

Official Town Minutes
Colebrook, New Hampshire
March 14, 2023

Moderator, Nathan Lebel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised those attending 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.

Moderator, Nathan Lebel also asked for a motion to start the meeting with Article 7 while Articles 1-6 were still being counted from today's ballot voting. The results of Articles 1-6 will be available before the end of tonight's meeting. The motion was made by Julie Moran and seconded by Greg Marchand. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

The Moderator stated that if Town Meeting wants to allow non-residents to speak/discuss about an article a vote would be needed to allow this, but they would not be able to vote. Motion was made by Dr John Fothergill and seconded by Craig Hamelin. Hearing no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. The motion PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Selectman Raymond Gorman read the nomination letters and presented the Citizen of the Year award to Millard "Woody" Crawford.

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.

Selectman	Raymond Gorman
Town Clerk	Jolene Martunas
Town Treasurer	Alicia Boire
Trustee of Trust Funds	Rosemary Mulliken & Patrick Martunas
Cemetery Trustee	Julie Brunault, Terry Rosi & Eva Guy
Library Trustee	Eva Guy & Robin Maxwell
Town Planning Board	Robert Murphy

Article 2: The adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Colebrook Zoning Ordinance as follows: to make revisions throughout the Zoning Ordinance to update references to state laws and agencies; make minor editorial corrections; eliminate redundancy and conflicts; clarify language; add elements in accord with state laws and court decisions regarding accessory dwelling units, campgrounds, junkyards, road frontage, signs, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment; correct and clarify certain roles, responsibilities and procedures; and update certain language to conform with the current application of the Ordinance? The article PASSED.

Yes- 293 No-71

Article 3: The adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Colebrook Zoning Ordinance as follows: to amend Article IV to reduce the frontage requirement from 150 feet to 100 feet, remove the 150 x 150-foot minimum lot size requirement, and allow the Planning Board to approve reduced front setbacks in certain cases, and to amend Article V to remove the minimum lot size and density limits for cluster housing in the Precinct? The article PASSED.

Yes-194 No-171

Article 4: The adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Colebrook Zoning Ordinance as follows: to add Home Occupations to Article IV as a Permitted Use, with Site Plan Review required in specific instances, and to add a Definition for "Home Occupation" to Article III? The article PASSED.

Yes- 238 No- 110

Article 5: The adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Colebrook Zoning Ordinance as follows: to address the safety of dwellings in town by amending the definition of "Dwelling Unit" to state that recreational vehicles, tents and yurts may not be used as a principal place of residence, and that structures not designed for human habitation would have to be modified to meet the state building code; add definitions for "Recreational Vehicle," "Seasonal," and "Transient"; move "Camp and Cottage" to the definition for "Public Accommodation" and modify that definition; add the requirement for HUD code certification to the definition of "Manufactured Home" and to the Manufactured Home regulations in Article IV; and Amend Article IV to allow for seasonal occupancy of registered recreational vehicles and tiny homes on wheels if in compliance with applicable safety codes? The article PASSED.

Yes- 255 No- 102

Article 6: The adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Colebrook Zoning Ordinance as follows: to make required technical corrections and updates to the Floodplain Development Ordinance? The article PASSED.

Yes- 293 No- 68

Article 7: Sue Collins made the motion, seconded by Greg Placy, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,988,114** for **General Government**. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. At the conclusion of the discussion on Article 7, Greg Placy made a motion to amend the budget from **\$2,988,114** to **\$3,029,525** due to the increase in the 45th Parallel Ambulance line item, seconded by Sue Collins. Amendment PASSED. Discussion: Dr John Fothergill ask Chief Rella if the Police Officers of Colebrook carried Narcan on them. If not, Dr Fothergill would like to make a motion. Moderator Nathan Lebel stated that this motion can be made in Article 28. With no further discission on article 7, the Moderator called for a vote on Amended Article 7. Article 7 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Executive	\$116,300
Town Clerk, Voter Registration, Town Meeting, Elections	\$131,870
Financial Administration	\$372,400
Legal Expense	\$20,000
Planning & Zoning	\$35,810

General Government Buildings	\$98,500
Advertising and Regional Association	\$2,350
Police	\$749,197
Ambulance	\$271,311
Fire	\$15,550
Emergency Management	\$3,525
Highways	\$654,150
Street Lighting	\$28,000
Transfer Station & Recycling	\$202,375
Health Administration	\$30,110
Animal Boarding	\$250
Welfare Administration	\$8,500
Parks & Recreation	\$134,715
Patriotic Purposes	\$9,200
Economic Development	\$2,400
Conservation Commission	\$300
Bond Payment and Tax Anticipation Note Interest	\$142,712
Total Article 7.	\$3,029,525

Article 8: Ray Gorman made a motion, seconded by Sue Collins, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$275,000** 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. With no discussion the Moderator called for a vote. Article 8 passed with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Capital Reserve Funds	
Highway Equipment	\$80,000
Police Cruiser	\$5,000
Bridge Fund	\$75,000
Re-evaluation 2024	\$10,000
Building Repairs	\$15,000
Highway Paving	\$50,000
Water - Short Lived Assets	\$20,000
Sewer - Short Lived Assets	\$20,000
Total Article 8.	\$275,000

Article 9: Greg Placy made the motion, seconded by Ray Gorman to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$123,975** 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. Article 9 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 10: Sue Collins made a motion, seconded by Ray Gorman to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$47,000** for the **Town Hall Heating System Upgrade** and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$47,000** from the **Town Building Capital Reserve Fund** as offsetting revenue. Said appropriation will be non-lapsing until December 31, 2028 pursuant to NH RSA 32:7, VI. There was no discussion, Moderator called for a vote. Article 10 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 11: Sue Collins made a motion, seconded by Greg Placy to raise, and appropriate the sum of **\$6,200** for an **Energy Audit** of Town Hall. A grant from the NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) will reimburse **\$4,650** and **\$1,550** will be paid by taxation. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 11 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 12: Greg Placy made a motion, seconded by Ray Gorman to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$150,000** for the purpose of paving **Corliss Lane and High Street** and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$150,000** from the Road Paving Capital Reserve Fund previously established for paving. After a brief discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. Article 12 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 13: Ray Gorman made a motion, seconded by Sue Collins to raise, and appropriate the sum of **\$245,500** for the purpose of purchasing a **new replacement highway plow truck with accessories and warranty** and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$245,500** from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose. Said appropriation will be non-lapsing until December 31, 2028, pursuant to NH RSA 32:7, VI. After a brief discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. Article 13 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 14: Sue Collins made a motion, seconded by Ray Gorman to raise, and appropriate the sum of **\$612,800** for the **Colebrook Water Department and the Colebrook Sewer Facilities**. Said funds to be offset by user fees. Discussion: Kathy Samson asked if the town could shop around for better electric rates (BOS stated this is a good suggestion) Dr. Katz and David Hodge asked for updates on the 5 well sites and how the town will secure the well property (lease, buy-out etc.) Grey Placy stated more info is coming from DES. Dr. Fothergill asked to move slowly with APP, the town Lagoons are looking good. After no further discussion the Moderator called for a vote. Article 14 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Water	\$310,800
Sewer	\$302,000

Article 15: Ray Gorman made a motion, seconded by Greg Placy to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$26,000** for the purpose of funding a **GIS Data Collection Mapping System** for water system infrastructure (hydrants, gate valves, curb stops, meters and water mains). Said funds to be offset by user fees. Said appropriation will be non-lapsing until December 31, 2028, pursuant to NH RSA 32:7, VI. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 15 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 16: Greg Placy made a motion, seconded by Ray Gorman to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$222,485** for support of the **Colebrook Public Library**, **\$201,760** to be raised through taxation and **\$20,725** is to come from other library balance on hand January 1, 2023, 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. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 16 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 17: Ray Gorman made a motion, seconded by Sue Collins to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$115,265** for the operation and maintenance of the **Colebrook Cemeteries**, the sum of **\$89,515** to be raised through taxation and **\$20,750** to be paid from cemetery perpetual care trust funds and **\$5,000** from burials, cemetery trust funds and other Colebrook Cemetery revenues. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 17 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 18: Ray Gorman made a motion, seconded by Greg Placy to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$387,600** for the **Northern Borders Dispatch Center**, with **\$195,246** to come from participating towns, and **\$192,354** to come from taxation. After a brief discussion of the price per call and charges for false alarms the Moderator called for a vote. Article 18 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 19: Ray Gorman made a 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. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 19 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 20: Greg Placy made a motion, seconded by Sue Collins to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$125,600** for the purpose of funding a **Solar Panel Project** on the Highway Garage with **\$94,200 (75%)** to come from a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant and the balance of **\$31,400 (25%)** to come from taxation. After a brief discussion on the Solar Panel warranty, Sue said there is a 25-year warranty. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 20 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 21: Sue Collins made a motion, seconded by Ray Gorman to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100,000** for the purpose of funding a **Waste Water Treatment Plant Additional Upgrade Planning** Project. This amount is to be 100% reimbursed from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through the NH Department of Environmental Services. No Tax Impact. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 21 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 22: Sue Collins made a motion, seconded by Greg Placy to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$63,300** for a **Housing Opportunity Planning** grant. This amount is to be reimbursed from Grant Revenues. No Tax Impact. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 22 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 23: Sue Collins made a motion, seconded by Ray Gorman to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** for a **Solar Eclipse Planning & Implementation** grant. This amount is to be reimbursed from private grants and donations. No Tax Impact. After a brief discussion, the Solar Eclipse is to take place April 8, 2024. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 23 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 24: Ray Gorman made a motion, seconded by Sue Collins for the Town to **READOPT the ALL-VETERANS TAX CREDIT** in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on

residential property which shall be equal to the same amount as the standard or optional veterans tax credit voted by the town under RSA 72:28? There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 24 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 25: Ray Gorman made a motion, seconded by Greg Placy for the Town **READOPT the OPTIONAL VETERANS TAX CREDIT** in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$150? After a brief discussion. The Moderator called for a vote. Article 25 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 26: The Moderator read the petitioned article to see if the Town will vote to require all regular and special sessions of the Board of Selectmen meetings be video recorded and live-streamed on a platform that is accessible to the public. (By Petition). Moderator called for Petition motion, Dave Brooks made a motion, seconded by Deb Thompson. After a discussion, a motion to amend Article 26 was made by Pam Frizzell, seconded by David Hodge to table Article 26 till next year. To give BOS time to verify cost (tax impact) and if recording is allowed in the court room. After no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote to an Amended Article 26. The vote PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

Article 27: Sue Collins made a motion, seconded by Greg Placy to see if the Town will vote to accept, ratify and confirm the reports of the Agents, Selectmen, Auditors and all other Town Officers. There was no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. Article 27 PASSED with an affirmative show of voting cards.

The Moderator received the vote ballot counts. The results of Article 1 thru 6 were read to the audience. With a total of 400 ballots being counted.

Article 28: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Greg Placy reviewed the summary of the 2023 Town Budget with the result of an increase tax rate of .48 cents per \$1,000 (\$12.35).

BOS recognized and thanked Deb Thompson for her service as Town Clerk.

John Falconer and Craig Hamelin were recognized and thanked for their service as School Board Members.

Terry McKinnon spoke of a large amount of ATV traffic and disturbances on Hughes Road.

Dr John Fothergill made a motion, seconded by Christine Charman for the Colebrook police department to carry on their person Narcan. Narcan is currently secured in the police cruisers per Chief Rella. After long discussion (medical vs law enforcement, liability vs Good Samaritan Act, CPR vs Narcan, Officer safety and harm to a person if Narcan is administered and was not needed, accidental overdoses). The Moderator asked for Town Attorney, Jonathan Frizzell, input on the issue. After all discussion, the Moderator called for a vote on the motion. The motion FAILED with a show of voting cards.

Dave Brooks asked for a Straw Vote to see about meetings taking place on a Saturday with the School and Town together. The Moderator explained that this vote would not count, it was for informational purposes only. The Moderator called for a vote, there was a 50/50 result with the showing of voting cards.

There being no further discussion Moderator Nathan Lebel moved to adjourn the meeting. Ray Gorman seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra A. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Debra A. Thompson

Colebrook Town Clerk