

## 2021 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 8th day of June, 2021 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. Town Meeting was postponed from March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 to June 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 due to Covid-19.

**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 7:32pm.**

**The following were elected: Traci "Fulton" Homol, Selectman; Mary Fellows, Treasurer; James Grenier, Auditor; Randall Mark Adams, Planning Board; William Rodeschin, Planning Board; Lynn Rodeschin, Trustee of Trust Funds; Glenn Wirkkala, Cemetery Trustee; Rebecca Farrand, Library Trustee; Janice Brehio, Library Trustee**

**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 Alvin McNeill, seconded by Michael O'Connell. Article two passes by hand 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	71,575.00
Financial Administration	16,170.00
Appraisal of Property	28,000.00
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.	19,500.00
Contingency	24,412.00
Police Budget	63,000.00
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	3,250.00
Highway Department	400,670.00
Street Lights	980.00
Solid Waste	102,450.00
Health Officer/ Supplies	2,100.00
Animal Control	3,000.00
Health Agencies	8,000.00
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	21,192.00

**Motion by Everett Thurber, seconded by John Williams**

***The Selectman Phil Tirrell and Mary Grenier talked and answered questions about line items. Korrie Goodspeed and Alan Chandler stated they would like to see the full break down in the next Town Report. Traci Homol made a motion to reduce the budget by \$200,000.00 motion seconded by Lynn Hume. Traci talked about a few of the items that could be part of this cut including appraisals, police, fire and rescue, government buildings, and direct assistance. A hand count was taken and counted for the motion to amend 81 against and 60 for the amendment. Motion to amend failed. Jim Grenier made a motion to cease debate and was seconded by Mrs. Kemp. Article three passed as originally presented by hand vote.***

***ARTICLE 4:*** To see if the Town will vote to increase the Town Clerk/Tax Collector hours to 35 per week.  
***Motion by Phil Tirrell, seconded by Allan Grotheer***

***The Select board said that this increase of hours would not increase the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors budget from last year. Questions were asked about how this would not increase the budget over last year Selectman Phil Tirrel explained saying that the Deputies payroll decreased because of the retirement of the long time Deputy. Della Fulton asked the rate of pay for the new Deputy and new Administrative assistant to the Select Board. Deputy is an hourly rate of \$ 16.48 and Robin \$45,000.00 per year. Motion made by Alvin McNeill to cease debate and was seconded by John Williams passed. Article four passed by hand vote.***

***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 Thomas, seconded by Alvin McNeill***

***Fire Chief Jon Thomas presented, and talked about the importance of generators for Town Buildings. Article five passed by hand vote.***

***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 Jon Thomas, seconded by Everett Thurber***

***Andria Elliot asked how much was in the CIP currently? Chief Jon Thomas said \$3007.00 and talked about the importance of this truck by stating it is deployed for almost all calls. David Richards talk a little about CIPs and explained that they are intended to put money away each year so when the need to replace the truck comes the town will have already been saving for it instead of asking for a large dollar amount all at once. Motion made by Mr. Hurd to cease debate and was seconded by Michael O'Connell motion passed. Article six passed by a hand vote.***

***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 Alvin McNeill, seconded by Joe Moulton***

***Forest Warden David Richards said this is to set money aside to replace a truck that is 20 years old. James Tremblay made a motion to amend to \$4,000.00 seconded by Traci Homol. A hand count was taken and counted for the motion to amend 66 against and 60 for the amendment. Motion to amend failed. Article seven passed as originally presented by hand vote.***

***ARTICLE 8:*** 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 Mary Grenier, seconded by Jon Thomas***

***Selectman Mary Grenier presented this Article and said that the Selectman no longer support this at this time. Mary talked about road wash outs and sink holes on Mill Road Mary stated this \$20,000.00 would be put to better use under article 15. Article eight failed by hand vote.***

***ARTICLE 9:*** 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 Carrie Richards***

***Fire Chief Jon Thomas presented, stating that this fund is used to cover fire equipment, vehicles, and personal safety equipment. Chief Thomas stated that the personal safety equipment can run about \$15,000.00 per person and we currently have 15 volunteers. Fire Department has been***

