



Town Council Regular Session

March 19, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Conley convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Councilor White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Katanna Conley, Council Vice-chair Brian Ward (arrived at 7:20 PM) Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Joe LaMattina, Councilor Colin White, Councilor Sonke Dornblut, Councilor Justin Glazebrook.

Staff Present: Town Manager, Stephen Fournier, Environmental Services Director, Sean Greig; Town Engineer, Lyndsay Butler; Public Works Director, Rick Malasky, Recording Secretary, Wendy Chase.

3. Public Forum

Chair Conley opened the Public Forum at 7:01 PM.

Chair Conley closed the Public Forum at 7:01 PM without public comment.

4. Public Hearing

- a.** Public Hearing on the Acceptance of Tanner Circle as a Town Road RE:
Resolution #2024/2025-32

Chair Conley opened the Public Hearing on the Acceptance of Tanner Circle as a Town Road at 7:02 PM.

Chair Conley closed the Public Hearing at 7:02 without public comment.

Town Manager Fournier explained that the Council passed the Resolution to accept Tanner Circle as a Town Road at the March 5, 2025 Council meeting. Pursuant to RSA 674:40.a there should have been a public hearing. This public hearing remedies that.

5. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

- a.** March 5, 2025

Motion: Councilor Dornblut made a motion to approve the March 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

Second: Councilor LaMattina

Vote: Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)

6. Town Council to Consider Nominations, Appointments, Elections and Resignations

- a. Jennifer Wieselquist - Appointment as Library Trustee - Term Expiration April 2028

Motion: **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to approve Jennifer Wieselquist's Appointment as Library Trustee - Term Expiration April 2028

Second: **Councilor White**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

- b. Nicole Benson - Appointment as Library Trustee - Term Expiration April 2028

Motion: **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to approve Nicole Benson's appointment as Library Trustee - Term Expiration April 2028

Second: **Councilor Glazebrook**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

- c. William Raley - Reappointment to the Energy & Environment Committee - Term Expiration April 2028

Motion: **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve William Raley's reappointment to the Energy & Environment Committee - Term Expiration April 2028

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

- d. Michael Provost - Reappointment as Cemetery Trustee - Term Expiration April 2028

Motion: **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to approve Michael Provost's reappointment as Cemetery Trustee - Term Expiration April 2028

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

- e. Jessica Cann - Appointment to the Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2028

Motion: **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to approve Jessica Cann's reappointment to the Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2028

Second: **Councilor White**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

- f. Melissa Sharples - Resignation from the Conservation Commission - Original term expiration April 2026

- Motion:** **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to accept, with regret, Melissa Sharples' resignation from the Conservation Commission - Original term expiration April 2026
- Second:** **Councilor LaMattina**
- Vote:** **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**
- g. Colin Lawson - Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2026
- Motion:** **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to approve Colin Lawson's appointment to the Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2026
- Second:** **Councilor White**
- Vote:** **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**
- h. Cris Blackstone - Reappointment to the Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2028
- Motion:** **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to approve Cris Blackstone's reappointment to the Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2028
- Second:** **Councilor Glazebrook**
- Vote:** **Motion Approved (5-0-1) Councilor Blackstone abstained from voting on his wife's reappointment.**
- i. Morgan Santos - Reappointment to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission - Term Expiration April 2028
- Motion:** **Councilor Glazebrook** made a motion to approve Morgan Santos' reappointment to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission - Term Expiration April 2028
- Second:** **Councilor White**
- Vote:** **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**
- j. Julia Sinclair - Reappointment to the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee - Term Expiration April 2028
- Motion:** **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve Julia Sinclair's reappointment to the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee - Term Expiration April 2028
- Second:** **Councilor Dornblut**
- Vote:** **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**
- k. Al Zink - Reappointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment - Term Expiration April 2028
- Motion:** **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to approve Al Zink's reappointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment - Term Expiration April 2028
- Second:** **Councilor LaMattina**
- Vote:** **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

7. Report of the Town Manager

a. Department Reports - February 2025

b. March 19, 2025

Ash Swamp Road Closure: The road will be closed to traffic on April 7th and reopen in May. Messages will go out to residents via phone and the website. The school has been contacted, so buses can be rerouted.

Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) 287(g) Program: A partnership between the ICE and local law enforcement agencies that allows trained officers to enforce certain immigration laws, such as the Jail Enforced Model (JEM) where officers check the status of immigration individuals already in custody. The Police Department remains committed to ensuring the safety of the community through effective law enforcement and will not be participating in the 287(g) program at this time due to staffing shortages. The Department is unable to take on additional responsibilities beyond its current obligations but will continue to cooperate with all law enforcement agencies as needed to uphold public safety.

Environmental Services Director Grieg reported to the Town Manager that funding for the Lead Service Line Replacement, Sewer Collection System Rehab, Bay Road Forcemain Planning Grant, and the Bay Road Forcemain Engineering loan and forgiveness are stable and uninterrupted.

