

The following information is provided as a public service to enable citizens to better understand the matters on which they will be voting. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Selectmen's office at (603) 272-9181, or by visiting the Town's website at www.townofpiermontnh.org

2025 Candidates for Town Offices

One (1) Selectman: Three (3) Year term

Wayne Godfrey
Vincent Colasanti

One (1) Town Treasurer: One (1) Year term

Heather Subjeck

One (1) Trustee of Trust Fund: Three (3) Year term

Rachel Emerson

Two (2) Library Trustees: Three (3) Year terms

Annette Chism
Melanie Rhoads
Nancy Sandell

One (1) Town Moderator: Two (2) Year Term

Joyce Tompkins

One (1) Supervisor of the Checklist: Six (6) Year Term

Billie-Jo French

2025 Candidates for School Offices

Moderator for a term of one year

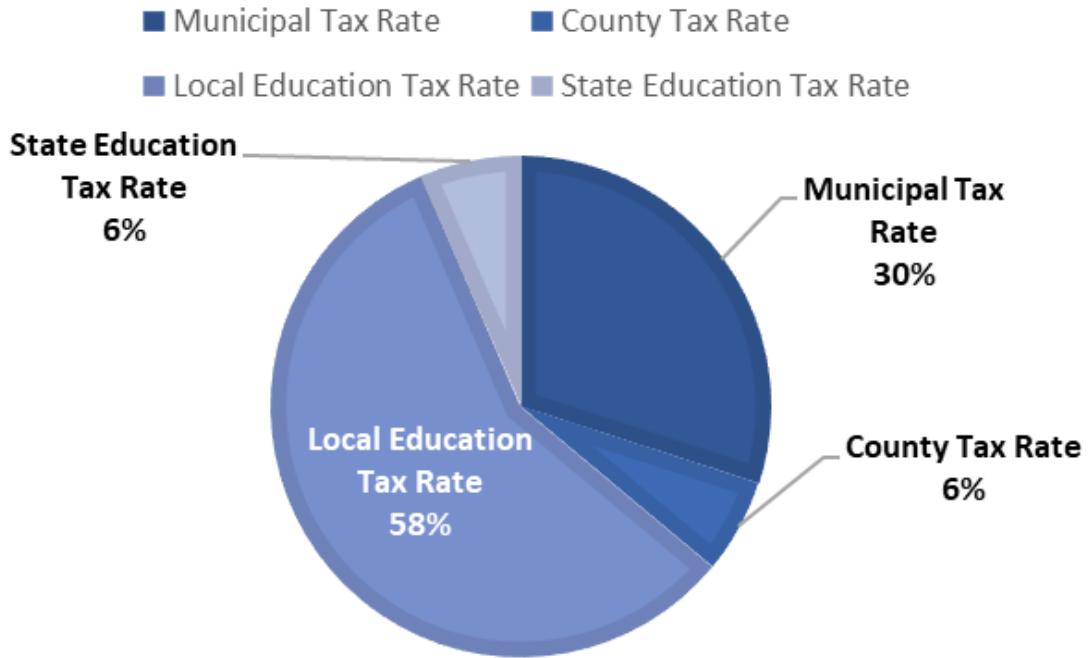
Joyce Tompkins

School District Clerk for a term of one year

Treasurer for a term of one year

1 School Board Member for a three-year term ending in 2028

5 YEAR AVERAGE TAX RATE BREAKDOWN



Proposed Warrant with Estimated Tax Impact (Not Including Operating Budgets)

	Article	Proposed Amount	Est. Tax Impact 2025
2	New Town Building	1,048,700	-
5	Town Fire & Emergency Vehicle CRF	25,000	.19
6	Town Revaluation CRF	10,000	.08
7	Town Equipment CRF	25,000	.19
8	New Building CRF	10,000	.08
9	Town Transfer Station & recycling ETF	3,000	-
10	Town Bridge ETF	1,000	.01
11	Highway Emergency Vehicle/Equip ETF	10,000	-
12	SCBA and Bunker Gear ETF	5,000	-
13	Fire Pond Repair and Maintenance ETF	5,000	-
14	Fire Department Repair and Maintenance ETF	10,000	-
15	Non-Profit Donation	14,476	.11

Article 02: Funding of New Piermont Town Office Building

Text of the article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million forty eight thousand seven hundred dollars (\$1,048,700) (gross budget) to finance the design, permitting, construction, and equipping of a new town hall complex to be located on town owned land (the "Project"); ninety eight thousand seven hundred dollars (\$98,700) to come from the previously established New Building CRF and to authorize \$950,000 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Ch. 33, as amended); to authorize the Selectboard to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the date, maturities, interest rate, and other details of such bonds or notes; to authorize the Selectboard to apply for, accept, and expend any federal, state, or private funds that may become available in respect of the Project to be expended on the Project, including principal forgiveness, to reduce the amount that must be bonded, or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes; and to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. 3/5 ballot vote required. Polls shall remain open for at least one hour.

By approving this article, the Town would authorize the Selectboard to proceed with plans to build a new Town office building on Town-owned land. The proposed building site is located behind the building that currently houses the Town offices and the Library. More information about the new building can be found on the Town Website under Documents- February 1, Bond Hearing Presentation:

<https://townofpiermontnh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Bond-Hearing-Presentation-3.pdf>

Funding for the new building would consist of \$950,000 to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes, as well as approximately \$98,700 from the previously established New Building CRF. The Selectboard's intention is to sustain the annual loan payment with annual withdrawals from the Clark Fund.

For background, Herbert Clark was a Piermont farmer who died on February 28, 1937. He left the Town approximately \$33,000 in his estate, for the benefit of Piermont. Historically, the Town has taken the annual earnings (interest & dividends) from the fund each year and let the principle accumulate. As of January 24, 2025, this fund had reached a total value of approximately \$1.9 million.

Article 03: Operating Budget of the Town

Text of the article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million two hundred seventy seven thousand five hundred thirty three dollars (\$1,277,533) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0.

By approving this article, the Town would be setting the Town's operating budget for the year ending December 31, 2025. This is an increase of approximately \$84,000 (7%) over the operating budget for the year ending December 31, 2024.

A few of the larger increases from 2024 to 2025:

- Warren-Wentworth Ambulance Service and dispatching services increased a total of \$18,305
- Costs of Recycling and Trash Hauling increase for the year 2025. The Board would note that some of this increase is offset by the sale of trash bags and other fees charged by the Transfer Station. Total increase: \$8,200

This year's Town Report includes a table in the Financial Reports section which shows the current and proposed pay rates for all Town employees, including annual stipends and hourly rates. The pay increases account for an approximate increase of \$50,000 in the operating budget (see page 33 on your 2025 Annual Report).

Article 04: Sewer District Budget

Text of the article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty three thousand five hundred forty three dollars (\$43,543) for the operation of the sewer district with six thousand five hundred ninety dollars (\$6,590) to come from the State of NH DES Waste Water Grant and the remainder to come from sewer user fees, with no amount to be raised by taxes. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0.

By approving this article, the Town would be setting the Sewer District's operating budget for the year ending December 31, 2025. This is an increase of approximately \$3,600 (9%) over the operating budget for the year ending December 31, 2024. Most of this increase is due to increases in the cost of having the system pumped out.

The Sewer District's operating budget is funded by a NH DES Waste Water Grant and by user fees, which are paid by the owners of properties that are hooked into the sewer system. This budget is not directly funded with taxes. However, the Town and Piermont Village School buildings are connected to the sewer system, and the Town and School do pay user fees, which appears on their respective operating budgets.

Article 05: Add to existing Fire and Emergency Vehicle CRF

Article 06: Add to existing Revaluation CRF

Article 07: Add to existing Town Equipment CRF

Article 08: Add to existing New Building CRF

Text of Article 05 (Articles 06 through 08 use the same text, with different names and amounts):

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Fire and Emergency Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0.

By approving each of these articles, the Town would be adding to various Capital Reserve Funds using tax revenues. The Town uses these funds to save up for future large expenditures, such as purchasing a new fire truck, which would be associated with the Fire and Emergency Vehicle CRF. This allows the Town to keep tax rates more consistent each year, rather than having tax rates spike during a year when one of these large expenditures is made.

For Articles 05, 07, and 08, the amount to be added is the same as the amount that passed during the 2024 Annual Town meeting.

For Article 06 (the Revaluation CRF), the amount in the article was raised from \$9,000 last year to \$10,000 this year. This CRF is to be used to pay for the revaluation of all the taxable properties in Town, for the purpose of calculating tax bills. State law mandates that each municipality must perform a valuation every five years for all properties in the municipality's boundaries. The new amount is based on an updated estimate from the Town's assessing vendor (Avitar Associates) for the next revaluation.

Property tax rates are determined by dividing the entire amount to be raised by the total valuation of taxable properties (after applying various credits). A revaluation may result in property taxes for a particular property being higher, lower, or the same as before the revaluation.

Article 09: Add to existing Recycling/ Transfer Station ETF

Article 10: Add to existing Town Bridge ETF

Article 11: Add to existing Highway Equipment Emergency Repair ETF

Article 12: Add to existing SCBA and Bunker Gear ETF

Article 13: Add to existing Fire Pond Maintenance and Repair ETF

Article 14: Add to existing Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Repair and Maintenance ETF

Text of Article 09 (Articles 09 through 14 use the same text, with one exception mentioned below and different names and amounts):

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to be added to the Recycling/ Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0.

By approving each of these articles, the Town would be adding to six Expendable Trust Funds using tax revenues. The Town uses these funds to set aside money for unpredictable expenses, such as a costly repair. This allows the Town to handle unexpected events without padding the operating budget with contingencies.

Articles 09, 11, 12, 13 and 14 include the phrase “This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.” The “unassigned fund balance,” is money which was raised by taxes in prior years but which was not expended. The Board and Department Heads review the end of year budget versus the actual budget each year and make a request to use unexpended funds from the fund balance based on the remaining budget from the prior year

Article 10 (Town Bridge ETF) will be funded from new taxes for the purpose of creating a reserve that would be available in the event there is unexpected maintenance needed, or to offset the cost of any future replacement(s) of bridges on Town roads.

The Town voted to add funds to all six of these ETFs at the 2024 Annual Town meeting. Below are the amounts approved in 2024 and proposed for 2025:

Fund Name	Voted 2024	Proposed 2025	Difference
Town Fire & Emergency Vehicle CRF	25,000	25,000	0
Town Revaluation CRF	9,000	10,000	1,000
Town Equipment CRF	25,000	25,000	0
New Building CRF	10,000	10,000	0
Town Transfer Station & Recycling ETF	3,000	3,000	0
Town Bridge ETF	1,000	1,000	0
Highway Emergency Vehicle/Equipment ETF	10,000	10,000	0
SCBA and Bunker Gear ETF	1,000	5,000	4,000
Fire Pond Repair and Maintenance ETF	1,000	5,000	4,000
Fire Department Repair and Maintenance ETF	5,000	10,000	5,000

Article 15: Non-Profit Donations

Text of the article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand four hundred seventy six dollars (\$14,476) for the following charitable organizations.

*\$800 American Red Cross
 \$335 Ammonoosuc Community Health
 \$500 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
 \$1077 The Good Shepherd Ecumenical Food Pantry
 \$4,000 Grafton County Senior Citizens Council
 \$500 North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency
 \$896 Northern Human Services
 \$500 Orange East Senior Center
 \$780 Public Health Council of the Upper Valley
 \$1,538 Tri-County Community Action Program
 \$3,250 Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice
 \$300 WISE*

By approving this article, the Town would be sending \$14,476 to a series of non-profit organizations that provide important services to residents.

