



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Earle M. Chesley P.E., General Services Director

**DATE:** December 19, 2022

**SUBJECT:** ARPA Grant Authorization and Photovoltaic Solar Array Project  
Appropriation

### **Recommendation**

Accept this report authorizing the City Manager to complete application documents and accept approved grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant program administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). In addition, the Department requests the council appropriate the sum of \$250,000 including the acceptance of \$250,000 in ARPA grant funding for the installation of a photovoltaic solar array at the Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Plant.

### **Background**

The General Services Department (the Department) with the support for City Council has completed a series of energy efficiency projects at the Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Facility. In recognition of the city's on-going efforts the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services had reserved \$250,000 in grant funding for the implementation of further energy saving initiatives. In December 2022, the Department developed a project for the installation of a photovoltaic solar array to generate a portion of the wastewater facility's power. The NHDES provided preliminary approval for the project. Final project approval is anticipated following the approval of the city's ARPA grant application which is due to the NHDES by February 28, 2023.

### **Discussion**

The Department has identified a rare opportunity to reduce the wastewater treatment facility's reliance on utility power through the NHDES ARPA program. With the completion of this project the city will be reducing operational costs at the wastewater treatment facility while making a positive impact to the environment at no cost to the city's rate payers. For the reasons

stated above it is the Department's recommendation that the City Council accept this report and associated resolution.