

**Official Town Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2010  
Colebrook, New Hampshire**

Moderator Ronald Patterson opened the Annual Town Meeting at 7 pm. The approximate 120 people in attendance stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Article 1** To bring in your ballots for the selection of Town Officers to be elected by ballot for the Town of Colebrook for the ensuing year.

Moderator Patterson noted that the next four articles were voted on by ballot during the day with the following results:

**Article 2** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Colebrook Zoning Ordinance as follows: Remove Article IV Section 6.D. regarding Certificate of Occupancy in its entirety.

Yes

No

**Article 3** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Colebrook Zoning Ordinance as follows: Remove the definition for Certificate of Occupancy in article III.

Yes

No

**Article 4** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Colebrook Zoning Ordinance as follows: Replace the words "Building Permit" with the words "Zoning Ordinance Certificate of Compliance" within the Zoning Ordinance.

Yes

No

**Article 5** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Colebrook Zoning Ordinance as follows: Merge the two separate definitions for Dwelling Unit found in Article III (Definitions) into one.

271 Yes

43 No

**Article 6** Mike Ouellet made a motion to amend the amount to be raised and appropriated for **General Government** from \$1,671,469.00 stated in the warrant to the amount of \$1,670,669. Frank Dumaine seconded the motion. Mr. Ouellet then reviewed the line items encompassing the following totals proposed for each department:

1) Executive and Elections	\$ 78,108.00
2) Voter Registration and Town Clerk	\$ 49,634.00
3) Financial/Assessing/Tax Collection/Treasurer Trustee of Trust Funds/Data Processing	\$152,453.00
4) Legal	\$ 8,700.00
5) Planning & Zoning	\$ 6,487.00
6) General Buildings	\$ 54,795.00
7) Advertising & Regional Association	\$ 2,191.00
8) Police/Fire/Ambulance/Emergency Man	\$459,837.00
9) Highways & Streets	\$506,676.00
10) Retaining Wall Repairs	\$ 37,500.00
11) Sanitation & Recycling	\$180,005.00
12) Health Agencies/Animal Boarding	\$ 31,475.00
13) General Assistance	\$ 5,000.00
14) Recreation/Patriotic	\$ 81,633.00
15) Economic Development	\$ 10,900.00
16) Conservation Commission	\$ 275.00
17) Debt Service	\$ 5,000.00

Most variances from 2009 were based on health insurance and NH retirement increases, along with an increase in the bond insurance. Mr. Ouellet explained the \$800 difference in the total to be raised was a reduction in the line item for Training & Seminars in Parks & Recreation. Moderator Patterson called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment passed with a voice vote. The article as amended to raise and appropriate \$1,670,669.00 for General Government passed with a voice vote.

**Article 7** Roland Cotnoir made a motion, seconded by Frank Dumaine, to raise and appropriate up to **\$7,000.00** for the purpose of **Building Maintenance** and **Security** and authorize the use of the **December 31, 2009** fund balance in that amount for this purpose. Roland Cotnoir explained that this was to implement changes required by the State of New Hampshire to allow the Colebrook

District Court to remain in the Town Hall. The motion passed with a voice vote.

**Article 8** Mike Ouellet made a motion, seconded by Roland Cotnoir, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$170,000.00** for the **Purchase** of a **New Plow Truck**. The amount of \$155,000.00 is to come from the Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, and \$15,000.00 is to come from the trade in value of the International. It was explained that the International is ten years old and badly rusted even though the mileage is only 62,000. The motion passed with a voice vote.

**Article 9** Roland Cotnoir made a motion to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** for engineering of the **Hazen Road Bridge** and to authorize the withdrawal of this amount from the Capital Reserve Bridge Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the engineering is completed or by December 31, 2015, whichever is sooner. Frank Dumaine seconded the motion. Mr. Cotnoir explained this bridge serves several residents and is not safe for fire trucks. The amount being raised will be used for engineering costs. The motion passed with a voice vote.

**Article 10** Mike Ouellet made a motion, seconded by Frank Dumaine, to pass over this article to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$221,417.00** for the purpose of implementing the **Pay As You Throw Program**. The motion to pass over this article carried with a voice vote.

Bud Hulse made a motion to restrict reconsideration of this article. Rossiter Holt seconded and the motion passed with a voice vote.

**Article 11** Mike Ouellet made a motion to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$184,152.00** for the purpose of running the **Colebrook Transfer Station**. Frank Dumaine seconded and the motion passed with a voice vote.

**Article 12** Frank Dumaine made a motion, seconded by Mike Ouellet, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** for the purpose of an **Energy Expo**. Tax dollars will not be used for this appropriation. Sponsors will offset this cost. The motion passed with a voice vote.

**Article 13** Mike Ouellet made a motion to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$60,600.00** for the following **Capital Reserve Funds**:

1) Equipment Purchase (1999)	\$ 38,000.00
2) Police Cruiser (1999)	\$ 12,000.00
3) Property Reassessment (2002)	\$ 10,600.00

Roland Cotnoir seconded the motion and it passed with a voice vote.

**Article 14** Roland Cotnoir made a motion to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ **366,668.00** for the **Colebrook Water Works and the Colebrook Sewer Facilities**. Said funds to be offset by user fees.

