

TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN MEETING WARRANT YEAR 2012

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

To the inhabitants of the Town of Grantham, in Sullivan County, in the State of New Hampshire, *who are qualified to vote in town affairs*:

You are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Grantham will be held at the Grantham Town Hall, 300 Route 10 South on **Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.** to act on the following subjects. **Article 1 and Article 2** shall be by ballot at the polls which shall be open from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The remaining articles shall be considered during the business meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

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

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

ARTICLE 2 -- Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

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.

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 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(I).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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 211-12, 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 31:113.

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

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)

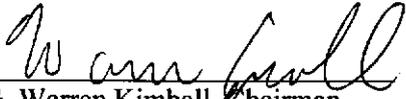
ARTICLE 18 – End of Meeting

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.

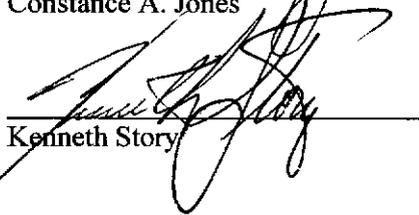
IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Given under our hands and seal this 8th day of February, 2012.


G. Warren Kimball, Chairman

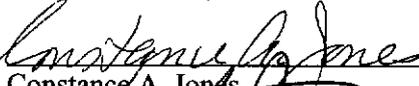

Constance A. Jones


Kenneth Story

Board of Selectmen

We certify that on the 9th day of February, 2012, we caused a true copy of the within warrant to be posted at the Grantham Town Office at 300 Route 10 South, the Dunbar Free Library at Route 10 South and the Grantham Post Office at Willis Avenue.


G. Warren Kimball, Chairman


Constance A. Jones


Kenneth Story