

APPROVED

Town of Grantham – Board of Selectmen Public Budget Hearing Minutes Wednesday, February 6, 2013

The budget hearing was called to order at 5:00pm on February 6, 2013 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 Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief Walter Madore; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott; Road Agent Joe Newcomb; Assistant Road Agent Jeff Hastings; Activities Director Laurie Field; Athletics Director Marsha Googins; John Parsons; Bob Lewis; Bob Fogg; Stuart Gillespie; Richard Hocker; Lorie McClory; Patricia MacNeil; Robert MacNeil; Rae Tober; C. Peter James, Don Wenz and others

Public Hearing

Attendees were given copies of the 2013-2014 proposed budget and warrant articles. Administrator White reviewed the 2012 tax rate:

Town	2.61
County	2.88
School (local)	12.32
School (state)	2.36
Total – Grantham	20.17
Eastman	1.53
Total – Eastman	21.70

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

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

Selectman	3years
Planning Board	3 years
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	2 years
Cemetery Trustee	3 years
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library	3 years
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library	3 years

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 2 – Official Wetlands Map

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Official Wetlands Map: Are you in favor of adopting as the official town wetlands map, the Wetlands Evaluation Unit Ranking Map, together with an index of wetlands evaluation units, listed in the Final Report of the Grantham Wetland Inventory and Assessment Project by Ecosystem Management Consultants, dated October 2012?

The Planning Board recommends this article

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 3—Prime Wetlands Designation

Prime Wetlands Designation: Are you in favor of designating the following wetlands, listed on the wetlands map in the previous article, as prime wetlands in accordance with RSA 482–A:15 and NHDES ENV-WT Rules Chapter 700?

<u>Wetland Name</u>	<u>Map Index Number</u>
Bog Brook	32
Chase Pond	1
Grass Pond West	26
Lily Pond	8
Lower Eastman Brook	37
Stocker Pond	50
Upper Dunbar Hill Beaver Pond	20
Upper Stroing Brook	30

The Planning Board does NOT recommend this article

No public comment on this article

ARTICLE 4 – Zoning Change

Are you in favor of amending “Article VIII – Home Business” as follows:

A Home Business that only involves the use of computers and their ancillary equipment would not have to apply for a “Special Exception” as the long as said computers and ancillary equipment were used only by the person(s) who lived within the dwelling and all other provisions of the Article were met.

Rationale: The use of only computers and their ancillary equipment in the home for a home business most likely would not involve consideration of the provisions of the Home Business Article.

The Planning Board recommends adoption of this change

_____ YES _____ NO

Bob Lewis asked if the many people who have a home business would be affected by this article. Selectman Jones explained that this article addresses only the computer component of people working in their homes. Selectman Jones added that this cannot be changed now because it has been heard at the public hearings and has been accepted by the Planning Board so this is how it must appear on the ballot.

ARTICLE 5 – Zoning Change

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Are you in favor of amending “Article X-C Shoreland Overlay District” as follows:

Change the title of the Article to “Shoreland and River Overlay District” to reflect that this Article also protects certain rivers and to reflect the name change of the “Comprehensive Shoreline Protection Act” to the “Shoreline Water Quality Protection Act” throughout the Article.

Rationale: The “Comprehensive Shoreline Protection Act” (RSA 483-B) administered by the DES was amended by the legislature June 29, 2011 to be renamed the “Shoreline Water Quality Protection Act”. These and prior versions of these Acts have been the basis of this Ordinance Article since inception of the Ordinance.

_____ YES _____ NO

Town Administrator White explained that the State changed the name of the Comprehensive Shoreline Protection Act to the Shoreline Water Quality Protection Act and this article would only change the name in the Town’s Zoning Ordinance.

ARTICLE 6 – Petitioned – Prime Wetlands Designation:

Are you against the adoption designating the following wetlands, listed on the wetlands map, as prime wetlands in accordance with RSA 482-A:15 and NHDES ENV-WT Rules Chapter 700?

<u>Wetland Name</u>	<u>Map Index Number</u>
Bog Brook	32
Chase Pond	1
Grass Pond West	26
Lily Pond	8
Lower Eastman Brook	37
Stocker Pond	50
Upper Dunbar Hill Beaver Pond	20
Upper Stroing Brook	30

Peter James asked if Article 6 and Article 3 accomplish the same thing. Selectman Jones explained that Article 6 is more of an informational article to see what the feeling is of the people who will be attending Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 7 – General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million one hundred five thousand two hundred seventy three dollars (**\$1,105,273.00**) to defray the cost of **General Government** operations.

