

# *2026 Lempster*

## *Town Meeting Minutes*

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

Lempster's Town Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Moderator Michael Shklar with a salute to the flag and the pledge of allegiance.

### **Article 01 Choose Officers**

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

*The Following Town Officers were elected: Everett Thurber, Selectman (3 years); Kayla Brehio, Town Clerk/Tax Collector (3 years); Mary Fellows, Treasurer (1 year); Kirt Wirkkala, Planning Board (3 years); Jodie Hibbard, Trustee of Trust Funds – Write-in vote (3 years); Michael Shklar, Moderator (2 years); Carol Stamatakis, Cemetery Trustee (3 years); Wanda Ash, Library Trustee (3 years); Hannah Tirrell, Library Trustee (3 years); Tiffany Ash, Library Trustee (1 year); Korrie Goodspeed, Auditor – Write-in vote (1 year); Athena Brehio, Supervisor of the Checklist (6 years)*

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### **Article 02 Receive Reports**

To receive all reports and act thereon.

*Motion by Mark Lightner, seconded by Kevin (Red) Onnela. Article two passed by hand vote.*

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### **Article 03 By Petition Discontinue Bean Mountain Road**

To see if the town will vote to completely discontinue Bean Mountain Road starting at its intersection with Nichols Road and the ending point at the north boundary line of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests as it intersects with Bean Mountain Road. Pursuant to RSA 231:43 this discontinuance shall take effect immediately.

*Motion by Kevin (Red) Onnela, seconded by Korrie Goodspeed.*

*Kevin Onnela spoke at length and urged voters to approve of the discontinuance to resolve conflict and end ongoing disputes and costs. After much discussion, Joe Moulton called the question, seconded by Robert Porter. Article three proceeded by paper ballot per petition.*

*Majority vote: Yes – 86; No – 91. Article three failed by paper ballot vote.*

**Article 04 General Town Operations**

General Town Operations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,620,743.00 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	\$103,066.00
Election & Registration	\$83,487.00
Financial Administration	\$19,000.00
Appraisal of Property	\$28,000.00
Legal Expenses	\$25,000.00
Personnel Administration	\$270,659.00
Planning Board	\$15,000.00
General Government Buildings	\$27,900.00
Cemeteries	\$10,000.00
Insurance Property & Liability	\$30,317.00
Contingency	\$25,000.00
Police Budget	\$71,600.00
Ambulance Service	\$12,000.00
Rescue Squad	\$36,970.00
Fire Department	\$80,650.00
Forest Fire	\$6,650.00
Building Inspection	\$3,050.00
Emergency Management	\$3,375.00
Highway Department	\$522,800.00
Street Lights	\$1,200.00
Solid Waste	\$137,050.00
Health Officer	\$2,750.00
Animal Control	\$3,000.00
Health Agencies	\$7,762.00
Direct Assistance	\$6,700.00
Parks & Recreation	\$6,000.00
Library	\$21,400.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$500.00
Conservation Commission	\$5,100.00
Principal Bonds & Notes	\$51,143.00
Interest Bonds & Notes	\$3,614.00

*Motion by Ted Kraus, seconded by Mark Lightner.*

*Selectman Mark Lightner presented the budget for 2026. The increase for this year was less than 4%. He explained the increase is due to the higher cost of living and hiring additional staff for the highway department. Article four passed by hand vote.*

**Article 05 Emergency Management CR Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 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)	\$500.00
Emergency Response (CIP 051)	\$1,000.00

*Motion by Mark Adams, seconded by Jon Thomas.*

*Chief Thomas explains the funds are well short of major response needs and power generation projects that are in the works. Article five passed by hand vote.*

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**Article 06 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 Joe Moulton.*

*Chief Thomas spoke briefly about getting more water supplies around the community, purchase of a new boat, portable radios and upgrading their basic water rescue equipment. Capital reserve articles set aside savings for specific projects and large future expenses, not necessarily for current-year spending; grants often require matching funds. All in favor by hand vote. Article six passed.*

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**Article 07 Rescue Department CR Funds**

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

Rescue Squad Truck Capital Reserve (CIP 054)	\$28,000.00
Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP052)	\$2,000.00

