

Minutes of Town Meeting

First Session – Tuesday March 10, 2026

Election Officials Present: Jessica Treadway, Moderator; Katie Archer, Assistant Moderator; Samuel Papps, Town Clerk; Brenda Murray, Denise Sojka, and Pam Smarling, Supervisors of the Checklist; Mary Hauptman and Kathleen McKay, Ballot Clerks. Also present: Calvin Todd, Scott Doherty and Beth Blair, Selectboard; Jessica Lozier, Deputy Town Clerk-Tax Collector.

The Polling was held at the Old Town Hall, Canterbury, NH. The Ballot Box for the Town and School District ballots was checked at 7:00 a.m. by Moderator Treadway and voter Beryl Boisvert of New Road and then closed and locked. Moderator Treadway then opened the polls. The Town's Imagecast Ballot Counting Device was used to tally the votes cast for the Town and School election ballots.

Polling Hours were held from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and a total of 392 voters cast ballots. Of those, 9 were Absentee for the Town and the School District. There were 1,946 voters on the checklist, and 6 new voters were registered.

Polling was closed at 7:00 p.m. by Moderator Treadway, and the count of votes for the Town Election Ballot and the School District Ballot was conducted by election officials assisted by Kelly Papps, Lucyann Zeller, Rick Zeller, Kathy Doherty, Sylvia Styles, Janice Stout and Beth McGuinn.

Town Ballot Results

Selectman: (1 position, 3 years)	Doherty, Scott	343
Planning Board: (2 positions, 3 years)	Snyder, Logan	331
	(<i>write-in</i>) Della Croce, Janice	20
Cemetery Trustee: (1 position, 3 years)	Goegel, John	291
	Weberski, John	56
Library Trustee: (2 positions, 2 years)	Snow, Debbie	264
	Weberski, Jennifer	128
	Woods, Florence	199
Trustee of the Trust Funds: (1 position, 3 years)	Heath, Gregory	339
Supervisor of the Check List: (1 position, 6 years)	Williams, Suzanne	346

Article 2 passed, 339 Yes to 41 No.

Article 3 passed, 333 Yes to 45 No.

Article 4 passed, 322 Yes to 63 No.

Article 5 passed, 335 Yes to 49 No.

Article 6 passed, 314 Yes to 61 No.

Moderator Treadway announced the results of voting at 10 p.m.

Reports were finalized at 11 p.m. by the Town Clerk.

36 The meeting convened until Friday, March 13, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at Canterbury
37 Elementary School for the deliberative session.

Minutes of Town Meeting

38

Second Session – March 13, 2026

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40 Moderator Jessica Treadway opened the meeting at 7 p.m., held at the Canterbury
41 Elementary School Gymnasium on Baptist Road. She expressed comments of welcome to the
42 voters gathered and asked for acknowledgement of the veterans in the room, followed by applause
43 from the voters. Faelyn, Wade and Charlotte Archer of Scales Road led the recitation of the Pledge
44 of Allegiance. Moderator Treadway noted the recent passing of former Town moderator Ted
45 LeClair and asked for a few moments of silence for the loss of Canterbury residents in 2025.
46 Moderator Treadway noted that the Town Report was dedicated to Ken and Ilene Stearn of Wilson
47 Road, and they were recognized with applause by the assembly for their conservation work in the
48 Town of Canterbury. She thanked all the election workers and counters for their work on Tuesday
49 and acknowledged Brenda Murray's long term as a Supervisor of the Checklist. Moderator
50 Treadway introduced the group on the dais; Town Administrator Ken Folsom, Selectboard Calvin
51 Todd, Beth Blair, and Scott Doherty, and Town Clerk Sam Papps. She asked that non-residents
52 Town Administrator Ken Folsom, Road Agent Donald "John" O'Connor, Police Chief Justin
53 Crotty, and Fire Chief Michael Gamache, be allowed to speak if called upon, and the body
54 responded verbally in the affirmative. She also recognized Edgar Rivera, who was taping the
55 meeting. She proceeded to review the rules of how the meeting would run, how to address
56 questions and make amendments in writing. She noted that registered voters received a yes-no card
57 at the door, which would be used to vote on a question, and signify that they could be recognized
58 by the Moderator. Moderator Treadway then reviewed the election results of Tuesday's town
59 election, and thanked all the candidates, election workers and counters, and announced the results
60 of the 392 ballots cast in the Town and School District elections. Moderator Treadway explained
61 that the Canterbury Farmers Market was running a baked goods table at the back for people to get
62 refreshments, and the Window Dressers Committee and FOEPL had tables at the back of the room
63 to share information. Then she read Warrant Article 7:

64 **Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Public Safety Details Revolving Fund
65 pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of providing public safety services by Police Department
66 employees outside of the ordinary detail of such persons. All revenues received for police public safety
67 details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from
68 year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund balance. And further to raise and
69 appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Police Public Safety Details
70 Revolving Fund, to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and not from taxation. The town treasurer
71 shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing
72 body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended
73 only for the purpose for which the fund was created. Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the
74 Selectmen. No Tax Impact. ***Motion by Mark Stevens; seconded by Bob Scarponi.***

75 Scott Doherty described the purpose of the fund, he explained that the verbiage was reviewed by the NH
76 Dept. of Revenue Administration and the Town's legal counsel. This fund would allow for equipment to
77 be purchased by the Police Department and would go through several layers of review before any funds
78 could be expended.

79 *Sue Russell of Old Tilton Road* asked for clarification of an example of what sorts of money could be
 80 deposited into the account. Scott replied that if Comcast needed police detail while doing work, they
 81 would contract with the Town for police presence, and the money paid to the Town would be put into this
 82 fund.

83 *Patrice Rasche of Center Road* clarified this was for private entities using our police department, and the
 84 answer was yes. She asked if the money could have anything to do with ICE, and the answer from the
 85 Selectboard was no.

86 Seeing no further questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then read
 87 Article 8:

88 **Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Fire and Rescue Public Safety Details Revolving
 89 Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of providing public safety services by Fire & Rescue
 90 Department employees outside of the ordinary detail of such persons. All revenues received for fire &
 91 rescue public safety details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to
 92 accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund balance. And
 93 further to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) to be added to the Fire and
 94 Rescue Public Safety Details Revolving Fund to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and not from
 95 taxation. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only
 96 upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend.
 97 Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. Majority Vote
 98 Required. Recommended by the Selectmen. No Tax Impact. **Motion by Rick Crockford; seconded by**
 99 **Evan Hauptman.**

100 Scott Doherty explained that the purpose of this fund was similar to the previously discussed Police fund,
 101 except this will be for the Fire Department. The example used was the Fire department goes to the
 102 Loudon NH Motor Speedway to help cover races.

103 Seeing no questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then read Article
 104 9:

105 **Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million, Six Hundred
 106 and Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy Dollars (\$3,602,470) for general municipal operations.
 107 This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed
 108 separately. Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the Selectmen. Estimated Tax Impact: Cost per
 109 \$1000: \$5.03 Cost for \$400K home: \$2,010.80. **Motion by Jim Snyder, seconded by Norma Love.**

110 Scott Doherty presented a "state of affairs" description of how the Town was doing financially. He cited
 111 the Selectboard's ability to help buy down the tax rate, and noted that the Capital Reserve accounts and
 112 short-term investment was going well. He pointed out last year's budget was underspent, due to
 113 vacancies, and that most of the 2025 warrant articles were completed. The new fire engine was expected
 114 to be delivered in May of 2026, and the Town would start saving for a new one this year, with the
 115 likelihood a new engine would need to be purchased in approximately ten years. He pointed out that most
 116 departments received a wage increase in line with the average cost of living increase from the prior year,
 117 except for the Police department, who are struggling to remain competitive with other towns wage
 118 offerings. The Land Use department was filled by Jan Stout and Michelle Hammond this year, and Scott
 119 extended thanks to them. He concluded that the Town was working to keep Canterbury a great place to
 120 live, and the Selectboard is hoping to schedule a hazardous waste day for 2027. He then opened the floor
 121 for questions.

122 *Jim Miller of Baptist Road* asked for clarification on budget pages 20 and 21 regarding the actuals versus
123 the 2025 budget, without offsets he'd like to find out what happened. Ken Folsom noted that the Police
124 department had underspent their budget, and were able to acquire a new cruiser instead of bonding one,
125 and the Fire department had received a Hose Grant for equipment. It was concluded that it was an Excel
126 spreadsheet error that did not calculate the offsets correctly.

