

# Lempster 2023 Town Meeting Minutes

*Moderator Shklar opened the polls at 3:30 pm. Moderator Shklar closed the polls at 7:50pm.*

*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 01 Choose Officers**

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

*The following Town Officers were elected Everett Thurber, Selectman; Linda Callahan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Mary Fellows, Treasurer; Kirt Wirkkala, Planning Board; Jodie Fulton, Trustee Of Trust Funds; Carol Stamatakis, Cemetery Trustee; Cathy Philbrook (write-in vote), Library Trustee; James Grenier, Auditor.*

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## **Article 02 Receive Reports**

To receive all reports and act thereon.

*Motion by Alvin McNeill, seconded by Joe Moulton. Article two passed by voice vote.*

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## **Article 03 General Town Operations**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,552,095.00 for 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	\$85,640.00
Election & Registration	\$75,885.00
Financial Administration	\$15,520.00
Appraisal of Property	\$23,000.00
Legal Expenses	\$20,000.00
Personnel Administration	\$217,700.00
Planning Board	\$15,000.00
General Government Buildings	\$23,500.00
Cemeteries	\$8,500.00
Insurance Property & Liability	\$23,727.00
Contingency	\$25,000.00
Police Budget	\$69,278.00
Ambulance Service	\$12,000.00
Rescue Squad	\$24,245.00
Fire Department	\$78,885.00
Forest Fire	\$6,650.00
Building Inspection	\$2,850.00
Emergency Management	\$2,050.00
Highway Department	\$464,370.00
Street Lights	\$1,020.00
Solid Waste	\$127,550.00
Health Officer	\$2,550.00
Animal Control	\$3,000.00
Health Agencies	\$7,862.00
Direct Assistance	\$7,000.00
Parks & Recreation	\$4,750.00
Library	\$19,000.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$500.00
Conservation Commission	\$5,100.00
Principal Bonds & Notes	\$166,038.00
Interest Bonds & Notes	\$13,925.00

*Motion by Everett Thurber, seconded by Robert Porter*

*Selectman Mary Grenier presented the budget for 2023 and talked about the increases that have affected the*

*overall budget this year. Questions were answered regarding the election and registration line of the budget, streetlights we have in town, and the overall percent increase over last year. Alvin McNeill made a motion to cease debate seconded by James Grenier; motion passed. Article three passed by hand vote.*

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**Article 04    Town Records Preservation**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to be added to the Town Records Preservation Capital Reserve (CIP 013) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

*Motion by Alvin McNeill, seconded by Glen Wirkkala*

*Town Clerk/Tax Collector Linda Callahan talked about the project and the importance of preserving Town records. Kevin Onnela made a motion to amend article four to read 'To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 to be added to the Town Records Preservation Capital Reserve (CIP 013) previously established', seconded by Michael Kowalczyk.*

*Much discussion was had about how long the project would take and when the books would be completed. Linda Callahan explained that the time to complete the current books would depend on when Kofile could complete the work. She also explained that this is only for the books we know about therefore more could come up later that we do not yet know about. Motion to amend passed by hand vote. Article four passed as amended by hand vote.*

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**Article 05    Emergency Communication and Power**

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 Phil Tirrell, seconded by Jon Thomas*

*Phil Tirrell talked about this article and explained how these funds are used. Article five passed by hand vote.*

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**Article 06    Town Building CR**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 to be added to the Town Building Repair Expendable Trust (CIP 012) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

*Motion by Alvin McNeill, seconded by Richard Fairweather*

*Selectman Mary Grenier talked about this article. Mary answer questions about how much money was currently in this CIP, and what this money is used for. Fire Chief Thomas stated that this money is used for all Town Buildings not just the Town Office. Alan Chandler made a motion to amend this article to \$5000.00 seconded by Korrie Goodspeed. Motion to amend failed by hand vote. Article six passed by hand vote.*

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**Article 07    Emergency Response CR**

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 Phil Tirrell, seconded by David Richards*

*Phil Tirrell explained that these funds help during a major fire or natural disaster. Much discussion was had. Alvin McNeill made a motion to cease debate seconded by Maggie Kemp; motion passed. Article seven passed by hand count.*

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**Article 08    Forest Fire Truck CR**

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 Fund (CIP 055) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority Vote Required)

