TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

Town Meeting
March 11, 2008

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE **SULLIVAN COUNTY**

Moderator Victoria Smith called the 232nd Annual Grantham Town Meeting to order at 5:20 pm. Pastor Ron Bruce was invited to offer the invocation. The Daisies and Brownies of Troop 2060 led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

This year the Grantham Town Report was dedicated to Herman Barton. Moderator Smith asked Police Chief Lary to present the dedication. Chief Lary spoke about how Herm could do just about anything. Herm was the director of Mount Trashmore. He was a school crossing guard when the bridge on Route 114 was being repaired. Even though Herm was born in Springfield, NH and moved to Grantham when he was 3 years old he is a true Granthamite.

Moderator Smith stated that the meeting having been properly warranted as it is certified on page 23 of the town report and by the authority invested in me by the laws of the State of New Hampshire I do now declare the 232nd Annual Meeting of the Town of Grantham officially opened for business. Moderator Smith announced that the polls for official ballot voting opened at 10:00 am and will close at 7:00 pm today for the purpose of casting ballots on articles 1 - 3 and that absentee ballots were opened at 1:00 pm this afternoon.

School Moderator Carl Hanson was temporarily absent from the meeting and Moderator Smith directed the assembly's attention to the Grantham Village School Annual Report on page 116 of the Grantham Town Report.

The Moderator then introduced Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Eigenbrode, Town Administrator Tina Stearns, Selectman Connie Jones, Selectman Harold Haddock and Selectman Alden "Chick" Pillsbury. The Assistant Moderator is Ken Story. This year the ballot clerks are Lorie McClory, Martha Menard, Missy Walla and Michael Holdowsky.

The Rules of the Meeting, on page 14 of the town report, were adopted and the Moderator directed the Town Clerk to make the rules of the meeting a permanent part of the meeting record. *Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.*

2008 Town Meeting Rules

1. Non-voters who are not officers of the town may be allowed to address the meeting only if the town votes to permit it.
2. All voters will direct their remarks to the moderator. Whenever a voter wishes to speak, he or she will address the moderator and identify him or herself.

3. Unless superseded by State law, reconsideration of a vote on any article should be brought up immediately after the vote has been declared. A vote on the issuance of bonds or notes over $100,000 cannot be reconsidered at the same meeting. The town may also vote to restrict reconsideration of any other vote in the same manner.
4. The moderator will conduct a secret "yes-no" ballot vote when five voters make a written request prior to a voice or show of hands vote on any article open for discussion.
5. Any ruling by the moderator can be challenged. The moderator will conduct a secret "yes-no" ballot when seven or more voters question any non-ballot vote immediately after the vote is declared, and before any other business is conducted.
6. All proposed amendments to articles will be submitted in writing to the moderator prior to discussion of the amendment.

Registered voters only will be seated in the center section of the meeting hall. Non-voters will be seated in the visitor's gallery located in the area bounded by the pillars and the inside wall of the meeting hall.

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

To choose by ballot and major vote for the ensuing years as enumerated:

Warren Kimball	Selectman	3 years
Christopher Morris	Treasurer	3 years
Victoria Smith	Town Moderator	2 years
Charles McCarthy	Planning Board	3 years
Susan Mellow	Library Trustee	3 years
Warren Kimball	Cemetery Trustee	3 years
Kristina Burgard	Trustee of Trust Funds	3 years
Donna Stamper	Supervisor of Checklist	6 years

ARTICLE 2 – Building Code Changes

Are you in favor of amendments to the Grantham Building Code, as follows:

Article I – Purpose and Authority: "In accordance with New Hampshire RSA 675:3, the Town of Grantham hereby adopts the *Current version of the "New Hampshire Building Code" or "State Building Code" as defined in Chapter 155-A:1, Title X11, Public Safety and Welfare,* as the Grantham Building Code for the purpose of preserving the public health, safety, welfare and convenience and to insure any proposed building site is reasonably safe from flood hazards. *The State Building Code includes by reference, The International Building Code 2006, The International Plumbing Code 2006, The International Mechanical Code 2006, The International Energy Code 2006 and The International Residential Code 2006 as published by the International Code Council and The National Electrical Code 2005. The effective date for this Grantham Building Code shall be March 11, 2008.*"

Article VI – General Building Permit: "H. Permit Time Limits: Any work for which a permit has been issued by the Building Inspector for any construction shall be actively prosecuted *as follows: Appreciable Start: Residences – 4 months from date of approval (foundation in and capped). All other work – 6 months from date of approval to actively prosecute and/or make appreciable start.*"

Article IX – Code Compliance Inspections: *"When construction begins, the following code compliance inspections, to be conducted by the Building Inspector, MUST BE REQUESTED IN ADVANCE:*

a) *Foundation footings, forms and reinforcement, if applicable. Lot pins must be in place at this inspection to assure set back requirements are met. If the pins are not there, or they cannot be verified, the construction will not be approved or allowed to continue. DO NOT POUR CONCRETE UNTIL THE ABOVE HAS BEEN APPROVED.*

b) *Foundation – insulation, waterproofing, and drainage, prior to back-filling.*

c) *Structural – rough frame, electrical and plumbing prior to covering.*

d) *Inspection of the heating system and/or wood burning stove. All underground fuel tanks and piping must be inspected prior to back-filling.*

e) *Final inspection.*

Certificate of Occupancy

You may not use or occupy a building or structure, in whole or in part, until Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. You must forward the Certificate of Occupancy request (part of the Building Permit Application) to the Building Inspector at the Town Administrator's Office, 300 Rt. 10 S, Grantham, NH 03753, at least 10 days prior to issuance.

If you have any questions or wish to contact any of the above mentioned departments, please call:

- *Building Inspector.....863-6021*
- *Town Administrator's Office.....863-6021*

The Town is presently using the "New Hampshire Build Code", copies of which are available for viewing at the Grantham Town Hall, Town Administrator's Office."

RECOMMENDED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE PLANNING BOARD

YES 294 NO 142
PASSED BY OFFICIAL BALLOT

ARTICLE 3 – Petitioned – Official Ballot Voting (SB2)

"Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Grantham on the second Tuesday of March?" By Petition; Special Warrant Article; (3/5 majority vote required)

NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

YES 99 NO 349

ARTICLE 4 – Purchase of Recreation Land and Facility
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred seventy-five thousand dollars **($475,000)** for the purchase of Grantham Tax Map 241 Lots 5 & 6 for the use as town recreation and to authorize the withdrawal of one hundred forty thousand dollars ($140,000) from the Ball Field Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of three hundred thirty-five thousand dollars ($335,000) to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from taxation.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Pillsbury to speak to this article. Selectman Pillsbury stated that he was disappointed last year when the proposed land purchase for ball fields did not pass. We have the opportunity to buy something now that offers more options.

The Moderator recognized Richard Anderson, member of the Ball Field Committee, to comment. He thanked the Selectmen for following up on the proposed purchase of this property. He feels this property fulfills the wishes brought forth from a survey given to the residents of Grantham last July at Old Home Day. Mr. Anderson said that the town has to own the land before the Ball Field Committee can apply for grants and have fundraisers. The Moderator recognized Cynthia Whitney who asked what contingencies were part of the sale of this property. Administrator Stearns answered that the sale of the land was contingent on article 4 passing at Town Meeting. When Ms. Whitney asked about flooding Administrator Stearns showed a map, via power point, that displayed the area along the brook that was in the 100 year floodplain. Ms. Whitney voiced concern over increased vehicle traffic, the speed of that traffic, and the tax impact of removing the property from the tax rolls. Scott Treitsch was recognized next and he said that his property is right next to the proposed town recreation property. He stated his concern about the noise, traffic, parking and costs of building and maintaining the fields.

PASSED BY MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 5 – General Government
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$865,137** to defray the cost of **General Government** operations.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09
Selectmen's Office	119,884	153,725
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	93,436	97,700
Supervisors of the Checklist	7,901	7,906
Financial Administration	76,499	62,000
Tax Maps/Assessing	40,000	30,000
Legal	15,000	15,000
Personnel Administration	309,482	358,450
Planning Board	8,200	7,800
Zoning Board of Adjustment	3,750	3,400
General Government Building	84,200	81,500
Archives Building	4,200	6,850
Cemeteries	15,000	15,000
Insurance	31,000	23,000
Regional Associations	2,750	2,806
TOTAL	**811,302**	**865,137**

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Jones to speak to this article. Selectman Jones introduced an amendment to article 5; Amend Town Clerk/Tax Collector Proposed budget amount for 2008/09 from $97,700 to $100,400, an increase of $2,700, if article 3, Official Ballot Voting, passes. Official Ballot Voting will increase the cost of ballot machine memory card programming, increase the number of ballots printed and increase postage expenses. The educated estimate of increase is $2,700. The amendment was moved and seconded. **AMENDMENT PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 6 – Public Safety
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **$545,961** to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09
Police Department	357,936	376,329
FAST Squad	51,053	52,037
Fire Department	110,668	100,220
Forest Fire	375	375
Building Inspection	5,150	5,500
Emergency Management	10,050	11,500
TOTAL	**535,232**	**545,961**

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 7 – Public Works
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$633,780** to defray the cost of **Public Works** operation.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09
Highway Administration	157,917	162,280
Highway Maintenance	129,000	138,000
Street Lights	2,600	3,000
Transfer Station	130,950	141,000
Waste Disposal	185,000	182,500
Landfill Monitoring	8,000	7,000
TOTAL	**613,467**	**633,780**

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 8 – Health and Welfare
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$21,263** to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09
Boarding Animals	1,000	1,000
Community Services	11,832	12,763
Town General Assistance	7,500	7,500
TOTAL	**20,332**	**21,263**

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 9 – Culture and Recreation
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$196,513** for **Culture and Recreation.**
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09
Recreation	23,400	25,775
Dunbar Free Library	141,274	146,803
Activities	21,800	23,435
Archives	500	500
TOTAL	**186,974**	**196,513**

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 10 – Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Notes
It was moved and seconded:"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$115,720** for **Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Notes.**
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09
Conservation Commission	1,600	1,100
Bond Payment	135,000	65,000
Bond Interest	59,963	49,520
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	100	100
TOTAL	**196,663**	**115,720**

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 11 – Capital Reserve Funds
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **$86,000** to be placed in previously established **Capital Reserve Funds.**
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2007/08	Proposed 2008/09
Fire Department Capital Reserve	25,000	25,000
Ball Field Capital Reserve	100,000	0
Highway Equip Capital Reserve	25,000	30,000
Town Office Equip Capital Reserve	1,500	1,000
Transfer Station Capital Reserve	10,000	10,000
Police Vehicle Capital Reserve	0	20,000
TOTAL	**161,500**	**86,000**

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Jones to speak to the article. The moderator then recognized Shannon Hastings Fox. Ms. Fox suggested that it would be prudent to put money into the Ball Field Capital Reserve and introduced an amendment; to add $50,000 toward the Ball Field Capital Reserve Fund. It was moved and seconded. A hand count was taken. Amendment did not pass. Yes 86 No 165

The Moderator called for a vote on article 11 as originally written.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 12 – Police Department Cruiser
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-three thousand dollars **($33,000)** for the purchase of an additional cruiser for the Police Department.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

The Moderator announced that there was a petition asking for a secret ballot for this article. She then recognized Selectman Haddock to speak to the article. The Selectman asked Chief Lary to speak. Chief Lary stated that the police vehicles that were purchased last year have been putting on about 3400 miles per month. Putting an additional cruiser on duty would help cut the mileage back. This will increase the trade-in value of the 2 cruisers when they are traded in.

YES 130 **NO 125**

PASSED BY MAJORITY PAPER BALLOT

ARTICLE 13 – Fire Truck
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred forty thousand dollars **($340,000)** to purchase a new fire truck and authorize the withdrawal of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The remainder of two hundred forty thousand dollars ($240,000) to come from taxation.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Moderator Smith asked Michael Benoit to speak to this article. He commented that Engine 3, 22 years old, has gone beyond the replacement recommendation of 20 years. An inspection done by Valley Fire Equipment shows that it will cost $50,000 to repair increasing rust and other issues. This vehicle will combine a rescue truck with the fire truck.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 14 – Fire Department Jaws of Life Tool Replacement
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty- two thousand dollars **($22,000)** to purchase a new Jaws of Life Tool and authorize the withdrawal of twenty-two thousand dollars ($22,000) from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. *No amount to be raised from taxation.*
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN (Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 15 – Transfer Station Containers
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars **($15,000)** to purchase Transfer Station Compactor Containers and authorize the withdrawal of fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000) from the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. *No amount to be raised from taxation.*
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 16 – Dunbar Free Library Windows
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand dollars **($12,000)** for the replacement of the 12 double hung windows in the original portion of the Dunbar Free Library.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 17 – Establish Dunbar Free Library Capital Reserve Fund
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a future addition to the Dunbar Free Library and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars **($50,000)** to be placed in this fund.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Moderator Smith asked Selectman Jones to speak to the article. She thought it would be smart to put $50,000 into the Capital Reserve Fund. Donna Stamper said the town is growing and space is needed in the library. Phil Schaefer wondered whether there would be space available for an addition and parking. Donna Stamper said there is room behind the building for an addition approximately the same size as the last addition.

