

# 2019 Town Meeting Minutes

To the voters of the Town of Lempster, in the County of Sullivan, in said State qualified to vote in Town affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Lempster Community School in said Lempster on Tuesday, the 12th day of March, 2019 at three thirty (3:30 P.M.) in the afternoon to open the polls for the voting of candidates, and at seven o'clock (7:00 P.M.) in the evening for the discussion of the articles of the warrant.

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

Moderator Shklar opened the polls at 3:30pm. Moderator Shklar closed the polls at 7:34 pm.

The following were elected: Mary Grenier, Selectman; Mary Fellows, Treasurer; James Grenier, Auditor; David Richards, Planning Board; Cheryl McGinnis, Cemetery Trustee; Barbara Parker, Trustee of Trust Funds; James Beard, Library Trustee; Patricia McCabe, Supervisor of the Checklist.

Lempster's Town Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Moderator Michael Shklar. Moderator started the meeting with a salute to the Flag followed by asking the Town and Election officials to stand and introduce themselves.

**ARTICLE 2:** To receive all reports and act thereon.

Motion by Phil Tirrell, seconded by Mary Grenier. Article two passed by show of hands.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$206,870.00 (gross budget) for the purchase of a Highway Truck with plow equipment (CIP 056), and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$156,870.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The balance of up to \$50,000.00 will come from the Highway Department Equipment C/R (CIP 026). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (2/3 ballot vote required)

Motion by Everett Thurber, seconded by Phil Tirrell.

Selectman Phil Tirrell talked about the money that is in the Capital Reserve currently. He responded to the questions; age of the current truck (96), buying new or used (new or unused), is it currently in use (yes), and why are we not taking more from the Capital Reserve (other equipment that may need funds). Mr. Fairweather pointed out that with the amount we are putting in each year would not cover the replacement every 15 years.

Moderator Shklar opened the polls for Article 3 at 7:25 pm and closed at 8:33 pm

Yes Votes: 47      No Votes: 19      Article three passed.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,269,758.00 for the purpose of General Municipal Operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Executive	\$ 88,420.00
Election and Registration	64,730.00
Financial Administration	14,720.00
Appraisal of Property	26,000.00
Legal Expenses	20,000.00
Personnel Administration	177,250.00
Planning Board	15,000.00
General Government Buildings	16,000.00
Cemeteries	8,500.00
Insurance Property & Liability-all Depts.	16,808.00
Contingency	20,000.00
Police Budget	55,400.00
Ambulance Service	12,000.00
Rescue Squad	17,952.00

Fire Department	58,452.00
Forest Fire	6,650.00
Building Inspection	2,300.00
Emergency Management	1,250.00
Highway Department	347,470.00
Street Lights	980.00
Solid Waste	88,725.00
Health Officer/ Supplies	2,100.00
Animal Control	3,000.00
Health Agencies	7,827.00
Direct Assistance	7,000.00
Parks and Recreation	2,500.00
Library	19,000.00
Patriotic Purposes	500.00
Conservation Commission	5,100.00
Bonds and Notes Principal	141,667.00
Bonds and Notes Interest	22,457.00

Motion by Mary Grenier, seconded by Phil Tirrell.

Selectman Mary Grenier asked the voters to keep in mind that this is what keeps our community running. Article four passed by show of hands

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to be added to the Emergency Communication and Power Generation Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 004) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Jon Metz, seconded by Ron Clark. Article five passed

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to be added to the Emergency Response Capital Reserve (CIP 051) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Joe Moulton, seconded by Bob Porter. Article six passed

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Forest Fire Truck Capital Reserve (CIP 055) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by David Richards, seconded by Joe Moulton

Forest Warden David Richards presented and answered the following questions, what year is the truck we have now (2008), when would we be looking to buy the next truck (2028) and how much money is in the Capital Reserve currently (\$5,000.00). Article seven passed by show of hands.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Emergency Water Supply System Capital Reserve (CIP 006) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Jon Thomas, seconded by Ron Clark.

Fire Chief Jon Thomas stated that this is an existing Capital Reserve and that the town is currently working on a project at Richardson Brook. Article eight passed by show of hands.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000.00 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 036) previously established. This sum is to come from the December 31 fund balance. No amount to be raised by taxation. These funds came from the sale of extrication equipment. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Jon Thomas, seconded by Bob Porter. Article nine passed by show of hands.

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be added the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 036) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Jon Thomas, seconded Bob Porter.

