

**TOWN OF CARROLL
DELIBERATIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

Moderator Ben Jellison called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He also asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of friends and neighbors who passed away in the last year.

The Moderator had the Select Board introduce themselves. He also acknowledged Department Heads that were in attendance. He went over the ground rules for this Session and reminded everyone that the next Session will be Tuesday, March 8, 2022 when the polls will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

The Moderator began with reading the Non-Partisan Official Ballot:

Article 1. Election of Town Officers.

Selectman	(3 year term):	Rob Gauthier Jr. Bryan Paul Mycko
Treasurer	(1 year term):	Annette L. Marquis
Cemetery Trustee	(3 year term):	Roberta E. McGee
Library Trustee	(3 year term):	Michelle L. Gamache Janet E. Nelson
Moderator	(2 year term):	Benjamin C. Jellison
Trustee of Trust Funds	(3 year term):	
Supervisor of Checklist	(2 year term):	Linda M. Godfrey
Supervisor of Checklist	(4 year term):	Annette L. Marquis
Supervisor of Checklist	(6 year term):	Bonnie Jean Moroney
Planning Board	(2 year term):	Thomas A. Godfrey
Planning Board	(3 year term):	Alessandro Foti
Zoning Board of Adjustment	(1 year term):	Anita Greer Karen J. Moran
Zoning Board of Adjustment	(3 year term):	Andrew Smith

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town of Carroll will vote to raise and appropriate One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000) for the purpose of financing the reconstruction and/or rebuilding of all Town of Carroll roads deemed to be deficient by the Director of Public Works, and to authorize the issuance of not more than One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the board of selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; to authorize the board of selectmen to apply for, obtain, accept and expend any federal, state or other aid, grants, rebates, gifts or other revenues as may become available for the project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project. (3/5 ballot vote required). The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.19.

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion.

Austin Alvarez asked if there was a list of roads and if there was a priority.

Selectperson Mills read the list of roads. Greg Hogan clarified that the list read was not in order of priority.

Karen Moran asked if it was considered to do the roads in increments. Greg Hogan indicated that it was considered, but with the prices increasing and interest rates rising, the time is right now.

Article 2 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 3. Shall the Town of Carroll raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$2,782,757?

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,428,072, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Carroll or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion.

Bonnie Moroney made a motion to amend the budget and decrease the Executive lines 4130-4139 by \$13,200, making the total line \$90,613. Moroney further elaborated that it would be specifically be a decrease to the selectmen's salaries lines, making \$2,300 for the chair and \$2,000 each for the other two selectmen. Mike Hogan seconded the motion.

Selectperson Mills spoke in favor of keeping the higher amounts and not amending to the lesser, explaining the reasoning of the increase. Mills further elaborated that if a Town Manager was hired, the Selectmen's salaries would decrease, and if there was no Town Manager the increase was justified, noting it has been discussed several times in previous meetings and is notated in the minutes. Mills explained that he would like everyone to look at the bigger picture and is setting the table for others.

The body voted in favor of the amendment. The new total of Executive lines 4130-4139 will total \$90,613.

Bonnie Moroney made a motion to decrease the Financial Administration lines 4150-4151 by \$56,200, with the intent of zeroing out the Town Manager pay, making the new total amount is \$203,021. Mike Hogan seconded the motion.

The Board expressed the need for a Town Manager, highlighting the Town Manager would handle day to day decisions to avoid waiting for the select board to convene and a delay and be able to give department heads daily guidance, as well as do grants. The Town Manager would also be a constant, as the select board changes yearly.

Karen Moran questioned the Town Manager being added to the budget, as it was not presented on the initial night of the public budget hearing, and that she spoke with DRA and she said they explained to her that it cannot be added later. Chairperson Scalley stated the initial budget hearing was not closed, it was continued to another night and on that night it was added. Karen Moran feels that the way it was handled was wrong.

Mike Hogan stated that the Board asked for an increase in their pay and is now asking for a Town Manager. Selectperson Gauthier explained if the Town Manager position was accepted, the selectmen would decrease their pay stipend.

Mike Hogan asked how the figure for the Town Manager was determined. The Board explained that the total figure is \$120,000 a year, benefits included in the amount and further explained that the figure was based on area average and the prorated figure of \$56,200 was for approximately 5 months and the selectmen's salaries would be decreased and used towards the Town Manager salary, if/when one was hired.

The body voted in favor of the amendment. The new total of Financial Administration lines 4150-4151 will total \$203,201.

Bonnie Moroney made a motion to decrease the Emergency Management lines 4290-4298 by \$21,000, with the intent of zeroing out the Raze Building line. Mike Hogan seconded the motion.

Chairperson Scalley explained that this was for the building up for auction this Friday and if it did not sell, this is the cost to have it torn down.

The body voted not in favor of the amendment and there would be no change to the Emergency Management line 4290-4298.

Article 3 will appear as amended on the official ballot, with a new total amount of \$2,713,357.

Article 3. Shall the Town of Carroll raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$2,713,357?

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,428,072, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Carroll or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Article 4: Do you favor adoption of the town manager plan as provided under chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes Annotated?

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion.

Several people discussed their personal opinions for and against a Town Manager.