PASSED BY MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 18 – Woodland Heights
It was moved and seconded: To see if the town will vote to accept Woodlands Heights as a Class V road, such acceptance to be final upon the completion of necessary action of the Board of Selectmen once it has received approval of the as-built drawings, drainage easements from all property owners and the Selectmen are satisfied that the road has been brought up to standards set by the Board for Woodland Heights.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Haddock who invited a representative of the Woodland Heights Association to speak. Richard Kramer being recognized by the Moderator stated that he was never contacted by the Association concerning the private road probably because he has road access to his property from Route 114. He is not inclined to give drainage easement rights because it would reduce his ability to expand his property due to the rights the town would now have with the road being a public road. Dan Lahaye, President of the Woodland Heights Association, stated that he did not know that Mr. Kramer had any interest in the road since he has access from Route 114. He said that the road is about 1/8 mile in length and would not pose a great deal of maintenance or cost to the Town. Selectman Pillsbury said that this development was approved by the Planning Board and the road was built to standards. Now we have to make sure that everything is in order. If the Association did everything they were required to do there is no question that it is up to the Town to take over this road. Phil Schaefer asked what the implications of the acceptance of this road were to the Town. Selectman Haddock said the Town would have to plow in the winter, keep the road surface up to grade throughout the year. Joseph Newcomb, Road Agent, stated that any road that the town takes over is going to increase the maintenance costs even if it is 1/8th mile long. This road is on a pretty steep grade going up. There are 15 houses on the road and the more houses the more traffic. Mr. Newcomb recommended that the road be paved. Selectman Jones commented that she wanted it to be very clear that we must get drainage easements from every property owner on that road before the town can take it over.

PASSED BY MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 19 – Transfer Property to Grantham School District
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to allow the conveyance of +/- 24 acres of the proposed subdivision for Tax Map 233 Lot 075, currently known as 75 Learning Drive, to the Grantham School District.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

The proposed subdivision will split the existing 35 acre lot into three (3) lots: School = 24 acres; Fire Department = 3 acres; Memorial Cemetery = 8 acres

The Moderator asked Selectman Pillsbury to address this article. Selectman Pillsbury stated that this was just a matter of transferring property to the school so they could take care of their own property. If the school wants to do something with the property it

should be up to the School Board and not the Selectmen. The Moderator recognized Rick Anderson. He asked who owned the gymnasium. Selectman Haddock said the Town owned the gymnasium but it is leased to the school and the school has control over its operation. The land under the gymnasium will belong to the school.

PASSED BY MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 20 – Property Tax Resolution
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor:

> Resolved: We the citizens of Grantham, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. State leaders who take a pledge for no new taxes perpetuate higher and higher property taxes. We call on our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor to reject the "Pledge", have an open discussion covering all options, and adopt a revenue system that lowers property taxes.

RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

This article was also brought in by petition with over the required 25 signatures.

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Jones who commented that the State of New Hampshire has what is considered a structural deficit in the budget laws. The increases in what must be made, by law, every year exceed the income that we receive from present fees and taxes. Costs are pushed down to the County, which in turn get pushed down to our property taxes. With no change in this policy we are going to see higher and higher property taxes. This article will let them know that we are concerned about our property taxes and we are watching how they are voting. Ken Purdy said that the very focus of this article is to gain the attention of our State Legislatures. Robert McCarthy said the article gives the legislature a message saying we have to have a conversation about taxes in the state, therefore we are only asking in this resolution to reject the Pledge for no new taxes and to have a dialogue about the tax structuring system. The voice vote was inconclusive and Moderator Smith called for a hand vote.

YES 97 NO 65

PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE

ARTICLE 21 – NH/VT Solid Waste Project Funds
It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to use any funds received as part of the demise of the NH/VT Solid Waste Project for obtaining equipment for the Grantham Transfer Station.
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 22 – End of Meeting
It was moved and seconded: To hear the reports of agents, officers, and committees heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

The honor of being the year's Hog Reeves was awarded to Tim Pillsbury and Michelle Buhler. The Fence Viewers for the year are Rita Lane and David Hill. The Moderator recognized Dan McClory who commended the Selectboard for moving the Town Meeting to 5:00 pm. The turnout indicates that it was a good idea. Shannon Hastings Fox thanked Joe Newcomb and Jeff Hastings for doing a great job on the town roads this winter. Moderator Smith called Donna Stamper to the podium to accept recognition for being the first recipient of the Lilla McLain Bradley Award for her efforts on behalf of community service organizations, especially her role in The National Alliance on Mental Illness in NH. Donna received a well deserved round of applause from the audience.

There being no further business or reports, Moderator Smith declared the 232nd Town Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

A True Copy Attest:
Rita Eigenbrode
Rita Eigenbrode, Town Clerk
March 20, 2008