*Motion by Alvin McNeill, seconded by David Richards*

*Forest Fire Warden David Richards spoke about the current truck, the age of truck, and the importance for a new truck in the future. Article eight passed by hand count.*

**Article 09      Emergency Water Supply System CR**

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 Phil Tirrell*

*Fire Chief Thomas spoke about this article and explained these funds are used to put new dry hydrants around town. Questions were answered regarding how many are currently in town, if they are tested yearly, how they work in the winter and other possible future locations. Article nine passed by hand vote.*

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**Article 10      Fire Department Equipment CR**

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

*Motion Jon Thomas, seconded by Alvin McNeill*

*Fire Chief Thomas spoke about this article and some of the equipment and repairs this fund covers. Chief Thomas talked about the cost of gear that is used by each member of the department and the federal requirements that must be met. Much discussion was had about how much money was currently in this CIP, the use of grants, how long a set of gear lasts, and if the department had any planned purchase this year. Alvin McNeill made a motion to cease debate seconded James Grenier; motion passed. Article ten passed by hand vote.*

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**Article 11      Rescue Equipment CR**

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 Joe Moulton, seconded by Beth Clark Moulton*

*Rescue Captain Beth Clark Moulton spoke about what equipment was purchased from this fund this year (2022). Article eleven passed by hand vote.*

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**Article 12      Rescue Squad Truck CR**

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 Alvin McNeill, seconded by Joe Moulton*

*Rescue Captain Beth Clark Moulton explained that the current rescue truck is due to be replaced in 2025, and the cost of a new truck. Article twelve passed by hand vote*

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**Article 13      Appraisal of Property**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,900.00 to be added to the Appraisal of Property Capital Reserve (CIP 027) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

*Motion by Mary Grenier, seconded by Robert Porter*

*Selectman Mary Grenier explained what is covered with these funds stating that the whole town is appraised every five years as required by state law. Korrie Goodspeed asked if we have looked into any other vendors other than Avitar, Mary said at this time the board has not taken any other quotes. Article thirteen passed by hand vote.*

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**Article 14      Town Office Information Technology CR**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 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 Alvin McNeill, seconded by Carol Stamatakis*

*Selectman Traci Homol explained what is covered with these funds and stated that in the past year the Town Office has hired a new IT company, upgraded the server, and upgraded one of the computers in the office. There are still three more computers that will need to be upgraded. Article fourteen passed by hand vote.*

**Article 15 Town Bridge ET**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 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 Mary Grenier, seconded by Everett Thurber**

**Selectman Everett Thurber talked about the work that was completed over the past year. Selectman Thurber explained that there are still two bridges in town that need to be capped with concrete. He stated that the work being done will extend the life of our bridges in town. Article fifteen passed by hand vote.**

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**Article 16 Town Highway Equipment CR**

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

**Motion by Daryl Simino, seconded by Mark Adams**

**Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino spoke about how this fund is used and mentioned that the body on the 2009 will need to be replaced due to the condition. Article Sixteen passed by hand vote.**

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**Article 17 Road Reconstruction and Paving CR**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 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 Daryl Simino, seconded by Debbie Simino**

**Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino spoke about the miles of black top in town, the cost of new black top, and maintaining the existing black top. Much discussion was had regarding the life of the black top on Mountain Road, what roads need to be resealed, what roads are next, and the type of materials that are being used. James Grenier made a motion to cease debate seconded by Traci Homol; motion passed. Article seventeen passed by hand vote.**

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**Article 18 Grader CR**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Grader Capital Reserve (CIP 057) previously established.  
The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

**Motion by Mary Grenier, seconded by Magie Kemp**

**Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino spoke about the condition of the current grader; he explained that it is old and tired and is starting to cost more than it is worth to fix as parts are hard to find and are very expensive. When it comes time to purchase a new grader the town will look into purchasing a slightly used grader from one of the surrounding towns if possible. Article eighteen passed by hand vote.**

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**Article 19 Long Pond Wharf**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 for the purpose of removing and replacing 90 feet of the existing log bumper on the Long Pond Wharf with non-treated logs. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

**Motion by Everett Thurber, seconded by Mary Grenier**

**Selectman Everett Thurber explained due to unforeseen issues with volunteers not being able to continue working on this project the town had to put it out to bid. The bid to have the work completed is \$34,500.00. Much discussion was had regarding the materials being used, why the volunteers couldn't continue, and DES permitting. Glen Wirkkala made a motion to cease debate seconded Phil Tirrell; motion passed. Article nineteen passed by hand vote.**

