



Town of Newcastle

www.NewcastleMaine.us


Kevin L. Sutherland - Town Manager

4 Pump Street
PO Box 386
Newcastle, ME 04553
Tel. (207) 563-3441
Fax. (207) 563-6995

FROM: Kevin L. Sutherland, Town Manager
TO: Newcastle Select Board
CC: Town Staff
DATE: January 8, 2024
RE: Town Manager Report

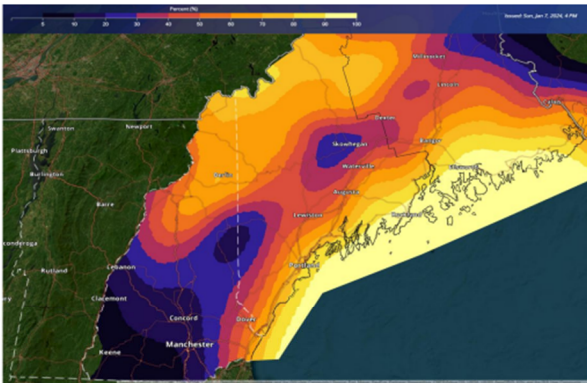
Upcoming Storm

Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency and CMP are monitoring a weather system which is expected to cause a significant wind and rain event starting late on Tuesday night (1/9/2024) into Wednesday. As of now the highest winds are expected on Wednesday late morning/afternoon.


January 7, 2024
4:49 PM

Significant Mid-Week Winter Storm


**Probability for Wind Gusts Greater Than 55 mph
Tuesday Night into Wednesday Morning**



OVERVIEW

High confidence for a multi-faceted storm Tuesday night into Wednesday with widespread impacts.

TIMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strongest winds and precipitation will be on Tuesday night into Wednesday. Greatest tide cycle of concern is Wednesday morning.
HAZARDS & IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy rainfall combined with snowmelt and frozen ground will cause overland/urban flooding along with riverine flooding. Minor to moderate river/stream flooding is also possible, especially south of the mountains. Moderate to heavy snowfall is possible from the foothills northward along with the mountains. This will be a heavy/wet snow. Snowfall amounts are subject to change. Strong to locally damaging winds of 40-60 mph are possible, especially along the coast and west slopes of the White Mountains. This may result in power outages. Minor to moderate coastal flooding is possible during the Wednesday morning high tide cycle. Significant beach erosion and overwash is also likely.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional information can be found here: EM Briefing Page / Winter Weather Page
NEXT BRIEFING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 5 AM Monday



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Gray-Portland, ME

In preparation for this weather event:

- CMP has extra line and tree crews on duty Tuesday evening/night
- Newcastle's Fire Chief and Road Commissioner are closely monitoring the storm and will be ready to respond.

December 18th Wind and Rain Storm

The Town of Newcastle submitted about \$35,000 worth of damage and debris cleanup for post-disaster expenses to the State. (Including the loss of some shingles from the Sheepscot Fire Station roof!) To qualify for potential FEMA reimbursement, all towns in Lincoln County would have had to have submitted at least \$162,090. Unfortunately, towns in the County only documented \$71,000. I hope to work with my counterparts around the county after this next event to make sure these numbers are tracked and submitted to ensure no money is left on the table.

FEMA May Storm Deadlines

The deadline for filing Category A (Debris Clean up) and Category B (Protective Measures – i.e minor span temporary work, road closure signage, etc.) was this past Saturday January 6th. The Town of Newcastle submitted its Category A, B, and several Category C (N. Newcastle Road, Lewis Road, East Old County Road for road repairs, and one for Lynch Road for the minor culvert repair) on January 2, 2024. This totaled \$118,152.40 worth of work. If approved, we will be reimbursed 90% of these expenses (75% federal, 15% state).

Our next step is to shift focus to the larger culvert / minor span (another Category C). I am also exploring options to have the town reimbursed for engineering-related expenses and for the Town Manager's time on these efforts. More to come in the weeks and months ahead.

Village Partnership Initiative

Working with the Maine Department of Transportation, Wright-Pierce was the winning bidder for Pre-Engineering design ideas for the Main Street/River Road and Main Street/Academy Hill Road/Mills Road intersections. The reconfiguration of the two main intersections offers an opportunity to undertake a more transformative project to improve the downtown and position the Town for additional funding opportunities through programs offered by the Maine Department of Transportation. We'll be meeting with staff from both Wright-Pierce and MaineDOT in the coming week and will report back some more information on planning, timelines, and outreach events soon!

Upcoming Agenda Items

Item 10 on the Select Board Agenda is a list of items staff hope to bring to your attention at a future meeting. This section of the Manager's Report tries to provide some initial background information to that list.

Comprehensive Plan State Approval

In the [Manager Report from September 25th](#), I mentioned the comprehensive plan and how Michael and I were looking to bring to your attention the changes we'd need to make to the current document to get state approval. We are nearly complete with our review and are still working on the recommendations we'd suggest changing.

Posted Road Application

This item stems from the request by residents to post North Newcastle Road shared at the [November 27th](#) meeting. Based on the conversation at that meeting, I intend to bring you a draft process at our next meeting this month,

Ground Lease Agreement

This item is related to the conversation we had on [November 13th](#) about the potential for a Cell Tower on our landfill. Just keeping this on the near-term list as we work through details with legal.

Fish Ladder Agreement

Earlier this summer, the Select Board met with Newcastle's representative to the Damariscotta Mills Fish Ladder Restoration Committee to begin discussions on an interlocal agreement. I believe we'll be ready to present this agreement and other documents for your consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Historic Preservation Ordinance

This item was discussed at the [October 23rd](#) meeting with a request to postpone until after the New Year. I've placed it on the future agenda items as a reminder that the Select Board needs to make a decision about what they would like to do with the draft ordinance.



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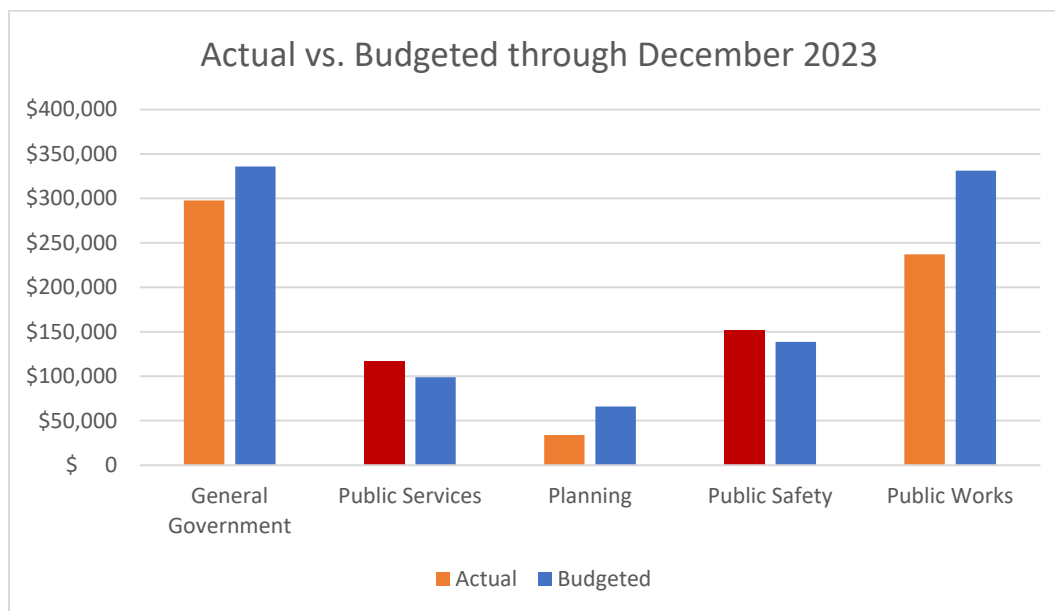
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FROM: Kevin L. Sutherland, Interim Town Manager
TO: Newcastle Select Board
CC: Town Staff
DATE: January 8, 2024
RE: Town Manager Monthly Financial Report

We've now reconciled our accounts through six months of the fiscal year (July – December). This memo was developed to show a quick snapshot of Actual spending compared to Budget. NOTE: This version of the report is taking information out of Trio through a different reporting portal as the previous avenue seemed to contain some data collection glitches.

After six months or 50.00% of the fiscal year (represented below in the blue bars for each of the spending categories), there are two categories which we're currently over budget (red bars) – Public Services, and Public Safety.



Public Services

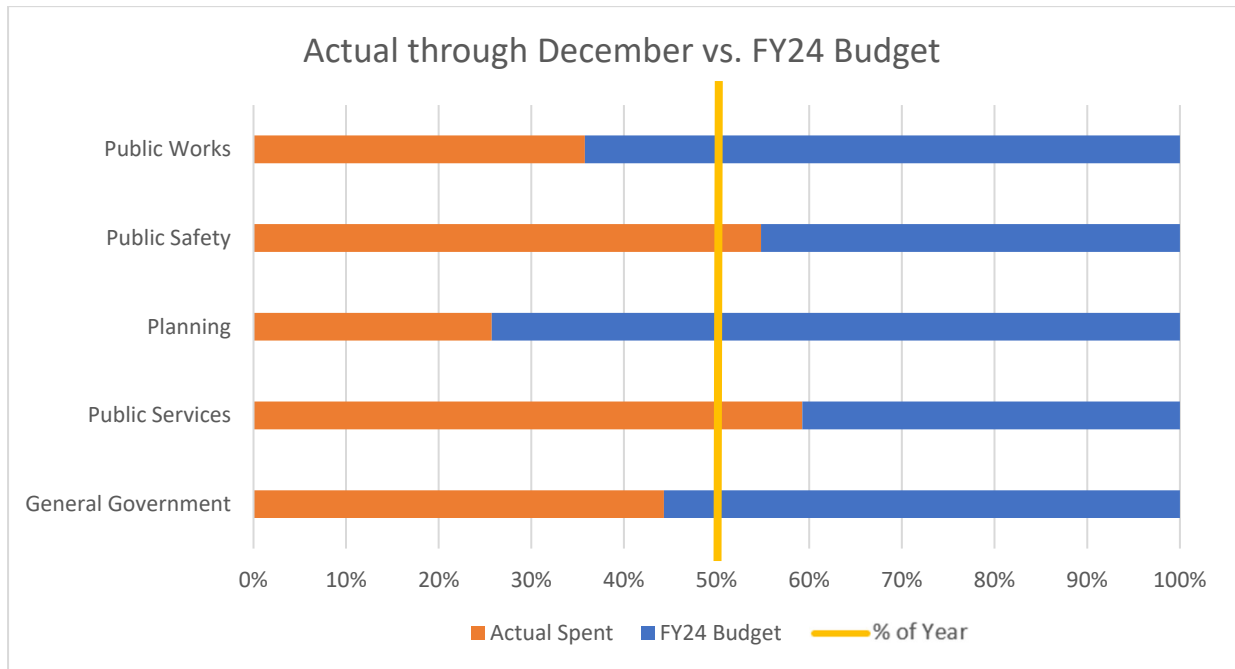
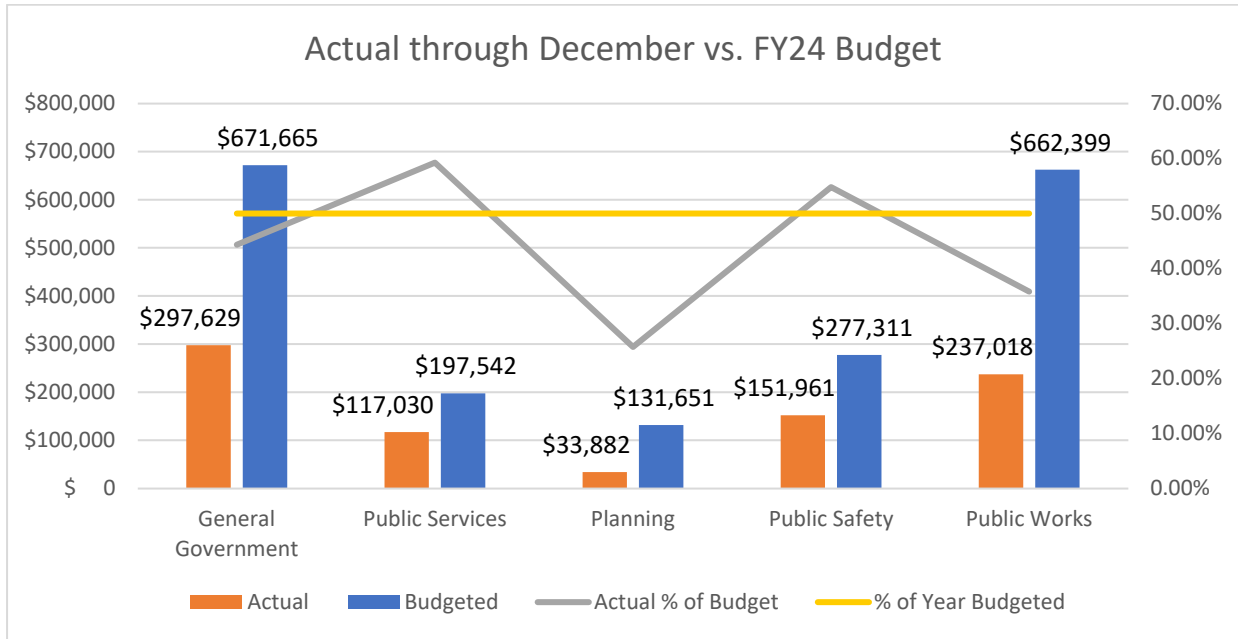
This category is over the six-month budget as the provider agencies have all received their contributions. If we were to amortize those payments, we would be at 42.30% of the Public Services category actual expenditures for the first six months. Below the budgeted 50.00%.

Public Safety

Public Safety remains above as we've paid the full share of Newcastle's CLC ambulance service. This expense of \$74,200 represents roughly 26% of the entire public safety budget. If we were to amortize this expense and only recognize six months, the Public Safety category's actual expenditures would only be 41.43% for the first six months. Below the budgeted 50.00%.

Overall

The sum of Budget through December is \$970,284 and the sum of Actual through December is \$837,520. This has Newcastle under budget through December by \$132,764.



	FY24 Budget	Actual thru 12/23	Remaining
General Government	\$671,665	\$297,629	\$374,036
Public Services	\$197,542	\$117,030	\$80,512
Planning	\$131,651	\$33,882	\$97,769
Public Safety	\$277,311	\$151,961	\$125,350
Public Works	\$662,399	\$237,018	\$425,381
TOTAL OPERATING	\$1,940,568	\$837,520	\$1,103,048