

APPROVED

Town of Grantham – Board of Selectmen Public Budget Hearing Minutes Wednesday, February 8, 2012

The budget hearing was called to order at 5:00pm on February 8, 2012 by Chairman Warren Kimball. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Lower Level at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, New Hampshire.

Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Ken Story; Town Administrator Becky Newton; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Police Chief Walter Madore; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott; Assistant Road Agent Jeff Hastings; Activities Director Laurie Field; Athletics Director Marsha Googins; Library Director Dawn Huston; John Parsons; Bob Lewis; Victoria Smith; Stuart Gillespie; Merle Schotanus; Richard Hocker; Conrad Frey; Jeff Walla; Missy Walla; Lorie McClory; Michael Whipple; Joe Watts; Cindy Towle; Transfer Station Attendant David Bocash; SAU #75 Superintendent, Keith Pfeifer; Glenn Carey; Patricia MacNeil; Robert MacNeil; Margery Bostrom; Rae Tober; David Wood; Judith King; and other members of the public

Public Hearing

Attendees were given copies of the 2012-2013 proposed budget and warrant articles. Administrator Newton reviewed the 2011 tax rate:

Town	3.18
County	2.88
School (local)	10.76
School (state)	2.48
Total – Grantham	19.30
Eastman	1.47
Total – Eastman	20.77

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

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

Selectman - 3year term
Planning Board – 3 year term
Planning Board – 3 year term

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Trustee of Trust Funds – 3 year term
Trustee of Trust Funds – 2 year term
Cemetery Trustee – 3 year term
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library – 3 year term
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library – 3 year term
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library – 1 year term
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library – 1 year term
Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 year term
Town Moderator – 2 year term

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 2 -- Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (by petition).

Zoning Ordinance Change(s)

Pursuant to RSA 675:4, we the undersigned registered voters of Grantham, New Hampshire submit this petition for an amendment to adopt the following Zoning Ordinance, to be included under Article XII: Signs, with a ballot vote:

SIGN, SANDWICH BOARD: A free standing, A-frame ground sign having a message on both sides shall be allowed in the Business and Business Light Industrial Districts only, and may not be larger than 3 ft. x 4 ft. (12 square feet) in area. The sign shall not obstruct visibility of vehicles or pedestrians, and shall not be located within a street or street right-of-way. Only one such sign shall be allowed in front of each business establishment. The sign shall be removed during non-open business hours. The sign shall be properly secured and/or weighted as to not intrude upon, infringe upon or cause a hazard to passers-by and/or the traveling public.

Rationale: Running a business in a small town is challenging. Sandwich Board signs are extremely beneficial in exposing customers to information regarding goods and services as well as special sales. As Grantham has very limited Business and Business Light Industrial Districts such signs would be minimal in number. In this economy, helping our local businesses to thrive is essential.

Is recommended by the Planning Board.

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 3—Modification of the Standard Elderly Exemption.

Shall the Town modify an exemption for the elderly under the provisions of RSA 72:39-b as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$40,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$60,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$75,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years and own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000, or if married, a combined

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net income of less than \$60,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000 if single or \$120,000 if married, excluding the value of the person's residence as described in RSA 72:39-a(l).

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

Administrator Newton explained that the changes to the elderly exemption were to increase the amount of the exemptions and to the income so more elderly could qualify.

ARTICLE 4 – General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million thirty-six thousand seven hundred sixteen dollars (**\$1,036,716.00**) to defray the cost of **General Government** operations.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2011/2012	Proposed 2012/2013
Selectmen's Office	\$148,390.00	\$191,492.00
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$103,746.00	\$110,603.00
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$5,177.00	\$5,192.00
Financial Administration	\$67,593.00	\$28,700.00
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Legal	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00
Personnel Administration	\$450,200.00	\$464,300.00
Planning Board	\$7,750.00	\$7,750.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$2,300.00	\$1,085.00
General Government Buildings	\$118,200.00	\$127,299.00
Cemeteries	\$15,900.00	\$19,545.00
Insurance	\$26,500.00	\$30,000.00
Regional Associations	\$3,100.00	\$3,750.00
TOTAL	\$993,856.00	\$1,036,716.00

Newton explained that an employees' salary was moved from Financial Administration to the Selectmen's Office and that Personnel Administration (health insurance) has a "not to exceed rate" of 6.04%.

Bob MacNeil asked what the additional \$19,000 was attributed to. Newton said each of the salary lines includes a three percent increase as well as operating costs.

MacNeil felt that times are tough for a lot of people and that raises should wait a year.

Newton said the overall operating budget is up four percent.

Newton reviewed the major points to Article 4:

- Increase in health insurance "not to exceed" 6.04%

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- 3% salary increase for most departments
- Increases in the municipal percentage of police retirement and municipal retirement (moving target for budgeting purposes)
- Group I - 6/2011 9.16%; 7/2011 11.09%; 8/2011 8.8%
- Group II - 6/2011 14.63%; 7/2011 25.57%; 8/2011 19.57%
- Increase from 34 hours to 40 hours for split employee (Groundskeeping, Cemeteries, Building) \$5,200 + benefits

Lorie McClory asked what percent the employees pay toward the premium for health insurance. Newton said 10%.

McClory asked if the health insurance plan had a deductible. Newton said no; that she did look into it and the savings was "cents on the dollar".

McClory felt that employees need to start paying a deductible to make them more responsible for their health benefits.

Newton said employees pay a co-payment and that emergency service co-pays are high.

McClory asked if all elected officials are offered the opportunity to join the Town's health insurance. Newton said yes.

McClory said she understands that elected officials have to pay the whole health insurance premium but with more people offered the plan the town's risk-pool would increase.

ARTICLE 5 – Public Safety

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred fifty-seven thousand six hundred fifty seven dollars (**\$557,657.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2011/2012	Proposed 2012/2013
Police Department	\$347,678.00	\$357,954.00
EMS (FAST) Squad	\$56,192.00	\$65,492.00
Fire Department	\$107,095.00	\$113,762.00
Forest Fire	\$375.00	\$375.00
Building Inspection	\$6,560.00	\$6,000.00
Emergency Management	\$13,251.00	\$14,074.00
TOTAL	\$531,151.00	\$557,657.00

Newton explained the major increase in Article 5 was due to ambulance services. Newton said the Town is looking at other competitors for ambulance services.

MacNeil asked about the position of Emergency Management. Newton said Emergency Management is a stipend position that takes care of managing all the departments during an emergency situation such as Tropical Storm Irene.

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MacNeil asked if the position is as needed. Newton answered that the position is about 20 to 25 hours per week by stipend; that during an event the work load increases to 60 or more hours per week.

Selectman Jones said the Emergency Management position also takes care of coordinating inoculations that might be needed if there were a pandemic. Jones explained that by law, the Town has to have an Emergency Management Plan which has to be updated constantly; that there is a lot more to the position and a lot more hours spent by the Emergency Management Director than most realize.

MacNeil asked if that person is responsible for keeping the Town up-to-date with Federal regulations. Jones said yes; that without an Emergency Management Director the Town would not be eligible for any FEMA funding.

MacNeil asked how many FEMA grants or FEMA funding did the Town receive in the last five years. Newton said the Town received 75% of \$55,000 for Tropical Storm Irene. Newton went on to say that she is looking into a pre-hazard mitigation grant for the replacement of one of the bridges in town.

ARTICLE 6 – Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred seventy-four thousand one hundred forty three dollars (**\$674,143.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Works** operation.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2011/2012	Proposed 2012/2013
Highway Administration	\$177,400.00	\$184,100.00
Highway Maintenance	\$158,700.00	\$153,200.00
Street Lights	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Transfer Station	\$121,349.00	\$122,843.00
Waste Disposal	\$184,000.00	\$204,000.00
Landfill Monitoring	\$8,000.00	\$6,000.00
TOTAL	\$653,449.00	\$674,143.00

Newton said the contract is up this year for disposal and that Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott is looking into all options.

Newton said the slight increase in Highway Administration is due to increases in diesel costs.

Household Hazardous Waste day will be held this year with the cost estimated at \$9,000.

Merle Schontanus asked what the cause was for the \$20,000 increase in waste disposal. Newton said that in the past the Town had been able to use the revenues from recycling to offset the expenses; that the auditors require the revenues to be budgeted on the revenue side and the expenses budgeted on the expense side. There is no tax impact.

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Lorie McClory commented that the Transfer Station looks great and that she is impressed the Town takes all plastics (1-7 excluding "other").

ARTICLE 7 – Health and Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-three thousand seventy dollars (**\$33,070.00**) to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2011/2012	Proposed 2012/2013
Boarding Animals	\$100.00	\$100.00
Community Services	\$13,870.00	\$14,970.00
Town General Assistance	\$10,000.00	\$18,000.00
TOTAL	\$23,970.00	\$33,070.00

Community Agencies:

Lake Sunapee Home Health (Requested \$8,239.00)	\$7,500.00
Sullivan County Nutrition SVCS (Requested \$200.00)	\$200.00
Kearsarge Area COA (Requested \$2,500.00)	\$2,500.00
S. Western Comm Services (Requested \$850.00)	\$850.00
West Central Services (Requested \$2,420.00)	\$2,420.00
Community Alliance of Human Svcs (Requested \$500.00)	\$0.00
Mascoma Valley Health Initiative (Requested \$1,875.00)	\$1,500.00
CASA (Requested \$500.00)	\$0.00
American Red Cross (Requested \$1,124)	\$0.00
Total:	\$14,970.00

Newton said the biggest increase was to the General Assistance line; that the number of requests for assistance has been increasing.

Newton reviewed the monies requested by Community Agencies and stated the Town makes sure Grantham residents are being served by the agencies before supporting their request.

Margery Bostrom asked what would happen if there was an extreme need for assistance by a family but the fund had been depleted. Newton answered that the State statute says the Town has to pay regardless of what was budgeted; that the Town works closely with the other agencies and that applicants are told the Town is the payer of last resort.

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ARTICLE 8 – Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thirty-five thousand eight hundred seven (**\$235,807.00**) for **Culture and Recreation**.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2011/2012	Proposed 2012/2013
Recreation	\$34,377.00	\$35,319.00
Dunbar Free Library	\$164,545.00	\$172,105.00
Activities	\$26,655.00	\$27,383.00
Archives	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$226,077.00	\$235,807.00

Newton said the biggest increase was within the Library for raises and benefits.

MacNeil asked what the percentage of the increase was for raises and benefits. Library Director Dawn Huston said the major increase was with the health insurance; that the salary portion of the increase was .7% (point seven percent).

MacNeil stated the Town has to address the increases in health benefits.

McClory said the Library is open an extra hour per week now.

ARTICLE 9 – Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Notes

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety-eight thousand three hundred dollars (**\$98,300.00**) for **Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Notes**.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2011/2012	Proposed 2012/2013
Conservation Commission	\$2,500.00	\$2,000.00
Bond Payment	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Bond Interest	\$39,150.00	\$36,200.00
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100.00	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$101,750.00	\$98,300.00

Newton said the bond payment on the Town Hall decreases annually and we are in year eight out of twenty.

Newton reviewed the operational budget and explained that the Selectmen did not recommend the capital reserve warrant articles for the Library and land preservation because they are large enough to qualify as a major purchase and felt the voters should decide on them.

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Newton went onto say that the operational budget is up four percent. If the "Taxpayer Coalition" and "Police Department Cruiser" warrant articles are approved the budget will increase six percent (this includes the operational budget). If the "Capital Reserves" warrant article is approved the budget increase will be ten percent (this includes the operational budget and "Taxpayer Coalition" and "Police Department Cruiser" warrant articles). If the non-recommended warrant articles (Library & Land Preservation Capital Reserve Funds) are approved the budget increase will be 16 percent (this includes the operational budget, "Taxpayer Coalition" and "Police Department Cruiser" warrant articles and the Capital Reserves warrant article).

ARTICLE 10 – Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred sixty-two thousand two hundred fifty dollars (**\$162,250.00**) to be placed in previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2011/2012	Proposed 2012/2013
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00
Highway Equip Capital Reserve	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00
Town Office Equip Capital Reserve	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Transfer Station Capital Reserve	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Police Vehicle Capital Reserve	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Mowers Capital Reserve	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Revaluation	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00
Town Buildings	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Athletics Fields Capital Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve	\$33,250.00	\$33,250.00
TOTAL	\$111,250.00	\$162,250.00

MacNeil asked if the town has a vehicle replacement program where the manufacturers' recommendations of the life of the asset (hours, years etc.) are taken into consideration. Newton said there is a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) but there aren't any volunteers on the committee right now. Newton went on to say that in order to impose impact fees on a developer there has to be an active CIP Committee; that if someone came to town and proposed a 500 unit development there wouldn't be any way for the town to assess a school impact fee.

Bob MacNeil volunteered to be on the CIP Committee.

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ARTICLE 11 – Library Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars **(\$50,000.00)** to be placed in previously established **Library Addition Capital Reserve Fund**.

IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Newton stated this warrant article would increase the tax rate by ten cents.

McClory asked if the Library had asked for less than \$50,000 if the Selectmen would have recommended it. Chairman Kimball said there wasn't a specific "cut-off" point; that compared to other capital reserve items the Library and Land Preservation was quite large. Kimball went on to say that it's not that the Board doesn't support it, it's just they felt the voters should decide.

McClory asked if the Board could make "no recommendation". Kimball said the Board would be happy to do that.

MacNeil felt the Board should keep a consistent position and questioned whether this was the year to put aside \$50,000 for the Library Capital Reserve Fund.

Newton informed that the Department of Revenue Administration's form MS-6 requires the Board to either "recommend" or "not recommend" warrant articles.

Selectman Jones said she looks at her employees, long term employees, who keep the town functioning and if residents are upset at the \$20,000 increase for health benefits for employees and she weighs that against \$50,000 for the Library Capital Reserve Fund and \$100,000 for buying more land, that is why she cannot support the \$50,000 at this time.

Huston asked if the amount could be altered before presented at Town Meeting. Jones said it could be altered at Town Meeting with an amendment.

Cindy Towle asked if one of the Library Trustees would be present at Town Meeting to answer questions about the plans for the new addition, the time frame and how it ties into this warrant article. McClory said the plans would be at Town Meeting as well as the Trustees to answer questions.

ARTICLE 12 – Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars **(\$100,000.00)** to be placed in previously established **Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund**.

IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Newton stated this warrant article would increase the tax rate by twenty cents.

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ARTICLE 13 – Police Department Cruiser

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty five thousand dollars **(\$35,000.00)** for the purchase of a replacement cruiser and to authorize the withdrawal of ten thousand dollars **(\$10,000.00)** from the Police Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose, twenty-five thousand dollars **(\$25,000.00)** to be raised by taxation and to permit the Selectmen to dispose of the existing 2007 Dodge Durango 4x4 SUV cruiser by “trade in” allowance or by sale as deemed in the best interest of the Town of Grantham.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

MacNeil asked on average, how many officers are on the road at any given time. Police Chief Walter Madore said one officer but there is an overlap of shifts so at times there are two officers on duty.

MacNeil asked how many police cruisers there are. Madore said four.

MacNeil stated that many vehicle manufacturers recommend American cars last ten years/100,000 miles and asked what the life replacement value is for the Durango.

Newton said it depends on how good of a vehicle it is; that the repairs to the Durango have been increasing with the most recent repair bill being \$1,300. MacNeil asked how much of the repairs are covered under warranty. Madore said none; that this vehicle is “slip seated” which means it has multi-officers driving it and it wears out more quickly. Madore stated that it is well documented that if only one person is assigned to a vehicle they are less prone to repairs.

MacNeil questioned the need for four cruisers when only two are in service at any given time and said if the vehicle needs a lot of repairs it should be sold and that still would leave three cruisers which would allow two on the road with one spare. MacNeil went on to say that is a 50% spare ratio; one spare for every two vehicles.

John Parsons (resident and Grantham Police Sergeant) said that if he arrives to work and one of the cruisers doesn't start it could delay the response time in a life or death matter.

ARTICLE 14 – Athletics Fields Capital Reserve Fund – Change of Purpose

To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the Athletics Fields Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The Athletics Fields Capital Reserve Fund shall be used for construction of athletic fields, purchase of capital equipment associated with the Recreation Park Master Plan and other physical improvements, including but not limited to pavilions, playgrounds, septic systems, roads, snow towing equipment, conduits, parking areas and water wells and to vote to authorize the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(2/3 vote required per RSA 35:16)

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Connie Howard asked if there was any money in the Athletic Field Capital Reserve Fund. Newton said yes, that the proceeds from the sale of the Wien house will be deposited here.

McClory asked where the town stands on the fields. Newton said the soccer field will be built this spring.

MacNeil asked if the town has been successful in finding any other grants and stated that at one time Nike had a program where the \$100,000 received from the Timken Foundation could be used as matching funds. Newton said she has not been successful in obtaining any other grants; that the permits needed to be in place first.

ARTICLE 15 – 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)

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 16 – To see if the Town will vote to include the Smith Lot in the previously established Town Forest under RSA 31:110. The following tract of Town owned land currently under a conservation easement to the Upper Valley Land Trust known as the Smith Lot and shown on Tax Map 2011-12, located principally on Miller Pond Road, consisting of 29 acres more or less; and to authorize the Conservation Commission to manage the Smith Lot as part of the Town Forest under the provisions of RSA 31:112 II and to authorize the placement of any funds which may accrue from said forest management into a separate Smith Lot forest maintenance fund, which shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year as provided by RSA 31:1:3.

PETITION WARRANT ARTICLE

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Conservation Chair Richard Hocker stated that one of the Conservation members recommended bringing the Smith Lot (which is town-owned) under the Town Forest umbrella. Hocker explained this would do two things: 1.) Afford more protection for the property 2.) Provide active management of the timber resources. Hocker said that he is not aware of anything being done to the property to enhance the value in

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terms of a forest. It would also give the Conservation Commission an opportunity to actively engage in improving some of the aspects of the property.

MacNeil asked if the lot was logged in its current state would the revenues go into the general fund. Hocker said the revenue would go into the Forest Management Fund.

MacNeil asked if authority was transferred to the Conservation Commission would the money go into the Forest Management Fund. Hocker said yes.

MacNeil asked if the Conservation Commission had the authority to deed the property over to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests. Schotanus said that can't be done because the property is already in an easement with Upper Valley Land Trust. MacNeil asked for confirmation that this warrant article would not take any authority away from the Board of Selectmen. Schotanus said no.

Schotanus pointed out that there was a typographical error in the last line of the warrant article where it referenced the RSA.

There was a question if the tax map reference was correct. Hocker clarified the tax map reference should read 211-12. Newton will make these corrections.

MacNeil asked if the town was on a schedule for property revaluations every five years. Newton said the town is anticipating a full list and measure in 2015; that the last full revaluation was done in 2005.

ARTICLE 17 – Disposal of Town Owned Property

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of any acquired properties through sealed bids or auctions, with the Selectmen reserving the right to accept or refuse any or all bids.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 18 – End of Meeting

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.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Newton said the Board will poll the audience regarding where to hold the 2013 Town Meeting and whether to bifurcate it.

Kimball said there had been a request to hold Town Meeting at the school because it is slightly larger and there would be more room for displays. Kimball said the Board had considered this request but there were a lot of issues with holding it at the school, such as all the town's computer and equipment and information is upstairs of Town Hall and

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easier to reference. Kimball said the other issue would be the interruption of school staff when election workers use the restrooms. Kimball said the Board will listen to the voters.

Selectman Jones said there is a lot of equipment that will have to be transported to the school and would cause many problems for those that work in Town Hall.

Jones said that many people would like to be able to visit, have food available and see displays. Jones explained that Laurie Field suggested using the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room to set up displays and food.

Jones reiterated that all of the backup information is in the town building that is why Town Meeting is held there.

Bob Lewis asked if having Town Meeting on a Saturday was an option.

Jones said yes, that it has been done that way but the turnout was not as good as expected.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Newton reminded those in attendance that volunteers are needed for the CIP Committee, Town Archivist and a Regional Planning Commission Member (2nd representative). Stop by the Selectmen's Office and ask to speak to Administrator Newton or call 863-6021.

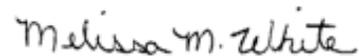
OTHER

McClory asked if it was too late to make changes to the warrant and if so why not have the budget hearing sooner. Newton said that legally changes can be made but it has been the policy of the Board not to make changes. Newton stated that the budget hearing cannot be held any earlier than the date the petition warrant articles can be submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to adjourn the meeting; second by Selectman Story. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa M. White
Administrative Assistant