## **Article 20 Transfer Station Equipment CR**

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 Joe Moulton, seconded by Daryl Simino***

***Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino spoke about the current packer at the transfer station, the cost and importance of the replacing the current packer. Article twenty passed by hand vote.***

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## **Article 21 Professional Assistance Contingency**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Professional Assistance Contingency Capital Reserve (CIP 058) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

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

***Mark Adams of the Planning Board spoke about the Planning Board's budget and how they have been able to level fund with no increases to their budget for quite some time. Mark Adams explained one project the board is looking at updating the town's master plan. James Grenier asked if this money can only be used for one project, Mark Adams explained that these funds will also be used for other upcoming projects including digitizing the Planning Board records to make them more accessible to the public. Article twenty-one passed by hand vote.***

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## **Article 22 Landfill Closure CR**

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 Alvin McNeill, seconded by Robert Porter***

***Selectman Everett Thurber explained that when the times comes to fully close the old landfill it will be a very expensive project that could cost an estimated \$300,000.00 plus to complete. Article twenty-two passed by hand vote.***

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## **Article 23 New Cemetery CR**

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 Traci Homol, seconded by Glen Wirkkala***

***Cemetery Trustee Carol Stamatakis explained that these funds will be used to continue to develop the new section of the cemetery. Article twenty three passed by hand vote.***

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## **Article 24 Elderly Exemption**

Shall the town MODIFY the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Lempster , based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$40,000.00; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$60,000.00; for a person 80 years of age or older \$80,000.00. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$20,000.00 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$28,000.00; and own net assets not in excess of \$70,000.00 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required)

***Motion by Traci Homol, seconded by Everett Thurber***

***Selectman Traci Homol explained what this article would change if passed. Stating that this article would change the income limits needed to qualify for an elderly exemption. Much discussion was had regarding the current levels of income compared to the proposed income levels in this article. Jacob Champness made a motion to amend and double all dollar amounts in this article seconded by Mary Fallon. More discussion was had what amending this article would mean to the other taxpayers in town. Motion to amend failed by hand vote. Jacob Champness made a motion to cease debate seconded Robin Maguire; motion passed. Article twenty four passed as originally presented by hand vote.***

**Article 25 Optional Veteran's Tax Credit**

Shall the town READOPT the OPTIONAL VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$300.00? (Majority vote required)

**Motion by Alvin McNeill, seconded by Phil Tirrell**

**Selectman Mary Grenier explained that due to a change in the law the town(s) need to vote to readopt the Optional Veteran's tax credit. Article twenty-five passed by hand vote.**

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**Article 26 Resolution by Petition**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, to read as follows: Be it resolved that the Select Board shall, pursuant to RSA 31:41-a, motor vehicle race tracks, make bylaws, with the advice of the Planning Board, relating to the regulation and licensing of motor vehicle race tracks within the limits of the Town of Lempster.

**Motion by Richard Fairweather, seconded by Jennifer Gildner-Blinn**

**Read Gildner-Blinn explained this petition article; Mr. Gildner-Blinn talked about the different things that could be covered under by-laws if this article passes. Much discussion was had regarding if permits and State mandates were being met, how long this article would be in place, what if anything would the Town of Lempster be responsible for, and how would this affect our Fire/Rescues Department. Alvin McNeill made a motion to cease debate seconded Mary Grenier; motion passed. Moderator Shklar made announcement that a request had been made to have the vote by paper ballot at the beginning of the meeting. Moderator Shklar reopened the polls at 9:02 pm and closed the polls for this article at 9:37 pm. Article twenty six failed by ballot vote No Votes 51/ Yes Votes 43.**

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**Article 27 Any other business**

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

**Motion by Alvin McNeill, seconded by Traci Homo**

**Korrie Goodspeed talked about the town thinking about a Budget Committee in the future. Fire Chief Jon Thomas said that both the Fire and Rescue department are in need of volunteers. Anyone who is interested can stop by the Station on Wednesday nights. Selectman Traci Homol let everyone know that a dance is planned for May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Meeting House on Lempster Street, and the Ladies Auxiliary will be holding a bake sale. Article twenty-seven passed by hand vote.**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Everett Thurber at 9:50 pm, seconded by Linda Callahan all in favor.**

Respectively,



Linda Callahan  
Town Clerk