

Official Town Minutes
March 13th, 2018
Colebrook, New Hampshire

Moderator, Ron Patterson, called the meeting to order at 7pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised the attendees (approximately 115), to pick up a voting card from the Supervisor of the Checklist table if they hadn't already done so. He reminded the attendees to wait for the microphone, be sure to state their name, address comments to him and not to someone in the audience. He concluded by stating any amendments must be made in writing.

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

Moderator:	Ron Patterson (Two-year term) – 49
Selectmen:	Greg Placy (Three-year term) – 157
Trustee of the Trust Funds:	Albert W. Ferns Jr. (Three-year term) – 214
Cemetery Trustee:	Daniel R. Lyons (Three-year term) – 215
Supervisor of the Checklist:	Debra Thompson (Six-year term) – 5
Library Trustee:	Mary Trask (Three-year term) – 19
Library Trustee:	Gina Dagesse (Three-year term) – 17
Library Trustee:	Kathi Woodard (One-year term)
Planning Board:	Gregory A. Sipple (Three-year term) – 198
Planning Board:	John Jolles (Three-year term) – 20

Article 2: Sue Collins made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of two million two hundred two thousand four hundred sixty-four dollars (**\$2,202,464**) for **General Government**. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.

Greg Placy seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Sue Collins shared that the Selectmen are requesting a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment in employee wages. Health insurance premiums have increased by 11.39% and dental has increased by 2%. The overall budget is down \$5,475 primarily due to the decrease in legal expenses. The motion passed with an affirmation show of voting cards.

Executive	\$	70,200
Election, Registration, Town Meeting & Vital Statistics	\$	104,525
Financial Administration	\$	203,440
Revaluation of Property	\$	24,100
Legal Expense	\$	15,500
Planning & Zoning	\$	23,570
General Government Buildings	\$	54,585
Advertising & Regional Association	\$	2,500
Police (Includes School Resource Officer)	\$	553,545
Ambulance--45th Parallel Ambulance Service	\$	178,545
Fire	\$	8,100
Emergency Management	\$	5,050
Highway & Streets	\$	537,879
Street Lighting	\$	25,000
Solid Waste Disposal (Not including Landfill)	\$	151,600
Health Administration	\$	30,900
Animal Boarding/Pest Control	\$	250
Welfare Administration	\$	5,000
Parks & Recreation	\$	118,415
Patriotic Purposes	\$	4,000
Economic Development	\$	12,100
Conservation Commission	\$	300
Tax Anticipation Note, New Bond Payment	\$	73,360
	\$	2,202,464

Article 3: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars (**\$222,500**) for the following **Capital Reserve Funds**: This appropriation shall be funded by taxation with the exception of the water and sewer short lived assets, which will be funded by user fees. The motion passed with an affirmation show of voting cards.

Capital Reserve Funds		
Equipment - Highway	\$	50,000
Police Cruiser for 2020	\$	15,000
250th Anniversary 2020	\$	2,500
Property Reval in 2019	\$	20,000
Governmental Buildings	\$	15,000
Highway Paving	\$	80,000
Water-Short lived Assets	\$	20,000
Sewer Short Lived Assets	\$	20,000
Total	\$	222,500

Article 4: Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) for the purpose of purchasing a **new replacement highway plow truck, wing, plow and stainless steel spreader** and to authorize the withdrawal of one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose, and to permit the Selectmen to dispose of the existing 2007 Sterling Plow Truck by "trade-in" allowance or by sale as deemed in the best interest of the Town. Ray Gorman seconded the motion, discussion ensued. Mr. Placy made it clear that the current plow truck will not pass State inspection without repairs estimated around \$30,000. After light discussion the motion passed with an affirmation show of voting cards.

Article 5: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Sue Collins, to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose of purchasing a **used replacement highway pickup truck** and to authorize the withdrawal of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose, and to permit the Selectmen to dispose of the existing 2008 Chevy Pickup truck by "trade-in" allowance or by sale as deemed in the best interest of the Town. Again, Mr. Placy was firm that the 2008 Chevy Pickup would not pass State inspection due to a frame issue. After light discussion the motion passed with an affirmation show of voting cards.

Article 6: Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for purchasing a **replacement police cruiser** and to authorize the withdrawal of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose, and to permit the Selectmen to dispose of the existing 2014 cruiser by "trade-in" allowance or by sale as deemed in the best interest of the Town. Ray Gorman seconded the motion. Mr. Placy advised that the 2014 vehicle has engine issues. Trading the vehicle vs. repairs makes the most financial sense. After light discussion the motion passed with an affirmation show of voting cards.

Article 7: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred one thousand five hundred fifty dollars (\$101,550) for Landfill Closure Expenses and to withdraw fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the Sanitary **Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund** as offsetting revenue against these expenses. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 8: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) for siding and related repairs to **Town Hall** and to authorize the withdrawal of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) from the Town Buildings capital reserve previously established for that purpose.

Sue Collins told the Moderator that she would like to amend article 8 to read: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the front stair replacement, siding and related repairs to the Town Hall and to authorize with withdrawal of \$45,000 from the Town Building Capital Reserve Fund previously

established for that purpose, the remaining \$55,000 to come from general taxation. Sue Collins made the motion and Ray Gorman seconded.

Ms. Collins shared with audience that over the course of this winter the concrete stairs leading to the front of the building have greatly deteriorated. One side of the steps have been completely blocked off as they have become unstable and a safety issue. Quotes have been obtained for this project. The selectboard decided to ask the taxpayers to fund both jobs – new steps and siding using \$45,00 from the Capital Reserve Fund and \$55,000 from taxation. After light discussion the motion passed with an affirmation show of voting cards.

Article 9: Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred sixteen thousand one hundred thirty dollars (\$616,130) for the **Colebrook Water Works and the Colebrook Sewer Facilities**. Said funds are to be offset by user fees. Sue Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Water	\$327,200
Sewer	\$288,930

Article 10: Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred ninety-six thousand seven hundred twenty-six dollars (\$196,726) for support of the **Colebrook Public Library**. One hundred seventy-seven thousand seventy-six dollars (\$177,076) to be raised through taxation and nineteen thousand six hundred fifty (\$19,650) of which is to come from other library balance on hand January 1, 2018, 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. Ray Gorman seconded the motion. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 11: Greg Placy 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 Library Building Repairs and Replacement. Ray Gorman seconded the motion. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 12: Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seven thousand nine hundred fifty dollars (**\$107,950**) for the operation and maintenance of the **Colebrook Cemeteries**, the sum of \$104,950 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. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 13: Greg Placy made the motion 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. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 14: Sue Collins made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred thirty-seven thousand one hundred dollars (\$337,100) for the **Northern Borders Dispatch Center**, one hundred thirty-five thousand eight hundred ten dollars (\$135,810) to come from participating towns, and two hundred one thousand two hundred ninety dollars (\$201,290) to come from taxation. Greg Placy seconded the motion. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 15: Sue Collins made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$312,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new console, batteries and for performing radio upgrades for the **Northern Borders Dispatch Center**; sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to come from Coos County Unincorporated Places; one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to come from a Federal Homeland Security Grant; one hundred fifty-two thousand dollars (\$152,000) to come from private grant foundation(s). Greg Placy seconded the motion. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 16: Greg Placy made the motion to raise and appropriate the sum of eighteen thousand eight-hundred seventy-five dollars (**\$18,875**) for **Stonegarden Police Department Equipment and Patrol**. This amount is to be reimbursed from Grant Revenues. Sue Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 17: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to discontinue the **Office Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 18: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to discontinue the **Colby Street Ditching Capital Reserve Fund**. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. After light discussion, the motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 19: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-six thousand dollars (\$56,000) for predesign and engineering of **Bear Rock Road Bridge #167/120**, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$56,000 from the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve previously established for that purpose. This appropriation will be non-lapsing until December 31, 2022 (five years) or until the project is constructed. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 20: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-six thousand dollars (\$56,000) for predesign and engineering of **Harvey Swell Road Bridge #190/109**, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$56,000 from the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve previously established for that purpose. This appropriation will be non-lapsing until December 31, 2022 (five years) or until the project is constructed. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 21: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to see if the town will allow the operation of **keno** games within the town (Inserted by petition.) The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 22: Sandra Riendeau moved the following petition article with a second from Julie Moran: To the Selectboard of Colebrook, NH, this petition asks for the review, possible amendment to, and enforcement of the current Town of Colebrook, NH, Department of Public Works **Snow Removal Plan**. We, the undersigned, see a valid need for this, as current conditions are unsafe and pose many hardships. (Inserted upon petition.) Greg Placy stepped up to say he understands the concerns of both residents and business owner's regarding the plowing along Main Street, as well as the plowing and conditions of our sidewalks. The Town Highway Department has been doing all they can and have greatly improved on all that they do. Mr. Placy also went on to mention that he does understand the issue between the Town and State plowing of Route 3 on Main Street. It's been an on-going issue and the select board will continue to work on solving this issue.

Ron Patterson thanked everyone for braving the evening's weather, again this year, to come and be part of the meeting. Mr. Patterson made the motion to close the meeting. Sue Collins second the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey A. McKinnon