Bay Road Bond Vote: We are waiting on Congress on Congressional direct spending (\$1,000,000) and have also applied for Senate Congressional Direct Spending (\$1,000,000) and we will apply for the state revolving loan program in June. The positive bond vote improves the town's chances of receiving the monies. If sufficient grant funding is not secured, it is recommended to proceed with design only and not construction. A positive bond vote enables the Town to access emergency funds if the Forcemain leaks again.

Munich, Germany: Environmental Services plans to develop a Master Plan, including evaluation of solids handling at the wastewater plant. Germany's advancements in this area are notable. The Environmental Services Director has arranged tours of the facilities in Germany for himself and an engineer, costing around \$3,000. They plan to go in May and the engineering budget can cover the costs.

Charter Commission: The voters approved creating a charter commission on election day. RSA 49-b outlines the process:

- The Town Council schedules a special election for at-large, non-partisan commission members.
- The elected commission holds an organizational meeting to elect leaders and set procedures.
- office space, clerical support and initial funding (may raise more funds as needed) is provided to the commission.

- The commission must hold at least two public hearings to gather input and present findings before submitting a preliminary report with the proposed charter and legal review.
- if the commission opts to proceed, they submit a final report detailing the changes and legal compliance to municipal officers, state officials and voters, leading to a public vote at the next municipal election. If no charter is recommended, the commission dissolves within 60 days. If further time is needed, extensions can be granted up to a total of two years. Once done, the commission terminates unless extended for up to one year to complete its duties.

FY25 Expense and Revenue Report: February completes 66% of the fiscal year. The operating budget is 68% spent, slightly higher than the previous year.

Councilor Dornblut commented on the Town Manager's report and asked if the road closure sign on Ash Swamp Road (at the golf course) should be moved for better visibility.

Chair Conley asked why the DPW monthly expenditures were higher than normal. Public Works Director Malasky said that they had two plow trucks break down during a snow event and cost around \$4,500 to repair.

Chair Conley commented that there was not a Welfare Department monthly report again this month. Town Manager Fournier will look into the reason why it's not getting done.

8. Committee Reports

Councilor LaMattina said that the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee's March 26th meeting will have a representative from Casella in attendance. Public Works Director Malasky was invited and will be attending. He encouraged the Councilors to attend the meeting.

Councilor Dornblut reported that the transportation chapter to the master plan has been finalized.

Councilor Ward said that the new website for Newmarket300 will be operating within the week. Kent & Pelczar will be sponsoring a granite time capsule for \$2,000.00.

Councilor Ward will report on the March Conservation Commission meeting at the next Council Meeting.

9. Old Business

10. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

- a. Resolution # 2024/2025 - 33- WWTF Solids Disposal

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to approve Resolution # 2024/2025 - 33- WWTF Solids Disposal

Second: **Councilor Ward**

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Greig explained that the town disposes of 980 tons of solids each year, and we don't have many options to dispose of them due to Pfas in the solids. The contract from Casella is expiring in June 2025, and he is proposing a 5-year extension. Hopefully there will be more options within that time period.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

b. Resolution #2024/2025-34 - Sewell Solar Project Preliminary Design

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-34 - Sewell Solar Project Preliminary Design

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Discussion: Town Engineer Butler explained that Tucker and Sewell well sites are the best locations for solar arrays. She said that the sewell site is just 1 option. Discussion ensued about net metering and scaling down the project. Town Manager Fournier said that they have been working on this for 1 1/5 years and that this is just a study to see what can be put on the sewell well site.

Vote: **6-1-0** (voting against - (**Councilor Dornblut**))

11. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

- a. Resolution #2024/2025-35 - Computer Systems Upgrades
Chair Conley read Resolution #2024/2025-35 into the record.
- b. Resolution #2024/2025-36 - Special Election to Establish Charter Commission
NOTE: DUE TO STATE LAW THERE WILL BE NO SECOND READING

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-36 - Special Election to Establish Charter Commission

Second: **Joe LaMattina**

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier requested the Resolution be amended to include approval of the use of a hand-count ballot for this special election.

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to amend Resolution #2024/2025-36 to include approval of the use of a hand-count for this special election.

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier explained that the filing period will begin April 16, 2025 and end April 25, 2025, and the Special Election will be May 13, 2025.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved as Amended (7-0-0)**

- c. Resolution #2024/2025-37 Asset Management Plan WW
Chair Conley read Resolution #2024/2025-37 into the record.
- d. Resolution #2024/2025-38 - Wastewater Master Plan
Chair Conley read Resolution #2024/2025-38 into the record.

12. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council
No correspondence.
- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors
Chair Conley encouraged everyone to attend the Energy & Environment meeting on March 26th at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium.

She reminded everyone of the Charter Commission filing period from April 16- April 25.
- c. Next Meeting
 - i. April 2, 2025

13. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary