

APPROVED

Town of Grantham – Board of Selectmen Public Budget Hearing Minutes Wednesday, February 9, 2011

The budget hearing was called to order at 6pm on February 9, 2011 by Chairman Harold Haddock, Jr. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Lower Level at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, New Hampshire.

Present were: Chairman Harold Haddock Jr; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Becky Newton; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Eigenbrode; Police Chief Walter Madore; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Deputy Fire Chief David Beckley; Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott; Road Agent Joe Newcomb; Activities Director Laurie Field; Athletics Director Marsha Googins; Library Director Dawn Huston; John Parsons; Bob Lewis; Victoria Smith; Stuart Gillespie; Kristina Burgard; Nancy Fries, Executive Director of the Chapin Senior; Merle Schotanus; Richard Hocker; Conrad Frey; Jeff Hastings; Russell Lary; Chris Lary; Rae Tober; Phil Schaefer; Pat McAllister; Jeff Walla; Missy Walla; Ken Story; Mary Richard; Lorie McClory; Mary Kronenwetter; Susan Mellow; Michael Whipple and other members of the public

Public Hearing

Attendees were given copies of the 2011-2012 proposed budget and warrant articles. Administrator Newton reviewed the 2010 tax rate:

Town	3.46
County	2.95
School (local)	10.47
School (state)	2.32
Total – Grantham	19.20
Eastman	1.47
Total – Eastman	20.67

Article 1 – Election of Officers (polls close at 7:00 PM)

- Selectman - 3 year term
- Treasurer - 3 year term
- Planning Board - 3 year term
- Library Trustee - 3 year term

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- Cemetery Trustee - 3 year term
- Trustee of Trust Funds - 3 year term
- Trustee of Trust Funds – 2 year term

ARTICLE 2 – Revisions to the Zoning Ordinance: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Add a new Article that would provide for Affordable Housing in the Town of Grantham as mandated by RSA 674:58 to 674:61 and passed in 2009. The new Article would state

- 1) Grantham recognizes and makes provision for Affordable Housing;
- 2) outlines the existing availability within most of Grantham's Zoning Districts for Affordable Housing; and
- 3) notes the various State agencies and Grantham Boards responsible to facilitate implementation of the Affordable Housing mandate.

RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

Rationale: The Courts and the State Legislature have felt that "exclusionary zoning" should be eliminated within New Hampshire through the passage of RSA 674:58 to 674:61. It is to be noted that a sizeable stock of existing homes in Grantham already meet the definition of "affordable" and that the Town appears to have provided its "fair share".

Kristina Burgard asked if the language is the actual text of the changes to the zoning ordinance. Newton said she believed it is the actual text as it will go into the zoning ordinance. Zoning Board Chair Conrad Frey said it is a summary of the changes. Burgard asked if voters would be adopting the actual revisions in the warrant article. Newton said the exact text will be on the sample ballot.

ARTICLE 3 - Revisions to the Zoning Ordinance: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows?

To facilitate Amendment No. 1 above, amend Articles III-B Business District and Article III-C Business Light Industrial Districts to increase the minimum number of units in a multiple dwelling from four(4) to five(5). The definition for "Multiple Dwellings" in Article XIII Definitions will be revised to reflect this change. Additional provisions will also be made in Article VI-Cluster Residential Development to provide for Affordable Housing within this type of development.

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RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

Rationale: These minor changes allow for a greater range of possibilities to provide for Affordable Housing. The increase of units in multiple dwellings is to meet the minimum requirement specified in the RSA.

Newton stated there is an increase of units in multiple dwellings to meet the minimum requirements specified by state law.

ARTICLE 4 - Revisions to the Zoning Ordinance: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Revise the "Hardship" criterion for consideration of a variance in Article VIII Zoning Board of Adjustment in order to comply with RSA 674:33 which has been in effect since January 1, 2010. This change will also be reflected in Article XIII – Definitions under "Variance".

RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

Rationale: The legislature has instituted the new single "hardship" criterion to supercede the more cumbersome criteria that had been instituted by the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

ARTICLE 5 - Revisions to the Zoning Ordinance: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Add a new definition for "Outdoor Display – Business and Business/Light Industrial Districts" in Article XIII – Definitions.

RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

Rationale: This definition is new and will fill a void in the list of Zoning definitions necessary for better administering the Ordinance.

Lorie McClory asked if the exact wording would be on the ballot and if the ballot could be put on the website.

Newton said the ballot will be available on the town's website as soon as possible.

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ARTICLE 6 - Revisions to the Zoning Ordinance: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Add a sentence in Article X – Administration and Enforcement under penalties for Zoning violations stating that “Each day that a violation continues shall be a separate offense”. This has been mandated by RSA 676:17.

RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

Rationale: This is a clarification of the violation and penalties provision that was felt necessary by the State Legislature.

Article 7 – General Government: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$993,856 to defray the cost of General Government operations.

		2011/2012	Dollar Amount of Change
4130	Executive	\$148,390.00	\$8,425.00
4140	Elections & Registrations	\$103,746.00	\$3,296.00
4141	Supervisor’s of the Checklist	\$5,177.00	(\$1,663.00)
4150	Financial Administration	\$67,593.00	\$4,208.00
4152	Maps & Assessing	\$35,000.00	\$5,000.00 *
4153	Legal Expenses	\$10,000.00	\$2,500.00
4155	Personnel Administration	\$450,200.00	\$30,300.00
4191	Planning	\$7,750.00	\$0.00
4192	Zoning	\$2,300.00	(\$280.00)
4194	Government Buildings	\$118,200.00	(\$5,075.00)
4195	Cemeteries	\$15,900.00	(\$6,100.00)
4196	Insurance & Bonds	\$26,500.00	\$1,500.00
4197	Regional Planning Commission	\$3,100.00	\$100.00
	Total	\$993,856.00	\$42,211.00

* Does not include \$70,000 in 2010/2011 funding for the Statistical Update

Major Points

- Increase in health insurance “not to exceed” 15.51%
- 3% salary increase for all departments (Approx. \$18,500 for regular full time employees; Also applies to part-time.)
- Increases in municipal percentage of police retirement and municipal retirement; 2012 - 16.62% Employer Retire Percentage Police from 14.90%
- Budgeting for abatement processing in assessing +\$5,000
- Reduction in spending on buildings as a result of sale of the Wien House \$5,000

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Phil Schaefer asked what percentage of the health insurance premium employees pay. Newton said 10%. Schaefer asked how long employees had been paying the 10%. Selectman Jones said employees had the 10% for as long as she has been Selectman.

Article 8 – Public Safety

		2011/2012	Dollar amount of Change
4210	Police	\$347,678.00	(\$ 24,582.00)
4215	FAST	\$56,192.00	\$7,046.00
4220	Fire	\$107,095.00	\$4,935.00
4225	Fire – Forest	\$375.00	\$0.00
4240	Building Inspection	\$6,560.00	\$0.00
4290	Emergency Management	\$13,251.00	\$811.00
	Total	\$531,151.00	(\$11,790.00)

- Reduction in funding for the 5th officer – unable to fill
- Increase in EMS/Ambulance Dispatch Fees (approximately \$10,000); Ambulance Study taking place

Russell Lary stated that the Town voted for a fifth police officer and asked why funding for the fifth officer was cut and if there was actual statistics that support the cut.

Chairman Haddock stated that the town did not vote on the number of police officers that they voted on a budget that included a fifth officer.

Selectman Jones stated that the position has been carried for three years not only for the salary but also the cost of the benefits which has increased the bottom line of the budget. Jones explained that in those three years the department has run quite well and the activity outlined in the department's monthly reports has not changed much.

Lorie McClory stated that the school district made a tough decision to cut a teacher from their budget and that must have been tough to decide that a fifth police officer is not needed. McClory thanked the Board of Selectmen for looking at every line item in the budget and making the changes that are necessary.

Article 9 – Public Works

		2011/2012	Dollar Amount of Change
4311	Highway Administration	\$177,400.00	\$3,520.00
4312	Highway Maintenance	\$158,700.00	(\$1,300.00)
4316	Street Lighting	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
4323	Transfer Station Admin	\$121,349.00	\$1,249.00
4324	Transfer Station Disposal	\$184,000.00	(\$7,000.00)
4325	Landfill Monitoring	\$8,000.00	\$500.00

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Total \$653,449.00 (\$3031.00)

- Lower by \$3,031
- 4311 Includes Raises and Highway Building Maintenance
- 4324 Removal of Household Hazardous Waste Day (every other year) \$7,000

Phil Schaefer asked why funding for Household Hazardous Waste was removed. Newton explained that it is done every other year.

Article 10 —Health & Welfare

	2011/2012	Dollar Amount of Change
4414 Animal Control	\$100.00	\$(400.00)
4415 Health Agencies & Hospital	\$13,370.00	\$2,870.00
4442 General Assistance	\$10,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total	\$23,470.00	\$3,470.00

Community Agencies:

Lake Sunapee Home Health	\$6,900.00
Sullivan County Nutrition SVCS	\$200.00
Kearsarge Area COA (Requested \$2,500)	\$2,000.00
S. Western Comm Services	\$850.00
West Central Services	\$2,420.00
Community Alliance of Human Services	\$0.00
Mascoma Valley Health Initiative (Requested \$1,875.00)	\$1,000.00
CASA (Requested \$500.00)	\$0.00

Community Agencies - Total \$13,370.00

Pat McCallister explained the services of the Kearsarge Area Council on Aging (COA) which includes mobility equipment such as walkers and wheelchairs as well as transportation services and stated that there are 121 drivers that volunteer. Executive Director Nancy Fries stated that COA relies and has not increased the request for at least four years. Fries stated that COA drove 10,000 miles for residents of Grantham.

Bob Lewis asked if the money is used for administrative costs. Fries stated the money is used to support the building (heat, lights, copier etc).

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John Trethaway stated that the services COA provides to Grantham residents is tremendous and requested the Board of Selectmen support the full request of \$2,500.

Rae Tober discussed her support for COA.

Phil Schaefer stated that COA is valuable in providing socialization for seniors. Schaefer suggested listing each agency as a separate article so voters can decide to either support or not support the agency.

Newton stated that there was consideration in listing each community agency separately but it would add another eight articles to the Warrant; that in the interest in moving Town Meeting along it was decided to combine them together.

Schaefer asked for an explanation of funding for one agency and not another. Selectman Jones stated that funding is provided based on the request letter that is sent in the fall and on how many Grantham residents are served. Jones stated that information wasn't provided before the budget was set.

Article 11 – Culture and Recreation

		2011/2012	Dollar Amount of Change
4520	Recreation	\$34,377.00	\$6,467.00
4550	Dunbar Free Library	\$164,545.00	\$12,888.00
4583	Activities "Our Town"	\$26,655.00	\$564.00
4589	Archivist	\$500.00	(\$900.00)
	Total	\$226,077.00	\$19,019.00

- Recreation – Officiating (+\$2,000) Uniforms (+\$1217) Miscellaneous (+\$1640)
- Library – Raises (\$4775) Benefits (\$7,000) under budget in 2010/2011
Corrects librarian salary from last budget year

Article 12 – Conservation & Bonds

		2011/2012	Dollar Amount of Change
4611	Conservation Commission	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
4711	Municipal Bonds-Principal	\$60,000.00	\$0.00
4721	Municipal Bonds-Interest	\$39,150.00	(\$4,050.00)
4723	Interest/Tax Ant. Notes	\$100.00	\$0.00
	Total	\$101,750.00	(\$4,050.00)

Bond on Municipal building declines annually; we are in year 7 out of 20.

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Article 13 – Capital Reserve Funds

Capital Reserves-In	Balance 6/30/ 2010	Balance 12/31/2010	2011/2012 Proposed Addition	Notes and Withdrawals
Library Addition	\$70,480	\$80,538	\$15,000	
Mowers	\$15,844	\$17,857	\$2,000	-\$9,000 Art 19
Athletic Fields	\$29,315	\$39,343	\$0.00	+\$248,700 Art 16
Recreation Park Projects	\$26,638	\$134,322		Grant \$100,000 Timken Funds
Highway	\$73,285	\$73,600	\$15,000	Grader in 2012/2013
Transfer Station	\$41,257	\$41,439	\$10,000	Compactor
Town Office Equipment	\$8,731	\$9,738	\$1,000	-\$8,000 Art 18
Land Preservation	\$30,100	\$30,245	\$10,000	Art 17 \$100,000 Not recommended
Revaluation	\$25,050	\$25,158	\$15,000	100,000+ 2015
Town Buildings	\$25,035	\$40,063	\$15,000	
Bridges	\$0.00	\$33,270	\$33,250	+\$33,250 Art. 13
Police Vehicles	\$32,918	\$33,062	\$5,000	-\$30,000 Art 14
Fire Department CRF	\$50,056	\$50,359	\$15,000	
		Total	\$136,250	+\$25,000

- \$121,250 placed into CRF last year
- Total Assessed Valuation is \$506,237,339

Russell Lary asked what the \$15,000 was needed for. Newton stated that the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund is for all apparatus; that the fund was depleted three years ago. Fire Chief Jay Fountain stated Engine 4 will need to be replaced in eight years and will cost approximately \$400,000.

Lary asked if any money was put into the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund last year. Newton stated no.

Lary asked what the Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund was for. Newton said it was for all town buildings.

Kristina Burgard asked if the Recreation Park Project Fund was a Capital Reserve Fund. Trustee Bob Lewis stated that Recreation Park Project Fund only includes private funds. Burgard clarified that the Recreation Park Project Fund was not a Capital Reserve Fund. Newton said yes; that the reason it is separate from the Athletic Field Capital Reserve Fund is because they cannot be co-mingled.

APPROVED

ARTICLE 14 – Police Department Cruiser: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (**\$30,000.00**) for the purchase of a replacement cruiser and to authorize the withdrawal of thirty thousand dollars (**\$30,000.00**) from the Police Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose and to permit the Selectmen to dispose of the existing 2005 Crown Victoria cruiser by “trade in” allowance or by sale as deemed in the best interest of the Town of Grantham. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Is Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 15 – Dunbar Free Library Generator: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to ten thousand dollars (**\$10,000.00**) for purchase and installation of a generator to prevent freeze-ups and maintain minimum library functions during power outages.

Is Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

Library Trustee Mary Kronenwetter stated that the Library has not had a freeze-up in the past and that the generator would be used to maintain public communication devices for the Town, day-time respite for people who have lost electricity and to prevent freeze-ups.

Kronenwetter asked the Board of Selectmen to consider recommending \$5,000 for the generator and the Library will match it.

Selectman Jones asked if the Library would be open and staffed during an extended power outage.

Library Director Dawn Huston stated she would anticipate normal staffing during an extended power outage.

ARTICLE 16 – Athletics Fields Capital Reserve Fund: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred forty eight thousand seven hundred dollars (**\$248,700.00**) from the general fund surplus to be deposited in the Athletics Fields Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Said sum represents the balance of the proceeds of the sale of 119 Shedd Road (The “Wien House”).

Is Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

Newton stated that the grant money received from the Timken Foundation was based on the Town’s pledge of matching “local funds” .

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ARTICLE 17 – Land Preservation: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (**\$100,000.00**) from the general fund surplus to be deposited in the Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Said sum represents a portion of the balance of the proceeds of the sale of 119 Shedd Road (The “Wien House”).

Is NOI Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

Newton stated that if Article 16 passes, Article 17 will need to be amended or passed over.

Merle Schonatus asked for the rationale for not recommending the \$100,000 for Article 17.

Chairman Haddock stated that it was very clear at the 2010 Town Meeting that when the sale of the property was approved by the town that the reason for it would be to provide funds for the athletic fields, nothing else. Haddock stated the Board felt it was a commitment to the community.

Schonatus stated that he felt the Board will communicate a message to the Town of Grantham that is divisive; that the Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission is all part of the same movement, the consideration of resources.

Schotanus stated the recreation fields have a wetlands issue and in order to mitigate that another piece of property would need to be conserved. Schotanus stated there is a piece of property available to conserve but it is \$48,000 and the Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund only has approximately \$30,000.

Schotanus stated there is approximately 1,200 acres of land for sale in Grantham; that if that land is developed then areas like Dunbar Hill Road would become a main through-way more than it is now. Schotanus said that if the \$100,000 was put into the Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund it would give the Conservation Commission in a position where it could leverage federal money in the event of trying to purchase some of the lands to conserve.

Myron Cummings suggested a map of the land that is available to be preserved be provided and to take the money from the general fund instead of from the proceeds from the sale of the Wien House.

