



## Town Council Regular Session

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June 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

### MINUTES

1. **6:00 PM Non-Public Session Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (a),(c) - Personnel**

**Motion:** **Councilor Conley** made a motion to seal the Non-public Meeting Minutes indefinitely because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board.

**Second:** **Councilor Dornblut**

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Ward convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Councilor LaMattina led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Roll Call**

**Present:** Council Chair Brian Ward, Council Vice-chair Joe LaMattina, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Katanna Conley, Councilor Justin Glazebrook.

**Excused:** Councilor Stella McShera.

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Police Chief Greg Jordan, Fire Chief Rick Malasky, Recording Secretary Wendy Chase.

4. **Public Forum**

Chair Ward opened the public forum at 7:02 PM.

Chair Ward closed the public forum at 7:02 PM without public comment.

5. **Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes**

a. June 3, 2026

**Motion:** **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve the June 3, 2026, meeting minutes as written.

**Second:** **Councilor Dornblut**

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

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

a. Heather Pederson - Appointment as an Alternate Member to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission - Term Expiration April 2027.

**Motion:** **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to appoint Heather Pederson as an Alternate Member to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission with a term expiration of April 2027.

**Second:** **Councilor LaMattina**

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

## 7. Report of the Town Manager

### a. June 17, 2026

Town Manager Report – June 17, 2026

### 1. Upcoming Meetings and Sessions

- **Goal Setting Session:** Scheduled for June 23, 2026, at 6PM in the auditorium.
- **Joint School Board–Town Council Meeting:** Tentatively set for August 12, 2026, with preliminary budget discussions and other agenda items.

### 2. Creighton Street Property Update

- Survey completed for 11 Creighton Street; boundary line adjustment plan in progress to maximize land for Schanda Park improvements.
- The new lot will likely be undersized, requiring Zoning Board relief before Planning Board approval.
- Property details: 0.30 acres, last sale at \$685,000, 2024 assessment at \$586,400.

### 3. Financial Status (May 2026)

- **Revenue:** \$43.5M collected (98.6% of \$44.2M budget); revenue is ahead of schedule.
  - General Fund: 99.2% collected.
  - Recreation Fund: 118.9% of budget collected, driven by strong program enrollment.
- **Expenditures:** \$16.7M spent (83.8% of \$19.9M budget); below the 91.7% year-to-date benchmark.
  - Fire & Rescue (110.8%), PW Vehicle (106.9%), and Direct Assistance are over budget.
  - Council should consider supplemental appropriations for overages.

### 4. Notable Revenue and Expenditure Items

- **Revenue:**
  - Property & Yield Taxes and State Revenue fully collected.
  - Building Permits and Recreation Fund revenue significantly exceed budget.
  - Ambulance receipts are below budget due to a negative May adjustment.
- **Expenditures:**
  - Fire & Rescue and Public Works Vehicle Maintenance are over budget, mainly due to staffing and extended winter operations.
  - Direct Assistance and Senior Center Maintenance are also over budget.

- Capital Reserve and Debt Service fully funded as planned.

## **5. Year-Over-Year Comparison (May 2026 vs. May 2025)**

- Revenue up 10.5% (\$4.1M increase), mainly from higher real estate tax levy.
- Expenditures up 11.2% (\$1.7M increase), reflecting wage/benefit adjustments and property acquisition.
- May 2026 revenue nearly triple that of May 2025 due to timing of state aid and tax entries.
- Official notification sent for renaming Beech Street Ext. to Cheswill Street (effective July 1, 2026).

**Summary:** The Town is in a strong financial position with revenues ahead of schedule and most expenditures under control, though some departments require supplemental appropriations. Key property and infrastructure projects are progressing, and several administrative actions have been completed to support ongoing operations.

### **b. Department Reports - May 2026**

Councilor Dornblut commented on the Police report regarding Officers participating in Community Policing Patrols. He thought it was a great idea. The patrols have focused on downtown, the recreation fields, and the ball fields. The effort is for officers to get out of their vehicles, walk around, and interact with the community.

