

2021 REFERENDUM

Road Advisory Committee Information

On June 8th, the Town of Litchfield will be voting on two referendum questions that will impact the town's ability to reconstruct and maintain roads.

Question 3 provides the ability for the town to secure a loan of up to \$4.4 million for the reconstruction and maintenance of town-owned roads and bridges, while Question 4 limits funding to \$2.0 million and spending to match available grants.

The Road Advisory Committee recommends **YES ON QUESTION 3**.

We realize this is a significant investment but are concerned that failure to take this important step will result in funds inadequate to leverage grants, repair roads, and reconstruct those long overdue. Approving question 3 will allow us to:

- Address overdue reconstruction projects without putting maintenance of existing roads at risk
- Accelerate the delivery of reconstructed roads in town, leveraging low cost of financing
- Spread the costs related to the improvements over time and to the taxpayers that benefit

A no on question 3, will require us to continue making challenging recommendations to the Select Board, such as prioritizing the following three projects against an expected budget of \$600,000.

Dead River Road Stream Crossings & Reconstruction **\$576,790 (\$401,790 after grants)**

The Town of Litchfield was fortunate to receive two matching grants totaling \$175,000 that are to be applied to stream crossings on Dead River Road. Because the road will be significantly impacted by related stream crossing work, we also recommend performing planned reconstruction at this time to minimize related costs.

Because of this matching funding and the related savings to the townspeople of Litchfield, the Road Advisory Committee is recommending that Dead River Road work be prioritized this year.

Scheduled Maintenance **\$622,569**

Due to decreased funding over the last several years, we are overdue on maintenance of roads that have already been reconstructed. The funding will be used to place wearing surface pavements that are designed to resist abrasion from traffic and minimize the intrusion of water that damages our roads during freeze/thaw cycles.

Failure to maintain our newly reconstructed roads will result in accelerated deterioration, and more expensive repairs later.

Lunts Hill Road Reconstruction **\$620,815**

Prior to receiving the grants for Dead River Road, Lunts Hill was identified as our top priority for reconstruction. Based on our objective, criteria-based evaluation of all town roads completed annually, the combination of traffic, local businesses and level of deterioration make this road a top priority.

The Road Advisory Committee recognizes that many other roads in town require attention, including:

- Pine Tree Road
- Dennis Hill Road
- Ferrin Road
- Huntington Hill Road
- Whippoorwill Road