Discussion continued, Chairman Haddock felt that the Conservation Commission shouldn't ask to take money from one purpose for another.

Recreation Director Marsha Googins stated that the athletic programs are growing and if the fields are not developed now it would be a disservice to the youth in Grantham.

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ARTICLE 18 – Town Office Equipment Cap Reserve: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand dollars (**\$8,000.00**) for the purchase of a replacement computer server and to authorize the withdrawal of eight thousand dollars (**\$8,000.00**) from the Town Office Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Is Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 19 – Mowers Purchase: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand dollars (**\$9,000.00**) for the purchase of a new reel type mower and to authorize the withdrawal of nine thousand dollars (**\$9,000.00**) from the Mowers Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Is Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 20 – Motor Vehicle Reclamation Fund: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand dollars (**\$8,000.00**) for the purchase of two open top containers for the Transfer Station and to vote to withdraw the total of eight thousand dollars from the Motor Vehicle Reclamation Fund previously established for that purpose.

Is Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 21 – Underground Storage Tank: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (**\$10,000.00**) to remove the underground fuel storage tank located at the Grantham Fire Department.

Is Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

Newton stated the underground tank is no longer used and that the State requires it be removed or to obtain a permit.

Phil Schaefer asked if there was any leakage. Newton said tests can be done but it wasn't necessary because the tank is only about 10 years old.

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ARTICLE 22 – Town Hall Paving: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (**\$20,000.00**) to place a “top coat” of paving on the rear parking lot at Town Hall.

Is Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

- Town Hall Estimates are between \$35,100-\$41,400 for Paving – both lots; 1-2 years to complete.

ARTICLE 23 – Transfer Station Paving: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighteen thousand dollars (**\$18,000.00**) to place a “top coat” of paving on the main travel area at the Grantham Transfer Station.

Is Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

- Transfer Station paving estimates are \$33,300 - \$41,230 for a top coat. Additional \$10,000 in new paving needed; 1-3 years to complete

ARTICLE 24 – Taxpayer Coalition: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000) and to expend said funds by making a contribution to the Coalition Communities group headed by the City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The Coalition Communities group consists of 35 towns and represents the Town of Grantham in attempting to find a solution to the educational funding issue that does not reinstate donor towns but allows Grantham to continue to keep the statewide education property tax for local use to fund local schools. The Coalition already has saved the Town of Grantham hundreds of thousands of dollars per year for several years. The Coalition is continuing to fight to reverse any new “donor town” formula. Less than \$0.01 Impact on tax Rate.

Is Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
(Majority vote required)

Article 25 – Disposal of Town Owned Property

Article 26 – End of Meeting

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General Comments:

Kristina Burgard stated that there were at least three recommendations for changes to the Warrant Articles and asked, how procedurally, those changes happen prior to Town Meeting.

Newton stated the meeting would be closed to public comment and then the Board of Selectmen can make a motion for any changes.

Nora Tilton stated that at last year's Town Meeting there were several children taking seats that where the registered voters are to sit and requested more attention to this. Town Clerk/Tax Collector stated there will be more election workers to help with this.

Phil Schaefer suggested the Selectmen increase the allocation to the Kearsarge Area Council on Aging to their full request of \$2,500.

On a motion made by Selectman Kimball, second by Selectman Jones; the hearing was closed to public comment at 7:25pm.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the Warrant Articles and made the following changes:

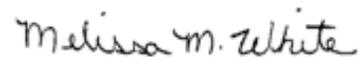
- A motion was made by Selectman Jones to increase Warrant Article 10 by \$500 to go to the Kearsarge Area Council on Aging; second by Selectman Kimball. ***Unanimously approved.***
- A motion was made by Chairman Haddock to change Warrant Article 15 to \$5,000 and to add "Recommended by the Board of Selectmen"; second by Selectman Kimball. ***Unanimously approved.***
- A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to change Warrant Article 17 to recommend the \$100,000 come from unreserved fund balance; second by Chairman Haddock. ***Unanimously approved.***
- A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to change Warrant Article 19 to say "used" reel type mower; second by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

Lorie McClory asked some general questions about the staffing of the Police Department and the vehicles.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to adjourn the meeting; second by Selectman Kimball. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa M. White
Administrative Assistant