

2020 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 10th day of March, 2020 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. The polls for voting on Article 1 will remain open until 7:30 P.M.

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 7:33pm.

The following were elected: Everett Thurber, Selectman; Mary Fellows, Treasurer; James Grenier, Auditor; Kirt Wirkkala, Planning Board; James Morone, Trustee of Trust Funds; Linda Callahan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Janice Baker, Library Trustee; Marilyn Butler, Supervisor of the Checklist; Carol Stamatakis, Cemetery Trustee; Michael Shklar, Moderator.

Lempster's Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Moderator Michael Shklar. Moderator started the meeting with a salute to the Flag.

ARTICLE 2: To receive all reports and act thereon.

Motion by Phil Tirrell, seconded by Mary Grenier. Article two passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,425,465.00 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	\$ 91,180.00
Election and Registration	76,725.00
Financial Administration	15,170.00
Appraisal of Property	36,000.00
Legal Expenses	20,000.00
Personnel Administration	214,850.00
Planning Board	15,000.00
General Government Buildings	20,000.00
Cemeteries	8,500.00
Insurance Property & Liability-all Depts.	18,500.00
Contingency	20,000.00
Police Budget	61,000.00
Ambulance Service	12,000.00
Rescue Squad	18,850.00
Fire Department	60,450.00
Forest Fire	6,650.00
Building Inspection	2,300.00
Emergency Management	1,250.00
Highway Department	400,670.00
Street Lights	980.00
Solid Waste	97,525.00
Health Officer/ Supplies	2,100.00
Animal Control	3,000.00
Health Agencies	7,823.00
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	157,286.00
Bonds and Notes Interest	23,556.00

Motion by Alvin McNeill, seconded by Jon Metz.

Selectman Mary Grenier presented on this article and said that looking at the budget over a twelve year span it would be an overall increase of 3%.

Article three passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: 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 Mark Adams, seconded by Jon Thomas.

Fire Chief Jon Thomas talked about the importance of being able to have generators in our Town Buildings. Article four passed

ARTICLE 5: 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 Jon Thomas, seconded by Joe Moulton

Fire Chief Jon Thomas talked about how this is used to meet the needs in a major fire or natural disaster. Article five passed.

ARTICLE 6: 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 said that the truck that we currently have is a 2008 and they would be looking to replace the truck in 2028. A question of how much is in the Capital Reserve currently and David answered \$50,000.00 Article six passed.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 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 Phil Tirrell, seconded by Jon Thomas.

Selectman Phil Tirrell presented and talked about the project at Richardson Brook. This is on top of Lempster Mountain and that this dry hydrant has been in the works for years. This hydrant is needed before building any homes in this subdivision. Mark Adams pointed out that the full list of CIPs is on page 36 of the Town Report. Phil also answered the following questions; Would this be for year round use (Yes), Who would be able to expand this money (Selectman). Article seven passed.

ARTICLE 8: 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 by Bob Porter.

Fire Chief Jon Thomas presented, stating that fund would be used to help refurbish the ladder truck and replace the SCBA and cascade. Article eight passed

ARTICLE 9: 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 Alvin McNeill, seconded by Joe Moulton.

Rescue Captain Beth Clark-Moulton presented, and said that the defibrillator is in need of being replaced and is just one of the large expenses that this fund helps to pay for. Article nine passed

ARTICLE 10: 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 Ron Clark, seconded by Beth Clark-Moulton.

Rescue Captain Beth Clark-Moulton presented, and said that the current truck is a 2012 and they would be looking at replacing it in 2028. Article ten passed.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be added to the Town Building Repair Expendable Trust (CIP 012) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Mary Genier, seconded by Phil Tirrell

Selectman Phil Tirrell presented and said this money is used for any large major repairs to any of the many town buildings. He reminded everyone that this covers more than just the Town Offices. Article eleven passed

ARTICLE 12: 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 Mary Grenier.

Selectman Phil Tirrell presented and said this project has been something we have been working toward for few years. The hope is to start working on a design for the Town Offices. David Plante asked about the need of a new building and how much has the population changed over the past twenty years. Phil said he was unable to give the exact number. There was also discussion about the cost to the town, taxes breakdown and how the absence of industry differs from other towns like Newport. Jim Grenier talked about how the State of New Hampshire appropriates a portion of the money from the Wind Farm Pilot and said we all need to talk to our State Representatives to get this changed. Alan Chandler asked if maybe the Meeting House on Lempster Street would be another option. Parking would be limited at this location. Article twelve passed

ARTICLE 13: 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 2019. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by William Rodeschin, seconded by Richard Fairweather. Article thirteen passed.

ARTICLE 14: 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 Alvin McNeill, seconded by William Rodeschin.

William Rodeshin talked about the projects that the Friends of the Meeting house will be working on this year. He said the projects include, rebuilding and replacing the entry doors, rewire the electrical in the downstairs and putting in a new ceiling. He reported that the design and plans for the projects have been done. He answered following questions; when will these projects be done (this year with this money) are you taking bids from people in town (sadly not everyone is qualified as outlined by LCHIP) Chief Jon Thomas asked if alarms would be part of the upgrade (not at this time). Article fourteen passed.

ARTICLE 15: 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 by Phil Tirrell.

Administrative Assistant Ingrid Bjork said these funds are used to update the computers and the servers every five years as suggested. Article fifteen passed.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Town Bridge and Culverts Expendable Trust (CIP 018) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Everett Thurber, seconded by Mary Grenier.

Selectman Mary Grenier presented talked about a few of the bridges / culverts that will need to be replaced. She also talked about the plans for this year and mentioned Mill Road. Article sixteen passed.

ARTICLE 17: 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 Phil Tirrell, seconded by Jon Metz.

Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino talked about the age of the trucks that we currently have on the road and the condition they are in. Article seventeen passed.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Road Reconstruction and Paving Capital Reserve (CIP 048) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Mary Grenier, seconded by Phil Tirrell.

Selectman Phil Tirrell presented and talked about the work being done on Lovejoy Road. Some of the work done this past year included the replacement of culverts. He said more work will be done this year. A few of the projects would be cutting back trees, widening of the road and cutting the curves out of some of the corners. The town will not be looking to pave this road until Mountain road is paid for. Article eighteen passed.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,250.00 for the purpose of the eighth payment of the lease-purchase of the Highway Department Backhoe (CIP 049). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Everett Thurber, seconded by Mary Grenier

Joe Moulton asked how many payments are left to be paid on this. Phil Tirrell said this was a ten year loan and he believed this was the eighth payment. Article nineteen passed.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 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 Grenier, seconded by Alvin McNeill.

Selectman Mary Grenier said these funds are important to have if and when the compactor needs to be replaced. Article twenty passed.

ARTICLE 21: 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.

Selectman Mary Grenier presented and talked cost of this project if it needed to be done. She said that as of right now this site is still testing clean but would have to be capped if the wells fail. The Selectman answered questions and said this shows a good faith effort by continuing to set a little money aside each year. Article twenty one passed.

ARTICLE 22: 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 William Rodeschin, seconded by Alvin McNeill.

A question was asked about what this money is used for. Carol Stamatakis of the Cemetery Trustees said that they are working to develop more of the new cemetery area. Article twenty two passed.

ARTICLE 23: 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 Carol Stamatakis, seconded by Cheryl McGinnis.

Carol Stamatakis of the Cemetery Trustees said at this time the Trustees are putting these funds away for future projects that may come up. Article twenty three passed.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,342.00 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 Phil Tirrell, seconded by Mary Grenier.

Administrative Assistant Ingrid Bjork said the amount not spent from 2019 budgeted amount would be used towards this year full reval. Article twenty four passed

ARTICLE 25: 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 Mary Grenier, seconded by Phil Tirrell.

Selectman Everett Thurber talked how cleaning up some of the properties taken by tax deed would more bring more money back to the town once the properties are sold. The property projects the town is looking at this year are taking down the building on Charlestown Turnpike and cleaning up the property on Long Pond Road. Article twenty five passed

Moderator Michael Shklar was given the election results and announced them to the room.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 for the purpose of supporting Old Home Day events. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Mary Grenier, seconded by Joe Moulton.

Pat McCabe thanked everyone for their support and welcomed everyone to get involved. She said they are looking for people to come out and join one of the many committees. Article twenty six passed

ARTICLE 27: To transact any other business that may legally come before this Town Meeting.

Selectman Phil Tirrell talked about the AFG grant that the Fire Department is trying to get and how it would help our community. If we receive this grant we would have a public hearing. Selectman Mary Grenier thanked all of the people how come out and volunteer and work in our community. Moderator Michael Shklar talked about how democracy works and thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and doing so in a respectful way to everyone.

Motion to adjourn made by Alvin McNeill, seconded by Joe Moulton at 8:10pm.

Respectively,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Callahan".

Linda Callahan
Town Clerk