

The Special Town Meeting of October 16, 2025, was called to order at 7:00 pm by Lincoln Cooper, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Robert Salisbury and seconded by C. Peter Rabbitt to have L. Cooper serve as moderator.

There were no other nominations. All in favor.

The Clerk read the warning.

A motion was made by R. Salisbury and seconded by Neil Delmonico to approve the creation of the Road Resurfacing Capital Account that would be used specifically for resurfacing roads & to be funded from the General Fund Balance. There was a brief question-and-answer period where town residents Stephen Thompson, Peter Grillo, Neil, Delmonico, Ron Whitcomb, and Kim Gunn asked questions, and L. Cooper and Robert Salisbury, Board of Finance Chairman, answered. Here is a brief synopsis: As of June 30, 2025, the fund balance was \$5,264,407.39. Towns are “strongly encouraged” by the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to set aside 15% of their budget each year as a safeguard against catastrophic events and to have a plan in place for any monies above and beyond that 15%. We are currently closer to 40%. That is what we are trying to accomplish with the action proposed in this meeting. The goal is to help maintain our roads every year, which are used by residents at all stages of life, in a way that won’t create an additional burden on the taxpayers by increasing the Mill Rate. L. Cooper read the Ordinance (immediately following these minutes) that would establish the Road Resurfacing Capital Account. The processes will remain the same, with each project going before the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, followed by a Town Meeting for final approval, all of which will happen before work can begin. By creating this capital account, the money is designated for a specific purpose, so it cannot be used for anything else. This will not affect what we might receive from the State through the LOCIP and TAR programs.

This is where we currently stand:

\$5,264,407.39 is what we currently have in the Town’s Fund Balance.

\$1,755,181.70 is equivalent to 15% of the current budget.

\$3,509,225.69 remains after the 15% is removed.

Ultimately, we are requesting to move a combined \$1,425,000.00 into the Capital Accounts, including the Road Resurfacing Capital Account, should both questions pass, leaving an approximate \$2,084,225.69 buffer above the 15% that OPM advises that we maintain.

Neil Delmonico made a motion, seconded by Ron Whitcomb, to move the question to a vote.

The results of the vote were unanimous:

IN FAVOR – 15

OPPOSED – 0

ABSTAIN – 0

The question was approved.

L. Cooper asked for a motion to move to the next item. R. Salisbury made a motion, seconded by N. Delmonico, to approve the following amounts in Capital Transfers from the General Fund Balance:

- a. \$50,000.00 to the Revaluation Capital Account
- b. \$500,000.00 to the Facilities Maintenance Capital Account
- c. \$100,000.00 to the Equipment Capital Account
- d. \$200,000.00 to the Buses and Vans Capital Account
- e. \$75,000.00 to the IT-Hardware Capital Account
- f. \$500,000.00 to the Road Resurfacing Capital Account (Previously approved at this same meeting)

L. Cooper and R. Salisbury reiterated points already stated previously and opened the discussion for any additional questions. Stephanie Thompson asked if it wouldn't be better to continue to add to the Capital Accounts to maintain them during the budget season, rather than eliminating them to lower the mill rate so that the accounts aren't depleted over time? L. Cooper said that was a valid point that should be brought to the attention of the newly elected Board of Selectmen in November. It would eliminate the need to put a significant amount of money into every account every year.

L. Cooper Asked for a motion to move the question to a vote. Neil made the motion, seconded by R. Salisbury to do so.

The results of the vote were unanimous:

IN FAVOR – 15

OPPOSED – 0

ABSTAIN – 0

The question was approved.

A motion was made by Patricia Massey and seconded by C.P. Rabbitt to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

ATTEST: Heather R. George

Town Clerk