



Town Council Regular Session

October 15, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Conley convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Councilor Ward led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Katanna Conley, Council Vice-chair Brian Ward, Councilor Joe LaMattina, Councilor Sonke Dornblut, Councilor Justin Glazebrook, Councilor Chase Eagleson.

Excused: Councilor Scott Blackstone

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Community Development Director Bart McDonough, Recording Secretary Wendy Chase.

3. Public Forum

Chair Conley opened the public quorum at 7:00 PM.

Cris Blackstone, Conservation Commission Chair, spoke about the two applicants joining the Conservation Commission as Alternate Members. She said they both possess experience that will make them excellent members. The Conservation Commission met last week and voted to add an alternate member position to the Commission.

Chair Conley closed the public forum at 7:03 PM.

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. October 1, 2025

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to approve the October 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes as written.

Second: Councilor Dornblut

Vote: Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)

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

a. Laura Nolan - Library Trustee - Term Expiration April 2026

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to appoint Laura Nolan as a Library Trustee with a Term Expiration of April 2026.

Second: Councilor Eagleson

Vote: Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)

- b. Andrea Frey - Alternate Member to the Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2027

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to appoint Andrea Frey as an Alternate Member to the Conservation Commission with a Term Expiration of April 2027.

Second: Councilor Dornblut

Vote: Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)

- c. Michal Zahorik - Alternate Member to the Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2027

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to appoint Michal Zahorik as an Alternate Member to the Conservation Commission with a Term Expiration of April 2027.

Second: Councilor Dornblut

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

- d. Judi Case - Alternate Member to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission - Term Expiration April 2026

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to appoint Judi Case as an Alternate Member to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission with a Term Expiration of April 2026.

Second: Councilor Eagleson

Vote: Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)

6. Report of the Town Manager

- a. TM Report - October 15, 2025

Town Manager Fournier reported on FY26 Expense and Revenues:

The first quarter of FY26 is complete. The overall spending and revenues are tracking right where we expected them to be. 30% of the total operating budget has been spent. We have collected roughly 33% of projected annual revenues, slightly ahead of last year's pace. Most of this comes from property taxes, motor vehicle registrations, and utility payments.

Fire Department Study: The Town received six proposals from consulting firms to conduct the Fire Department Operations and EMS Services Study. Proposals were submitted by Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI), MissionCIT, Healthcare Strategists, CGR (Center for Governmental Research), Cambridge Consulting Group, and AP Triton Consulting. Costs range from \$23,500 to \$63,000, with timelines between 60 days and 6 months. A resolution should be ready to be presented to the Council at the November 5th meeting.

- b. Department Reports - September 2025

- c. Town Manager's Proposed FY2027 Budget Presentation

Town Manager Fournier gave a presentation on FY2027 budget.

- State of Newmarket Economy - Consumer Price Index
- Estimated Tax Rate FY26:

Local School \$11.96
State School \$ 1.05
County \$0.57
Town \$4.59
Total \$18.17 per thousand

- Five Year Rate Comparison
- Assessed Valuation: 1,807,397,738.00
- Town Manager Budget Recommendations: Department Heads - \$20,559,077.00 Town Manager - \$19,782,208.00
- Increases:
- Health Care \$207,842
- Police Contract Implementation \$439,904
- NH Retirement Contribution \$101,403
- Fire Dept Per Diem \$100,000

Potential Warrant Articles:

- Wastewater Master Plan - no tax or sewer impact
- Cushing & Lubberland Stormwater - no tax impact
- Rosa Property Conservation Easement - Est. tax impact \$0.08
- Schanda Park Stormwater Plan - no tax impact
- Police Union Negotiations

Revenue Budget: \$11,008,017

7. Committee Reports

No Committee Reports

8. Old Business

9. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

- a. Resolution #2025/2026-16: Establishment of a Coastal Resiliency Zone under RSA 79-E:4-A

Motion:

Councilor Ward made a motion to approve Resolution #2025/2026-16: Establishment of a Coastal Resiliency Zone under RSA 79-E:4-A

Second:

Councilor LaMattina

Discussion:

Community Development Director Bart McDonough explained that the provision provides the opportunity for

residents to protect their property from adverse coastal and riverine impacts. The Riverfront Advisory Committee reviewed the provisions under RSA 79-E:4-A and identified the locations within the Town that would benefit from the policy. They voted at their August 18, 2025 meeting to recommend to the Town Council to consider the adoption of The provisions and a corresponding map establishing the zone.

Town Manager Fournier explained that even if the Council approves this Resolution. Applicants would still have to come before the Council to apply for the relief on a case-by-case basis.

Vote: Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)

10. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

- a. Resolution #2025/2026-17 - Approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget
Chair Conley read Resolution #2025/2026 -17 into the record.

11. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council
There was no correspondence to the Council.
- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors
Councilor Glazebrook said he did research on RSA 79:E and there are several different tax incentive programs. One of the programs is dedicated to affordable housing and was pleased to learn that the Town Manager and Staff are already working on that. Council Ward is also pleased that we are working on it.

Councilor Eagleson wished everyone a safe and happy Halloween.

- c. Next Meeting
 - i. October 18, 2025 Town Council Budget Workshop at 9:00AM
November 5, 2025 Town Council Regular Meeting at 7:00PM

12. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary