

Official Town Minutes
Colebrook, New Hampshire
March 10, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM by Moderator Mike Ouellet, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Citizen of the Year was awarded to Busy Bees member Nancy Call and read by Ray Gorman. Instead of the plaque, a \$250.00 donation was made to the Busy Bees.

Greg Placy explained the Town of Colebrook Annual Report, which includes information about all Articles.

The Town Warrant was read by the Moderator.

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, was skipped due to ongoing counting of the cast ballots.

The results of the vote once counting was complete are as follows:

Selectman, 3-year term – Ray Gorman (119 votes)

Treasurer, 3-year term – Alicia Boire (206 votes)

Town Clerk, 3-year term – Jolene Martunas (162 votes)

Supervisor of the Checklist, 6-year term – Brent Lyons (207 votes)

Trustee of the Trust Funds, 3-year term – John Falconer (144 votes)

Planning Board, 3-year term – Robert Murphy (190 votes)

Library Trustee, 3-year term – Eva Guy (170 votes) and Robin Maxwell (182 votes)

Library Trustee, 1 year term – Tanya Young (207 votes)

Cemetery Trustee, 3-year term – Julie Brunault (187 votes) and Terrence Rosi (178 votes)

School Board, 3-year terms – Rhonda Lyons (156 votes) and Mary Jolles (133 votes)

School Treasurer, 3-year term – Gaetane Boire (205 votes)

School Clerk, 3-year term – Alicia Boire (Write-in 6 votes)

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise an appropriate sum of \$3,662,464 for General Government. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. A motion was

made by Sue Collins, which was seconded by Ray Gorman. Sue Collins spoke to the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$247,500 for the Capital Reserve Funds. This appropriation shall be funded by taxation with the exception of water and sewer short-lived assets, which will be funded by user fees. A motion was made by Greg Placy, which was seconded by Sue Collins. Greg Placy spoke to the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$136,080 for Landfill Closure Expenses and authorize the withdrawal of \$50,000 from the Sanitary Landfill Closure Fund created for that purpose. The balance of \$86,080 is to come from general taxation. A motion was made by Greg Placy, which was seconded by Ray Gorman. Greg Placy spoke to the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$106,600 for the purpose of paving Monadnock Street and a portion of Titus Hill Road and authorize the withdrawal of \$106,600 from the Road Paving Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. No amount to come from general taxation. A motion was made by Greg Placy, which was seconded by Ray Gorman. Greg Placy spoke to the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$47,000 for the purchase of a Bobcat Loader and authorize the withdrawal of \$47,000 from the Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve established for that purpose. No amount to come from general taxation. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, which was seconded by Greg Placy. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion.

A citizen in the audience asked about the attachments that would be used with the new bobcat; whether there were new attachments or if the current/old ones would be used, and what condition the current/old attachments were in. Ray Gorman replied that everything needs to be upgraded but referred to Mr. Rossitto for more information. Mr. Rossitto explained that the plans were just for the bobcat; the current attachments will last until the money can be appropriated for the new broom and plow attachments. The citizen then asked why; if the sweeper is on its last legs, why was a new sweeper not included in the total. Mr. Rossitto replied that there was a mix-up in the paperwork, and only the paperwork for the bobcat got processed; it would be \$55,000-\$56,000 for the bobcat and new attachments. The citizen commented that for equipment being used every day, it would cost more in the long run if a new attachment was not bought. There were no other questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 5-year lease-purchase agreement with the amount of \$198,500 for the purpose of leasing a Backhoe Loader with extended warranty, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,800 for the first year's

payment for that purpose. Further, to authorize the withdrawal of \$14,600 from the Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve, \$14,600 from the Water Assets Capital Reserve, and \$14,600 from the Sewer Assets Capital Reserve, all previously established for that purpose. The lease agreement contains an escape clause. The purchase price is based on an equipment cost of \$228,500, less with a trade-in allowance of the \$30,000 for the Town's 2014 Volvo Backhoe. A motion was made by Sue Collins, which was seconded by Greg Placy. Sue Collins spoke to the motion.

A citizen in the audience asked if the equipment would belong to the town. Sue Collins replied that at the end of the five years, the equipment would be the property of the town.

Mr. Haynes asked what is currently in the Heavy Equipment Reserve Fund. Ms. Collins replied that the information is in the town report, on page fifty-five. There is currently \$294,272.44 in that fund. Mr. Haynes referenced Article 7, where \$47,000 is going to be withdrawn from the fund. Ms. Collins explained that, while that article does include removal of funds from the Heavy Equipment Reserve Fund, the Capital Reserve Fund in Article 3 will bring money into the aforementioned fund this year. Mr. Haynes clarified that the heavy equipment is listed under the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund in Article 3. Ms. Collins replied yes. There were no other questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the purchase of an upgraded SCADA (Supervision Control and Data Application) system for the Colebrook Water and Sewer Departments, and authorize the withdrawal of \$20,000 from the Water Assets Capital Reserve and \$20,000 from the Sewer Assets Capital Reserve established for that purpose. No amount to come from general taxation. A motion was made by Greg Placy, which was seconded by Ray Gorman. Greg Placy spoke to the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$644,490 for the Colebrook Water Department and the Colebrook Sewer Facilities. Said funds to be offset by user fees. A motion was made by Sue Collins, which was seconded by Ray Gorman. Sue Collins spoke to the motion.

A citizen in the audience asked if there was any update on the building that was lost. Sue Collins stated that the building is being covered by insurance and engineers are in the process of finding a new building. She clarified that the new building should not cost the taxpayers or users any money, as long as it uses the same footprint as the building lost. If the building is going to be any larger, the business needs to show that it is meeting certain state regulations. There was a \$1000 deductible that has been used up, and there should be incoming reimbursements by the insurance company for all costs of the temporary disinfection system.

Mr. Cole asked for clarification on the quarterly fee, whether it was \$90.00 or \$75.00. Ms. Collins replied that it is \$90.00 for sewer, \$75.00 for water.

Mr. Haynes explained that this past year there were several breaks or similar, which resulted in water being shut off in the town. He asked if these are going to be ongoing problems, or if they have been corrected. His concern is for businesses such as IGA, where bathrooms were closed two-three times this past year because there was no water, which was inconvenient for the senior citizen day on Wednesdays. Tim Stevens replied that unfortunately, while a large portion of the old mains have been replaced, as time goes on, there will be leaks. It is something every town and municipal system deals with and has no control over; sometimes there are three leaks in a year and some years there are no leaks. Some new hydrants are being installed as well. Mr. Stevens continued explaining that the lines that recently froze were extremely old pipes, and, once the leak was found, the pipes were replaced and wrapped in insulation, so the risk of freezing was lowered. The past two years have been harder deep freezes than we have experienced in quite some time, so lines that were buried at a safe depth in previous years weren't safe this year. There were no more questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$231,715 for the support of the Colebrook Public Library, \$209,220 to be raised through taxation and \$22,495 is to come from other library balance on hand January 1, 2026, 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. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, which was seconded by Sue Collins. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the previously established Colebrook Public Library Capital Improvement Fund. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, which was seconded by Greg Placy. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$97,400 for the purchase and installation of a new elevator for the Colebrook Public Library and authorize the withdrawal of \$25,000 from the Colebrook Public Library Capital Improvement Fund established for that purpose, with \$15,000 to come from grant funding, and \$57,400 to come from general taxation. The selectmen recommended not to pass this article without amendments. Sue Collins explained the proposed amendments, and the moderator reads the proposed amended article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$97,400 for the modernizing of the existing elevator for the Colebrook Public Library, and authorize the withdrawal of \$44,700 from the Colebrook Public Library Building Repairs and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund established for that purpose, with \$15,000 to come from grant funding, and a balance of \$37,700 to come from general taxation. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, which was seconded by Greg Placy. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion.

David Hodge asked how much money will remain in the Capital Reserve Fund of the Library if the amended amount is taken out. Greg Placy responded that there is currently \$56,700 in the account, and adding in the \$5,000 from Article 11, equals \$61,700 (to subtract the \$44,700 from). The library trustees are comfortable with the remaining amount of \$17,000.

A citizen in the audience asked what modernizing the elevator entails for the cost of \$97,400, and how often it is used. Greg Placy requested Rob Maxwell, a library trustee, to speak. Rob Maxwell first clarified that the original calculations were due to the assumption that they had \$50,000 in the fund, when they had almost \$57,000, which allows them to withdraw more from the account. The remaining funds can be put toward addressing the window replacement in the coming year. Mr. Maxwell then explained that the Pine State Elevator Company had given an itemized list of what needs to be done to bring the thirty-six-year-old elevator mechanically up to date. Four different mandates from the state of New Hampshire and two mandates to stay American Disability Act compliant must also be met to reduce the chance of civil litigation.

Another citizen in the audience asked for clarification, that as a library trustee, Rob Maxwell is in support of the amendment. Mr. Maxwell clarified that the library trustees had proposed the amendment during the meeting with the selectmen one week prior.

Mr. Hodge then asked another question regarding the possibility of removing the elevator to save costs. Mr. Maxwell explained there are three elevators in Colebrook public buildings: town hall, the school, and the library. While the library elevator is likely the least used of the three, it only takes one person unable to reach a button or unable to call for help if stuck between floors to result in a court appearance. Mr. Hodge then explained his concerns over re-occurring costs, for instance, the repetitive costs of \$20,000 for elevator repairs at the Tillotson Center. With almost \$100,000 to upgrade the elevator, he asked if there was a way that would work with the building design, that could exclude the need to have an elevator. Mr. Maxwell explained that the elevator services the basement, first floor, and second floor, of which the library makes use of the first floor and basement. He also explained the agreement between the library and the Masons (who use the second floor), in which a large portion of the cost of the addition thirty-six years ago was paid by the Masons, and any needed maintenance was left to the library. If anyone needs to travel between the floors and they are in a wheelchair, it wouldn't be possible without the elevator. Mr. Maxwell referenced the amended taxation price of \$33,700. Mr. Hodge clarified his previous question, referencing the ongoing maintenance of a completed road to explain his concern for future repetitive costs. Mr. Maxwell explained that there is not a way to solve that problem that he is currently aware of. Sue Collins explained that this is the first time the library has come to the town for funds for repairs/modernization, and they (the library) did receive the \$15,000 grant to assist with the cost. The Colebrook librarian, Julie Colby explained that she has investigated doing the maintenance piecemeal (completing the tasks in sections rather than all at once), but it would cost more money in total; every time something gets done, the elevator would need to be inspected again. Mr. Hodge expressed his thanks for the explanation. Mr. Placy expressed his

thanks to Rob Maxwell for answering questions. There were no other questions, and the motion to amend the article was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$97,160 for the operation and maintenance of the Colebrook Cemeteries, the sum of \$89,660 to be raised through taxation, and \$7,500 from burials, cemetery trust funds, and other Colebrook Cemetery revenues. A motion was made by Sue Collins, which was seconded by Greg Placy. Sue Collins spoke to the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$505,900 for the Northern Borders Dispatch Center, with \$262,666 to come from other participating towns, and \$243,234 to come from taxation. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, which was seconded by Sue Collins. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion.

Maura Chappelle asked Ray Gorman to repeat the information about which number was called and which number should be called. Mr. Gorman explained that previously, dispatch was called, but it costs the town over \$40.00 per call, so magnets and cards were made so people could directly call the police department.

David Thorpes asked why the budgeted \$484,000 of last year was so different from the actual cost of \$1,122,000. Sue Collins explained the state had put over a million dollars into the Colebrook checking account at the last minute, around Dec.30th, 2024, for upgrades to dispatch equipment, of which over half was used up already. So, the expense was recorded, but the revenue of 1.1 million was also received. Ray Gorman expressed that while these situations happen fast, the money received was a big help to the town with the upgrades to dispatch. There were no other questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the Northern Borders Dispatch Center Equipment Fund to be used for future replacement of dispatch equipment with \$8,000 to come from other participating towns, and \$2,000 to come from general taxation. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, which was seconded by Sue Collins. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$186,250 for the Northern Borders Dispatch Hall Stream Tower with \$150,000 to come from a State of NH grant and \$36,250 from the Northern Borders Communications Equipment Grant account. No amount to come from general taxation. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, which was seconded by Sue Collins. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion.

A citizen in the audience asked about the location of the tower and the use to those in that area. Ray Gorman explained that through FCC (Federal Communications Commission) we work with the Canadians, and the amount of power that can be used from the tower is limited, so that the providence of Quebec is not affected. There is a process of putting a repeater on another tower

and getting a license between the two countries to increase cooperation and communication. Currently there are four counties in Canada that we dispatch fire and other support to.

The citizen then asked about the potential of revenue in the future from their use of our tower. Mr. Gorman replied that he doubts it, because they are not charging us, but everybody who has a repeater on a tower has a different agreement. The citizen asked for clarification on whether there is potential revenue for other people or companies. Mr. Gorman explained that if there is any revenue, it would not be for the town, as the town does not own the tower, only the repeaters that are put on it. He expanded on the process of putting repeaters on towers: some towers are privately owned, and a fee is paid to put a repeater on it. There were no other questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for a SEARCH (Special Evaluation, Assistance for Rural Communities and Households) Grant from USDA Rural Development and expend the grant funds for the purpose of completing a USDA Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) on the Town's drinking water supply system. This amount will be reimbursed from grant revenues. A motion was made by Greg Placy, which was seconded by Sue Collins. Greg Placy spoke to the motion.

David Hodge asked a question about the water systems and wells, and what has changed. Greg Placy explained that for the water system, the north end was shut off, whereas for wells, there are plans to develop a neutral well for drinking water, perhaps two years out. Testing has been done but development of the well would take another loan or grant to fund. The citizen then asked about the volume of the well: if one of the wells goes bad, would this new one be able to maintain the need as well as the current town well. Mr. Placy replied that currently, there are two wells in one location, and that yes, the new well would be sufficient to cover the use if those wells got contaminated. There were no other questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 18: To see if the Town will modify the elderly property tax exemption under RSA 72:39-a. If approved, the article shall take effect April 01, 2026, for the 2026 tax year. A motion was made by Ray Gorman, which was seconded by Sue Collins. Ray Gorman spoke to the motion.

Mr. Hodge asked about the evaluation of property to be less than \$60,000; specifying his concern over whether anyone would have property with a house and a piece of land for under the amount. Ray Gorman clarified that the numbers given are equal to what was used in the past, and the article is for net assets not in excess of \$60,900, excluding the value of the residence. Mr. Hodge clarified that it is just the land, not the house as well. Mr. Hodge commented that he agrees with the idea but is not sure whether it is enough. A citizen in the audience agreed with Mr. Hodge. The citizen expressed his concern that the recent tax bill came at a bad time for the elderly and that not enough is done to support them. There were no other questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to modify the provisions of RSA 72:35 for an optional tax credit of \$850.00 for a Service-Connected Total Disability on residential property. A motion was made by Sue Collins, which was seconded by Greg Placy. The Town Manager, Tim Stevens, spoke to the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to accept, ratify, and confirm the reports of the Agents, Selectmen, Auditors, and all other Town Officers. A motion was made by Greg Placy, which was seconded by Sue Collins. Greg Placy spoke to the motion.

Mr. Haynes commented that for the articles that were voted on, finding the corresponding information required flipping back and forth in the annual report. He explained that the annual report being released a week prior to the election did not give much time to read and review. There were no other questions, and the motion was voted on by hand cards and PASSED.

The moderator explained that the counters are still diligently reviewing the ballots, so for those who would not like to wait, the results should be posted tomorrow.

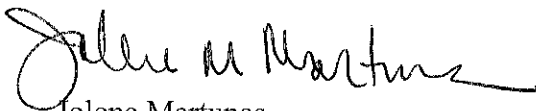
Article 21: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. A motion was made by Greg Placy, which was seconded by Sue Collins. Greg Placy spoke to the motion.

A citizen in the audience asked about the construction on Main Street, and the time of completion for the project. Greg Placy responded that the construction should likely be completed in Fall of 2027. The citizen then asked about Moose Festival, which makes use of Main Street. Mr. Placy replied that it is written in the contract that the roads need to be sufficient for Moose Festival.

The motion to adjourn was made by Greg Placy, seconded by Ray Gorman and Colebrook Citizens. The meeting ended at 8:34PM.

These minutes herein were prepared by Jessica C. Lopes, Deputy Town Clerk, on the 24th of March 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jolene Martunas
Town Clerk