

Official Town Minutes
March 8, 2022
Colebrook, New Hampshire

Moderator, Nathan Lebel called the meeting to order at 7pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised those attending (approximately 70) to check in with the Supervisors of the Checklist to obtain a voting card. He reminded attendees with questions to please use the microphones, state their name and to address their questions or comments to the front of the meeting. The Moderator also introduced the new Town Manager James O’Gorman.

Article 1: To bring in your ballots for the selection of Town Officers to be elected by ballot for the Town of Colebrook for the ensuing year.

Moderator:	Nathan Lebel
Selectman:	Greg Placy
Trustee of the Trust Funds:	Andrew Nolette
Town Clerk:	Debra Thompson
Cemetery Trustee:	Jodi L. Smith
Library Trustee:	Kathi Woodard
Planning Board:	Sandra Riendeau
Supervisor of the Checklist:	Bill Sambito

Prior to reading Article 2 and 3 the Moderator explained that a secret ballot was required on both Bond Issues and the polls are required by law to stay open for 1 hour. After motions were made and seconded, the polls were open for voting at 7:13 pm for both Articles 2 and 3. The polls closed at 8:15 pm with the following results.

Article 2: Sue Colling made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,023,000** for the purpose of **Improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Facility** including the influent pumping station with **\$1,213,800** of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq. as amended; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept any federal, state or other aid which may be available for said project, including, but not limited to a **\$1,000,000** combined grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission and the U.S. Economic Development Administration, an **\$809,200** grant from the N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Notwithstanding the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is the intention that debt service payments will be funded by user fees. The project is currently eligible for 15% loan forgiveness of **\$182,070** under the State Revolving Fund program. Hearing no questions or discussion, the Moderator called for secret ballot vote noting 3/5 ballot vote was required.

The motion passed: **YES: 54 NO: 5**

Article 3: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$847,000** for work on a **New Water Well Project** with **\$428,000** of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq. as amended; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept any federal, state or other aid which may be available for said project, including, but not limited to a **\$419,000** grant from the N.H. Drinking Water Ground Water Trust Fund, and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Notwithstanding the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is the intention that debt service payments will be funded by user fees.

John Fothergill asked if it was known what APP is dumping into our water system? Greg Placy stated there is a high Nitrate level, which is being handled with internal treatment to reduce what is being dumped into the water. EPA is looking at everything along with The Connecticut River Commission. Bruce Katz asked if the same Well location will be used. Greg Placy noted there are five (5) different locations being investigated with the goal to find a good water source within a close distance to the existing source. Hearing no other questions or discussion, the Moderator called for secret ballot vote noting 3/5 ballot vote was required.

The motion passed: **YES: 54** **NO: 5**

Article 4: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,627,527** for **General Government**. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Executive	\$113,080
Town Clerk, Voter Registration, Town Meeting, Elections	\$107,255
Financial Administration	\$287,815
Legal Expense	\$20,000
Planning & Zoning	\$38,450
General Government Buildings	\$90,150
Advertising and Regional Association	\$2,350
Police	\$635,870
Ambulance	\$201,180
Fire	\$15,550
Emergency Management	\$4,110

COVID-19 Expenses	\$100
Highways	\$585,105
Street Lighting	\$25,000
Transfer Station & Recycling	\$179,180
Health Administration	\$32,250
Animal Boarding	\$250
Welfare Administration	\$7,100
Parks & Recreation	\$129,120
Patriotic Purposes	\$4,200
Economic Development	\$2,400
Conservation Commission	\$300
Bond Payment and Tax Anticipation Note Interest	\$146,712
Total	\$2,627,527

Article 5: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$287,500** 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. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards

Capital Reserve Funds	
Highway Equipment	\$80,000
Emergency Management	\$2,500
Police Cruiser	\$5,000
Bridge Fund	\$75,000
Re-evaluation 2024	\$10,000
Building Repairs	\$25,000
Highway Paving	\$50,000
Water - Short Lived Assets	\$20,000
Sewer - Short Lived Assets	\$20,000
Total Article 5.	\$287,500

Article 6: Ray Gorman made the motion, seconded by Sue Collins, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$34,300** for Assessing Services and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$6,000** from the **Digital Mapping Capital Reserve Fund** as offsetting revenue for a digitized mapping project. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards

Article 7: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$129,405** for Landfill Closure Expenses and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$50,000** from the Sanitary **Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund** as offsetting revenue against these expenses. After a brief discussion, the Moderator

called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards

Article 8: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$55,556** for the purpose of purchasing a Police Cruiser, **\$50,000** to come from Locality Equipment Purchase Program grant funds and the balance of **\$5,556** to come from taxation. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards

Article 9: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$591,495** for the **Colebrook Water Department and the Colebrook Sewer Facilities**. Said funds to be offset by user fees. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Water	\$277,420
Sewer	\$314,075

Article 10: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$76,200** for the purchase of a Water & Sewer Department Truck with funds to come from the Water & Sewer Truck Savings Account previously established for this purpose. No tax impacts. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards

Article 11: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Sue Collins, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$22,700** for the purpose of funding a GIS Data Collection mapping system for sewer and storm water infrastructure. Said funds to be offset by user fees. After brief discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 12: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** for the purpose of the purchase of a Portable Sewer Diesel Pump with funds to come from a Sewer Short-Lived Asset Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this type of purchase. No tax impacts. After brief discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 13: Ray Gorman made the motion, seconded by Sue Collins, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$214,180** for support of the **Colebrook Public Library**, **\$193,455** to be raised through taxation and **\$20,725** is to come from other library balance on hand January 1, 2022, 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. Bruce Katz and John Fothergill asked about fees for out-of-town residents. Head Librarian, Julie Colby, stated that fees & fines are collected. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 14: Ray Gorman made the motion, seconded by Sue Collins, 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. After brief discussion the Moderator called for a vote. The

motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 15: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$101,815** for the operation and maintenance of the **Colebrook Cemeteries**, the sum of **\$96,065** to be raised through taxation and **\$5,750** to be raised from burials, cemetery trust funds and other Colebrook Cemetery revenues. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 16: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** to be added to the Colebrook **Cemetery Grounds Maintenance and Reclamation Expendable Trust Fund**. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 17: Ray Gorman made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$346,700** for the **Northern Borders Dispatch Center**, with **\$171,745** to come from participating towns, and **\$174,955** to come from taxation. John Fothergill asked if Radio Dispatch paid rent. Ray Gorman stated rent is paid to the town. Hearing no other discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 18: Ray Gorman made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,000** for the purpose of funding **Northern Borders Dispatch Center** Trail Maintenance with **\$1,600** to come from participating towns and **\$400** to come from taxation. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 19: Ray Gorman made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$23,000** for the **Northern Borders Dispatch Center Capital Reserve Fund** to be used for future replacement of dispatch equipment with **\$18,400** to come from participating towns and **\$4,600** to come from taxation. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 20: Ray Gorman made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$82,535** for the **Northern Borders Dispatch Center** to complete the Cree Notch Communications Tower. Funding includes an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) of **\$35,000**, Coos County Unincorporated Places contribution of **\$17,000** and **\$30,535** from unassigned fund balance (this represents monies from the Northern Borders Savings Account). No funds will come from taxation. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmation show of voting cards.

Article 21: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$105,490** for **Stonegarden Police Department Equipment and Patrol**. This amount is to be reimbursed from Grant Revenues. No Tax Impact. Bruce Katz asked, "Do we have the personnel to cover this"? Sue Collins stated yes, and everything will be covered by the grant. Hearing no other discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 22: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Sue Collins, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,500** for the purpose of expending the funds for a **Used Oil Grant**. This amount is to be reimbursed from the State of NH. No tax impacts. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 23: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman, to accept the donation of a portion of a certain parcel of land currently owned by the Canaan Vt. School District located at 22 Bridge Street for the purpose of well field protection and enhanced parking adjacent to the town parking lot and Memorial lot. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 24: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Sue Collins, to accept, ratify and confirm the reports of the Agents, Selectmen, Auditors and all other Town Officers. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 25: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Sue Collins to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. The motion passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Greg Placy reported that this year there were no applications for the annual Citizen of the Year Award.

The Board of Selectmen would like to thank everyone that has been involved and worked on the "Front Lines" over the past year. Their service and dedication to our community is greatly appreciated.

There being no further discussion, Greg Placy moved to adjourn the meeting. Sue Collins seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Thompson
Colebrook Town Clerk