

TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN MEETING MINUTES YEAR 2014

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Lorie McClory called the 238th Annual Town Meeting to order at 5:00pm. The assembly was lead in the Pledge of Allegiance by the Grantham Girl Scouts.

The 2013 Town Report was dedicated to Janice Hastings. Selectman Ken Story said that Janice is a long time resident of Grantham who is welcoming, kind and generous. Janice served the town in a variety of capacities including 11 years as Town Auditor and 4 years on the Planning Board.

Moderator McClory stated that the meeting having been properly warned as it is certified on page 17 of the Town Report and by the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of New Hampshire I do now declare the 238th Annual Meeting of the Town of Grantham officially opened for business. Polls were officially opened at 8:00am for ballot voting and close at 7:00pm. The Moderator informed that 3 ballots would be handed out to each voter: Official Town ballot, Official School ballot and the State Special Election Official ballot. Absentee ballots were counted at 1:00pm in the afternoon.

Moderator Smith introduced Selectmen Constance Jones, Kenneth Story and Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Melissa White; Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Friedman, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cindy Towle; Supervisors of the Checklist: Donna Stamper, Sandra Noordsey, Suzanne Goldman; Assistant Moderator Susan Schweizer; Ballot Clerks: Paula Dorr, Robert Grimley, Missy Walla and Cindy Covell.

The rules of the Meeting were adopted and the Moderator directed the Town Clerk to make the rules of the meeting a permanent part of the meeting record.

2014 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 Unless superseded by State law, reconsideration of a vote on any article should be brought up immediately after the vote has been declared.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.
7. Registered voters only will be seated in the center section of the meeting hall. Non-Voters will be seated in the visitor’s gallery in the area bounded by the pillars and the inside wall of the meeting hall.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the Town Meeting Rules.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

It was moved and seconded to allow non-voters who are not officers of the town to address the meeting.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

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

Warren Kimball, Selectman	3years
Charles J McCarthy, Planning Board	3 years
James F Coakley, Trustee of Trust Funds	3 years
Warren Kimball, Cemetery Trustee	3 years
Russell Bailey Jr(Pete), Cemetery Trustee	1 year
Karen Walsh, Trustee of Dunbar FreeLibrary	3 years
Sara Lang, Trustee of Dunbar Free Library	2 years
Christopher Morris, Treasurer	3 years
Donna Stamper, Supervisor of the Checklist	6 years
Susanna Schweizer, Town Moderator	2 years

ARTICLE 2 – General Government

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million one hundred twenty eight thousand eight hundred eighty three dollars (**\$1,128,883.00**) to defray the cost of **General Government** operations.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2013/2014	Proposed 2014/2015
Selectmen’s Office	\$193,910	\$200,700
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$110,394	\$112,706
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$2,560	\$6,200
Financial Administration	\$35,700	\$36,700
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$40,000	\$41,000
Legal	\$15,000	\$20,000
Personnel Administration	\$534,720	\$536,100
Planning Board	\$7,750	\$7,750
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$2,050	\$2,175
General Government Buildings	\$113,150	\$114,100
Cemeteries	\$18,245	\$18,100
Insurance	\$28,000	\$29,492
Regional Associations	\$3,794	\$3,860
TOTAL	\$1,105,273	\$1,128,883

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 3 – Public Safety

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred eighty-one thousand one hundred nine dollars (**\$581,109.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2013/2014	Proposed 2014/2015
Police Department	\$366,101	\$370,680
EMS (FAST) Squad	\$65,600	\$69,450
Fire Department	\$123,084	\$119,504
Forest Fire	\$375	\$375
Building Inspection	\$6,000	\$8,000
Emergency Management	\$13,850	\$13,100
TOTAL	\$575,010	\$581,109

The Moderator recognized Peter James who asked about the article concerning the purchase of a police cruiser that was part of the warrant at the Budget Hearing. He did not see it now and asked for an explanation.

Selectman Story informed that Chief Madore requested that it be removed. The cruiser that was on board to be replaced was totaled while at an accident. The insurance money and money in the capital reserve was enough to purchase a new vehicle. Mr. James wanted to know why a 4th cruiser was purchased when it has been advised by the Capital Reserve Committee that the police department go down to 3 vehicles.

Moderator McClory asked Selectman Jones to respond to comments made concerning the 4th cruiser. Selectman Jones stated that the town had voted for the 4 cruisers at previous Town Meetings. The Chief had, before this 4th cruiser was totaled, asked for this vehicle to be replaced because it was the oldest of the Chargers. This was a car already voted for by the people at town meeting. The Selectmen, who are the agents to expend the funds from the capital reserve fund, did as requested by the Chief of Police. Chief Madore informed the Selectmen that the Police Department needed this car. He stated that we have the insurance money and funds in the capital reserve account. We don't have to have the article and we don't have to expend any extra money. It will cut the budget this year. The decision was made to take the article out and purchase the vehicle.

After further discussion about the number of police vehicles the Moderator again called on Selectman Jones who commented that if the Town wanted to have 3, 2, or 1 police vehicles a petition article signed by 25 registered voters could be presented to the Board and included on the warrant. Then the people could vote on how many cruisers they felt the town needed.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 4 – Public Works

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred twenty thousand three hundred twelve dollars (**\$720,312.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Works** operation.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2013/2014	Proposed 2014/2015
Highway Administration	\$194,272	\$216,700
Highway Maintenance	\$151,200	\$156,200
Street Lights	\$5,000	\$5,000
Transfer Station	\$125,958	\$130,412
Waste Disposal	\$195,000	\$204,000
Landfill Monitoring	\$8,000	\$8,000
TOTAL	\$679,430	\$720,312

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 5 – Highway Department Plow Truck

It was moved and seconded: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five-year, \$162,000 lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of leasing to purchase a new Highway Plow Truck, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,031 for the first year’s payment for that purpose, with an estimated \$12,000 to come from trade-in; the remainder to come from taxation. This agreement contains an escape clause.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

Audrey Sears asked why the Capital Reserve Fund was not used to help pay for the plow truck. Selectman Kimball said that the lease/purchase agreement was a way to spread out the cost of the plow truck. The Capital Reserve fund is for equipment that might need replacement in the event that something breaks down. State law prohibits us from using the reserve fund for lease payments until the last payment. It was further explained that the first year payment would be \$44,031 and \$32,031 for 4 years.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 6 – Health and Welfare

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-six thousand six hundred seventy dollars (**\$36,670.00**) to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2013/2014	Proposed 2014/2015
Boarding Animals	\$600	\$700
Community Services	\$15,970	\$15,970
Town General Assistance	\$20,000	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$36,570	\$36,670

Community Agencies:	Budget 2013/2014	Proposed 2014/2015
Lake Sunapee VNA	\$8,000	\$8,000
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$200	\$200
Kearsarge Area COA	\$3,000	\$3,000
Southwestern Community Services	\$850	\$850
West Central Services	\$2,420	\$2,420
Mascoma Valley Health Initiative	\$1,500	\$1,000
Community Alliance of Human Services	0	\$500
Total	\$15,970	\$15,970

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 7 – Culture and Recreation

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty-eight thousand five hundred twenty six dollars (**\$258,526.00**) for **Culture and Recreation**.
 IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
 (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2013/2014	Proposed 2014/2015
Recreation	\$49,755	\$43,757
Dunbar Free Library	\$182,746	\$186,769
Activities	\$29,983	\$27,000
Archives	\$2,500	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$264,984	\$258,526

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 8 – Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Note Interest

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety-six thousand four hundred dollars (**\$96,400.00**) for **Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Note Interest**.
 IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
 (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2013/2014	Proposed 2014/2015
Conservation Commission	\$2,000	\$2,100
Bond Payment	\$60,000	\$60,000
Bond Interest	\$34,200	\$34,200
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100	\$100
TOTAL	\$96,300	\$96,400

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 9 – Capital Reserve Funds

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred ninety-six thousand dollars (**\$196,000.00**) to be placed in previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**.
IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2013/2014	Proposed 2014/2015
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$25,000	\$25,000
Highway Equip Capital Reserve	\$40,000	\$50,000
Town Office Equip Capital Reserve	\$1,000	\$1,000
Transfer Station Capital Reserve	\$5,000	\$10,000
Police Vehicle Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$0
Revaluation	\$30,000	\$45,000
Town Buildings	\$5,000	\$5,000
Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve	\$50,000	\$50,000
Library Building Repair Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$176,000.00	\$196,000.00

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 10 – Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund

It was moved and seconded: 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 RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 11 – Town Clerk/Tax Collector Equipment 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 equipment needs related to the Department of Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 dollars to be placed in this fund, and to make the Selectmen agents to expend from this fund.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 12 – Taxpayer Coalition

It was moved and seconded: 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 RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 13 – Disposal of Town Owned Property

It was moved and seconded: 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. If adopted, this article will remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 14 – End of Meeting

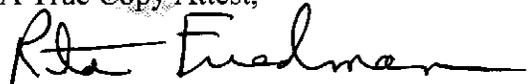
It was moved and seconded: To hear the reports of agents, officers, and committees heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF (3) YES AND (0) NO
(Majority vote required)

The candidates for Hog Reeves, Jessica Hastings and Dexter Kancer; Fence Viewers, William E Hutchins and Megan H Wilkie were unanimously confirmed by voice vote.

There being no further business or reports, Moderator McClory declared the 238th Town Meeting adjourned at 6:10PM.

A True Copy Attest,


Rita Friedman, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
March 17, 2014