

TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2019

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Lorie McClory introduced herself and called the 243rd Annual Town Meeting to order at 5:01 pm. She asked those present to turn off their cell phones or set them to 'vibrate.' The assembly was lead in the Pledge of Allegiance by Cub Scout Troop #276. After the pledge was recited, the Moderator thanked them.

The Moderator reminded those residents in attendance to sit within the posts in the room so that they will be allowed to vote on all articles. Non-voters were instructed to sit behind the barrier on the east side of the room. She also reminded residents to be sure to pick up their yes/no paper ballots if they have not already, as those will be necessary for any secret ballot votes. Emergency exits and rest rooms were identified. The Moderator asked if there were any residents who were new to town meeting. She welcomed those who raised their hands and thanked them for coming. She told them to participate and have fun. She also advised residents to pick up a copy of the Town Report at the rear of the room, as a copy of the warrant is included within, and noted she will be referring to the warrant throughout the meeting.

The Moderator then asked those present to turn to page 4 of the town report for the dedication. This year's town report is dedicated to Maurice "Hap" Reney; she then recognized Town Clerk Ken Story for remarks regarding the dedication. The town clerk then noted that it was a privilege to write the dedication and recalled what an institution Reney's General Store was for those who grew up in the village while the store was operating. He congratulated Hap and thanked him for everything.

The Moderator then stated "...that the meeting having been properly warned as certified on page 14 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 243rd Annual Meeting of the Town of Grantham officially opened for business." She added that the polls opened at 10:00 am and will remain open until 7:00 pm for the election of both town and school officers.

The Moderator introduced Selectmen Connie Jones, G. Warren Kimball, and Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; Town Clerk/Tax Collector Ken Story; Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Penny Palmer; and the Supervisors of the Checklist Donna Stamper, Sandy Noordsy and Suzanne Goldman. The complete list of town officers is on pages 7-9 of the Town Report. She also recognized the retirement since the last town meeting of Martha Norris, who had served as the administrative assistant in the Selectmen's Office for several years. She also identified the four ballot clerks who will assist if it is necessary to count a show of hands or a secret ballot: Susan and Robert Meyer, and Paul and Sue Etkind.

The Moderator then noted that state law vests the Moderator with the authority to establish rules of procedure, and also vests the meeting with the power to overrule the Moderator's rules or rulings; in other words, if the Moderator makes a ruling and anyone present is unhappy with that decision, that decision can be challenged. The Moderator announced that she would not read the rules unless this was requested. She added that Rules #4, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are prescribed by state law. Rule 3 was specifically put in place to accommodate our meeting hall. She added that the rules will be found on pages 12-13 of the town report. The Moderator then stated she could either read the rules or accept a motion to dispense with the reading of the rules. Jeff Walla of 201 Walker Road made the motion and Dave Wood of 103 Road Round The Lake seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Finally, the Moderator then asked for a motion to allow non-resident town officers and consultants to address the meeting as needed. Ralph Beasley of 37 Old Beach Circle moved and Brian Sullivan of 642 Olde Farms Road seconded. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

2019 Town Meeting Rules (listed on pages 12-13 of the Town Report)

1. *The Moderator will use the following general rules of procedure, the main purpose of which are to keep the meeting moving and not get bogged down in procedural quagmires.*
2. *Even though the Moderator runs the meeting, this is your meeting. Any ruling by the moderator can be challenged.*
3. *Registered voters only will be seated in the center section of the meeting hall. Non-voters will be seated in the visitor's gallery located in the area bounded by the pillars and the inside wall of the meeting hall.*
4. *Non-voters who are not officers of the town or consultants to the town may be allowed to address the meeting only if the town votes to permit it. A simple majority is required.*
5. *The Moderator will consider each Article as follows:*
 - A. *The Moderator will announce the Article number, and the text of the Article will be displayed on the overhead screen or will be otherwise made available at the Meeting. The Moderator need not read the full text of the Article.*
 - B. *The Moderator will recognize a member of the Board of Selectman or the petitioner (if a petitioned Article) to move the adoption of the Article.*
 - C. *If the Motion is seconded, the Moderator will recognize a member of the Board of Selectmen or the petitioner to explain the Article.*
 - D. *The Meeting will debate and then vote on the Article.*
6. *ALL voters will direct their remarks to the Moderator. Whenever a voter wishes to speak, he or she will go the microphone, address the moderator by first identifying him or herself and providing his or her street address. The microphone is necessary for accurate recording of the meeting.*
 - A. *If a voter is unable to reach one of the stand-up microphones, the voter should raise his/her hand and one of the hand-held microphones will be provided.*
 - B. *In order for everyone to have the opportunity to speak, speakers will be limited to three minutes (with the exception of initial presentations on warrant articles).*
 - C. *No one will be recognized to speak a second time until everyone who wishes to speak a first time has had the opportunity.*
 - D. *If you agree with someone, it is OK to say that instead of repeating something that has already been said.*
 - E. *The microphone will also be used by people wanting to "Call (or Move) the question." Anyone shouting it out from his or her seat will not be recognized. This will avoid preempting people who are already in line to speak to an issue.*

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

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

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

ARTICLE 2 – Land Purchase (Sawyer Brook Headwaters)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$515,000) for the purchase of an approximately 386 acre parcel of land located on Upper Dunbar Hill Road (Tax Map lots 220-027, 028, and 031), said parcel being the same premises as were conveyed to Dillon Investments, LLC by William B. Ruger, Jr. by warranty deed dated March 28, 2018, and recorded in Book 2035, Page 044 of the Sullivan County Registry of Deeds. Two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$215,000) to be raised from state, federal, and private funding sources. The balance of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. The Moderator then opened up the floor for discussion and recognized Grantham resident Sheridan Brown to make a presentation on this article. Brown introduced himself as an attorney specializing in environmental law and reviewed his qualifications as a credible source of information on this project. He noted he's worked with the town in a volunteer capacity along with the two non-profits who are partnering with us in this endeavor. Brown clarified the reason the article lists the \$515,000 amount while the actual amount being requested from taxpayers is actually \$300,000 and defined 'gross budget appropriation.' Brown then briefly reviewed the dimensions of the lot and its boundaries and noted the display boards in the back of the room, which also show the two lots recently closed on by New Hampshire Fish & Game (NHFG). Brown then listed the public uses of the land to be protected and that are currently going on there now; they include bird and wildlife watching, hiking, hunting, mountain biking, running, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing, among others. There is tremendous access to this lot and it is already getting plenty of use. It also has terrific natural resources. Water resources include Sawyer Brook, which runs through the parcel and down into Grantham; it also has the second-highest ranked wetlands valuation unit out of 54 units surveyed in 2012; it's called the Upper Dunbar Hill Beaver Dam, about a 20-acre wetland that includes a lot of wildlife habitat. Brown then discussed the maps shown on-screen and highlighted the wildlife habitat aspects. Brown then reviewed immediate threats to the parcel that included the possibility of clear-cutting. This threat was discussed in meetings about a year ago and Brown thanked the Selectboard for allowing him to become involved in attempting to find a means to acquire the property and pull together the partners required to make this happen. He noted that the partner non-profits with whom he has been working have remarked on the how impressed they've been with the town's interest and professionalism. Brown then noted in July the town learned that the current owner had offered the parcel to NHFG for \$450,000; NHFG was not interested as they had already spent their money on other projects but thought the town might be interested. The property was not publicly listed, so the town had to tread lightly so as not to alert other prospective buyers who could purchase the land out from under the town. Brown noted that the town master plan includes the goals of acquiring, conserving, protecting and managing open space areas and natural resources, and to work cooperatively with other groups rather than putting together a proposal to do this alone. The town has reached out to groups with expertise in combining private funding with public funding, possibly including state and federal grants. The three partners in this endeavor are the town, the Conservation Fund, which is a national organization with great expertise in this type of project, and the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT), based out of New London. Brown

