

Budget Committee Annual Report

This year the budget committee met to review and make recommendations to 43 budgets and 17 warrant articles for the voters of Sandown to review at the Deliberative Session. Meetings were held on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm between October 2023 and January 2024.

Officially, the town's Budget Committee's purpose is "*to assist its voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds.*" This is accomplished by reviewing budget requests for the upcoming year, analyzing revenue, expenditures and trends throughout prior years, and working with department heads towards their goals while ensuring that the budget is affordable. The Town Budget Committee is responsible only for the Municipal line of the budget. I believe the committee has met this goal to the best of its abilities and hope you will agree.

After the public hearing, **the Budget Committee's 2024 budget proposal is \$6,058,414 which is an 11.8% increase over the 2023 budget.** The proposed budget is \$640,504 higher than the 2023 budget of \$5,417,910. The key drivers in the 2024 budget increase are new town employees and an increase in the highway and recycling budgets, that have been underfunded for the past several years. The hope of the Budget Committee is that these budgets are funded as needed over the next few years.

Funding of the operating budget, which includes the local school district, is accomplished through taxation of property. Allocation of funds raised through taxation in 2023 were as follows:

2023 tax rate per \$1000 vs 2022 tax rate per \$1000:

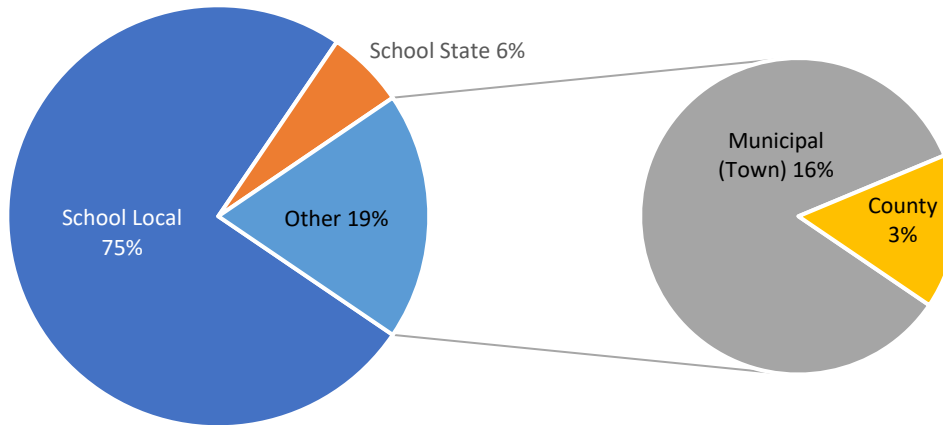
	2023		2022	
Municipal (town operating):	\$ 3.35	16 %	\$ 5.48	19 %
County:	\$.61	3 %	\$.98	3 %
School:	\$ 15.68	75 %	\$20.39	72 %
State:	\$ 1.26	6 %	\$ 1.52	5 %
Total:	\$ 20.90	100 %	\$28.37	100 %

It takes many people (department heads, Selectmen, administrative staff, and others) working together to arrive at a fiscally responsible budget proposal. I would like to thank all budget committee members and department heads for working together this year to present a reasonable budget to the voters. The committee would also like to thank Finance Director Gayle Hamel, Town Administrator Lynne Blaisdell, Cable Station Manager Chris Donnellan, and Town Administrators Assistant Andrea Cairns for their support throughout budget season.

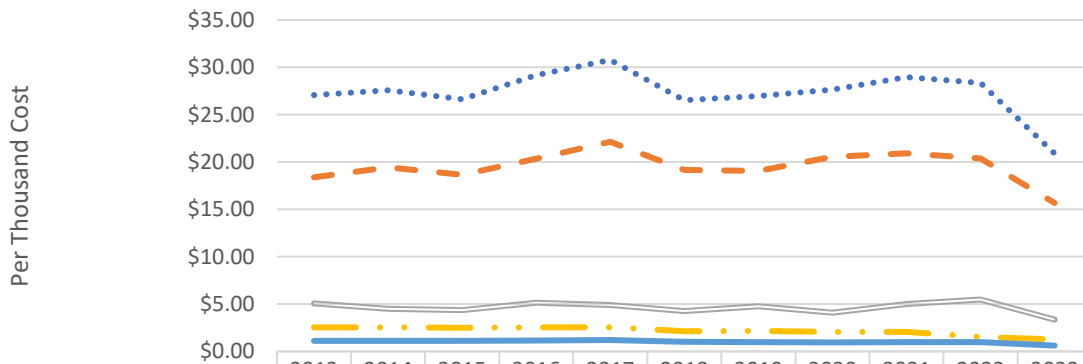
Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Kruithof
Sandown Budget Committee Chair

2023 Tax Rate (\$20.90/Thousand) Breakdown



Sandown NH Tax Rates 2013-2023



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
••••• Total Tax Rate	\$27.08	\$27.59	\$26.64	\$29.16	\$30.78	\$26.54	\$26.96	\$27.66	\$28.98	\$28.37	\$20.90
- - - - - School Local	\$18.37	\$19.45	\$18.65	\$20.34	\$22.14	\$19.16	\$19.07	\$20.56	\$20.91	\$20.39	\$15.68
— — — — — Municipal (Town)	\$5.06	\$4.50	\$4.37	\$5.13	\$4.89	\$4.26	\$4.76	\$4.08	\$5.01	\$5.48	\$3.35
••••• School State	\$2.53	\$2.53	\$2.49	\$2.54	\$2.55	\$2.12	\$2.15	\$2.06	\$2.07	\$1.52	\$1.26
— — — — — County	\$1.12	\$1.11	\$1.13	\$1.15	\$1.20	\$1.00	\$0.98	\$0.96	\$0.99	\$0.98	\$0.61