

TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN MEETING MINUTES YEAR 2013

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Victoria Smith called the 237th Annual Town Meeting to order at 5:15pm. The assembly was lead in the Pledge of Allegiance by the Grantham Cub Scouts.

The 2012 Town Report was dedicated to Conrad Frey, Chairman of the Grantham Zoning Board and Lea Frey, Past Town Archivist. Selectmen Kenneth Story spoke to the dedication. He praised Conrad and Lea for the dedication they have shown by volunteering a combined total of 35 years of service to the Town of Grantham.

Moderator Smith stated that the meeting having been properly warned as it is certified on page 19 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 237th Annual Meeting of the Town of Grantham officially opened for business. Polls were officially opened at 10:00am for ballot voting and close at 7:00pm. Absentee ballots were counted at 1:00pm in the afternoon. The Moderator noted at this time that a protest petition was received regarding article 3. The protest petition is in the process of being validated. If it is determined that the petition is valid then article 3 will need a 2/3 majority to pass.

Moderator Smith introduced Selectmen Constance Jones, Kenneth Story and Warren Kimball; Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Friedman, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cindy Towle, Town Administrator Melissa White, Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief Walter Madore; Supervisors of the Checklist: Donna Stamper, Sandra Noordsey, Jane Taylor; Assistant Moderator Lorie McClory; Ballot Clerks: Paula Dorr, Michael Holdowsky, 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.

2013 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 Unless superseded by State law, reconsideration of a vote on any article should be brought up immediately after the vote has been declared.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.

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

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

Constance A. Jones3 years Selectman
Mary E. Hutchins.....3 years Planning Board
Rita Friedman3 years Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Robert E. Fogg3 years Trustee of Trust Funds
Christopher Paquette.....3 years Cemetery Trustee
Katarina McCurley.....3 years Trustee of Dunbar Free Library
Lorie McClory3 years Trustee of Dunbar Free Library

ARTICLE 2 – Official Wetlands Map

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

YES 240 NO 188

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

YES 100 NO 357

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 385 NO 65

ARTICLE 5 – Zoning Change

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 294 NO 140

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

Moderator Smith pointed out to the assembly that article 6 is non-binding. It cannot be legally enforced and even though we can vote on it, it has no legal effect and is unenforceable. The reason is that it relates to a land use issue. It is required by RSA 675:4 to have a public hearing by the Planning Board and then be placed on the ballot similar to articles 2 and 3. Since it is a petitioned article that has 25 or more resident signatures the Selectmen are bound by law to place it on the warrant.

The Moderator introduced Mauri Schwartz, petitioner of article 6 to speak. Schwartz read her prepared statement in opposition to Prime Wetlands Designation. Alan Wilson, petitioner of article 6, was recognized by the Moderator. He read his prepared statement in opposition to article 6.

The Moderator recognized David Wood, member of the Conservation Commission, who spoke in favor of the Prime Wetlands Designation article.

Selectmen Kimball was called upon to explain why the Planning Board put article 3 on the ballot when they were not recommending the article. He stated that the Conservation Commission is not allowed to hold a public hearing so they relied on the Planning Board to present the article at a public hearing.

Article 6 Passed by Yes/ No Ballot YES 130 NO 70

ARTICLE 7 – 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 five thousand two hundred seventy three dollars (**\$1,105,273.00**) to defray the cost of **General Government** operations.

IS 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
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

The Moderator recognized Melissa White to address the increase in Personnel Administration. The increase is due to higher insurance and retirement costs.

Article 7 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 8 – Public Safety

It was moved and seconded: 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 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

Article 8 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 9 – Public Works

It was moved and seconded: 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 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

Article 9 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 10 – 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 five hundred seventy dollars (**\$36,570.00**) to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations.

IS 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

Selectman Jones was recognized to answer a question regarding the Mascoma Valley Health Initiative and why we use Mascoma when we are in Sullivan County. She stated that Grantham is in the cachement area and if we have an emergency or medical disaster that is where we go for help.

Article 10 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 11 – Culture and Recreation

It was moved and seconded: 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 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

Article 11 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

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

It was moved and seconded: 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 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

Article 12 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 13 – Capital Reserve Funds

It was moved and seconded: 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 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

It was noted that the balances in the Capital Reserve Funds are listed on Page 72 of the Town Report.

Article 13 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 14 – 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
(Majority vote required)

Selectman Jones stated that the amount of the Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund, if the article passes, is \$145,000.

Article 14 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 15 – Library Building Repair 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 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 RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

There was discussion concerning the roof replacement on the Library and whether or not the repair would be done as part of the expansion and why it was not part of the expansion budget. The expansion fund does not cover repair of the roof, therefore, the capital reserve fund is necessary.

Article 15 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 16 – Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund

It was moved and seconded: 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 RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Moderator Smith invited questions from the assembly. Mauri Schwartz asked if the money in the capital reserve fund is used to purchase property, in Grantham, and then, is that property taken off the tax rolls. Dick Hocker, Conservation Commission, stated that with money already in the fund a parcel was purchased that is now owned by the Upper Valley Land Trust and they pay the tax on the property. He stated that the Conservation Commission does not have a specific parcel in mind to buy, at this point. Bruce St Peter asked how much money the Conservation Commission had in total. Selectman Jones stated the amount \$33,568, was on page 69 in the Town Report.

Article 16 Failed by Hand Count YES 76 NO 91

ARTICLE 17 – Police Department Cruiser

It was moved and seconded: 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 RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Discussion concerning the number of police vehicles recommended by the Capital Reserve Committee and the need to replace the 4 wheel drive police vehicle ensued. It was suggested that 2 vehicles be traded in. Chief Madore stated that the police department needs to grow along with the growth of the town. He feels that if you rotate the mileage over 4 vehicles it is fiscally responsible because you don't have to replace the vehicles as often. The Moderator recognized Bruce St Peter. He suggested that we replace the 4 wheel drive vehicle and ask the CIP committee for a recommendation as to how many vehicles the police department should have. Robert MacNeil, CIP Committee member, said the committee advised the Selectmen that the vehicles should be placed on a replacement program and that they cannot justify 4 police vehicles considering the use that they get at this time. Petition for secret ballot was presented to the moderator.

Article 17 Passed by Yes/NO Ballot YES 86 NO 79

ARTICLE 18 – FAST Squad Cardiac Defibrillator

It was moved and seconded: 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 RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Article 18 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 19 – 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 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
(Majority vote required)

Article 19 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

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 RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

The Moderator recognized Scott Holland for a question. Mr. Holland asked why there is no money going into this fund for further needs, such as the defibrillator. Robert Lewis, Trustee of the Trust Funds, explained that the fund was created in 1989. The purpose was to purchase a Fast Squad vehicle. It was a very limited purpose and after examination it was determined that it could not be used to purchase the defibrillator, if there was money in the fund.

Article 20 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 21 – 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.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Article 21 Passed by Majority Vote

ARTICLE 22 – 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

(Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball nominated Joshua Ash and Joelle Gregoire for the position of Fence Viewers;

Edgar Masone and Deborah Riendeau for Hog Reeves. Both nominations passed by majority voice vote.

There being no further business or reports, Moderator Smith declared the 237th Town Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

A True Copy Attest,

Rita Friedman, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

March 18, 2013