127 *Evan Christensen of Baptist Road* requested clarification regarding the Police budget receiving higher
128 raises than other Town departments, and the answer was yes, they were proposing it for this year.

129 Seeing no further questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then read
130 Article 10:

131 **Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Nine
132 Thousand Dollars (\$139,000) to be deposited into the following Capital Reserves:

133 4915.3 Highway Equipment \$ 10,000

134 4915.4 Highway Truck \$ 30,000

135 4915.18 Rescue Truck \$ 8,000

136 4914.19 Fire Truck \$ 50,000

137 4915.24 Landfill Closure \$ 1,000

138 4915.27 Maintenance & Repair of Town Buildings \$ 10,000

139 4915.30 Highway Loader \$ 30,000

140 Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the Selectmen. Estimated Tax Impact: Cost per \$1000: \$0.34

141 Cost for \$400K home: \$135.25. **Motion by Rick Crockford, seconded by Jim Miller.**

142 Scott Doherty gave a description of the capital reserves and noted that they are intended to smooth out big
143 expenditures. The new fire truck that will be delivered soon would cost approximately \$1.1 million
144 dollars if ordered today, so they were looking forward to the future with these funds.

145 *Evan Christensen of Baptist Road* requested clarification between the terms Fire Engine and Fire Truck.

146 Seeing no further questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then read
147 Article 11:

148 **Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Dollars
149 (\$18,000) for the purchase of slide-in water tank for the Highway Department, said amount to come from
150 the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the
151 Selectmen. No Tax Impact. **Motion by Donna Miller, seconded by Steve Rasche.**

152 Calvin Todd described the tank would be for the Highway Department that would replace a truck
153 exclusively for transport of water for projects.

154 *Jan Cote of Baptist Hill Road* noted that her road was very dusty and requested clarification on the
155 volume of work it could handle. John O'Connot noted that it will be a 1,750 gallon tank and can hold a lot
156 of water.

157 Seeing no further questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then read
158 Article 12:

159 **Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty
160 Thousand (\$250,000) for the purchase of a dump truck for the Highway Department, with One Hundred
161 and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) of said funds to come from the Highway Truck Capital Reserve
162 Fund and One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) of said funds to come from the Highway

163 Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the Selectmen. No Tax
164 Impact. *Motion by Sue Russell, seconded by Steve Rasche.*

165 Calvin Todd spoke to this article, to replace T-1, a 2011 International, describing it as the second oldest
166 truck. He noted it's no longer serviceable and has had a lot of issues.

167 Seeing no questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then read Article
168 13:

169 **Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand
170 Dollars (\$100,000) for the purchase of a truck for the Fire Department and to replace the Rescue 1 Truck
171 with the current Command Car, said amount to come from the Rescue Truck Capital Reserve Fund.
172 Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the Selectmen. No Tax Impact. *Motion by Rick Crockford,*
173 *seconded by Lucyann Zeller.*

174 Scott Doherty noted the chain of transfers for vehicles, saying that the Rescue vehicle would be replaced
175 with an F-250.

176 *Reggie Cloutier of New Road* asked if old equipment would be traded in as he didn't feel it was prudent to
177 continue to maintain older equipment that has reached the end of its serviceable life. Scott replied that
178 some vehicles were traded in or sold, as the most recently replaced Police cruiser had been.

179 Seeing no further questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then read
180 Article 14:

181 **Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars
182 (\$50,000) for the purchase of extrication equipment for the Fire Department, with Forty Thousand Dollars
183 (\$40,000) of said funds to come from the Firefighting Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and Ten
184 Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) of said funds to be raised by taxes. Majority Vote Required. Recommended
185 by the Selectmen. Estimated Tax Impact: Cost per \$1000: \$0.02 Cost for \$400K home: \$9.73. *Motion by*
186 *Bob Scarponi, seconded by Craig Simpson.*

187 Scott Doherty reported that this would replace the existing set that the Fire Department currently uses and
188 would be battery-operated.

189 *Patrice Rasche of Center Road* noted she assumed if this was used for car crashes or forcible entry or
190 both? Scott replied in the affirmative. She also asked if the State ever reimbursed or gave compensation
191 towards this purchase since most of the accidents likely happened on Interstate 93 and the answer was no.

192 *Reggie Cloutier of New Road* asked what would happen to the old equipment, and Scott confirmed with
193 the Fire Chief Gamache that it would be kept and put onto other apparatus.

194 Seeing no further questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then read
195 Article 15:

196 **Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Seventy
197 Thousand Dollars (\$170,000) for the purchase of a packer truck and to retrofit it with electric hydraulics
198 for the Transfer Station. Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the Selectmen. Estimated Tax
199 Impact: Cost per \$1000: \$0.41 Cost for \$400K home: \$165.41. *Motion by Steve Rasche, seconded by*
200 *Norma Love.*

201 Beth Blair noted that the existing packer truck was purchased in 1998 and has 32,000 miles on it. Though
 202 it doesn't go far, the Town put \$10,000 of work into it last year and it still needs more work. The
 203 Selectboard are confident that they can procure a new one for about \$150,000 and with a set of hydraulics
 204 worth \$20,000 they can stay within budget. If they do not pass this article, it will cost another \$20,000 to
 205 repair the existing truck this year.

206 *Sue Russell of Old Tilton Road* asked what the life expectancy of a truck was, and Ken noted that this one
 207 lasted 27 year, but they only expect a used one to last at least 15 years. Beth added if it's not idling,
 208 perhaps it will last longer.

209 *Cody York of Lamprey Road* asked if the Town can fit hydraulics onto the existing packer truck, and the
 210 answer was no, they could not with the current truck.

211 *Steve Russell of Old Tilton Road* asked what a compactor would cost, and the reply was the Aries report
 212 stated it would cost \$152,000 and still need a truck to transport it to the disposal facility.

213 *Evan Christensen of Baptist Road* asked if the new packer would fit into the proposed new plans for the
 214 Transfer Station, and the answer was it would be considered.

215 *Cody York of Lamprey Road* asked if the idling could be eliminated on the old truck and the response was
 216 it was not their biggest concern overall with the existing truck compared to the other issues.

217 *Laurie Lockwood of Northwest Road* asked if there was a capital improvement fund for the Transfer
 218 Station building and if that would help pending the five-year contract with Wheelabrator..

219 Seeing no further questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then read
 220 Article 16:

221 **Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars
 222 (\$20,000) for the purchase of a waste oil burner for the Highway Garage. Majority Vote Required.
 223 Recommended by the Selectmen. Estimated Tax Impact: Cost per \$1000: \$0.05 Cost for \$400K home:
 224 \$19.46. **Motion by Fred Brewster, seconded by Evan Christensen.**

225 Calvin Todd explained that the dependability of who the Town usually sells the used oil to is lacking, and
 226 that the Selectboard felt a burner to use up the oil would help with cost savings.

227 *Beth McGuinn of Southwest Road* asked about the environmental impact of the burner. The Garage is
 228 currently heated with propane overhead heaters, and the new system would be forced hot air system.

229 *Alison Witschonke of Borough Road* asked if residents could use it, and the answer was oil would
 230 continue to be collected at the Transfer Station, but now transported over to the Highway Garage.

231 *John Lemoine of Briar Bush Road* asked if the Town had investigated the cost of picking up the oil, and
 232 the maintenance of the burner as he had experience that they clogged up all the time. The response was
 233 they felt this was a better fiscal choice for the Town.

234 Seeing no further questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then read
 235 Article 17:

236 **Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Salt Shed Capital Reserve Fund under the
 237 provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing a salt shed, and to raise and appropriate the sum of
 238 Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of
 239 Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the Selectmen.

240 Estimated Tax Impact: Cost per \$1000: \$0.06 Cost for \$400K home: \$24.32. **Motion by Kelly Short,**
241 **seconded by Cody York.**

242 Beth Blair spoke to the article, noting that the estimates from surrounding towns was approximately
243 \$150,000 to build a new Salt Shed. They anticipate having to construct this building in 2028, and are
244 hopeful to get ahead of the cost now.