IS/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2012/2013	Proposed 2013/2014
Selectmen’s Office	\$191,492	\$193,910
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$110,603	\$110,394
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$5,192	\$2,560
Financial Administration	\$28,700	\$35,700
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$35,000	\$40,000

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Legal	\$12,000	\$15,000
Personnel Administration	\$464,300	\$534,720
Planning Board	\$7,750	\$7,750
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$1,085	\$2,050
General Government Buildings	\$113,883	\$113,150
Cemeteries	\$19,545	\$18,245
Insurance	\$30,000	\$28,000
Regional Associations	\$3,750	\$3,794
TOTAL	\$1,023,300	\$1,105,273

White reviewed the major points in Article 7:

- Increase in health insurance not to exceed 8.8%
- Increase in municipal portion of retirement:
 - Group I (Employees) – Increased 1.97 % (from 8.8% to 10.77%)
 - Group II (Police) – Increased 5.35% (from 19.95% to 25.3%)
- Salary increase of 2%

Bob MacNeil asked White to explain what the differences were in the “Financial Administration” and “Personnel Administration” lines. White explained that the Financial Administration increase is due to money received from FEMA to replace the Olde Farms Road Bridge and that the town is also filing a Notice of Intent to replace the Miller Pond Road Bridge. If the town is awarded \$500,000.00 or more in a single year, the town will be required to have a single audit which will cost approximately \$5,000.00. White said that the Personnel Administration line includes all employee benefits but the majority of the increase is due to health insurance coverage and employees’ status changes.

Patty MacNeil asked White what line the salaries are in. White explained that salaries are in the various departments operating budget.

Peter James asked why the benefits aren’t in the various departments operating budget like the salaries. Selectman Jones stated that this is how it has always been done.

Lorie McClory asked if the increase in health insurance not to exceed 8.8% was what the health insurance company quoted. White said yes; that the exact figure will be determined in April.

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ARTICLE 8 – Public Safety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred seventy-five thousand ten dollars (**\$575,010.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations.

IS/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2012/2013	Proposed 2013/2014
Police Department	\$357,954	\$366,101
EMS (FAST) Squad	\$65,492	\$65,600
Fire Department	\$113,762	\$123,084
Forest Fire	\$375	\$375
Building Inspection	\$6,000	\$6,000
Emergency Management	\$14,074	\$13,850
TOTAL	\$557,657	\$575,010

Bob MacNeil said he understands that the Police Department is planning to hire additional police officers and asked if this budget includes that or is based on current staff. Selectman Jones explained that this budget includes hiring two officers to replace two officers that left to bring the Police Department to full staff.

Patty MacNeil asked what the additional \$10,000.00 is for in the Fire Department line. Fire Chief Fountain answered that the majority of it is to replace a portable pump and to install a filter system on the Fire Station's water.

ARTICLE 9 – Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred seventy-nine thousand four hundred thirty dollars (**\$679,430.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Works** operation.

IS/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2012/2013	Proposed 2013/2014
Highway Administration	\$184,100	\$194,272
Highway Maintenance	\$153,200	\$151,200
Street Lights	\$4,000	\$5,000
Transfer Station	\$122,843	\$125,958
Waste Disposal	\$204,000	\$195,000
Landfill Monitoring	\$6,000	\$8,000
TOTAL	\$674,143	\$679,430

Lorie McClory asked why the waste disposal line is lower. Transfer Station Supervisor Scott replied that there will not be a Hazardous Waste day this year; that they are held every other year.

ARTICLE 10 – Health and Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-six thousand five hundred seventy dollars (**\$36,570.00**) to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations.

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

Account Title	Budget 2012/2013	Proposed 2013/2014
Boarding Animals	\$100	\$600
Community Services	\$14,970	\$15,970
Town General Assistance	\$18,000	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$33,070	\$36,570

Community Agencies:	Budget 2012/2013	Proposed 2013/2014
Lake Sunapee VNA	\$7,500	\$8,000
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$200	\$200
Kearsarge Area COA	\$2,500	\$3,000
Southwestern Community Services	\$850	\$850
West Central Services	\$2,420	\$2,420
Mascoma Valley Health Initiative	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total	\$14,970	\$15,970

Lorie McClory asked if the increase in Boarding Animals reflects the actual cost of what the town is incurring now. White explained that previously the town had a “per animal” fee contract.

ARTICLE 11 – Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixty-four thousand nine hundred eighty four dollars (**\$264,984.00**) for **Culture and Recreation**.

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

Account Title	Budget 2012/2013	Proposed 2013/2014
Recreation	\$48,735	\$49,755
Dunbar Free Library	\$172,105	\$182,746
Activities	\$27,383	\$29,983
Archives	\$1,000	\$2,500
TOTAL	\$249,223	\$264,984

White said that the benefit costs for the Library were moved to the Library line per the recommendation of the Auditors.

Patty MacNeil asked what else is included in the \$10,000.00 increase in the Library line. White stated that the Library’s expense line is \$52,123.00 and that the town cuts the Library a check and the Library pays their own expenses.