**able to get grant money to cover some of the cost. Chief Thomas also stated the personal safety equipment is required by the FTA. David Plant made a motion to amend to \$10,000.00 seconded by Lynn Hume. Motion to amend failed. Article nine passed as originally presented by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 10:** 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 Alvin McNeill**

**Rescue Captain Beth Clark-Moulton talked about what the funds are used for and mentioned the new heart monitor. Beth thanked all of the residents that donated to fundraiser and stated due to the success of the fundraiser little was taken from the CIP to purchase the heart monitor. Article ten passed by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 11:** 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 Joe Moulton, seconded by Ryan Arruda**

**Rescue Captain Beth Clark-Moulton presented, they would be looking to replace the current truck they have in 2025 with an estimated cost of around \$75,000.00. Currently we have just over \$25,000.00. Article eleven passed by hand vote.**

**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 Carrie Richards**

**Selectman Mary Grenier ask that the Town not pass this article this year but use the money instead to increase article fifteen. Article twelve failed by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61-64 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to the assessed value of qualifying solar energy system equipment under these statutes with a maximum exemption amount of \$5,000.00. The Selectmen recommend this exemption. (Majority vote required)

**Michael Shklar suggested that is article be passed over until article twenty seven has been voted on.**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Town Office Information Technology Capital Reserve (CIP 037) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

**Motion by Ryan Arruda, seconded by Allan Grotheer**

**Mr. Brookens asked how much we spent last year out of this CIP, Selectman reported about \$5,000.00 was spent. Traci Homol made a motion to amend to \$2,500.00 motion seconded by David Plant. Article fourteen passed as amended by hand vote.**

**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 Bridge and Culverts Expendable Trust (CIP 018) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

**Motion by Phil Tirrell, seconded by John Williams**

**Mary Grenier made a motion to amend to \$55,000.00 motion seconded by Everett Thurber. Dorothy Giddens talked about her experience in the summer of 2020 and how she was unable to get off Mill Road due to the issue with the culvert. Selectman Mary Grenier answered questions about the cost of the job, what work needed to be completed, the time frame of when the project may get underway and the State regulations. Motion made by James Grenier to cease debate and was seconded by Alvin McNeill passed. Article fifteen passed as amended by hand vote.**

**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 Highway Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 026) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

**Motion by Marcia Williams, seconded by Everett Thurber**

**Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino talked about the current condition of the Grader and said that it is some heavy maintenance. He mentioned the roll and rack as being the most worn. James Tremblay made a motion to amend to \$20,000.00 motion seconded by Traci Homol. Article sixteen passed as amended by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 17:** 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 Phil Tirrell, seconded by Michael O'Connell**

**Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino talked about the crack sealing that will need to be done on Mountain and Grandview Road. Kevin Onnela asked if the town had the equipment to complete the job. Daryl stated that what the town has would not be efficient. Keith Fulton asked about paving Lovejoy Road, Daryl was unsure at this time. Article seventeen passed by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,250.00 for the purpose of the ninth payment of the lease-purchase of the Highway Department Backhoe (CIP 049). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

**Motion by Mary Grenier, seconded by Traci Homol**

**Kevin Onnela asked what backhoe the lease is on, Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino said this is on the yellow John Deer. Article eighteen passed by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the town will vote to establish a Grader Capital Reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a grader and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

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

**Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino answered questions said this is a 1985 grader and would cost about \$64,000.00 to bring the grader up to specs. Selectman Mary Grenier said that when it comes to buying the board is hoping to be able to find a like new used grader. Article nineteen passed by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,103.00 to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 026) previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. These funds came from the sale of two Highway Trucks in 2020. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

**Motion by Mary Grenier, seconded by Alvin McNeill.**

**There was discussion on if these funds would be put to better use in CIP 0018 Town Bridge and Culverts. Mr. Brookens made a motion to move \$17,103.00 to CIP 0018 motion seconded by David Plant. Article twenty passed as amended by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000.00 (gross budget) for the purchase of a Highway Utility Truck with dump body and plow equipment, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$70,000.00 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 \$20,000.00 will come from the Highway Department Equipment C/R (CIP 026). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (3/5 ballot vote required)

**Motion by Phil Tirrell, seconded by John Williams.**

**Alvin McNeill said that we may want to wait another year to see if prices come back down after Covid-19. David Plant also asked if we could squeeze one more year out of the current truck. Phil Tirrell made a motion to amend to \$65,000.00 to be raised and \$45,000.00 for the bond, motion to amend seconded by Traci Homol. Motion to amend passed by a hand vote.**

**Moderator Shklar opened the polls for Article 21 at 9:40pm and closed at 9:53 pm**

**Yes Votes: 64 No Votes: 36 Article twenty one passed as amended.**

**ARTICLE 22:** 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 Alvin McNeill, seconded by Daryl Simino.**

**Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino presented, and said these funds are used to fix or replace the packer box when needed. Article twenty two passed by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 23:** 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 David Richards, seconded by James Tremblay.**

**Selectman Mary Grenier presented and talked about the cost of this project if it needed to be done in years to come. By putting money away each year it shows a good faith effort by the town. Article twenty three passed by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 24:** 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 Cheryl McGinnis, seconded by Glenn Wirkkala.**

**Cemetery Trustee Cheryl McGinnis said these funds would be used to help establish the new section of the cemetery. Cheryl also talked about the work that would need to be done to the new part of the cemetery when it came time. Article twenty four passed by hand vote. Article twenty four failed after motion to reconsider (see Article twenty nine).**

**ARTICLE 25:** 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 Jon Williams, seconded by Traci Homol.**

**Patricia Mccabe talked about some of the events that the Old Home Day Committee has planned for this year. Article twenty five passed by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to establish the Lawrence Johnson Estate Expendable Trust (CIP 060) to raise and appropriate \$17,655.54 from the timber and forest product sales from the land acquired through the Estate of Lawrence Johnson, which states "All income that is so derived from the premises shall be used to preserve, conserve, restore, and improve public cemeteries within the Town of Lempster and not to be used for general operating expenses which remains the statutory responsibility of the Town. The Cemetery Trustees of the Town of Lempster shall have discretion as to the specific uses for which the income shall be applied". Further to name the Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

**Motion by Alvin McNeill, seconded by David Richards.**

**Selectman Mary Grenier explained that the town received another check from the cut of timber after the warrant articles were posted. Mary Grenier made a motion to amend to \$22,116.19 motion to amend seconded by Traci Homol. Article twenty six passed as amended by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:64 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems, intended for use by the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of assessed value of qualifying solar equipment for both existing and future systems, under these statutes. This is a petitioned warrant article. (Majority vote required)

**Motion by Jonathan Nelson, seconded by James Grenier.**

**Jonathan Nelson presented, he said that currently each solar panel is assessed at \$600.00 and to date there are 16 residents that have solar energy in Lempster. Jonathan explained that this exemption would only be for personal residential use only. James Grenier talked about the cost to the home owner to put solar energy up. He also stated this is NH legislature not something Avitar came up with. Discussion was had on if solar increases the value of your property, and if so what is the differences between solar and any other improvements made. Alvin McNeill made a made a motion to cease debate and was seconded John Williams. Motion passed. Article twenty seven passed by hand vote.**

**ARTICLE 28:** Shall the Town vote that any town assets or property up for sale must be offered up for public sealed bid and posted 30 days in advance at location of property and on website. We, the towns people recommend this article. This is a petitioned warrant article. (Majority vote required)

**Michael Shklar explained that this is not a legal petitioned article due to an article passed in 1995. Michael explained that the article from 1995 would need to be rescinded at next year's Town Meeting. Once rescinded then a new article could be voted on.**

**ARTICLE 29:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this Town Meeting.

**Motion by Korrie Goodspeed, seconded by Phil Tirrell.**

**Mr. Brookens asked when the other door at the transfer station would open back up, the Selectman said that this would be discussed at their regular scheduled meetings. Korrie Goodspeed made a motion to have the full budget breakdown in the Town Report next year, motion seconded by Phil Tirrell. Motion passed by hand vote.**

**Mr. Brookens made motion to reconsider article twenty four, motion seconded by James Grenier. Motion to reconsider article twenty four passed by hand vote. Discussion was had about money that we received as part of the timber cut (article twenty six) is also used for the same purpose. Article twenty four failed after reconsideration by hand vote.**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Alvin McNeill at 10:20pm, seconded by David Richards all in favor.**