clarified for those present that the funding does not pay for a lot of administrative overhead; he reviewed the charitable qualifications of the Conservation Fund and the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, including the work done locally by the latter organization. Brown then reviewed the roles of the partners. The town, pending taxpayer approval, would provide the maximum of \$300,000 toward the purchase price, and the town would hold the eventual title to the parcel. The town would then grant a conservation easement to ASLPT which would insure the permanent protection of the parcel. The Conservation Fund has a purchase and sale agreement in place with the current owner for the appraised value of the lot; however, this agreement is contingent upon the passage of this article. They have already done a bit of the legwork necessary, with a closing planned for July. They would hold the title to the parcel until the full funding for the acquisition is obtained. They would also provide the technical assistance for the grant writing needed to complete the purchase. ASLPT will coordinate private and public fundraising efforts here in New Hampshire and will perform the legal work to draft the conservation easement required under this agreement. They would also monitor the parcel as part of their permanent stewardship, using their considerable volunteer base to do so. Brown then reviewed the total budget and the various pieces, including the possibility of LCHIP funding reducing the town funding portion even further. He then also reviewed the schedule of how the various parts of the project would proceed over time. Brown then addressed a few 'frequently asked questions,' including LCHIP as an organization and where its funding comes from. He also reviewed questions about protections and pointed out there are currently no protections for Sawyer Brook; private ownership is not restricted in any way currently. Finally, he addressed the question of whether or not a conservation easement will restrict uses of the land. He said that the only restriction will be to prevent development of the property; forestry and agricultural uses will be permitted, as will all the recreational uses noted earlier. In fact, LCHIP funding requires pedestrian access across the property as well as hunting, fishing, etc. In other words, the easement will protect the public uses of the property and will not limit the way in which the public is already using the land. Brown then reviewed how little land in Grantham is actually protected open space, whether that protection is in the form of ownership or conservation easements. He noted that most of the land in town to which people have recreational access is a function of 'current use' taxation. He then reviewed the multiple advantages of this project vis-à-vis the master plan and its stated goals. Finally, he addressed the concern about whether or not the passage of this article will prevent clear-cutting; he responded in the affirmative, though he emphasized that this is not certain without the passage of this article. He closed by emphasizing that time is of the essence as this owner will not wait around for us to try again if this article does not pass. This is our shot at this and could be our only opportunity. The Moderator then quickly reviewed the rules regarding addressing the crowd and the time limit. Marsha Googins of 14 Robin Lane asked about how this project will affect our tax rate. Brown replied that the town's portion of this project will be coming from the unexpended fund balance, so no new taxes to be raised. He added that under current ownership the property is in current use and thus the town is not benefitting significantly from tax income. Development of the property would certainly bring in more tax income but that would also bring with it an increase in the cost of services. He then cited studies supporting the benefits of open space versus development. F. Robert Osgood of 77 Pillsbury Road spoke to his time living here in Grantham and the roles he's played here in town. He noted that the Selectboard supports this article and thanked Sheridan for his presentation. He made the point that the taxes we'll be paying will be significantly higher if we allow this parcel to be developed. He encouraged voters to support the article. Raymond Miner of 244 Walker Road asked for clarification regarding the amount the town will be asked to pay; specifically, could the town actually end up paying less if we get the grants we're seeking. Brown responded that if the grant funding is substantial, any funds the town would not be required to expend would go back to the general fund. Bob McNeil of Howe Hill Road asked three questions: 1) will motorized vehicles be allowed? Brown answered in the affirmative. 2) McNeil noted the breaking of the beaver dam there years ago and the damage it caused, and asked if owning this property would allow the town to prevent this from happening again. Brown again responded in the affirmative, subject to meeting all the requirements of the environmental regulatory agencies involved. 3) If the property is logged, where would the resulting revenue go? Brown responded that the revenue would go back to the town, though he wasn't certain if it would go directly to the general fund or to one of the funds set up for specific purposes. McNeil reiterated that he hoped any logging revenue from the property would go back to the general fund. Selectman Jones then spoke to the last question and Brown added that the logging income would definitely come back to the town, as it would to any other owner. Rich Hoffman of 784 Olde Farms Road noted that the 20-acre corridor mentioned previously abuts directly on his land. He gave the feedback that it would have been great if the abutters had been contacted individually and consulted about this endeavor; he noted that perhaps

that was attempted but said that's water under the bridge. He asked about the logging done in 2013 and 2014, and noted that when that was done, he spoke with the crew doing the logging and was told that the plan was to do selective cutting. He added that what resulted was much closer to clear-cutting. He then expressed his long-term concern about this property and the possibility of development and the impacts that would have, and not just because the parcel abuts his property. He added that he's also concerned about tax rates. Ultimately he supports the article in spite of what it may cost the town in tax revenue, largely due to his interest in seeing the property conserved. Don Roberts of 6 Draper Mill Road expressed his concern not about the use of the land but about the expenditure of tax money on this project. He noted that property taxes have gone up 62% in the past eleven years. This is a concern to both younger people and those on a fixed income. He noted that we already have acreage here in town recently purchased by the state for recreational purposes. He asked that voters use discretion in voting for further spending. Ted Fantl of 378 Walker Road thanked everyone involved in this project and expressed his support for the passage of this article. Peter Lapre of 244 Walker Road asked if this land is not purchased and is then clear-cut, should the resulting logging trucks cause damage to the town roads, who is responsible for the repair of that damage. Brown spoke to the legal requirement that loggers be bonded in the conduct of timber harvesting. He added that this may be another reason to pass the article so to avoid getting into yet another legal battle. Peter James of 28 Split Rock Road said that this is another example of 'pay me now or pay me later, and then pay me again and again.' He pointed out that if this property is turned into house lots with a couple of children per house then we're going to spend \$300,000 today or spend thousands and thousands later. He added that he's one of those on a fixed income and admitted that while it will hurt, we should preserve this land and preserve our tax dollars down the road. F. Robert Osgood spoke about how taxes have indeed gone up but the impact of the development of this project will make what we're spending now look like a drop in the bucket. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions; hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 2 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

(Peter James then thanked all involved in pulling this together)

ARTICLE 3 – Adopt Provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I (a)

Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I (a) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds to purchase interests in land outside the boundaries of our municipality, subject to the approval of the local governing body? If adopted, this authority shall remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. The Moderator then opened up the floor for discussion and recognized Grantham resident Sheridan Brown to make a presentation on this article. Brown explained that this article and the next are optional conservation commission powers that could help facilitate land deals such as the one just approved. This article would allow the town's conservation commission to purchase land outside of the town's boundaries should they want to do that. While such a purchase would be rare, in the event of shared water resources or similar situations this would allow the conservation commission to move quickly should open space become available. The process for such a purchase would be identical to the process for purchasing something in town. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions. Hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 3 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 4 – Adopt Provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I (b)

Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I (b) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds for contributions to "qualified organizations" for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization, and the town will retain no interest in the property? If adopted, this authority shall remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. The Moderator then opened up the floor for discussion and recognized Grantham resident Sheridan Brown to make a presentation on this article. Brown explained that this article would allow the conservation commission to give money to a qualified organization to purchase property within Grantham. This would effectively allow the town to give money to an organization to purchase and protect land in town but in which the town would not hold an interest. He used ASLPT as an example; it might want come into town and purchase a property and the town may well have an interest in supporting this purchase while not having to manage and monitor the property as an owner. He added that the town may also use this to work with partners to assure them that the town will contribute toward this endeavor without having to be concerned whether or not the project will receive town meeting approval, including the additional time frame involved. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions. Mark Hill of 32 Highwood Way noted that he did not see anywhere within the article that it specified such a contribution had to be for a property purchase within the boundaries of Grantham. Brown agreed that this is correct but that this has been interpreted traditionally as being for properties only within town boundaries. Hearing no further comments or questions, she called for a vote.

Article 4 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 5 – General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million, three hundred forty-six thousand, nine hundred four dollars (**\$1,346,904**) to defray the cost of **General Government** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Selectmen’s Office	\$249,150	\$257,195	\$8,045
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$121,559	\$125,538	\$3,979
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$11,150	\$9,000	(\$2,150)
Financial Administration	\$41,200	\$45,200	\$4,000
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$0.00
Legal	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$5,000
Personnel Administration	\$784,192	\$633,000	(\$151,192)
Planning Board	\$4,250	\$5,050	\$800
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$2,400	\$2,550	\$150
General Government Buildings	\$126,200	\$129,690	\$3,490
Cemeteries	\$19,800	\$19,800	\$0.00
Insurance (Property & Liability)	\$38,050	\$33,781	(\$4,269)
Regional Associations	\$4,057	\$4,100	\$43
Other General Government	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$1,479,008	\$1,346,904	(\$132,104)

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the increases and decreases in this article from the previous year. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions regarding the remainder of the article. Robert Meyer of 11 Turnbuckle Lane asked about a trend he noticed in this article and in several of the budget articles; specifically, in the past year, the amount we spent was significantly less than what was budgeted. He estimated that the difference is roughly 28%. He asked the question of why are we budgeting so much more than we actually spend. White responded that in the case of health care, we need to allow flexibility for employees to add family members, or to change plans. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions. Hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 5 Passed unanimously by voice vote

ARTICLE 6 – Public Safety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred forty-three thousand, two hundred fifty-one dollars (**\$843,251**) to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Police Department	\$535,910	\$543,131	\$7,221
Ambulance (FAST Squad)	\$98,630	\$136,646	\$38,016
Fire Department	\$131,784	\$141,474	\$9,690
Building Inspection	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$2,000
Emergency Management	\$9,500	\$10,000	\$500
TOTAL	\$785,824	\$843,251	\$57,427

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. The Moderator then asked Town Administrator White to review the increases and decreases in this article from the previous year, and she deferred to Chief Parsons to present the police budget. Parsons reviewed the line items in the police budget and the reasons for the increases and decreases. Parsons talked about the on-call program approved last year and the results over the past year. White then addressed the remainder of this article, reviewing the increases and decreases. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions regarding the remainder of the article. Hearing none, she called for the vote.

Article 6 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 7 – Police Cruiser Lease Final Payment

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,740 for the final payment of the 2017 Dodge Charger Police Cruiser, with said funds to come from the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions; hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 7 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 8 – Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred ninety-four thousand, three hundred forty-three dollars (**\$794,343**) to defray the cost of **Public Works** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Highway Administration	\$242,595	\$252,345	\$9,750
Highway Maintenance	\$175,700	\$178,700	\$3,000
Street Lights	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0.00

Transfer Station	\$151,515	\$153,798	\$2,283
Waste Disposal	\$210,000	\$200,000	(\$10,000)
Landfill Monitoring	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$789,310	\$794,343	\$5,033

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the increases and decreases in this article. The Moderator then asked if there were any other questions; hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 8 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 9 – Highway Dump/Plow Truck

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the purchase of a new highway dump truck complete with plow and sander, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$200,000 from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Town Administrator White explained the article, referencing the age and mileage of the current vehicle, and the increased cost of keeping it on the road. The Moderator then asked for any questions or comments; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

Article 9 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 10 – Replacement of Highway Garage Roof

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for costs associated with the replacement of the roof on the Highway Garage to come from the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. Town Administrator White noted that the roof needs to be replaced. She added that the current roof is over twenty-years old. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions or comments on this article; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

Article 10 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 11 – Highway Department Generator

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 for the purchase and installation of a generator for the Highway Garage. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Town Administrator White explained the need for the generator to help keep the building lit, warm and dry during inclement weather. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions or comments; hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 11 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 12 – Transfer Station Generator

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000 for the purchase and installation of a generator at the Transfer Station. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the need to protect the building and equipment at the Transfer Station in the event of a power outage. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions. Mark Hill of 12 Highwood Way asked how the generator will be powered. White responded that it would be powered by propane from tanks. Hill asked whether or not the generator could be powered by the methane generated at the dump itself. The Moderator then asked if there were any other questions or comments; hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 12 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 13 – Health and Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand, five hundred dollars (**\$45,500**) to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Health	\$1,700	\$1,000	(\$700)
Boarding Animals	\$700	\$700	\$0.00
Community Services	\$18,500	\$18,800	\$300
Town General Assistance	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$45,900	\$45,500	(\$400)

Community Agencies:	Budget 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Lake Sunapee VNA	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0
Newport Food Pantry	\$500	\$500	\$0
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$200	\$300	\$100
Kearsarge Area COA	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$0
Southwestern Community Services	\$900	\$900	\$0
West Central Services	\$3,500	\$3,700	\$200
Public Health Council of the Upper Valley	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Visiting Nurse & Hospice of VT/NH	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Total	\$18,500	\$18,800	\$300

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Town Administrator White said she had nothing to add to what is included in the article. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions; hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 13 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 14 – Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred two thousand, one hundred fifty-two dollars (**\$302,152**) for **Culture and Recreation**. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Recreation	\$49,200	\$49,400	\$200
Dunbar Free Library	\$232,600	\$215,352	(\$17,248)

Activities	\$33,510	\$35,900	\$2,390
Archives	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$316,810	\$302,152	(\$14,658)

Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the increases and decreases. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions; hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 14 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 15 – Conservation, Debt Principal, Debt Interest, and Tax Anticipation Note Interest

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred eighteen thousand, four hundred thirty-seven dollars (**\$218,437**) for **Conservation, Debt Principal, Debt Interest, and Tax Anticipation Note Interest**. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Conservation Commission	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$500
Town Hall Bond/Interest	\$77,773	\$74,808	(\$2,965)
Library Bond/Interest	\$61,455	\$59,406	(\$2,049)
Fire Department SCBA Lease	\$37,197	\$37,197	\$0.00
Police Cruiser Lease (2018)	\$22,971	\$22,971	\$0.00
Highway 1-Ton Lease	\$20,955	\$20,955	\$0.00
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100	\$100	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$222,951	\$218,437	(\$4,514)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed where we stand in terms of these bonds and notes. The Moderator then called for further discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

Article 15 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 16 – Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds, as listed below with said funds to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2018/2019	Proposed 2019/2020	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Highway Equipment CRF	\$60,000	\$100,000	\$40,000
Transfer Station Equipment CRF	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0.00
Library Building Repair CRF	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0.00
Town Building Maintenance CRF	\$10,000	\$7,000	(\$3,000)
Fire Department Apparatus CRF	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0.00
Police Vehicles CRF	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Town Office Equipment CRF	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$1,000

Municipality Revaluation CRF	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Equipment CRF	\$2,000	\$0.00	(\$2,000)
Town Emergency Repair ETF	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$189,000	\$225,000	\$36,000

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. The Moderator then called for further discussion. Robert Meyer of 11 Turnbuckle Lane asked about capital reserve funds and what happened to the money set aside for these funds; specifically, why was there no expenditures from these funds. He wanted to understand what it means to transfer money to these funds; are we just banking that money for future use? Town Administrator White answered in the affirmative and explained how the Trustees of the Trust Funds manage these funds. Meyer then asked further questions about specifics of where this money is going and chatted privately with White about his questions. Finally Meyer asked what happens to money that is budgeted but unspent. White responded that it is returned to the undesignated fund balance. Meyer then asked how big that fund balance is. White responded that if all the articles are approved this evening, the balance will be \$1.569 million, which is around 11% of the total budget. She added that the Board's fund balance policy states that the goal is to keep the undesignated fund balance at between 10 and 15 percent. Meyer then asked to confirm that this balance is carried over from year to year. White added that this percentage is determined by a Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) formula, but that as it stands the current percentage is roughly 11%. Meyer added that this seems like a substantial surplus but agreed to sit down. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

Article 16 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 17 – Establish Road Improvement Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Road Improvement Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of design, engineering, surveying, permitting and construction costs associated with improving town-owned road infrastructure, and to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from unassigned fund balance; further to name the selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. Town Administrator White explained that the article will allow town to get a head start on imminent road projects as they arise. The Moderator asked for any comments or questions; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

Article 17 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

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. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Jones. The Moderator noted that the Selectmen have nominated residents for the positions of Hog Reeves and Fence Viewers.

For Hog Reeves, the Selectmen have nominated Travis Hastings and Jennifer Laramie.

For Fence Viewers, the Selectmen have nominated Eva Duff and Bruce Hosmer.

The Moderator then asked for nominations from the floor. The question was asked regarding hearing job descriptions for these positions. Selectman Kimball explained that hog reeves are hired by the town to corral errant livestock; fence viewers go out the following day to evaluate whether or not the livestock escaped through

owner negligence, and if so, advise the town that a fine be assessed. The Moderator added that it was her understanding that one of the underlying purposes of appointing young married couples to these positions was to call them out in the middle of the night, thereby helping to reduce the student population in town. The Moderator asked for any further comments or questions; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

Elected by Unanimous Voice Vote

The Moderator then asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting. Robert Meyer of 11 Turnbuckle Lane asked about the status of the property the town purchased last year across from the post office and wondered why that building is still standing. Town Administrator White responded that the town is pursuing a permit from the state Department of Environmental Services to proceed with this work and is awaiting notification before it can commence. Michael Holdowsky of 50 Anderson Pond Road asked whether or not the minutes of the 2018 meeting need to be approved at this meeting. The Moderator responded that they do not need to be approved but that we are always open to any corrections, clarifications, etc. The Moderator then asked if there was any other business to discuss. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to dissolve the meeting. Justin Hastings of 1583 Route 10 North moved and Mark Hill of 32 Highwood Way seconded. The Moderator then called for a vote.

Article 18 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

The Moderator declared the 243rd Town Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

A true copy attest,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth Story".

Kenneth Story, Town Clerk/Tax Collector