

Colebrook Select Board
Selectmen Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2026

Selectboard Members: Greg Placy and Ray Gorman

Staff: Tim Stevens & Heidi Lawton

Absent: Sue Collins

Members of the Public: Taylor Roy from North Country Council, Teri Ladd-Haynes, Richard Cole, Jeff Dobson, Maura Chappelle, and Tony Watson.

Meeting Start Time: 5:00pm

Roll Call & Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing for Colebrook Homeowner's CO-OP Water, Sewer, & Electric Infrastructure Project:

-Greg officially opened the public hearing at 5:00pm and advised everyone that the CO-OP is located at 7 Fourth Street in Colebrook, NH.

-Taylor Roy from North Country Council introduced herself and explained that North Country Council is currently administering the grant that the Homeowner's received for water, sewer, and electric. Taylor had handouts for the public and explained the grant and that she was here to give an update to the public on how the project was going.

-Teri Ladd-Haynes had a question for Taylor, Teri asked, "are they going to improve and fix any properties along Edwards Street, they ruined my back yard, and I can't even mow my lawn now." Teri advised, "there are giant boulders on my lawn, and they ripped out my rock wall."

-Tim explained to Teri about why her property looked that way and explained that that will be completed before the project is done. Tim took down Teri's address at 45 Edwards Street and will make sure they get everything fixed. Tim explained that there will be an inspection as part of the project completion and they will not get paid if they have not fixed what they are supposed to.

No other comments

-Greg closed the hearing at 5:08pm. Taylor Roy left the meeting.

Public Hearing for the Colebrook Water Rates:

-Greg officially opened the public hearing at 5:09pm for the Water Rates.

-Richard Cole asked, "how much is it going up now?"

-Greg advised that the town is \$5,000.00 in the hole for water rates, so the rates need to go up, but the board also knows that they are about to begin the use of the bond for the water wells, and with that need, is the need for additional money to pay for it. Tim advised that it would be a \$15.00 increase to match the sewer rate. Greg said they would both be at \$90.00, because sewer is efficient right now.

-Tony Watson asked, so that is to raise \$5,000.00.

-Greg said, "no that is the water and sewer rates, so that is only paid by those that are in the water and sewer district."

-Richard Cole: I think he missed the first part where you were saying "the bonds payments were coming up." He heard the \$5,000.00 and thought it was an additional cost.

-Greg said, "the \$5,000.00 has to be covered and then whatever the additional cost of the bond is, we think that the \$15.00 increase for each property owner, will take care of the bond."

-Tony Watson: "What are you trying to raise for the bond, you said you were trying to raise \$5,000.00 to make up for the shortfall of the bond."

-Greg: That is not what I said, I said we have a \$5,000.00 shortfall this year, we are raising the rates to cover the cost of the bond, that we are about...

-Tony Watson: (Could not decipher) what you are trying to raise is the \$5,000.00 from last year and how much are you trying to raise for the bond?

-Tim: That is going to be dependent on how much work gets done, and how much we need. We got a half loan/half grant from the Groundwater Trust Fund, as they are currently working on the wells, we currently have to put new wells in per NHDES, so we are in the process now of examining different well sites. From the old wells. We received a settlement for \$550,000.00 for the North Wells, so we have been living off of that. We are now at the point where that has been expended, so we are having to dig into the amount that we have been authorized for the loan and grant from the wells, but we won't know that amount until...

-Tony Watson: So, we don't know what it is that we are going to have to spend?

-Greg & Tim: No, because we don't know where the well is. We are still in the examination process, we need to get approval from NHDES for a site, if they don't approve that, then we have a much more expensive site that we are going to have to move to.

-Tony Watson: You don't have an estimate on rates or anything?

-Greg, no, not at this point.

-Richard Cole: So, you are looking to have a cushion for when you actually need to start paying.

-Greg: Yes, which will be probably a year after we get done, not sure.

-Richard Cole: Is any part of that to include the 13 Academy Street location?

Greg: I don't know what you mean.

Richard Cole: If they (referring to Coos County Nursing Hospital) move down here, will we need to have additional water for that facility?

-Greg: No, we have plenty of water, they will help to pay the bill. We don't have a lack of water at all.

-Tony Watson: I am not sure I understand what you are saying, we have plenty of water, but we are not sure what it is going to cost to dig another well.