Fire Chief Jon Thomas presented and said that many of the items are very expensive and have a shelf life. He gave the example of the SCBA gear. Chief Thomas also answered the following questions, would money in this Capital Reserve be used for vehicles or equipment (both), and how much money is in the fund currently (\$25,000.00). Article ten passed by a show of hands.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to be added to the Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 052) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Jon Thomas, seconded by Joe Moulton.

Fire Chief Jon Thomas talked about what items would need to be replaced. He stated that monitors alone can cost \$20,000.00. Article eleven passed by a show of hands.

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500.00 to be added to the Rescue Squad Truck Capital Reserve (CIP 054) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Jon Thomas, seconded Beth Clark-Moulton

Fire Chief Jon Thomas presented and talked about the importance of this truck. He stated that the Rescue truck goes to almost every call the Department goes to. They are looking at a 10 year replacement plan. Chief Thomas answered the following questions, what year is the current truck (2012), what are other communities budgets like and how is ours in comparison (Jon said he did not know what other towns used and said the each town has their own needs), how many calls did this truck go to over the past year and how many where for Lempster (Jon said that this truck has gone to over 100 in the past year he could not give an exact number of Lempster calls but estimated about 96), do we get money for going to other communities for Mutual Aid calls (Chief Thomas explained how Mutual Aid works). Article twelve passed by a show of hands.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Town Building Repair Expendable Trust (CIP 012) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Phil Tirrell, seconded by Bob Porter.

Selectman Mary Grenier talked about all of the buildings that this money is used for and noted that it is not only used for the town office. The following questions were asked and answered by the selectmen; how much was spent this year (\$9304.00), the roof on the town office is fairly new why do we need to replace it (there was no real underlayment on the existing roof), what is the cost to do the roof (about \$18,700.00).

A motion was made to decrease the amount \$5,000.00 by Selena Leite and seconded by Keith Fulton. Motion to amend was passed by a show of hands. Article thirteen passed as amended.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Municipal Buildings Complex Capital Reserve (CIP 010) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Phil Tirrell, seconded by Bob Porter

Motion was made to decrease the amount by \$5,000.00 by Mary Grenier, seconded by Phil Tirrell.

Motion to amend was passed by a show of hands.

Questions came up about the end date of this Capital Reserve, what building is being replaced, and how much more money do we need to complete the new building. The selectmen explained the site work that needs to be completed before we could start the project for the new Town Office. Chief Thomas stated that there are many codes that we would have to have in the new building that tend to be expensive.

A motion was made to decrease the amount another \$5,000.00 by Selena Leite and seconded by John Tremblay. Motion to amend another \$5,000.00 was defeated by a show of hands. Article fourteen passed by show of hands as amended for \$25,000.00

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200.00 to be added to the Town Hall/Meetinghouse Restoration Capital Reserve (CIP 030) previously established. This sum is to come from the December 31 fund balance. No amount to be raised by taxation. These funds came from the LCHIP Monitoring Report check received in 2018. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

*Motion by Joe Moulton, seconded Richard Fairweather. Article fifteen passed*

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Town Hall/Meetinghouse Capital Reserve (CIP 030) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

*Motion by Richard Fairweather, seconded by William Rodeschin*

*William Rodeschin talked about the upcoming plans for the Town Hall/Meetinghouse. Some of the projects being talked about are updating the electrical wiring, ceiling and doors on the first floor. There was some discussion about the time line of the Meeting House projects and if the LCHIP Grant was helping with any of the funding.*

*A motion to amend was made by Selena Leite and seconded by John Tremblay to decrease article sixteen by \$5,000.00. Vote taken and defeated by a show of hands.*

*Article sixteen passed for \$25,000.00 by show of hands.*

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Town Office Info Technology Capital Reserve (CIP 037) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

*Motion by Mary Grenier, seconded Phil Tirrell.*

*The question was asked if this fund is just used for the town office or if it could also be used for putting internet at the Meeting House (this fund is for the town offices) it was also asked what the plan is for this fund (we use the money in this fund to upgrade the office computers as needed along with the server and printers as needed) A motion to amend was made by Selena Leite and seconded by Keith Fulton to decrease this article to \$3,000.00. Vote to amend taken and defeated by a show of hand*

*Article seventeen passed by a show of hands for the original amount of \$5,000.00*

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Town Bridge Repair and Reconstruction Expendable Trust (CIP 018) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

*Motion by Everett Thurber, seconded by Mary Grenier*

*Selectman Phil Tirrell talked about the plans for this year and mentioned Mill Rd and Mountain Rd bridge wall to be on the list to look at. Article eighteen passed by show of hands.*

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to change Town Bridge Repair and Reconstruction Expendable Trust (CIP 018) to Town Bridge and Culverts Expendable Trust (CIP 018) for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, or repairs to Town Bridges or Culverts. Furthermore, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. (2/3 vote required.)

*Motion by Mary Contaldi, seconded by Beth Clark-Moulton*

*The question was asked if this would include all small culverts as well and was answered that the small culverts would come out of the budget. There was discussion about the definition of concrete vs metal or plastic.*

*Motion to amend made by Selena Leite seconded by John Tremblay to change the wording of this article to state "Town Bridge and Cement Culverts of four feet or greater Expendable Trust" vote taken and defeated by show of hands.*

*James Grenier called the question, passed by show of hands.*

*Article nineteen passed by a show of hands*

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Town Highway Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 026) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Wesley Ash, seconded by Jon Metz.

Motion to table article until count of article three ballots was completed made by Kelly Caron, seconded by Erik Walker. After ballots for article three had been counted a motion to move article twenty was made by Mary Grenier, seconded by Phil Tirrell. Motion to amend made by Kelly Caron, second by Mary Contaldi to decrease to \$10,000.00. Vote taken and defeated by show of hands.

Article twenty passed by show of hands.

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Road Repair and Reconstruction Capital Reserve (CIP 048) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Phil Tirrell, seconded by Jon Thomas. Article twenty one passed by show of hands.

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,250.00 for the purpose of the seventh payment of the lease-purchase of the Highway Department Backhoe (CIP 049). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Joe Moulton, seconded by Beth Clark-Moulton. Article twenty two passed by show of hands.

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be added to the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 021) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Mary Contaldi, seconded by Kelly Caron.

Motion to amend made by Daryl Simino, seconded by Richard Fairweather to increase article twenty three to \$2,000.00. Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino talked about the cost to replace the current compactor at the transfer station and the cost to do so when it is needed. Vote to amend passed by show of hands.

Article twenty three passed as amended by a show of hands.

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve (CIP 022) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Everett Thurber, seconded by Mary Grenier. Article twenty four passed by a show of hands.

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be added to the New Cemetery Capital Reserve (CIP 023) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Glenn Wirkkala, seconded by Carol Stamatakis. Article twenty five passed by a show of hands.

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 to be added to the Cemetery Tree Management Capital Reserve (CIP 047) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Richard Fairweather, seconded by Bonnie Cilley. Article twenty six passed by a show of hands.

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,730.00 to be added to the Appraisal of Property Capital Reserve (CIP 027) previously established. This sum is to come from the December 31 fund balance. No amount to be raised by taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

*Motion by Joe Moulton, seconded Maggie Kemp. Article twenty seven passed by a show of hands.*

**ARTICLE 28:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for the purpose of clean-up of Town owned properties from the December 31 fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

*Motion by Phil Tirrell, seconded by Mary Grenier.*

*Selectmen Everett Thurber and Phil Tirrell talked about how and what this money will be used for. They stated that money would be used to help to clean up properties that have been taken for non-payment of taxes. By spending a little money to clean them up we would hope to be able to get more money for them when the properties sell.*

*Article twenty eight passed by a show of hands.*

**ARTICLE 29:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 for the purpose of supporting Old Home Day events. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

*Motion by Bob Cilley, seconded Jon Metz. A motion to amend was made by Bob Cilley, and seconded by Pat McCabe to increase to \$1,500.00. Bob Cilley stated the Old Home Day committee was looking to replace the current tent that has been used. With the extra funds they would be able to buy a new tent.*

*Article twenty nine amended to \$1,500.00 by show of hands.*

*Article twenty nine passed as amended by show of hands.*

**ARTICLE 30:** *To transact any other business that may legally come before this Town Meeting. Moderator Shklar thanked everyone for their conduct and for coming out to Town Meeting. Mike also encouraged people to attend the monthly selectmen's meetings and yearly budget hearings. Phil Tirrell presented Bob Cilley with a plaque and thanked him for serving our town as a Supervisor of the Checklist for the past 13 years. Selectman Everett Thurber talked a little about Lovejoy Road. He asked how much are people willing to spend on this road to repave it and what other options we have.*

*Motion to adjourn made by Joe Moulton, seconded by Jon Metz at 9:08pm*



Linda Callahan  
Town Clerk