Chair Ward commented on the Public Works report thanking the crew for repairs made to the street crossing signs.

## **8. Committee Reports**

Councilor Blackstone reported on the June 11th Conservation Commission Meeting:

- High School students raised \$400 to purchase a bike rack.
- TurtleFest there were approximately 100 kids at the craft table; raffle expenses exceeded income.
- T-shirts were popular; bandannas were not well received.
- The event date will be moved next year due to scheduling conflicts; it will be held at the Word Barn in Exeter.
- SELT is running out of property to acquire.
- Attended 2nd grade presentation on estuaries.

Councilor Glazebrook reported on the Planning Board's July 14th meeting.

- The Planning Board expressed interest in a joint meeting with the Council.
- Preliminary plan presented for a church on Wadleigh Falls Road.
- The Long Range Planning Committee has 3 member-at-large positions available.

Councilor Dornblut reported that the public transportation committee passed the draft

parking report; final recommendations will be available during the goal-setting session, emphasizing increased neighborhood engagement.

Councilor Ward reported that the Newmarket300 Committee met to discuss anniversary initiatives, including a volunteer spreadsheet.

- Voted on two designs for hats and two commemorative beers from Deciduous.
- John Hermann designed logos for the beer, refusing compensation, so it was decided to provide him a token of appreciation instead.

## 9. Old Business

## 10. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

- a. Resolution #2025/2026-42 - Purchase of Two Lucas Chest Compression Systems

**Motion:** **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve Resolution #2025/2026-42 - Purchase of Two Lucas Chest Compression Systems

**Second:** **Councilor Glazebrook**

**Discussion:** Fire Chief Malasky explained that the chest compression system is a device that is strapped to an individual and performs chest compressions.

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

- b. Resolution #2025/2026-43 - Cruiser Purchase

**Motion:** **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve Resolution #2025/2026-43 - Cruiser Purchase

**Second:** **Councilor Conley**

**Discussion:** Chief Jordan explained that he is replacing the current 2024 Explorer cruiser that has 112, 000 miles with a 2025 Chevy Tahoe. It is a leftover from last year, but brand new and a better price. The Explorer 2024 will go to another department to use. He explained that they have been having issues with Ford vehicles, so they decided to go with a Chevy Tahoe.

Discussion ensued regarding the purchase of a vehicle needing approval by the Town Council through a Resolution even though it is a budgeted item. Town Manager Fournier explained the cost of it went over the threshold of his allowed authorization.

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

- c. Resolution #2025/2026-50 - Town Manager 2026 Employment Contract Agreement

**Motion:** **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve Resolution #2025/2026-50 - Town Manager 2026 Employment Contract Agreement

**Second: Councilor Dornblut**

**Discussion:** Town Manager Fournier thanked the Council for entrusting him over the past 14 years. He said he is thankful to have a great group of Councilors and staff to work with.

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

**11. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading**

- a. Resolution #2025/2026-51 - Master Plan Contract Amendment  
Councilor LaMattina read Resolution #2025/2026-51 into the record.

**12. 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 had an opportunity to tour the Tiger Hose House on Main Street. There are a lot of artifacts in the building and it should be open to the public during the 250/300 celebrations.

Councilor LaMattina commended the Newmarket baseball team winning the State Championship and remaining undefeated throughout the entire season; 19 wins, 0 losses.

He recognized Lt. O'Brien, Sergeant Schmidt, Officer Stevens and Canine Officer Gadget for their involvement with the Special Olympics.

Councilor Blackstone said that if there was no objection, he would like to make an amendment to the purchasing policy to allow the Town Manager to authorize the purchase of town vehicles that are part of the approved budget. Town Fournier said he would look into that.

Councilor Ward wished everyone a happy Juneteenth.

- c. Next Meeting

- i. July 15, 2026

**13. Adjournment**

Chair Ward adjourned the meeting at 7:37 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase  
Recording Secretary