-Greg: That is right, because we have our existing two wells that are totally sufficient for the Town of Colebrook, with the exception that they are not in a clear zone. We are required by NHDES to find a new location for wells that are in a clear zone. We are looking at more than one site, so we don't know what it is going to cost to connect, until we know which site we are going with.

-Maura Chappelle: Just to clarify, I wasn't interested in the water part, but now I am. So, from my understanding the wells, that was based on Colebrook, the people and the existing things. So, if the Nursing Home does move here, I don't understand, you say it doesn't affect us at all, but in Stewartstown it uses 45% of the water in that precinct. So, does it matter here the amount of water they use here?

-Greg, we can totally take care of whatever they need.

-Maura Chappelle: Good answer

-Richard Cole: But Stewartstown is not part of our water system at all, correct?

-Greg: They are a very small water system, therefore, the amount that the County Home uses is a huge portion of their water bills.

-Richard Cole: If the impact is in Stewartstown, the County who is down here will not have anything to do with the system impacted up there.

-Greg: correct, so obviously it is an impact to Stewartstown, but it has nothing to do with us.

-Richard Cole: What I was asking about is if you add a hundred new residents plus the facilities involved with it, it will take a draw on Colebrook's water and there is an impact to that.

-Greg: No

-Richard Cole: Right, but we were talking about two different things.

-Richard Cole: when is this going to be effective?

-Greg: We have to vote on it and decide when it is going to start, my guess is probably the third quarter, which is July-September, we will be paying the new rate. The bill that comes out in October will have a new rate in it.

-Richard Cole: Are you changing the usage price?

-Greg: No

-Tim: Just the base rate is going to change.

Greg closed the Water Rates Public Hearing at 5:17pm.

Regular Selectmen's Meeting continued at 5:18pm

Hearing of the Public:

- a. Dickie Hicks: Did not show up.
- b. Bob Baker: Bob said that Primex, which is the Town of Colebrook's insurance company, policy provides that it covers people engaged in town business. But with the town's arrangement with ICE, the town is allowing ICE to train and incorporate your police, who are properly trained and certified, into enforcement of federal law, immigration, civil, and criminal law. It states very clearly that those activities are supervised by ICE, that they are in charge when immigration work is being done with the federal government. Bob feels, as a past lawyer, (but not serving in that capacity now) that the town should get a written statement from Primex, that the policy covers the activities of our police force when they are doing that type of work, and that the Town of Colebrook doesn't need additional insurance protection beyond the liability policy that is already in place.

Tim: advised that he talked to Primex and there is nothing else the town needs besides what is already in place. The minute they step into the role of working with ICE, it doesn't fall under the town anymore, it will fall under the federal government, with them working as federal agents.

Bob Baker: This is the first time I have heard that explanation from Primex, and it is good that you have gotten it. My first question is, do you have that in writing or was it just a telephone call?

Tim: This was the claim individual talking to me saying they have done the research, and the town doesn't need anything further.

Bob Baker: I have no doubt that you are telling me what you heard, and that he said it to you.

Greg: And it is up to this town to make the decision on our own, to decide if we want it in writing or not.

Bob Baker: Absolutely, absolutely, I don't mean to stand here and tell the Selectboard of a neighboring town, (as you know I am from Columbia) what to do, I am only here to give you my thoughts as a neighbor, as to what would be helpful to the town, it has already been helpful because if you are looking to federal law, your agreements with ICE, then there is

another issue, if they are the ones that are going to protect the town police and town officials, and this is an environment where you folks have no right under state law to play any role in telling the police what to do. That has been a bigger problem for the towns in many other respects in the state too. You are being told that you can't act in certain respects, there is going to cost you money and the town taxpayers. I don't want that to happen to a neighboring town, I love this town, and I rely on this town, and I don't want to see the town hurt. I gave you a handout at the last meeting, explaining that federal law doesn't protect you. Your agreement explains that federal law "may apply" it also says that ICE has no responsibility to make you whole. So, you are on your own in some respects. I just want you to be prepared. I have come with a draft letter to Primex, to get it in writing what they told the town manager.

Greg: We are good, thank you.

Jeff Dobson: It has been a while; I am just checking in about the four-wheeler incidences. Have you looked into it, last time I was here you said you would look into it and I haven't heard anything.

Greg: So, they should be turning where they are supposed to turn and going behind your property and over around by IGA.

Jeff Dobson: So, if they don't, I still have to put up with it? Why don't they just change the trail period.

Greg: There should be very few, if any ATV's going by your house.

Jeff Dobson: There should have been very few last year, but it is not working.

Greg: Well then, the town police need to patrol Hughes Road more.

Jeff Dobson: I have done like you guys told me and called the cops, but I waited 45 minutes until someone showed up. I can't make people stay there until the cops come, that is not working.

Greg: I don't know what else we can do Jeff.

Jeff Dobson: Well, I mentioned something, why can't you guys paint on the road with an arrow on where to turn, I think that is the simplest fix.

Tim: I believe there are certain signs that can and cannot be put on public roads and they have to be NHTSA approved. Like a stop sign, we can't just make a stop sign, it is different

than what a required stop sign and put it up somewhere, it has to follow a certain direction and certain things. You can't just paint things on the road.

Jeff Dobson: I understand, is there any way that I can get you guys to help me pay for cones or reflectors, it is going to keep happening.

Greg: No

Jeff Dobson: They go up to Deer Run Road and turn around all the time. The cones don't stop them, I guess I am asking what you recommend I do.

Greg: I don't know, I certainly don't know what the number is that goes by a day, but I don't expect it is very high.

Maura Chappelle: Where is this catastrophe?

Jeff Dobson: Hughes Road

Maura Chappelle: The town needs to check the number on the Facebook page for Colebrook PD, it is the 237-4487 number. Why did the Corporal put the 603-237-4487 number out to the public for the Beaver Brook Incident?

Tim: They put that number out so people could call in with any tips and dispatch would record it under that particular incident. But we encourage people to use the 603-388-2120 number for regular police business.

Regular Agenda:

- a. Review and approval of minutes from 4/1/26 (tabled to next meeting).
- b. Review and Sign Payroll Disbursements Manifests
- c. Town Manager's Report:

-Tim asked the Selectboard if they would give him permission to ask the Fire Marshal to do the inspection of the Pinnacle School. Ray made a motion to authorize Tim to ask the Fire Marshal to do the inspection at the Pinnacle School, Greg seconded the motion, motion passed.

-Tim asked the Selectboard if they would give him permission to forward to DES on contingency of their approval, the bid for the Wastewater Treatment Project. The only bid that came in was from Kingsbury.

-Ray: Can they do change orders?

-Tim: Yes, they can.

-Ray: made a motion to authorize Tim Stevens to forward to NHDES on the contingency of their approval, the bid that came in, Greg seconded the motion, motion approved.

-Tony Watson: shouldn't the Selectmen look at things before they approve them?

-Harvey Swell Bids: The bid was awarded to Corrigan, Tim will let the school know if it is going to affect the bus route.

-Yeti Yard Man: Tim advised the board that he contacted Jason Rella of Yeti Yard Man, and he is going to pressure wash the Town Office mid to late June.

-Reimbursements that have come in or are being worked on:

-TAP Project: \$133,688.61 we will be getting back, Melanie working with Jason.

-Water Well: \$138,209.66 (received)

-Stonegarden: \$14,017.92 (received)

-Sludge Removal: \$30,917.00 (waiting to receive)

-Harvey Swell: \$428,999.00 Melanie working on it.

-Northern Borders: \$14,462.00 (sent in, waiting to hear back)

-Bear Rock: \$38,966.74 (received)

Tim: asked the board for authorization for Eversource to move poles. Eversource has old poles to take out and replace with new poles on Abenaki Lane, Route 26, and Hazen Road (2). Ray made a motion to authorize Tim to allow Eversource to remove and add poles, Greg seconded the motion, motion passed.

Richard Cole: Why are they putting new poles between Colby Street and Bridge Street? There is a new pole at the start of Bridge Street and in front of Creative Natives. Tim will find out.

New Business:

- A. Bear Rock Bridge Capital Reserve Withdrawal: Already discussed
- B. Harvey Swell Construction Bids (If back from NHDOT): Already discussed.
- C. Water & Sewer Departments-Status of Correcting Badger Monthly Billing: the water and sewer department need to find out the correct amount of meters. Badger has given us a credit, Melanie said.

Old Business:

- A. Reservoir Road: No change
- B. Aldrich Road Update: Waiting for State
- C. Water Wells:
- D. Follow-Up to Congresswoman Goodlander on North Wells: No update

E. Status of Tax Deeding: Melanie working on 65 Colby Street.

Non-Public Session Under RSA: 91-A:3 II (i):

Tabled/Pending Items:

- a. North Country Community Rec Center Abatement Status: signed abatement
- b. Dagesse Family Trust Abatement: signed
- c. Veteran's Tax Credit Gregory & Linda Lewis: Tabled for more information.
- d. Michelle Hyde abatement request from NHdra: signed
- e. Gaston & Sandra Riendeau abatement request from DRA: denied
- f. Richard Beaulieu abatement request from DRA:
- g. Elderly Exemptions: Gregory & Linda Lewis: signed
Bruce Winthrop: signed
Ginette Pariseau: signed
Eva Guy: denied

For Approval and Signature

- a. Abatement Requests from DRA:
 - 1. Richard & Brian Werhle: approved
 - 2. William & Theresa Richardson: approved
 - 3. 55 Windswept Lane, LLC: approved
 - 4. Sherry Washburn: approved
 - 5. David & Lisa Brooks: approved
 - 6. John & Linda White: approved
 - 7. Lambert-Howe Trust: approved
 - 8. Bigney Revokable Trust: approved
 - 9. John & Ginny Chandoha (2): approved
 - 10. Jeffrey & Robin Ricardo: approved
 - 11. Audra & Mark Porter (2): approved

- b. Land Use Change Tax: Debra Lavoie: approved
Russell Thompson: approved
- c. Abatement Requests from DRA with No Recommendations:
 - Michael Harding: Tabled to next meeting.
 - Michelle Desrochers/Adam Mules: Tabled to next meeting.
 - Christa Howe-Lambert & Savannah Howe: Tabled to next meeting.
- d. Property Tax Abatement: George Mandell: approved
- e. Elderly Exemptions: Russell Thompson: approved
Dennis & Pauline Inkell: approved
- f. Cemetery Lots: Helena Beaton: approved
Warren Cameron: approved
- g. Oath of Office for Jessica Lopes, Deputy Town Clerk: signed
- h. Sewer Abatements: Russell Depetrillo-approved
Guy Hurlbert-approved
Neal Gadwah-approved
- i. Water Abatements: Russell Depetrillo-approved
Guy Hurlbert-approved
Neal Gadwah-approved
- j. Excavation Tax: Michel Rodrigue-approved
Sheldon Gray-approved
Marc Nugent-approved
- k. Intent to Excavate: Sheldon Gray-approved
- l. Veteran's Tax Credit: Anthony Lebel-sent back for more information.
Janet Bunnell-approved
Matthew Maciel-approved
- m. ATV Permit: Bryan Griffin-approved
- n. Sewer Warrant: \$78,295.35- approved
- o. Water Warrant: \$70,939.20-approved

p. Charitable Exemptions:

- St. Stephens Church: signed
 - AHEAD: signed
 - Monadnock Congregational Church: signed
 - North Country Community Rec Center: signed
 - Tillotson Center: signed
 - Tri-County CAP: signed
 - UCVH 181 Corliss Lane: signed
 - UCVH 141 Corliss Lane: signed
 - UCVH 129 Corliss Lane: signed
 - St. Brendan's Church: signed
 - St. Brendan's Cemetery: signed
 - 45th Parallel: signed
 - North Country Missions: signed
 - Community Baptist Church: signed
 - Jehovah Witness Church: signed
 - Methodist Church: signed
 - Mohawk Grange: signed
 - Monadnock Congregational Church: signed
- The American Legion-not signed due to the fact that a % needs to be broken out.
-Helping Hands-not signed due to the fact that a % needs to be broken out.
-Canaan School-tabled to next meeting.

The board would like Heidi to ask Dottie about abatement forms to go with the grant and deny paperwork from NHDRA for the Selectmen to sign.

Hearing of the Public and Any Other Business:

Determine Date for Next Meeting: Selectmen's Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 5:00pm.

Adjourned: Ray made a motion to adjourn, Greg seconded the motion, motion passed to adjourn meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Lawton

Heidi Lawton, Administrative Assistant, Town of Colebrook