

**Official Town Minutes**  
**Colebrook, New Hampshire**  
**March 12, 2024**

Moderator Nathan Lebel called meeting to order at 7:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. He advised those in attendance to check with the Supervisors of the Checklist to obtain a voting card.

The Moderator asked for a motion to skip over Articles 1-5 temporarily, because the votes were still being counted. Motion was made, seconded, voted on by hand cards and passed.

The Moderator asked for a motion to allow nonresidents to speak at the meeting, even though they could not vote. Motion was made, seconded, voted on by hand cards and approved.

Citizen of the Year was awarded to Brad Sheltry.

The Moderator read the town warrant.

**Article 6:** to see if the Town will vote to recognize April 8, 2024, as Total Solar Eclipse Day within the Town of Colebrook, was read. Motion by Sue Collins, seconded by Greg Placy. Sue Collins introduced Tim Stevens, who spoke to the motion, no questions were asked, and vote was taken by hand cards. Motion passed.

**Article 7:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,231,927 for General Government, was read. A motion was made by Sue Collins, seconded by Greg Placy. Sue Collins spoke to her motion. A question from the audience on why we don't use actual numbers for budget expenses since they are available instead of projected numbers from budget. Sue Collins answered it was a DRA reporting requirement, but the board can change this for future meetings. No further questions and vote taken by hand cards. Motion passed and Greg Placy called for restriction to article, seconded by Ray Gorman, motion to restrict voted on by hand cards and passed.

The Moderator read results of ballot articles 2 through 5:

**Article 2:** Amendment to amend Article III definitions by expanding the meaning of "Accessory Building or Use" to make the rental of one or two guestrooms in a home an allowed accessory use of any owner-occupied dwelling, and to expand the meaning of "Public Accommodations" to include the rental of rooms to those who may be staying in town for longer than a season such as boarding and rooming houses. This article passed with 241 votes for the article and 160 votes against.

**Article 3:** Amending Article III Definitions and Article IV Zoning Regulations to allow detached accessory dwellings such as may be in a guest cottage, barn, or garage, provided they are no more than 1,200 square feet with water, no more than 2 bedrooms and are designed to match the main house. This article passed with 252 votes for the article and 150 votes against.

**Article 3:** Amending Article III Definitions and Article IV Zoning Regulations to add Short-Term Rental as a permitted use of single-family dwellings on individual lots, and of one unit in a two-family dwelling or one unit in a single-family dwelling with an accessory dwelling unit: also including parking, health, and safety requirements. This article passed with 244 votes for the article and 153 against.

**Article 4:** Amending Article V. Cluster Housing Regulations and Article III Definitions to update and add language regarding several cluster housing requirements and to revise the density bonus to encourage construction of homes 1,200 square feet or smaller. This article passed with 221 votes for the article and 173 against.

**Article 8:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$267,500 for the Capital Reserve Funds which shall be funded by taxation, was read. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, seconded by Sue Collins. Ray Gorman spoke to his motion. A question from the audience regarding the bridge fund for Harvey Swell Road. Those projects are upcoming. No further questions. Motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 9:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$127,745 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, was read. A motion was made by Greg Placy, seconded by Ray Gorman. Greg Placy spoke to the motion. No questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 10:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$152,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new replacement highway plow truck with accessories and warranty and to authorize the withdrawal of \$152,000 from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose and to permit the Selectmen to dispose of the existing 2015 Terrastar truck by trade in allowance or by sale as deemed in the best interest of the Town was read. A motion was made by Greg Placy, seconded by Ray Gorman. Greg Placy spoke to the motion. No questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 11:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$71,000 for the purchase of a police cruiser and to authorize the withdrawal of \$71,000 from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund and to permit the Selectmen to dispose of the existing Chevrolet pickup by trade in allowance or by sale as deemed in the best interest of the Town, was read. A motion was made by Sue Collins, seconded by Greg Placy. Sue Collins spoke to the motion. A question from the audience regarding the specifics of the pickup truck, answered by Chief. No further questions, vote called for by hand cards and passed.

**Article 12:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 of the total re-evaluation of properties in the Town as required every five years by the Department of Revenue Administration and to authorize the withdrawal of \$55,000 from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund was read. A motion was made by Greg Placy, seconded by Ray Gorman. Greg Placy spoke to the motion. No questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 13:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 for repairs to Adrich Road caused by heavy rains during the summer of 2023 and to authorize the withdrawal of \$15,000 from the Disaster Management Capital Reserve Fund as

offsetting revenue against these expenses was read. A motion was made by Greg Placy, seconded by Ray Gorman. Greg Placy spoke to the motion. A question from the audience regarding why we don't start the project on Piper Hill Rd where the problem seems to start, answered by Greg Placy that Aldrich Rd was in worse shape and needed immediate repair. There was a question on if we were putting rock baskets back in again, answered that we aren't. No further questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 14:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$654,200 for the Colebrook Water Department and the Colebrook Sewer Facilities, funds to be offset by user fees, was read. Sue Collins motioned, and Greg Placy seconded. Sue Collins talked to motion. A question from the audience on the town well, answered that we were looking at two sites for new wells. One site has better quality water and better volume, but the second site is closer to existing lines. Greg Placy added that the town was seeking forgiveness on failed well loans. No further questions. Motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 15:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$223,385 for support of the Colebrook Public Library, \$202,660 to be raised through taxation and \$20,725 is to come from other library balance on hand January 1, 2024 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 and Article 16, to see if the Town will vote 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 Library Building Repairs and Replacement were read. A motion was made by Greg Placy, seconded by Ray Gorman. Greg Placy spoke to the motion on article 15. No questions, motion voted on and passed. Article 16 spoken to by Greg Placy. No questions, motion voted on by hand cards and motion passed.

**Article 17:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$102,790 for the operation and maintenance of the Colebrook Cemeteries, the sum of \$101,590 to be raised through taxation and \$1,200 from burials, cemetery trust funds and other Colebrook Cemetery revenues was read. A motion was made by Sue Collins, seconded by Ray Gorman. Sue Collins spoke to the motion. No questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 18:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the Town's anticipated allocation of the Northern Borders Alliance Program created by the State of NH as part of its 2024-2026 state budget, any and all funds expended will be received from the State of NH was read. A motion was made by Sue Collins, seconded by Greg Placy. Sue Collins spoke to the motion. A question from the audience regarding who was actually in charge of the border, answered that US Customs and Border Protection is in overall charge of the border and this motion is additional help for them. No further questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 19:** to see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to close the Northern Borders Dispatch Center Capital Reserve Funds and any and all interest accrued on said funds, with said funds to be placed in the Town's general fund was read. A motion was made by Sue Collins, seconded by Ray Gorman. Sue Collins spoke to the motion. No questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 20:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$437,725 for the Northern Borders Dispatch Center, with \$214,212 to come from participating towns, and \$223,513 to come from taxation was read. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, seconded by Greg Placy. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion. A question from the audience regarding where dispatch is actually located, answered that it is in Colebrook Town Hall. A question from the audience regarding were other insurance companies asked about prices on employee insurance and was answered that only one company gave a cost, and second company never returned calls, so we had to stick with first company and their 11% rate hike. No further questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 21:** to see if the Town will vote 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 was read. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, seconded by Sue Collins. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion. No questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 22:** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,000 for the Northern Borders Dispatch Center Equipment Savings Account to be used for future replacement of dispatch equipment with \$18,400 to come from participating towns and \$4,600 to come from taxation was read. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, seconded by Greg Placy. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion. Questions on do other towns vote on this issue, Sue Collins answered they do not because we have the biggest share of the burden. No questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 23:** to see if the Town will vote to discontinue completely Paul Gleason Road in its entirety as a town highway per RSA 231:43 was read. A motion was made by Greg Placy, seconded by Sue Collins. Greg Placy spoke to the motion. A question from the audience regarding why we maintain roads where only one resident lives on, answered that roads are state funded, and residents wouldn't appreciate the town giving up their roads. No further questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

**Article 24:** to see if the Town will vote to require all regular and special sessions of the board of Selectmen meetings video recorded and live streamed on a platform that is accessible to the public, was read. A motion was made by an audience member, unclear who seconded. Question was asked regarding wasn't this asked for last year, answered was that it was, and was investigated this year. The cost will be \$4200 per year plus \$3000 for installation of equipment. A question arose regarding the town's liability if internet service is down. The answer was unknown. An amendment was made regarding availability of internet and seconded to say meetings would be recorded and live streamed when possible. A question was asked regarding extending this to planning board meetings. The original amendment was voted on by hand card and passed. Motion made to extend this to planning board meetings and seconded. Greg Placy commented that we would need to check with vendor, but it will probably be another \$4200 per year to live stream the planning board meetings. There was no further discussion, amendment voted on by hand card and passed. The vote called for to vote on entire amended article. Vote too close for hand count. No voters asked to keep hands raised while The Moderator counted, yes voters asked to raise hands again. Moderator declared that the Article failed to pass.

**Article 25:** to see if the Town will vote to accept, ratify, and confirm the reports of the Agents, Selectmen, Auditors and all other Town Officers was read, motion made by Ray

Gorman and seconded by Sue Collins. Sue Collins talked to motion. Question asked regarding solar panels, Sue Collins said extra payment for electrical will go to other town electric bills. Greg Placy said other sites are being considered for solar panels, no further details at this time, it is just a feasibility question at this point. Tim Stevens added that at printing time, we only had two bills that were affected by the solar panels, and therefore not enough data to adjust the electric cost for town. No further questions, motion voted on by hand cards and passed.

The Moderator received and read the results of the rest of the election:

School election results are:

Moderator: Jonathan Frizzell with 95 votes

Clerk: Mary Jolles with 28 votes

Treasurer: Gaetane Boire with 355 votes

School Board 2 Year: David Brooks with 267 votes

School Board 3 Year: Cayenne Amy with 241 votes and Julie J. Brunault with 276 votes

Town election results are:

Moderator: Jonathan Frizzell with 31 votes

Selectman: Suzanne Collins with 335 votes

Supervisor of Checklist: Mike Ouellet with 332 votes

Cemetery Trustee: Daniel Lyons with 349 votes

Library Trustee: Catherine Drucker with 229 votes and Amy C. Patterson with 330 votes

Planning Board: Gregory A. Sipple with 302 votes and Michelle Strasburger with 242 votes

Trustee of Trust Funds: Pamela A. Bunnell with 369 votes

**Article 26:** any other business of the Town was read. A Question arose regarding more info should have been available for articles 1-5, Sue Collins answered that there were two meetings that were sparsely attended, and that per state law zoning changes needed to be on a ballot.

A question arose about changing the meeting to a Saturday instead of a Tuesday. Greg Placy said it could be done, but a vote last year was to keep it on Tuesday night.

Greg Placy thanked the town employees and volunteers. Sue Collins thanked the voters for approving the budget that the selectmen worked very hard on.

Tim Stevens made the motion for adjournment, seconded by the audience. Motion voted on by hand cards and passed, meeting ended at 8:51PM.