1) Water Department	\$ 159,598.00
2) Sewer Department	\$ 207,070.00

Mike Ouellet seconded the motion and it passed with a voice vote.

Moderator Patterson noted that there was no Article 15 contained within the warrant.

**Article 16** Frank Dumaine made a motion to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** for the purchase of a new Water and Sewer truck. \$15,000.00 will come from the Water NHPDIP Funds and the remaining \$15,000.00 will come from the Sewer NHPDIP Funds. This article will not affect the tax rate; user fees offset it. Roland Cotnoir seconded the motion and it passed with a voice vote.

**Article 17** Frank Dumaine made a motion, seconded by Roland Cotnoir, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$155,252.00** for the support of the **Colebrook Public Library**. \$109,777.00 is to be raised through taxation and \$45,475.00 of which is to come from other Library balance on hand January 1, 2010, book sales, donations, trust funds, non-resident fees, other communities, over due fines, book resale, copying fees etc., such funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Library Trustees. The motion passed with a voice vote.

**Article 18** Roland Cotnoir made a motion to establish a **Capital Reserve Fund** under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of **Library Buildings Roof Repair/Replacement** and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be placed in this fund and to designate the Library Trustees as agents to expend. Mike Ouellet seconded the motion and it passed with a voice vote.

**Article 19** Frank Dumaine made a motion, seconded by Mike Ouellet, to amend the amount to be raised and appropriated for the operation and maintenance of the **Colebrook Cemeteries**, from \$76,890.00 to **\$75,390.00**; the sum of \$63,390.00 to be raised through taxation and \$12,000.00 to be raised from burials, cemetery trust funds and other Colebrook Cemetery revenues. The moderator called for a vote on the amendment which passed with a voice vote. The article as amended to raise and appropriate \$75,390.00 for the operation and maintenance of the Colebrook Cemeteries passed with a voice vote.

**Article 20** Frank Dumaine made a motion to raise and appropriate the **\$5,000.00** to be added to the **Colebrook Cemetery Grounds Maintenance and Reclamation Fund Expendable Trust (2005)**. Roland Cotnoir seconded and the motion passed with a voice vote.

**Article 21** Frank Dumaine made a motion, seconded by Roland Cotnoir, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$222,122.00** for the **Colebrook Dispatch Center**, with \$5,000.00 to come from the Radio Dispatch Center Special Revenue Fund, \$73,450.00 to come from participating towns and \$143,672.00 to come from taxation. The motion passed with a voice vote.

**Article 22** Mike Ouellet made a motion to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand dollars (**1,000.00**) for the purpose of supporting a share of the services provided to residents by **Child and Family Services** of New Hampshire which provides home-based family support services and other family preservation services for low-income, at risk families in our community. (By Petition) Frank Dumaine seconded and the motion passed with a voice vote.

**Article 23** Frank Dumaine made a motion, seconded by Roland Cotnoir, to raise and appropriate **\$3,000.00** to approve the Town to maintain for winter travel the section of **Reed Road** from the intersection of Ippolito Drive to the intersection of Shallow Road to include snow plowing, sanding, and other such maintenance as may be necessary, until rescinded. This section of Reed Road is a Class V road and is a designated "Emergency Lane," and is approximately 2/10ths of a mile in length. (By Petition) (By Ballot Vote)

Discussion ensued with Roland Cotnoir stating the Selectmen felt it would take close to \$60,000 to upgrade this road so that the ten-wheel plow truck could maintain it for winter travel. Even though this is a Class V town road, it was deemed a seasonal road for

summer use many years ago. Two years ago, it was among the roads designated as an Emergency Lane. A call for the ballot vote ensued with the following result: The motion failed.

20

Yes

97

No

**Article 24** Roland Cotnoir made a motion to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:1-c, which authorizes any town or city to elect **not to assess**, levy and collect a **Resident Tax**. Mike Ouellet seconded the motion and it passed with a voice vote.

**Article 25** Mike Ouellet made a motion for the Town to accept the provision of RSA 31:95-b providing that any Town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the town meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal, or other governmental unit or private source which becomes available during the fiscal year. This authorization will remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of the municipal meeting. (Majority vote required).

Frank Dumaine seconded the motion and it passed with a voice vote.

**Article 26** Roland Cotnoir made a motion, seconded by Frank Dumaine, to see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representative(s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President.

**Resolved:** The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines “marriage”. (By Petition)

Moderator Patterson noted that he had been presented with a request to conduct a secret ballot vote signed by five registered voters. The results of the secret ballot were as follows: The motion failed.

47

Yes

57

No

**Article 27** Kevin McKinnon made a motion to **accept, ratify** and **confirm** the reports of the Agents, Selectmen, Auditors and all other Town Officers. Rossiter Holt seconded and the motion passed.

**Article 28** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting:

Roland Cotnoir extended congratulations and a welcome to Rossiter Holt for his election to the Board of Selectmen. He also extended a thank you was to Frank Dumaine for his six years of service on the Board of Selectmen.

Karen Harrigan Ladd was given a standing ovation on receiving the 2010 Citizen of the Year Award for her volunteerism and service to the Town of Colebrook.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Beauchemin  
Town Clerk