The Town voted to send funds to Non-Profits at the 2024 Annual Town meeting. Below are the amounts approved in 2024 and requested for 2025:

Non-Profit	Voted 2024	Requested 2025	Difference
American Red Cross	400	800	400
Ammonoosuc Community Health	335	335	0
Bridge House	400	0	-400
CASA	500	500	0
The Good Shepherd Ecumenical Food Pantry	1,077	1,077	0
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	4,000	4,000	0
North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency	500	500	0
Northern Human Services	896	896	0
Orange East Senior Center		500	500
Public Health Council of the Upper Valley	591	780	189
Tri-County Community Action Program	1,538	1,538	0
Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice	3,250	3,250	0
Wise	300	300	0

Article 16: Cemetery Trustees

Text of the article:

To see if the Town will vote to delegate the duties and responsibilities of the cemetery trustees to the board of selectmen. If the majority vote in the affirmative then the delegation shall take effect 90 days after adoption and shall continue until rescinded by vote of the town meeting.

By approving this article, the Town would transfer responsibilities for operating and maintaining all public cemeteries from the Trustees of the Trust Funds to the Selectboard. This article will also bring the Town into compliance with NH RSA 289:6&7. The cemeteries would still be managed by the Sexton, who would be supervised by the Selectboard, rather than the Trustees of the Trust Funds.

This article reflects a recommendation from the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA), a non-profit organization that advises New Hampshire municipalities. The NHMA position is that it is a conflict of interest to have the cemetery trustees essentially ask themselves for permission to disburse funds. NHMA advises that the Trustees of the Trust Funds should focus on the Trust Funds, making sure that funds are properly tracked and only disbursed when requested by an authorized person for a purpose that is consistent with the rules for that particular fund.

The Town Body does have the authority to create a separate Cemetery Trustees Board. As the Town has experienced difficulty gaining interest from potential volunteers, the Board of Selectmen put forward Article 16. If there is enough interest from residents, the Selectmen will re-visit this issue in 2026 and put forward an article to create and elect a full Cemetery Trustee Board.

Article 17: Road Agent Elected to Appointed

Text of the article:

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 231:62, to authorize the Selectmen as to appoint a road agent rather than electing one. The appointed road agent will continue to be appointed for terms of 3 years. The current Road Agent shall continue in the position until the end of the next Town Meeting.

By approving this article, the Town would convert the position of Road Agent from an elected position to one appointed by the Selectboard. This change was suggested by the current Road Agent, who is contemplating retirement.

Currently, only Town residents are eligible for the elected position of Road Agent, which poses a challenge for recruiting future candidates. If the Road Agent were an appointed position, the Selectboard could consider applicants who live in nearby towns.

Article 18: Town Clerk Hourly Rate

Text of the article:

To see if the Town will vote to pay the Town Clerk an hourly rate of twenty three dollars (\$23) per hour, following the approved 2024 Town meeting vote to pay the Piermont Town Clerk an hourly rate.

By approving this article, the Town would be setting the Town Clerk's hourly pay rate to be \$23 per hour.

Historically, the Piermont Town Clerk has been paid an annual "stipend," which is essentially a fixed salary that is paid regardless of the number of hours worked.

At the 2024 Town Meeting, voters passed Article 17, which stated:

To see if the Town will vote to change the compensation of the Town Clerk to an hourly wage, from the present salary, and to convey to the Board of Selectman, the authority to set and alter the hourly wage.

The Selectboard chose to continue to pay the Town Clerk a stipend during 2024. Unfortunately, the Town Clerk and the Select Board reached an impasse when they tried to effectuate the terms of this article and the question is now being brought to the voters.

The \$23 hourly rate mentioned in Article 18 is the same hourly rate paid to the Tax Collector and Treasurer in the operating budget proposed in Article 03. All of these rates may be amended by voters at the 2025 Town Meeting.

Article 19 Bean Brook Pool

Text of the article:

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the 1984 Town meeting vote regarding the opening hours and dates of the Bean Brook Pool which are currently July 1 to August 31 from 8:00AM to 8:00PM and instead to give the authority to the Board of Selectmen to establish the opening and closing hours and dates of the Pool on an annual basis.

By approving this article, the Town would grant the Selectboard the ability to set opening hours and dates for the Bean Brook Pool. June 2024 was unseasonably warm, and the Selectboard received requests to open the Bean Brook Pool earlier than the traditional July 1 start date. However, because of the article approved at the 1984 Town Meeting, the Selectboard was unable to accommodate these requests.