

2025 Lempster

Town Meeting Minutes

Moderator Shklar opened the polls at 3:30pm. Moderator Shklar closed the polls at 7:34pm. Lempster's Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Moderator Michael Shklar.

Article 01 Choose Officers

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

The following Town officers were elected: Daryl Simino, Selectman (3 year); Kayla Brehio, Town Clerk/Tax Collector (1 year); Mary Fellows, Treasurer (1 year); David Richards, Planning Board (3 year); Cheryl McGinnis, Cemetery Trustee (3 year); Korrie Goodspeed, Auditor (1 year)

The following Town officers were elected by write in votes: Molly Miller, Library Trustee (3 year); Rachel Tirrell, Library Trustee (2 year); Wanda Ash, Library Trustee (1 year); Sally Hooper, Trustee of Trust Funds (3 year)

Article 02 Receive Reports

To receive all reports and act thereon.

Motioned by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by Robert Porter. Article 2 passed by hand vote.

Article 03 General Town Operation

General Town Operations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,561,404 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	\$98,612
Election & Registration	\$76,710
Financial Administration	\$18,240
Appraisal of Property	\$37,949
Legal Expenses	\$25,000
Personnel Administration	\$237,408
Planning Board	\$15,000
General Government Buildings	\$27,750
Cemeteries	\$10,000
Insurance Property & Liability	\$28,190
Contingency	\$25,000
Police Budget	\$71,500
Ambulance Service	\$12,000
Rescue Squad	\$30,360
Fire Department	\$78,100
Forest Fire	\$6,650
Building Inspection	\$3,050
Emergency Management	\$2,050
Highway Department	\$485,100
Street Lights	\$1,100
Solid Waste	\$132,750
Health Officer	\$2,750
Animal Control	\$3,000
Health Agencies	\$7,762
Direct Assistance	\$6,600
Parks & Recreation	\$5,500
Library	\$22,500
Patriotic Purposes	\$500
Conservation Commission	\$5,100
Principal Bonds & Notes	\$79,749
Interest Bonds & Notes	\$5,424

Motioned by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by Jerry.

Selectman Mark Lightner presented the budget for 2025. Much discussion was had and many questions answered. Alvin McNeill motioned to call the question, Seconded by Traci Homol.

Motion to call was opposed and hand counted by Moderator Shklar. Motion to call was defeated.

2nd Motion to call the question – William Rodeschin. Question was called.

Article 3 passed by hand vote.

Article 04 Emergency Management CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Emergency Communication and Power Generation Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 004) \$500

Motioned by Jon Thomas, Seconded by Robin McGuire. Article 4 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 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

Emergency Water Supply System Capital Reserve (CIP 006) \$7,000

Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 036) \$15,000

Motioned by Jon Thomas, Seconded by Melanie Kraus.

Chief Jon Thomas explained the funds for the Forest Fire Truck would be to replace the current 2008 truck that was purchased used in 2011. The emergency Water Supply System reserve would be for installation of dry hydrants or some other types of emergency water supply. The Fire Department Equipment reserve would be used to update gear and equipment so they are up to state standards. Jacob Champness motioned to amend that the funds be taken from Unreserved Fund Balance. Kevin Onnela called to move the question; all in favor. Article 05 passed as amended by hand vote.

Article 06 Fire Department Security

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 for the purpose of purchasing for the Fire Department building interior and exterior cameras, and key card door access. \$6,000 to come from unassigned fund balance. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motioned by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by Jon Thomas. Moderator Shklar announced that he received a request for a paper ballot vote and opened the polls. 85 Yes 75 No.

Article Six passed by ballot vote.

Article 07 Fire Pumper Engine

To see if the town will vote to establish a Fire Pumper Engine Capital Reserve Fund (CIP 061) under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing a New Fire Pumper Engine with original equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,500 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)

Motioned by Jon Thomas; Seconded by Alvin McNeill

Chief Jon Thomas motioned to amend to strike the word NEW from the article so that it opens the option to purchase used. Seconded by Maggie Kemp. Motion to amend passed by hand vote. Chief Thomas explained that the current truck is a 2015 and is a great reliable truck. It had cost \$499,000 10 Years ago and last payment will be made this year. To purchase a new/used pumper truck would be roughly \$750,000-\$1million. This is to save money towards a future purchase. Al Chandler motioned to amend to \$30,000; seconded by Korrie Goodspeed. Amendment passed by majority of hand vote. Motion to call the question, all in favor. Moderator Shklar announced that he received a request for a paper ballot vote and opened the polls. 72 Yes, 81 No. Article 07 failed by ballot vote.

Article 08 Fire Quint/Ladder Engine

To see if the town will vote to establish a Fire Quint/Ladder Engine Capital Reserve Fund (CIP062) under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing a New quint/Ladder Engine with original equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 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)

Motioned by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by Jon Thomas

Chief Jon Thomas motioned to amend to strike the word NEW from the article so that it opens the option to purchase used. Amendment passed, all in favor. Chief Jon Thomas spoke about the need for a ladder engine. Our current engine is a 2000 and was lightly refurbished 5 years ago. This is to stay on track with equipment purchases. Annie Hannah moved to call the question, all in favor to move to a vote. Moderator Shklar announced that he received a request for a paper ballot vote and opened the polls for this vote. 54 Yes, 92 No. Article 08 failed by ballot vote.

Article 09 Fire Department Per Call Pay

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,204 for the purpose of moving to a pay per call system for the Lempster Fire and Rescue Department. (Majority vote required)

Motioned by Jon Thomas, Seconded by Alvin McNeill

Chief Jon Thomas read a letter explaining trends over the years and how they are trying to stay ahead of it. He explained that the Younger generation is just not volunteering and he wants Lempster Fire to be able to offer what other towns currently have or will be projecting to their towns in the near future. The benefits of pay per call: Personnel not seeking other revenue sources outside of community, recruitment and retention, fairness with other communities that have already implemented this and/or in process of doing so, reimbursement for loss of pay, vehicle wear and tear, incentive to attend trainings and improve skills.

Moderator Shklar announced that he received a request for a paper ballot vote and opened the polls for this vote. 66 Yes, 78 No. Article 09 failed by ballot vote.

Traci Homol motioned to protect ALL article votes to not be reconsidered or amended. All in favor by hand vote.

Article 10 Rescue Department CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 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
Rescue Squad Truck Capital Reserve (CIP 054)	\$28,000

Motioned by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by Jon Thomas

Rescue Captain Beth Clark-Moulton explained that the Planning Board requested that the departments look at what they originally quoted in years past and to get a current cost for used vehicles due to increase in costs. Korrie Goodspeed motioned to amend the amount of the rescue squad truck to \$7,500. Motion was defeated by hand vote. Article 10 passed as originally presented by hand vote.

Article 11 Highway Department CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be added to the following Capital Reserve/Expendable Trust Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Town Bridge and Culverts Expendable Trust (CIP 018)	\$30,000
Town Highway Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 026)	\$20,000
Road Reconstruction and Paving CR (CIP 048)	\$150,000

Motioned by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by Traci Homol

Motion to amend to add \$100,000 to main article; defeated by hand vote. Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino explained what funds would be used for. Lacey Fellows motioned to call the question, seconded by Traci Homol. Article 11 passed as originally presented by hand vote.

Article 12 Grader Purchase

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$325,000 for the purpose of purchasing a 2025 Caterpillar 120AWDJJOY Grader \$132,000 to come from CIP 057 Grader CRF created for that purpose. The balance of \$193,000 to come from unassigned fund balance. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation (Majority vote required)

Motion by Everett Thurber, Seconded by Alvin McNeill.

Selectman Everett Thurber made a motion to amend Article 12 to read: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$352,000 for the purpose of purchasing a 2025 Caterpillar 140AWDJJOY Grader \$132,000 to come from CIP 057 Grader CRF created for that purpose. The balance of \$220,000 to come from unassigned fund balance. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation (Majority vote required). Amendment was passed by hand vote. Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino explained the need for a new grader. Much discussion was had and many questions answered. Annie Hannah motioned to call the question. All in favor to cease debate. Article 12 passed as amended by hand vote.

Article 13 Sanitation Department CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 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
Landfill Closure Capital Reserve (CIP 022) \$2,000

*Motion by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by Stephen Zakur
Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino spoke briefly about what these funds would be used for.
Article 13 passed by hand vote.*

Article 14 Cemetery CR/ET Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500 to be added to the following Capital Reserves previously established. \$8,500 to come from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Cemetery Tree Maintenance CR (047) \$7,500
New Cemetery Capital Reserve (CIP 023) \$1,000

*Motion by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by many hands
Cemetery Trustee Carol Stamatakis explained there were 3 trees that needed to be removed which wiped out the account. The tree maintenance funds would be to replenish the account for future needs that arise. She also spoke of the New Green Burial Cemetery on Benway Hill and that funds from selling the trees cannot be used for ordinary maintenance expenses for the Cemetery. Motion to amend Tree Maintenance to \$4,000, seconded by Korrie Goodspeed; Defeated by hand vote. Back to main motion. Annie Hannah motion to call the question, seconded by Traci Homol. Article 14 passed as originally presented by hand vote.*

Article 15 Planning Board CR Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 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 William Rodeschin.
Mark Adams of the Planning Board explained what funds would be used for.
Article 15 passed by hand vote.*

Article 16 General Government CR Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$53,500 to be added to the following Capital Reserve/Expendable Trust Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Town Building Repair Expendable Trust (CIP 012)	\$20,000.00
Municipal Buildings Complex Capital Reserve (CIP 010)	\$30,000.00
Town Office Information Technology CR (CIP 037)	\$3,500.00

*Motion by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by Al Chandler
Selectman Mark Lightner explained what the funds would be used for. Al Chandler motioned to amend \$30,000 to \$32,500. Defeated by hand vote. Tim Greene motioned to amend to add \$100,000 to Municipal Building from unassigned fund balance. Defeated by hand vote. Back to main motion. Annie Hannah motioned to call the question, all in favor.
Article 16 passed as originally presented by hand vote.*

Article 17 Town Hall/Meeting House Restoration

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Town Hall/Meeting House Restoration Capital Reserve Fund (CIP 030) created in 2007. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by Stephen Zakur. Article 17 passed by hand vote.

Article 18 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, \$65,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$85,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$105,000. 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 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$28,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$70,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Alvin McNeill, Seconded by Stephen Zakur

Alvin McNeill motioned to amend to increase net income for single to \$25,000, seconded by Traci Homol. All in favor – Passed by hand vote. Stephen Zakur motioned to amend to increase net income for married to \$32,000. All in favor – passed by hand vote. Jacob Champness motioned to amend to double income limits to \$40,000 for single, \$56,000 for married. Amendment was defeated by hand vote. Article 18 passed as amended in part to read “the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$25,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$32,000”.

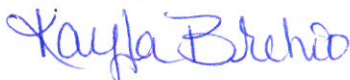
Article 19 Any other business

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

Selectman Mark Lightner presented a Concerned Citizen Certificate to Melanie Kraus as she communicates directly to the Board of Selectman with no social media and addresses any concerns.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Kayla Brehio, seconded by everyone at 10:45pm.

Best regards,



Kayla Brehio

Town Clerk