



INVESTING IN SUNAPEE'S FUTURE

This year's proposed operating budget offers solutions to meet those growing demands as well as positions Sunapee to tackle some long-overdue system challenges.

- Sunapee's properties are valued at **\$1.4 billion**. That valuation will continue to climb.
- Construction is booming, with **many new custom homes** built in the past few years. Older camps are being torn down to make way for much larger homes. Many are being turned into vacation rental properties.
- Demand for police and fire services, as well as construction oversight, is at an **all-time high**.
- Lake Sunapee, a gem that draws people to our town, is facing increased **environmental pressure**.
- Faced with managing this growth, the town government has **significant weaknesses in its financial systems**. We need to strengthen our staffing and processes to handle the growing demand of the town.
- On top of these pressures, we are facing **7 percent inflation**, the highest in 40 years.

Meeting these demands allows Sunapee to effectively serve its community.

Historically, the town approves a 4-5 percent budget increase each year. This year's budget, representing a 9 percent increase, will allow the town to attract and retain talent, increase staffing, and invest in facilities, technology and processes that create a more efficient town. With this budget, Sunapee will:

- ✓ Add additional personnel to our finance team
- ✓ Secure and manage important federal funding opportunities
- ✓ Increase the number of fire department shifts and the fire chief's stipend
- ✓ Hire a full-time building and codes officer
- ✓ Pay for cost-of-living adjustments and merit increases
- ✓ Increase the hours of our planning director
- ✓ Tackle aging infrastructure
- ✓ Modernize outdated paper-based systems and processes

Traditionally, these budget increases would be presented to voters as separate warrant articles. This year's approach fully incorporates the additional personnel and level of effort needed to meet growing demands by including the costs in the overall appropriation, creating a far more accurate picture of the aggregated increase.

Without a budget increase, the town will continue to miss out on critical funding opportunities and

Support smart growth and demand-driven services for the Town of Sunapee.
Town Meeting is March 8.