

Lempster 2024 Town Meeting Minutes

Moderator Shklar opened the polls at 3:30 pm. Moderator Shklar closed the polls at 7:35 pm.

Lempster's Town Meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 Mark Lightner, Selectman (3year); Philip Tirrell, Selectman (1 year); Mary Fellows, Treasurer; R. Mark Adams and William Rodeschin, Planning Board; Lynn Rodeschin, Trustee Of Trust Funds; Glen Wirkkala, Cemetery Trustee; Rebecca Farrand, Janice Brehio (write-in vote) and Linda Callahan (write-in vote) Library Trustee; James Grenier, Auditor; Patricia McCabe, Supervisor of the Checklist; Michael Shklar, Moderator.

Article 02 Receive Reports

To receive all reports and act thereon.

Motion by Robert Porter, seconded by Phil Tirrell. Article two passed by voice vote.

Article 03 General Town Operations

General Town Operations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,584,333.00 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	\$95,672.00
Election & Registration	\$82,570.00
Financial Administration	\$17,720.00
Appraisal of Property	\$23,000.00
Legal Expenses	\$20,000.00
Personnel Administration	\$221,155.00
Planning Board	\$15,000.00
General Government Buildings	\$26,500.00
Cemeteries	\$10,000.00
Insurance Property & Liability	\$25,862.00
Contingency	\$25,000.00
Police Budget	\$71,000.00
Ambulance Service	\$12,000.00
Rescue Squad	\$23,245.00
Fire Department	\$77,585.00
Forest Fire	\$6,650.00
Building Inspection	\$3,050.00
Emergency Management	\$2,050.00
Highway Department	\$469,400.00
Street Lights	\$1,100.00
Solid Waste	\$129,750.00
Health Officer	\$2,750.00
Animal Control	\$3,000.00
Health Agencies	\$7,762.00
Direct Assistance	\$6,600.00
Parks & Recreation	\$5,500.00
Library	\$19,000.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$500.00

Conservation Commission	\$5,100.00
Principal Bonds & Notes	\$166,301.00
Interest Bonds & Notes	\$9,511.00

Motion by Alvin McNeill, seconded by John Williams

Selectman Traci Homol presented the budget for 2024. Article three passed hand vote.

Article 04 Emergency Management CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Emergency Response Capital Reserve (CIP 051)	\$500.00
Emergency Communication and Power Generation Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 004)	\$500.00

Motion by Jon Thomas, seconded by Phil Tirrell. Article four passed by hand vote.

Article 05 Fire and Forest Fire CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,000.00 to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

Forest Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund (CIP 055)	\$5,000.00
Emergency Water Supply System Capital Reserve (CIP 006)	\$7,000.00
Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 036)	\$15,000.00

Motion by Jon Thomas, seconded by Phil Tirrell.

Fire Chief Jon Thomas briefly talked about how these funds are used in town. Article five passed by hand vote

Article 06 Rescue Department CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,500.00 to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 052)	\$2,000.00
Rescue Squad Truck Capital Reserve (CIP 054)	\$8,500.00

Motion by Bob Porter, seconded by Ron Clark.

Rescue Captain Beth Clark-Moulton explained what these funds are used for and also stated that the cost of a new truck has increased greatly since CIP 054 was first set up. Article six passed by hand vote.

Article 07 General Government CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$51,400.00 to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Town Building Repair Expendable Trust (CIP 012)	\$30,000.00
Municipal Buildings Complex Capital Reserve (CIP 010)	\$10,000.00
Appraisal of Property Capital Reserve (CIP 027)	\$7,900.00
Town Office Information Technology Capital Reserve (CIP 037)	\$3,500.00

Motion by Traci Homol, seconded by Everett Thurber.

Much discussion was had in regards to building repair, how much money was currently in the CIP(s) and the company the town uses for appraisal of property. Korrie Goodspeed made a motion to amend the Town Building Repair Expendable Trust (CIP 012) to \$10,000.00 seconded by Marco Gagon. More discussion has had. William Rodeschin made a motion to cease debate, seconded by John Williams; motion to cease debate passed. Motion to amend defeated by hand vote.

Charles Brookens made a motion to amend the Town Building Repair Expendable Trust (CIP 012) to \$20,000.00 seconded by Korrie Goodspeed. More discussion was had about this CIP and the funds that are currently in this CIP. Motion to amend Town Building Repair Expendable Trust (CIP 012) to \$20,000.00 passed by hand vote.

Alvin McNeill made a motion to amend the Appraisal of Property Capital Reserve (CIP 027) to \$5,000.00 seconded by Kevin Onnela. Discussion was had about the five year appraisal process and how the town the sets money aside each year to cover the cost. Motion to amend defeated by hand vote.

Article 08 Highway Department CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000.00 to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. \$100,000.00 to come from unassigned fund balance, \$150,000.00 to come from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Town Bridge and Culverts Expendable Trust (CIP 018)	\$30,000.00
Town Highway Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 026)	\$30,000.00
Road Reconstruction and Paving Capital Reserve (CIP 048)	\$150,000.00
Grader Capital Reserve (CIP 057)	\$40,000.00

Motion by Daryl Simino, seconded by Everett Thurber

Selectman Everett Thurber talked about the need to update the culverts, why many of them will need to be box culverts and the high cost of them. Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino talked about the cost of paving the roads and maintaining the paved roads in town. He also talked about the age of the current grader owned by the Town of Lempster. Much more discussion was had. William Rodeschin made a motion to cease debate, seconded by James Grenier; motion to cease debate passed. Article eight passed by hand count.

Article 09 Sanitation Department CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 021)	\$2,000.00	Landfill
Closure Capital Reserve (CIP 022)	\$2,000.00	

Motion by Mark Adams, seconded by Daryl Simino.

Selectman Traci Homol explained that this is a service for the Town of Lempster and not a money maker. She answered questions and more discussion was had. Article nine passed by hand vote.

Article 10 Cemetery CR/ET Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,607.00 to be added to the following Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds previously established. \$24,607.00 to come from unassigned fund balance from the sale of timber in 2023, \$1,000.00 to come from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Lawrence Johnson Estate Expendable Trust Fund (060) \$24,607.00

New Cemetery Capital Reserve (CIP 023) \$1,000.00

Motion by John Williams, seconded by Glen Wirkkala.

Cemetery Trustee Carol Stamatakis explained how the Lawrence Johnson Trust works and how the money can be used only for improvements to the cemetery. James Grenier talk about the amount of open land, and how the community benefits from this land and its uses. Article ten passed by hand vote.

Article 11 Planning Board CR Fund

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 Fund (CIP 058) previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Mark Adams, seconded by David Richards.

Mark Adams of the Planning Board explained the board plans. He talked about how these funds will be put to use for the town, mentioning updating the town's master plan. Article eleven passed by hand vote.

Article 12 By Petition

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, to read as follows: Be it resolved that the Selectboard 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 Magie Kemp, seconded Jennifer Glidner-Blinn.

Read Glidner-Blinn explained the reasoning for this warrant article, stating that this would give the Board of Selectman the right to set up bylaws, require insurance and or security bonds, and for tracks to have their own emergency personnel. Much discussion was had how the bylaws would set and who would police them. Traci Homol made a motion to cease debate, seconded by Alan Chandler; motion to cease debate passed. Moderator Shklar announced that he received a request for a paper ballot vote at the beginning of the meeting. Moderator Shklar reopened the polls for this vote. Article twelve failed by ballot vote NO Votes 71 Yes Votes 65.

Article 13 Any other business

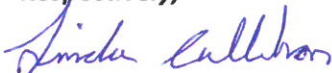
To transact any other business that may legally come before this Town Meeting.

Motion by Ron Clark, seconded Glen Glen Wirkkala.

Selectman Mark Lightner thanked Rachel Tirrell for all of her volunteer work that she has done over the years and currently still does for the Town of Lempster. Moderator Shklar thanked the residents for a successful meeting and also thanked everyone for being respectful to each other while in debate.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ron Clark at 9:00 pm, seconded by Linda Callahan all in favor.

Respectively,



**Linda Callahan
Town Clerk**