Patty MacNeil asked what Activities is. White replied that it is Old Home Day, Music in the Meadow and similar events.

APPROVED

ARTICLE 12 – Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Notes

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety-six thousand three hundred dollars (**\$96,300.00**) for **Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Notes**.

IS/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2012/2013	Proposed 2013/2014
Conservation Commission	\$2,000	\$2,000
Bond Payment	\$60,000	\$60,000
Bond Interest	\$36,200	\$34,200
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100	\$100
TOTAL	\$98,300	\$96,300

White reported that we are in year nine out of twenty of the bond payment.

ARTICLE 13 – Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred sixty-six thousand dollars (**\$166,000.00**) to be placed in previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**.

IS/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2012/2013	Proposed 2013/2014
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$30,000	\$25,000
Highway Equip Capital Reserve	\$30,000	\$40,000
Town Office Equip Capital Reserve	\$2,000	\$1,000
Transfer Station Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$5,000
Police Vehicle Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$10,000
Mowers Capital Reserve	\$2,000	\$0
Revaluation	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Buildings	\$15,000	\$5,000
Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve	\$33,250	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$162,250.00	\$166,000.00

Lorie McClory asked why the two Library Capital Reserve Funds were taken out of this article and given separate articles. Selectman Jones and Chairman Kimball replied that is what the Library requested.

Bob MacNeil asked why the Revaluation is included with the Capital Reserve Funds and stated that he doesn't believe it is a capital item. White replied that the town is allowed to set up a capital reserve fund for revaluation. Selectman Jones added that the cost is currently over \$100,000.00 and that it is anticipated to double in the next few of years.

Peter James asked if the town is planning to replace the Miller Pond Road Bridge. White replied that the town has already secured money to replace the Olde Farms Road Bridge and that project is going forward this summer; that the town is working vigorously to secure money to replace the Miller Pond Road Bridge.

APPROVED

Chairman Kimball confirmed that the Miller Pond Road Bridge is the next bridge to be replaced after the Olde Farms Road Bridge. James asked how many bridges in town are red listed. White stated that the Olde Farms Road Bridge and the Miller Pond Road Bridge are both red listed but was not sure exactly how many are red listed.

ARTICLE 14 – Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (**\$25,000.00**) to be placed in previously established **Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund**.

IS/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

White stated the balance of the Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund as of 01/31/2013 is \$120,716.92.

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 15 – Library Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of repair and maintenance of the Library Building, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 dollars to be placed in this fund, and to make the selectmen agents to expend from this fund.

IS/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

No Public Comment on this Article.

ARTICLE 16 – Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund

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 **Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund**.

IS/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

White stated the balance of the Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2012 is \$80,248.15.

Patty MacNeil asked if this money is used to buy land that the Conservation Commission wants to keep from being developed. Dick Hocker, Chair of the Conservation Commission said yes.

ARTICLE 17 – 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 fifteen thousand dollars (**\$15,000.00**) from the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose, twenty thousand dollars (**\$20,000.00**) 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, by sale or as deemed in the best interest of the Town of Grantham.

IS/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

White stated the balance of the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund as of 01/31/2013 is \$22,663.17.

APPROVED

Peter James asked if this price includes the vehicle being fully equipped with everything it needs. Chief Madore replied yes.

ARTICLE 18 – FAST Squad Cardiac Defibrillator

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (**\$30,000**) for the purchase of a replacement cardiac defibrillator and to permit the Selectmen to dispose of the existing defibrillator by “trade in” allowance, by sale or as deemed in the best interest of the Town of Grantham.
IS/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Chief Fountain stated the need for replacing the defibrillator is due to the age of it and issues with the batteries. Fountain explained that the batteries need to be replaced quite often at a cost of \$1,000.00.

ARTICLE 19 – 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.

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

Lorie McClory asked how much the Coalition has saved Grantham. Chairman Kimball reported that during the five year period from 2000 – 2004 the town had to raise and appropriate \$1,768,366.00 in addition to the School’s operating budget.

ARTICLE 20 – Discontinue FAST Squad Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Fast Squad Capital Reserve Fund created in 1989. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality’s general fund. The balance in this Capital Reserve Fund is \$0.00.

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

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 21 – 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/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

No public comment on this article.

APPROVED

ARTICLE 22 – 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/IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

No public comment on this article.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING:

ARTICLE 7: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 8: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 9: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 10: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 11: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 12: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 13: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 14: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 15: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 16: *Recommended by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 17: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 18: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 19: *Unanimously approved.*

APPROVED

ARTICLE 20: *Recommended by majority vote.*

ARTICLE 21: *Unanimously approved.*

ARTICLE 22: *Unanimously approved.*

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Chairman Kimball to adjourn the meeting; second by Selectman Story. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant