TOWN OF LEMPSTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2026

Board Present: Mark Lightner, Everett Thurber, and Daryl Simino

Administrative Assistant Robin Cantara

Others Present: Ted Kraus, Melanie Kraus, John Luke, David Richards, Jon Thomas

and Scott Goodspeed

Opening and Approval of Minutes:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM on November 12, 2026.
- The minutes of the October 13, 2026, meeting were approved as amended. The board removed an incorrect reference to mattresses being picked up at the Unity store.

Old Business:

Fire Department Inventory

- Inventory received.

Friends of the Lempster Meeting House

- John Tuttle offered to serve as a liaison in drafting a preservation agreement or easement to protect the Lempster Meeting House over the long term, regardless of future board decisions. The terms, dates, and supporting financial records still need to be finalized.

The building's funding history was reported to include LCHIP grants, local taxes, private donations and improvements funded by the Friends of the Lempster Meeting House, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Building Committee

- The Building Committee is preparing preliminary floor plans and identifying space, accessibility, and operational requirements before holding a full discussion. Initial drawings were delayed by software paywalls, but assistance has been arranged to complete them.
- The committee should consider specific user needs, including handicap-accessible restrooms.
- Daryl will complete initial floor-plan drawings and schedule a committee meeting.

Transfer Station / Pay-As-You-Throw

- Pay-As-You-Throw remains on the agenda for future discussion.

New Business:

- The board approved canceling the regular meetings scheduled for **November 24, 2026**, and **December 22, 2026**, around Thanksgiving and Christmas. The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for **December 8, 2026**.

Department Reports:

Fire/Rescue

Calls, Training, and Staffing

- From October 6 to November 10, the department reported 19 calls:
    - One search-and-rescue call at Mount Sunapee.
    - One carbon monoxide issue involving a pellet stove in Marlow and one local carbon monoxide reading.
    - One electrical issue in Marlow.
    - One brush fire canceled while responders were en route.
    - Ten medical calls in town and four in Marlow.
- Two members completed a two-day large-animal rescue course. The department is identifying equipment needs and compiling a veterinarian list; three veterinarians are willing to be on call 24/7.
- Members attended off-road rescue training in Washington. In-house training covered search techniques for building fires and hypothermic emergencies.
- Four people applied to join the department; two applications were accepted. The status of the other applications was not clarified. CJ was accepted but still needs to complete an I-9 and other new-hire paperwork.
- The department thanked Scott and his crew for improving the station driveway.

Potential Collaboration with Marlow

- The department raised the possibility of collaborating with Marlow, citing limited daytime staffing and an aging department. Marlow had warned it might have to close if members did not begin responding. Lempster has responded to many calls in Marlow, although Marlow recently handled two calls independently.
- Jon described discussions with Washington officials and a visit with the Fitzwilliam Fire Chief about the Fitzwilliam–Troy partnership. In that arrangement, both towns respond to calls in either town, while most equipment remains at its respective station.
- Participants supported exploring an approach that benefits both towns and includes fire personnel and select boards. The discussion focused primarily on Lempster and Marlow; broader regional discussions could be considered later.
- Daytime staffing was a key concern. Per diem staffing was discussed as a preferred next step; a shared full-time position and additional personnel were viewed as potentially costly.
- Ambulance coverage and possible hospital-based ambulance services were discussed, but no confirmed expansion of ambulance coverage at Cheshire or Valley was identified.
- Participants requested a written outline before the next discussion. Jon will organize his notes and Shannen's notes into a clear document for review.

- A separate work meeting with Lempster and Marlow selectmen and fire department leadership was proposed. A session was tentatively targeted for November 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., subject to confirming availability.

Equipment and Purchases

- The rescue department requested up to $1,000 for a dedicated pediatric first aid bag to keep specialized equipment organized and readily available. A quote was estimated at about $910; the purchase was approved for no more than $1,000.
- Melanie was asked to check on arranging service for the LifePak equipment and report back.

Highway/Transfer Station

- The crew has been clearing road debris. The new blower is working well, and EJ Welch cleared Long Pond.
- The speed table at the end of Lovejoy and Allen has been rebuilt and is more prominent. Signs are in place, with paint and arrows still planned. Some drivers are maneuvering around it rather than driving over it.
- The crew finished grading Lovejoy and Keyes Hollow, began work on Stage Road, and graded Sand Pond.
- A driveway permit for Stage Road was approved. The department reported no town-side issue with the proposed location, which is within the property line. The property has two driveways on the same lot, and the applicant had also appeared before the Planning Board.
- The muffler on the 416 was replaced, and plow frames were installed on the 1999 and 2020 vehicles. The department planned to finish checking remaining equipment by the end of the week and expected to be ready for possible precipitation on Friday, November 13, 2026.
- The calcium tank was removed from the 2009 vehicle.
- The compactor is working again after an electrician repaired a loose leg in its electrical switch-box connection that had burned off.
- A "No Through Road" sign was installed at Dodge Pond Beach after the Cemetery Committee reported that vehicles were attempting to drive through.

Transfer Station

- No new pay-as-you-throw items were reported.
- The attendant is leaving, and the department is seeking attendants for Wednesday and Sunday shifts. A certified attendant is preferred, but training is available.
- A possible applicant expressed interest in transfer station work and helping the highway department.
- Members discussed advertising the vacancy with a sign at the transfer station or town hall and a website posting. The wage and posting locations have not been decided.
- If Sunday staffing is unavailable, operating with one lane open was mentioned as a possible alternative to closing, but it was not confirmed as a plan.

Administration and Correspondence:

Meeting House Use

- The ladies' Bible study will return to Jacky's house after temporarily using the meeting house.

- The meeting house will be used on the 22nd of November for a presentation about an Ecuador trip, including photos and video. The usage agreement was reported as signed.

Budget and Invoices

- Department budget submissions are due December 1, 2026, and the overall budget increase should be no greater than 3%.
- Department budget meetings are to be scheduled for December 9, 2026.
- Invoices are due December 29, 2026; earlier submissions are appreciated.

Public Participation:

Mountain Road Visibility

- A resident described poor visibility at the road edges on Mountain Road during heavy fog.
- Road paint reportedly cost about $14,000 previously and lasted less than a year. Reflective delineator posts were discussed as a possible alternative, though some existing reflectors have been removed or no longer function.
- A resident said they would consider contributing toward a safety improvement. No option was selected.

Online Fire Permits

- David clarified that online permitting is an alternative, not his preferred method. He cited system glitches and outages, poor mobile usability, and instances where applicants selected options that did not legally fit the permit.
- The online service charges applicants a little over $5 in vendor fees. David noted that some towns do not use the system.
- The online system remains available, but its limitations and the process for obtaining permits need to be explained.

Nonpublic – RSA 91-A:3, II(e) Legal and II(b) Personnel

At 7:27PM Daryl moves to enter non-public, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

At 8: 20PM Daryl moves, seconded by Mark to end the non-public session and return to the public meeting; all in favor.

Mark makes a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public meeting, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

There being no further business, Daryl moved to adjourn the public meeting at 8:21PM, seconded by Mark; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cantara
Administrative Assistant