - Utilize [household hazardous waste](#) collection days to dispose of hazardous wastes, such as pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, batteries, cleaning fluids, paint thinners and thermometers.
 - Recycle used motor oil at a municipal solid waste transfer station that accepts [used oil](#).
 - Dispose of unused medicine properly; do not flush it down the toilet. Police Departments throughout the state have implemented a [prescription drug drop box program](#).
- **Use Safer Chemicals at Home, Work and School**
 - Consider switching to [non-toxic and less-toxic alternatives to traditional household chemicals](#), some of which may inadvertently contain chemicals like [PFAS](#).
 - There are [simple recipes](#) for kitchen and bathroom cleaners made from things like white vinegar and baking soda that are cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
 - The [EPA Safer Choice Program](#) has a list of household and business cleaning products that use safer ingredients. [PFAS Central](#) has a list of products that are likely PFAS-free.
 - Only buy what you need—avoid buying and storing large volumes of materials that may go unused.

- The NHDES [Greening Your Home website](#) has many useful links for ways to reduce waste and improve energy efficiency.
- **Maintain Your Septic System**
 - If your house is on septic, [regular maintenance of your septic system](#), including pumping the tank out every 3 years, is essential to its ongoing performance.
 - Any soggy areas around the system, or disagreeable odors, could indicate septic system failure. Have it checked by a professional.
 - Do not dispose of any toxic materials into the system. When in doubt, don't flush it.
- **Properly Store Gasoline and Oil at Your Home**
 - Check all fuel storage tanks for leaks. If a tank is more than 20 years old, consider replacing it with an aboveground storage tank that has a concrete slab underneath it, a cover and secondary containment.
 - [NHDES Safe Tank Program](#) can provide financial assistance to upgrade or replace home heating oil tanks.
 - Perform any refueling and engine work on an impervious surface like a concrete floor. Avoid any refueling in areas near surface water or wells.
 - Keep cat litter or absorbent pads available and soak up any gas spills immediately.
 - Contact NHDES and/or your local fire department or 911 to [report any oil or gas spills](#) that may have soaked into the ground. NHDES Spill Response can be reached at [\(603\) 271-3899](#).
- **Transform and Simplify Your Lawn Care**
 - Work with nature. The [NOFA Organic Landcare guide](#) provides many useful practices and tips for a healthy lawn which protects water. [Ahora disponible en español.](#)
 - Consider reducing lawn areas or replacing them with an alternative ground cover like wildflowers and native shrubs that require less maintenance and can benefit pollinators and other wildlife.
 - [Limit lawn fertilizer and herbicide/pesticide use](#), particularly near wells, lakes, rivers and streams. All of these chemicals can negatively impact drinking water sources. A single application of slow release, low phosphate fertilizer at the beginning of fall is adequate in most cases.
 - To help protect the environment and reduce fertilization costs, have your soil tested to determine if and what types of fertilizer are needed. You can have your soil tested by the [UNH Cooperative Extension](#).
 - For the healthiest lawn, support the soil that grows your lawn by applying compost to your lawn regularly. You can make your own compost with leaves, lawn clippings and kitchen scraps.
 - Be careful refueling your lawn equipment. During refueling, be sure to place the equipment on an impervious surface, such as a concrete floor or tarp so any spills don't soak into the ground.
 - Consider using hand tools instead of gas-powered machines (e.g., a rake instead of a leaf blower). It's good exercise and good for the environment.
 - If replacing your lawn equipment, consider purchasing an electric mower or trimmer instead of a gas-powered one.
- **During the Winter, Limit Salt Use on Sidewalks and Driveways**
 - Road salt contributes elevated sodium and chloride to rivers and groundwater, which can be harmful to aquatic life and humans.
 - Consider alternative de-icing materials, such as calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) or alfalfa meal, and/or using materials like sand, sawdust or cat litter to increase traction.
 - If you use a plowing company, request that they reduce/optimize their salt use and obtain the [Green Snow Pro certification](#).

For More Information

Please contact the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau at [\(603\) 271-2513](#) or dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov or visit our website at www.des.nh.gov.

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of January 2024. Statutory or regulatory changes or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.