



TOWN OF EXETER, RI

TOWN COUNCIL

Daniel W. Patterson, President

Michael A. Lefebvre, Vice President

Diane Bampton Allen

Olivia DeFrancesco

Calvin A. Ellis

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

TOWN OF EXETER

675 Ten Rod Road

Exeter, R.I. 02822

Ph: (401) 294-3891

Fax: (401) 295-1248

clerk@exeterri.gov

RESOLUTION

No. 2024-07

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING STATE AID TO LIBRARIES TO THE FULL TWENTY-FIVE (25%) PERCENT LEVEL

WHEREAS: For many people, public libraries are their only means of access to computer services and all forms of media essential for fulfilling and productive lives; and

WHEREAS: Free public libraries are essential to the general enlightenment of citizens in a democracy and provide for the cultural, educational, informational, and research needs for all citizens; and

WHEREAS: The Constitution of the State of Rhode Island in Article XII, Section I, states that it “shall be the duty of the General Assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and to adopt all means which it deems necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education and public library services”; and

WHEREAS: In recognition of the importance of libraries in our society, the State of Rhode Island passed legislation setting the level of state aid for library services at a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount spent from local tax funds and the library’s private endowment; and

WHEREAS: Between FY 2009 and FY 2022, the State of Rhode Island did not fund state aid to libraries at the twenty-five percent (25%) level as required by R.I. General Laws § 29-6-2; and

WHEREAS: In FY 2023 and FY 2024, state aid to libraries was funded at the twenty-five percent (25%) level; and

WHEREAS: The Governor’s proposed FY 2025 budget funds state aid to libraries at twenty-four point 18 percent (24.18%); and

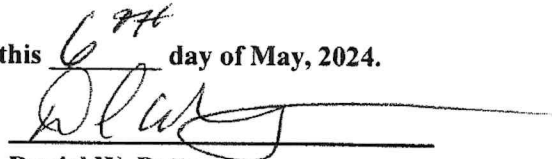
WHEREAS: The Town of Exeter recognizes the importance of fully funding our public libraries and supports funding state aid to libraries at the twenty-five percent (25%) level in FY 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED: That the Exeter Town Council, at the request of the Exeter Public Library Board of Trustees, does hereby support legislation which would restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full twenty-five (25%) level required in R.I. General Laws § 29-6-2(a) and urges the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage; and

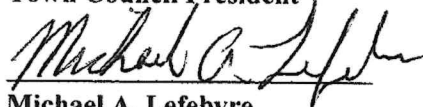
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Exeter Town Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this Resolution to the Governor and to the members of Exeter's legislative delegation in the Rhode Island General Assembly, as well as to all cities and towns within the State.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

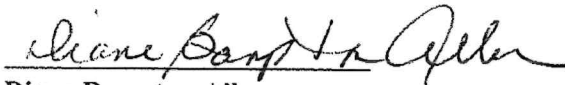
APPROVED by vote of the Exeter Town Council on this 6th day of May, 2024.



Daniel W. Patterson
Town Council President



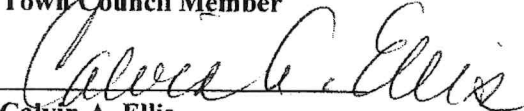
Michael A. Lefebvre
Town Council Vice President



Diane Bampton-Allen
Town Council Member

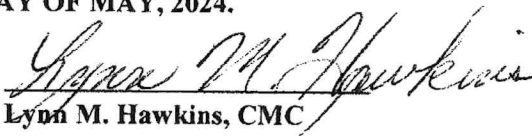
OLIVIA DE FRANCESCO

Olivia DeFrancesco
Town Council Member



Calvin A. Ellis
Town Council Member

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HEREBY SET MY HAND AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL
OF THE TOWN OF EXETER THIS 6th DAY OF MAY, 2024.



Lynn M. Hawkins, CMC
Town Clerk