*Motion by Jon Thomas, seconded by Joe Moulton.*

*Chief Thomas spoke briefly about anticipation of replacing the rescue squad truck. It is a 2014 showing a bit of wear and tear but for its age is in fairly decent shape. This is the most operated vehicle the Fire Station has. All in favor by hand vote. Article seven passed.*

**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/Expendable Trust Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Town Bridge and Culverts Expendable Trust (CIP 018) \$80,000.00  
Town Highway Equipment Capital Reserve (CIP 026) \$20,000.00  
Road Reconstruction and Paving Capital Reserve (CIP 048)  
\$150,000.00

*Motioned by Ted Kraus, Seconded by Traci Homol to move to the floor.*

*Everett Thurber Motioned to amend 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/Expendable Trust Funds previously established with \$200,000 coming from taxes and \$50,000 from unreserved fund balance; seconded by Mark Adams. Amendment passed by majority show of hands.*

*Torey Duggan Haydon motioned to amend, seconded by Kevin (Red) Onnela to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to be added to the following Capital Reserve/Expendable Trust Funds previously established with the entire funds to come from the unreserved fund balance. Much discussion was had on fund balance levels and tax rate impact.*

*Moderator called the question for the Towns vote. Article eight passed by hand vote as amended with \$250,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance.*

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**Article 09 Highway Truck Ex CR Fund**

To see if the town will vote to establish a Highway Truck Expendable Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for purpose of purchasing a Highway Truck 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 Mark Lightner, seconded by Ted Kraus. Highway supervisor Scott Goodspeed spoke briefly stating this is to start putting money away for the purchase of a new Highway truck.*

*Torey Duggan Haydon motioned to amend, seconded by Kevin (Red) Onnela to increase the number from \$25,000 to \$50,000, but take the money from the unreserved fund balance. Moderator Shklar counted hands, motion to amend was defeated back to the main motion to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in this fund. Erik Walker motioned to amend to decrease the number from \$25,000 to \$15,000. Motion to amend failed due to lack of a second. Motion to call the question made and seconded; vote to cease debate passed by hand vote. Article nine passed as originally presented by hand vote.*

**Article 10 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

*Motioned by Everett Thurber, seconded by Kevin (Red) Onnela.*

*There was much discussion of the cost to close the landfill, well testing and question of conditions. Recent tree cutting was done as directed by DES to protect cap/soil. Article ten passed by hand vote.*

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**Article 11 Cemetery CR/ET Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500.00 to be added to the following Capital Reserve Funds previously established. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Cemetery Tree Maintenance Capital Reserve (047)	\$7,500.00
New Cemetery Capital Reserve (CIP 023)	\$1,000.00

*Motioned by Ted Kraus, seconded by Carol Stamatakis.*

*Cemetery Trustee Carol Stamatakis spoke briefly about this fund. Minimal discussion was had. Article eleven passed by hand vote.*

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**Article 12 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)

*Motioned by Mark Adams, seconded by William Rodeschin.*

*Mark Adams spoke briefly about this fund. Article twelve passed by hand vote.*

**Article 13 General Government CR Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000.00 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)	\$10,000.00
Municipal Buildings Complex Capital Reserve(CIP 010)	\$50,000.00
Town Office Information Technology Capital Reserve(CIP 037)	\$3,000.00
Town Records Preservation Capital Reserve (CIP 013)	\$3,500.00
Appraisal of Property Capital Reserve	\$13,500.00

*Motioned by Mark Lightner, seconded by Torey Duggan Haydon.*

*Selectman Mark Lightner explained the annual funding to avoid large future burdens, continuous IT security needs and the municipal building complex project.*

*Torey Duggan Haydon made a motion to amend this article to take all funds from the unreserved fund balance. Amendment was defeated by hand vote. Article thirteen passed as originally presented by hand vote.*

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**Article 14 Any other business**

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

*Korrie Goodspeed requested that every road be open to ATV use. Moderator Shklar explained that it has not been properly petitioned nor any notice given to all residents of the town.*

*Moderator Shklar motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by everyone at 9:45pm.*

*Respectively,*



*Kayla Brehio  
Town Clerk*