Article 4 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Karen Moran made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 2-4. John Gardiner seconded the motion. Body voted in favor and the motion passed.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$185,720.00) for the replacement of the two inch galvanized water line along the side of Birch Road, two new fire hydrants, and the repaving of Birch Road, and authorize the withdrawal of One Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Dollars (\$123,000.00) from the Water Unassigned Fund Balance, and Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$62,720.00) from the Major Road Improvement Capitol Reserve Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. No money to be raised from new taxation.

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion.

Bonnie Moroney asked if Birch Road was on the list to be paved on warrant article 2. Greg Hogan explained that Birch Road had been included on warrant article 2 and stated

it was challenging to write these two warrant articles. Further discussion regarding if warrant article 5 passes, Birch will be paved under the water repair project using capital reserve fund money and the amount reduced from the road paving bond.

Article 5 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the purpose of covering Transfer Station/Recycling Center Operations costs with said funds to come from the Recycling Special Revenue Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. No money to be raised from new taxation.

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 6 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.15

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 7 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Water Department Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from the Water Unassigned Fund Balance. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. No money to be raised from new taxation.

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 8 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 9: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$37,980) for the purpose of funding the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Property Inspector-Code Enforcement Officer's Salary with said funds to come from the Planning Special Revenue Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. No money to be raised by taxation.

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 9 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the New Land & Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.09

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 10 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-One Thousand Dollars (\$21,000) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.06

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 11 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Municipal Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.06

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 12 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.04

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 13 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of off-setting expenses related to ambulance operations, specifically hospital to hospital medical transfers of the sick and injured, with said funds to come from the Fire Department and Ambulance Equipment, Apparatus and Personnel Special Revenue Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. No money to be raised by new taxation.

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 14 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Employee Benefits Expendable Trust Fund, previously established, for the purpose of funding the benefits upon an employee's retirement or resignation. The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.03

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion.

Selectperson Gauthier made a motion to amend the dollar amount to zero and seconded by Selectperson Mills.

Selectperson Gauthier explained that adding to the fund is no longer needed due to changes that were made to the employee manual.

Article 15 will appear as amended on the official ballot, with a new total amount of \$0.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Zero Dollars (\$0) to be added to the Employee Benefits Expendable Trust Fund, previously established, for the purpose of funding the benefits upon an employee's retirement or resignation. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. No money to be raised by new taxation.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.03

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 16 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five-Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of purchasing a battery-operated ventilation fan and rehabilitation mister for the Fire Department, with said funds to come from the Fire Department and Ambulance Equipment, Apparatus, and Personnel Special Revenue Fund. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. No money to be raised from new taxation.

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 17 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to be added to the Computer Technology Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.01

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion. There was no discussion.

Article 18 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) to be added to the Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.01

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion.

John Gardiner made a motion to amend the dollar amount to zero and seconded by John Foster.

John Gardiner explained that as library trustee, they did not submit a request for this warrant article.

Article 19 will appear as amended on the official ballot, with a new total amount of \$0.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Zero Dollars (\$0) to be added to the Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. No money to be raised by new taxation.

Michael Hogan made a motion to dispense with reading Articles 20 through 29. Bonnie Moroney seconded. There was no discussion. The Body voted in favor of dispensing the reading. **Articles 20 through 29 will appear as written.**

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for the purpose of being the Town's contribution to help offset the costs for the Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers that serve the needs of elderly people in our community. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$.01

Article 20 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Sixty-Five Dollars (\$2,065) for the purpose of being the Town's contribution to the North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency Inc., to help offset the support of the home health care, supportive care, medical hospice and community health programs and services of North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency, Inc. and Hospice of the Littleton Area for the residents of our community. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.01

Article 21 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$1,875) for the purpose of being the Town's contribution for Tri County Community Action Program in support of their services for residents in our community. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.01

Article 22 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250) for the purpose of being the Town's contribution to help offset the cost of preventative and primary health care services of Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. provided to the residents of our community. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax Impact \$0.01

Article 23 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$923) for the purpose of being the Town's contribution to the Northern Human Services - White Mountain Mental Health and Common Ground, a non-profit mental health and development service center. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax Impact \$0.01

Article 24 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) for the purpose of being the Town's contribution to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of NH for recruiting, training and supervising volunteers who advocate in NH's courts for the best interests of abused and neglected children. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.01

Article 25 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) for the purpose of being the Town's contribution to NH North Country Veterans, Inc. which provides legal guidance, homeless outreach and other services to veterans in the North Country. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.01

Article 26 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) for the purpose of being the Town's contribution to The Center for New Beginnings in Littleton, which provides counseling and mental health services to individuals throughout the North Country. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.01

Article 27 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$356) as the Town's contribution to the American Red Cross. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.01

Article 28 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for the purpose of being the Town's contribution to Pathways Pregnancy Care Center in Littleton which provides educational services to individuals throughout the North Country. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.01

Article 29 will appear as written on the official ballot.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for the Second Chance Animal Rescue. The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation 3-0. Tax impact \$0.01. By petition.

A motion was made by Selectperson Gauthier and seconded by Selectperson Mills for discussion.

Gabby Sweet spoke on behalf of Second Chance Animal Recuse and explained the services offered.

Article 30 will appear as written on the official ballot.

At 8:21 p.m. Moderator Ben Jellison declared the Town Meeting recessed until March 8, 2022 when all are notified to vote by Official Ballot at the Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca J. Pederson

Rebecca J. Pederson
Town Clerk