

Official Town Minutes  
March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Colebrook, NH

Moderator Ron Patterson called the meeting to order at 7 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. He reminded the attendees (approximately 80), if they had not already done so, to check in with the Supervisors of the Checklist table to obtain a voting card. He also asked attendees to wait for the microphone, be sure to state their name for the “new” town clerk, address comments to him and not someone in the audience. He concluded by stating any amendments must be made in writing.

Before getting into the Articles, Selectwoman Sue Collins read a nomination from the Board of Selectmen for a special recognition as follows:

Makenna Hibbard, Cody Rainville, Caden Freggeau, and Brandon Wheeler have taken it upon themselves to tackle littering and to keep our community clean. These 4 students have done a tremendous amount of litter clean up and have also worked with town manager, Becky Merrow, to design signs that have been hung up around the town urging community members to not litter. The students also created a video that has gone viral showing their support to keep our world clean and litter free, as well as the damage that litter can do to our environment and the animals that live in it. The video has been viewed over 2.7 thousand times on Facebook and that number is growing.

Sue Collins shook all their hands, thanked them for all their hard work and awarded them each with a Certificate of Recognition and a gift certificate. Mackenna, Cody, Caden and Brandon received a round of applause.

Article 1: Ballot results for the selection of the Town Officers for the Town of Colebrook for the ensuing year were as follows:

Selectman:	Ray Gorman (Three year term) - 124
Town Clerk:	Tracey A. McKinnon (Three year term) - 143
Treasurer:	Alicia Boire (Three year term) - 138
Trustee of the Trust Funds:	Rosemary J. Mulliken (Three year term) - 144
Library Trustee:	Russell J. Fuller (Three year term) - 131
Library Trustee:	Amy Patterson (Three year term) - 134
Library Trustee:	Gina L. Dagesse (One year term) - 75
Planning Board:	Gregory A. Sipple (One year term) - 113
Planning Board:	Ron Patterson (Three year term) - 18 (write in)
Cemetery Trustee:	Sheldon Gray (Three year term) - 139
Cemetery Trustee:	Sally Wentzell (Three year term) - 121
Supervisor of the Checklist:	Bill Sambito (Five year term) – 136

Article 2: Sue Collins made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,143,220 for General Government. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.

1) Executive	\$ 74,175
2) Election, Registration & Vital Statistics	\$ 99,015
3) Financial Administration	\$ 193,575
4) Revaluation of Property	\$ 22,300
5) Legal Expense	\$ 20,000
6) Planning & Zoning	\$ 18,200
7) General Government Buildings	\$ 53,600
8) Advertising & Regional Association	\$ 2,575
9) Police	\$ 539,200
10) Ambulance—45 <sup>th</sup> Parallel Ambulance Service	\$ 136,275
11) Fire	\$ 8,100
12) Emergency Management	\$ 5,050
13) Highway & Streets	\$ 564,600
14) Street Lighting	\$ 25,000
15) Solid Waste Disposal	\$ 232,250
16) Health Administration	\$ 30,900
17) Animal Boarding/Pest Control	\$ 50
18) Welfare Administration	\$ 5,000
19) Parks & Recreation	\$ 91,155
20) Patriotic Purposes	\$ 4,000
21) Conservation Commission	\$ 600
22) Economic Development	\$ 15,100
23) Tax Anticipation Note Interest	\$ 2,500

Greg Placy seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Sue Collins noted there would be a 2% cost of living adjustment to employees’ wages based on the consumer pricing index by the U.S. Department of Labor. The town’s share of the NH retirement system contribution is increasing from 11.17% to 11.38% for employees and 26.38 % to 29.43% for police. To keep cost down regarding employee health insurance, the town obtained various quotes and ultimately went with a policy that introduced deductibles, tiered prescription plan and an increase of just under 8% vs. 19.9% that was projected with current policy.

The other major impact to the budget which will be broken out between departments is a mass computer upgrade that will be taking place. SNS out of Littleton, NH will be installing hardware, software and providing support. The town was quoted \$51,800 for this complete computer overhaul. Percentages per department are based on the current scope of work: Town Offices – 40%; Town Clerk – 15%; Police Department – 15%; and Dispatch – 30%.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of 2,143,220 for the General Government. The motion **passed** with an affirmative show of voting cards.

**Article 3:** Sue Collins made the motion to vote, pursuant to RSA 261:153, VI, to establish a **Municipal Transportation Capital Reserve Fund** designating the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend the fund, and vote to collect effective January 1, 2018 an additional motor vehicle registration fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per vehicle to include trailers and motorcycles, said fees to be deposited into the fund to support improvements to the Town's transportation system, said improvements being limited to roads and bridges. In addition to being used for engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction and other costs related to improving Town roads and bridges, these funds may also be pledged and expended as local match to secure state or federal funds allocated for local transportation system improvements. (This article has no tax impact).

Ray Gorman seconded the motion and went on to say that since the Selectmen did not follow the letter of the law regarding the above article that it must be passed over until next year. He did take a moment to explain that on average there are 3,000 registrations annually and at \$5 each that would bring in \$15,000 in addition to the \$50,000 raised in taxes each year for the Bridge Fund. There are currently 3 Red Listed Bridges in the 10 year plan for Colebrook: Harvey Swell Road, Bear Rock Road and Pleasant Street. Total estimate cost to fix these 3 bridges is \$1,409,000 of which State Bridge Aid will cover 80%, the Town's share is 20%.

Sue Collins moved to pass over Article 3 until next year, Greg Placy seconded that motion. There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote to pass over Article 3 until 2018. The motion **passed** with an affirmative show of voting cards.

**Article 4:** Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of ditching the Colby Street Ditch with \$5,000 to come from the "Colby Street Ditch Capital Reserve Fund" with the remaining \$7,000 to come from taxation. Sue Collins seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Bruce Katz wanted to know who would be doing the work. Greg Placy stated that Josh Boire would be handling the tree removal, Sheldon Gray would be doing the ditching and the town crew would be maintaining. Robert Hodge wanted to know why the town continues to contract work out? Greg Placy simply replied "due to insurance reasons."

There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of ditching the Colby Street Ditch with \$5,000 to come from the "Colby Street Ditch capital reserve fund" with the remaining \$7,000 to come from taxation. The motion **passed** with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 5: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Sue Collins, to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a three-year (36 month) lease “with option to purchase” agreement not to exceed the sum of \$28,495 for the purpose of leasing and purchasing a new Commercial Trash Compactor for the Transfer Station, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,750.00 for the first year’s payment for that purpose. This agreement shall contain an escape clause which shall allow the Town to avoid the terms of said lease/purchase agreement, without any penalty, if any future Town Meeting votes against any additional appropriations for this expenditure during the length of this agreement.

There being no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 6: Greg Placy made a motion, seconded by Raymond Gorman, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$182,500 for the following Capital Reserve Funds: The entire appropriation will be funded by taxation.

Equipment Purchase (Highway)	\$ 80,000
Police Cruiser	\$ 15,000
250 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	\$ 2,500
Bridge Fund	\$ 50,000
Total Town Revaluation (2019)	\$ 20,000
Repairs & Improvements to Town Buildings	\$ <u>15,000</u>
Total	\$182,500

Mark Bigney asked if there would be any “surprise purchases” like there has been in the past. Greg Placy stated that the department heads have advised them of no major purchases this year so there should be no surprises unless there is a major breakdown.

Donald Dickson spoke up stating, if we are going to be having a 250th Anniversary Celebration, the town hall could use some work. He stated the town hall appearance and front steps are a disgrace and he is not proud of the building. He felt, if we were going to have brand new roads and a new highway, we should fix the town hall. Greg Placy noted there is currently \$30,000 in the improvement fund and painters have been contacted. He stated the building will be spruced up prior to the anniversary celebration.

Hearing no further discussion, the moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 7: Greg Placy made the motion to create a capital reserve entitled Road Paving Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of paving municipal roads and streets in the future and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend. Ray Gorman seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued. Greg Placy mentioned it would be better to repave every 3-4 years vs. doing smaller portions here and there; the town would get better pricing per yard. Fran Bigney questioned where the funds for this account are coming from and if paving funds raised in Article 2 should be moved from the General Government fund to its own fund. Greg Placy responded Article 8 will generate the monies for this new fund.

Hearing no further discussion, the moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 8: Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 to be placed in the previously established Road Paving Capital Reserve Fund. Sue Collins seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 9: GOLF LINKS ROAD

Greg Placy made a motion to discontinue completely and absolutely the Class VI portion of Golf Links Road beginning at a point as evidenced by a gate located approximately 2.54 miles from the intersection of Diamond Pond Road and Golf Links Road and continuing to the Class II State Highway paved portion of Links Road. Ray Gorman seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Greg Placy made it very clear to the attendees that, should this pass, the town will no longer maintain this section of road; it will be up to the State. Brent Lyons questioned the legalities of having that road gated. Greg Placy advised it was a Class VI road; gates and bars are allowed. Hearing no further discussion, the moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 10: Sue Collins made a motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$627,700 for the Colebrook Water Works and the Colebrook Sewer Facilities. Said funds are to be offset by user fees.

1) Water Department	\$289,950
2) Sewer Department	\$337,750

Greg Play seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Bruce Katz asked three questions:

1. Whatever happened to the new wells?
2. Where is the water coming from?
3. Or are we back to where we were?

Sue Collins noted the wells North of Town have been shut down since 2015 and have not been reactivated. She also noted the water coming from the wells behind Ducret's is very

good. Sue went on to say there is a current legal process going on with the wells and the Town's attorney Jonathan Frizzell from Waystack and Frizzell would give a brief explanation of what is going on legally regarding the wells.

Jonathan Frizzell confirmed they are in the process of investigating the legal rights and options the Town has with respect to the development and construction to the wells north of town. Insurance claims have been brought against Hydrosorce Associates General Liability policy and their Errors & Omission (E&O or also known as malpractice insurance) policies. On May 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a scheduled onsite inspection to determine the source of turbidity for engineers and insurance adjusters. There is no current lawsuit; he is just working on pulling the facts together.

There being no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$627,700 for the Colebrook Water Works and the Colebrook Sewer Facilities. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

**Article 11:** Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$182,277 for the support of the Colebrook Public Library. \$162,627 to be raised through taxation and \$19,650 of which is to come from other library balance on hand January 1, 2017, book sales, donations, trust funds, non-resident fees, other communities, overdue fines, book resale, copying fees, etc., such funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Library Trustees. Sue Collins seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

**Article 12:** Ray Gorman made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the previously established Library Building Repairs and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of Library Building Repairs and Replacement. Sue Collins seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

**Article 13:** Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$89,130 for the operation and maintenance of the Colebrook Cemeteries, the sum of \$86,130 to be raised through taxation and \$3,000 to be raised from burials, cemetery trust funds and other Colebrook Cemetery revenues. Ray Gorman seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

**Article 14:** Greg Placy motioned to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Colebrook Cemetery Grounds Maintenance and Reclamation Expendable Trust Fund. Ray Gorman seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

**Article 15:** Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$329,300 for the Colebrook Dispatch Center, \$125,116 to come from participating towns; \$18,000 to come from the PDIP Savings Account; and \$186,184 to come from taxation. Ray Gorman seconded the motion. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

**Article 16:** Raymond Gorman made a motion, seconded by Sue Collins, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,200 for the purpose of Stonegarden Police Department Patrol. This amount is to be reimbursed from Grant Revenues. Hearing no discussion, the moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

**Article 17:** Sue Collins made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of maintaining the used oil collection system at the Town Garage. This amount is to be reimbursed from Grant Revenues. Greg Placy seconded the motion. The motion passed with an affirmative showing of cards.

**Article 18: Petition for All Veteran’s Tax Credit**

Ray Gorman made the motion to see if the Town of Colebrook will vote to adopt the provisions of 72:28-b known as All Veterans’ Tax Credit. The amount of this credit shall be \$150. This credit shall take effect April 1, 2017.

72:28-b All Veterans’ Tax Credit

- I. A town or city may adopt or rescind the all veterans’ property tax credit granted under this section by the procedure in RSA 72:27-a
- II. The credit granted under this section shall be the same as the amount of the standard or optional veterans’ tax credit in effect in the town or city under RSA 72:28
- III. The all veterans’ tax credit shall be subtracted each year from the property tax on the veteran’s residential property
- IV. A person shall qualify for the all veterans’ tax credit if the person is a resident of the state who served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that Title 10 training for active duty by a member of a national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this paragraph; provided however that the person is not eligible for and is not receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35

Source. 2016, 217:1, eff. Aug. 8, 2016. Inserted by Petition.

Greg Placy seconded the motion. There being no questions, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with a show of voting cards.

Article 19: Sue Collins made the motion to see if the Town will vote to accept, ratify and confirm the reports of the Agents, Selectmen, Auditors and all other Town Officers. Ray Gorman seconded the motion and the motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 20: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Ray Gorman got up to say that from time to time the Select board choses to give out Certificate of Appreciation for people they work with who really stand out and do a great job of serving our community. He continued the certificate goes to William Watkins and his crew, the Chief and staff up at the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel, for all his hard work and dedication at keeping his budget in check, assisting with transfer from here to Dartmouth, the new ambulance purchase this year, keeping the fleet and the building up to date and for having a fantastic crew by his side.

Greg Placy came forward and stated he would like to recognize the folks who volunteered or worked for the town and have either retired or resigned.

Ann Woodard - Supervisor of the Checklist, 12 years.

Lisa Kenney - Library Trustee, 11 years

David Brooks - Planning Board, 6 years

Gina Brown – Library Trustee, 2 years

Sheila Beauchemin – Town Clerk, 23 years and Planning Board Clerk, 17 years

Greg Placy also wanted to thank all the Town employees and residents for the service they have provided over the past year.

Ron Patterson thanked everyone for braving the evening's weather to come to the meeting. Ron Patterson made the motion to close the meeting. Sue Collins seconded the request. The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Tracey A. McKinnon