

**TOWN OF SUGAR HILL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES-RESULTS
MARCH 10, 2026**

Moderator James F. Snyder declared the polls open at 12 noon for the voting by ballot on Article 1, the election of town officers. Polls will close at 6:30 PM unless the town votes to keep the polls open to a later hour. All articles to be presented, discussed and acted upon at 6 PM. Moderator Snyder went over his rules of conduct for the meeting, The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Nick Demayo asked for a moment of silence of our fallen service members. Article 1 to be passed over until the ballots are counted at which time Moderator Snyder will read the results.

ARTICLE 1: To vote by nonpartisan ballot for the following Town Officers:

- One Selectman to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Town Treasurer to serve for a term of one (1) year
- A Town Clerk/Tax Collector to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Moderator to serve for a term of two (2) years
- A Trustee of the Trust Fund to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Library Trustee to serve for a term of three (3) years
- A Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of six (6) years.
- Two Board of Adjustment members to serve for a term of three (3) years.
- Two Board of Cemetery Trustees to serve for a term of three (3) years
- And such other Town Officers as may be required by law

RESULTS OF ARTICLE 1:

Selectman, Three Year Term	Chris Ellms	101
Town Treasurer, One Year Term	Amy Venezia	102
Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Three Year Term	Lissa Boissonneault	100
Moderator, Two Year Term	Tim Egan	95
Trustee of Trust Funds, Three Year Term	Russell Gaitskill	97
Library Trustee, Three Year Term	Joanna Santilli	102
Supervisor of the Check List, Six Year Term	Elizabeth Hjelm	99
Two Board of Adjustment members, Three Year Terms:		
	Carl Hjelm	94
	Edward Cenerenzio	87
Two Board of Cemetery Trustees, Three Year Terms:		
	Kathleen Jablonski	94
	Elizabeth Warren	89

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town of Sugar Hill will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (One Million, Nine Hundred Ten Thousand, and Sixty-Seven Dollars. (\$1,910,067) to defray Town charges.

Executive	\$87,950.00
Election, Registration & Vital Statistics	35,585.00
Financial Administration	31,304.00
Property Revaluation	10,000.00
Legal Expenses	15,000.00
Payroll Taxes	45,000.00
Planning Board	3,000.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1,500.00
General Government Buildings	54,800.00
Buildings & Grounds	52,225.00
Cemetery	11,000.00
Insurance	223,894.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	9,163.00
North Country Council	1,163.00
Franconia Notch Chamber	8,000.00
Unemployment	250.00
Police Department	371,696.00
Ambulance	28,523.00

Fire Department.....	126,950.00
Building Inspections.....	10,000.00
Emergency Management.....	16,000.00
Airport.....	161.00
Town Maintenance.....	322,561.00
General Highway Department Expense.....	243,000.00
Street Lighting.....	2,600.00
Highway Block Grant.....	45,000.00
Solid Waste Disposal.....	55,114.00
Health, Hospitals.....	9,267.00
North Country Home Health.....	1,775.00
Grafton County Senior.....	1,500.00
White Mountain Mental Health.....	692.00
American Red Cross.....	300.00
Ammonoosuc Community Health.....	1,250.00
Boys & Girls Club.....	2,500.00
Center for New Beginnings.....	500.00
Franconia Children's Center.....	750.00
Welfare.....	6,000.00
Tri County Cap.....	1,294.00
Pantry.....	1,000.00
Parks and Recreation.....	34,789.00
Library.....	32,740.00
Patriotic Purposes.....	3,000.00
Conservation Commission.....	1,000.00
Interest Expense - Tax Anticipation.....	3,500.00
Capital Expense.....	17,495.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS.....	\$1,910,067.00

The tax impact is \$4.00 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends these Appropriations.

Moved by Nick DeMayo, Seconded by Tim Egan

Jennifer Gaudette, Town Administrator gave an overview of the budget line by line.

Nick Demayo made a motion to amend Article 1, taking the \$2,500 allotment from the Boys and Girls Club and adding it to the allotment of the Grafton County Seniors, not changing the bottom line of Article 1. Seconded by Ed Hansalik Discussion ensued.

All in Favor of the amendment, "Aye", Opposed, "No", The "No's" have it.

Back to original motion: All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed "No", the "Ayes" have it

Michael Burtnick made a motion for an amendment limiting speaking from the floor to a three minute time frame. Seconded by Howard Mitz. Voice count not clear so there was a hand count, **41 in favor, 18 opposed, Amendment passes.**

Tim Egan requested that Article 1 be restricted for reconsideration. Seconded by Michael Burtnick. All in favor of request, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it.

Moderator Snyder closed the polls for the ballots to be counted. He will read the results after the Count.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1976. The tax impact is \$0.15 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Tim Egan, Seconded by Ed Hansalik

Road Agent Doug Glover addressed the article.

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it/

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) to be used for Highway Department Roadwork improvement projects to be chosen at the discretion of the Road Agent and Selectmen. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:3, VI and will not lapse until the fund is pended or in 3 years, whichever is less. (Majority vote required)

The tax impact of \$125,000 is \$0.37 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Ed Hansalik, Seconded by Tim Egan

Road Agent Doug Glover addressed the article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", The "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1993. Tax impact is \$0.16 per thousand

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Tim Egsn, Seconded by Nate Hanson

Fire Chief Clark addressed the article

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2008. Tax Impact is \$0.03 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation

Moved by Tim Egan, Seconded by Chris Thayer

Fire Chief Clark addressed the article

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the Highway Department Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2009. Tax Impact is \$0.05 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Nick DeMayo, seconded by Tim Egan

Road Agent Doug Glover addressed the article

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed "No", The "Ayes" have it.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Carolina Crapo Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2004. Tax Impact is \$0.06 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Kathleen Jablonski, Seconded by Sarah Pinney

Selectperson Talbot addressed the article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund created in 1976. Tax Impact is \$0.06 per thousand

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Nick DeMayo, Seconded by Tim Egan

Police Chief Ho-Sing-Loy addressed the article addressed the article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Building & Grounds Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2012. Tax Impact is \$0.02 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Michael Burtnick, Seconded by Selectperson Chris Ellms

Selectperson Chris Ellms addressed the article

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Fund created in 2024. (Majority Vote Required) The tax impact is \$0.02 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Nick DeMsyo, Seconded by Tim Egan

Fire Chief Clark addressed the article

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1991. The tax impact is \$0.02 per thousand.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Selectperson Richard Bielefield, Seconded by Ed Hansalik
Selectperson Talbot addressed the Article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Cemetery Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for cemetery improvements and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the fund. Further to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. Tax Impact is \$0.02 per thousand

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Tim Egsn, Seconded by Nick DeMayo
Cemetery Trustee Kathleen Jablonski addressed the article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 14: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand Five Dollars (\$14,005) for the third year's payment for the Dodge 2500 Truck. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required.) The tax impact of this article is \$0.05

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Tim Egan, Seconded by Mark Desrochers
Selectperson Chris Ellms addressed the Article

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

Moderator James Snyder read the results of the ballot count for Article 1

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand One Hundred eighty- eight Dollars (\$173,188) To be added to the Highway Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created in 2006 This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required)

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation

Moved by Tim Egan, Seconded by Greg Connors

Selectperson Chris Ellms addressed the article and advised the voters present of a typo error in the Bridge Report

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it..

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand and Thirty-Two Dollars (\$4,032) To be placed in the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund created in 2019. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

The Select Board recommends this Appropriation.

Moved by Selectperson Richard Bielefield, Seconded by Tim Egan
Selectperson Talbot addressed the article

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed, "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 17: To see if the town will vote to increase the tax credit for veterans with service-connected total disability from \$1,400 to \$1,900 in light of HB 99 which was adopted in 2025 and which prohibits these veterans from also claiming other veterans tax credits and exemptions. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

The Select Board recommends this Article.

Moved by Selectperson Richard Bielefield, Seconded by Tim Egan
Town Administrator, Jennifer Gaudette addressed the article.

Discussion

All in Favor, "Aye", Opposed "No", the "Ayes" have it

ARTICLE 18: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Fire Chief Allan Clark reminded everyone of the many fire deaths in the State of NH, age being a first cause and the lack of or the nonworking of fire detectors. If anyone in our town needs a detector or needs theirs checked for good working order, just contact a fire department member or the Town Office. He also reminded the floor of the regulations of outdoor burning, if and when burn permits need to be acquired. The burn applications can be done on line. The storm damage of several years ago and the FEMA compensations have finally been completed.

Cornelia Lorentzen advised of a lawsuit filed by her against the Town of Sugar Hill.

Thank you to Dennis and Kathie Cote for providing the sound system for the meeting.

A special thank you to Moderator Jim Snyder for his 22 years as our moderator was read by Town Clerk Lissa Boissonneault and a lovely plaque inscribed to Jim and a gavel attached. Jim got a standing ovation from the floor, well deserved.

Selectperson Chris Ellms read a list of long standing town servants of 30 years and over:

Lissa Boissonneault, Treasurer, Town Clerk and Tax Collector	51 years
Doug Amsbary, SHFD	47 years
James Snyder, SHFD	43 years
Clifton Aldrich, SHFD	42 years
Doug Glover, SHFD	36 years
Irene Amsbary, Trustee, Librarian	32 years
Doug Glover, Road Agent	32 years
Sarah Pinney, Zoning Board	32 years
Rob Hayward, Planning Board	31 years
Richard Bielefield, Selectboard	31 years
Eric Chase, SHFD	30 years
Gordie Johnk, SHFD	30 years

This was met with another rousing round of applause from the floor.

There being no further business to transact, Moderator Snyder adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissa M. Boissonneault, Town Clerk