245 Seeing no questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion ***passed***. She then read Article
246 18:

247 **Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars
248 (\$4,000) for the purchase of a multifunction printer. Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the
249 Selectmen. Estimated Tax Impact: Cost per \$1000: \$0.01 Cost for \$400K home: \$3.89. Motion by Jessica
250 Lozier, seconded by Audra Klumb.

251 Beth Blair presented representations of what the current copier utilized by the Town administration is
252 doing, creating jams and not working effectively. She enumerated the many uses by the Town for a
253 reliable copier and felt that the money would be well worth it.

254 *Sue Russell of Old Tilton Road* asked why this wasn't under office equipment.

255 *Brendan O'Donnell of Northwest Road* asked if they voted down the article, would they not receive tax
256 bills from the Town any longer?

257 *Rick Crockford of Ayers Road* asked if the Town had looked into a service contract and the answer was
258 yes, they had a service contract on the present machine and would get one for the new machine.

259 Seeing no further questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion ***passed***. She then read
260 Article 19:

261 **Article 19:** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to accept up to Six Thousand Dollars
262 (\$6,000) from the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Canterbury adder funds and place that
263 money into the Renewable Energy Capital Reserve Fund. Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the
264 Selectmen. No Tax Impact. **Motion by Beth McGuinn, second by Kelly Short.**

265 Beth Blair noted that last year the Town voted to accept the funds, and this year the purpose was to create
266 a place to put them. This money would be funded from the General Fund, and new funds would be added
267 as they were received.

268 Seeing no questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion ***passed***. She then read Article
269 20:

270 **Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Sam Lake House Capital Reserve Fund
271 created in 2011. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the
272 municipality's general fund. Majority Vote Required. Recommended by the Selectmen. No Tax Impact.
273 **Motion by Norma Love; seconded by Ellen Scarponi.**

274 Scott Doherty explained that due to new tax laws, the Town was required to take a forced distribution
275 from the Sam Lake Trust Fund, and was placed into a Capital Reserve fund. Now the rules have changed,
276 and those funds need to go into the General Fund and then be transferred into an expendable trust fund.

277 Seeing no questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion ***passed***. She then read Article
278 21:

279

280 **Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to modify the optional tax credit for a Service-Connected Total
281 Disability on residential property in accordance with RSA 72:35 from its current value of One Thousand
282 Four Hundred Dollars (\$1,400) to Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000). Majority Vote Required.
283 Recommended by the Selectmen. No Tax Impact. Motion by Ron Routhier, seconded by Kerry Clock.

284 Calvin Todd noted that the Legislature changed the Tax Credit laws for veterans last year, changing how
285 Towns could give out credits to veterans. This warrant article brings the Town up to about the same
286 standard as it was before the law changed.

287 *Teresa Wyman of Shaker Road* asked if this was only for disabled veterans, and the answer was yes, only
288 for 100% disabled veterans.

289 *Laurie Lockwood of Northwest Road* asked why there was no tax impact if we are raising the amount.
290 Calvin pointed out the Town is only raising it \$600, with the overall impact on taxation being around
291 \$7,800.

292 Seeing no further questions, Moderator Treadway asked for a vote and the motion *passed*. She then
293 opened the meeting to other business.

294 **Kelly Short** spoke about the retirement of the Gold Star Bond and notes some of the specifics
295 that the Town conserved river frontage and agricultural land. **Beth McGuinn** spoke about an
296 information session for Community Power in April. **Ruth Smith** thanked Rachel Baker and the
297 work she does at the Elkins Public Library. **Beth Blair** noted that the first Farmers Market will
298 be June 3rd. **Ruth Heath** spoke regarding the Window Dressers program, inviting residents to a
299 workshop on building interior storm windows. *Sue Russell* seconded this program, stating they
300 were very impressed with the products. **Evan Christensen** inquired about changing the formula
301 for the Tax Impacts, stating sometimes they were off several dollars. **Ellen Scarponi** thanked the
302 Selectboard and staff for their work.

303 Seeing no other business, there was a motion by Rachel Baker, seconded by Jan Cote to close the
304 meeting. A vote by voice received an affirmative, and the meeting was adjourned. Meeting closed
305 at 8:38 p.m.

306

307 Respectfully submitted,
308 Samuel Papps, Town Clerk
309 Canterbury, New Hampshire

Samuel Papps, Town Clerk
March 23, 2026