

TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Town Meeting
March 13. 2007**

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Victoria Smith called the 231st Annual Grantham Town Meeting to order at 10:30 am. Pastor Ron Bruce was called upon to offer the invocation. Grantham Pack 276 Cub Scouts presented the flag and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Smith pointed out that this year's Town Report is dedicated to Selectmen past and present. Police Chief Russell Lary was asked to speak about the dedication. Chief Lary said the dedication honors some very valuable citizens in our town and it's about the history of our town. The Chief stated that he has worked in this town for 20 years and has seen how much the Selectmen do for the municipality. The people who have served as Selectmen, listed on page 6, have dedicated time out of busy lives, away from the farm in early days, away from their businesses in more modern times. They have given a lot and it is through the respect of the town that we recognize them.

Moderator Smith stated that the meeting having been properly warranted as it is certified on page 19 of the town report and by the authority invested in me by the laws of the State of New Hampshire I do now declare the 231st Annual Meeting of the Town of Grantham officially opened for business. The polls are officially open and will remain so until 7:00pm this evening for the purpose of casting ballots on articles 1 – 3 on the Town Warrant.

The Moderator recognized Selectman Harold Haddock to talk about the repair work being done in the Town Hall due to damage caused by flooding when a water pipe burst during an extremely frigid March 7, 2007.

The Moderator introduced Carl Hanson, School District Moderator. Mr. Hanson stated that the polls were open for voting on the Official School Ballot. The School District meeting would be on March 21, 2007 at 7:00pm.

Moderator Smith introduced the officers of the Town of Grantham as follows: Rita Eigenbrode, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Cynthia Towle, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Selectmen: Harold Haddock and Connie Jones; Tina Stearns, Town Administrator. Selectman Bill Hutchins is in the hospital and unable to attend this meeting. The Assistant Moderator is Merle Schotanus. The four ballot clerks are Lorie McClory, Connie Howard, Sarah Barton and Sandy Palermo.

The Moderator directed attention to the Town Meeting Rules on page 11 of the Town Report. It was moved and seconded to adopt the rules and direct the Town Clerk to make the rules of the meeting a permanent part of the meeting record. *Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote.*

2007 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 located 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. Jones	Selectman3 years
Rita Eigenbrode	Town Clerk/Tax Collector3 years
Todd McIntire	Trustee of Trust Funds3 years
Alden H. Pillsbury	Planning Board3 years
Joy Lamont	Library Trustee3 years
Cynthia Towle	Library Trustee3 years
A. W. Anderson	Cemetery Trustee3 years

ARTICLE 2 – Zoning Change – Article VII C – Home Business

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Expand the present definition now titled “Home Business” to a stand alone article entitled “Article VII – C Home Businesses”. This revision would assist applicants as well as the Zoning Board to more clearly state the qualifications and limitations of a proposed or existing home business.

Rationale: Because of the significance of home businesses in Grantham, it is necessary that the parameters and limitations of a home business are clearly outlined and receive proper prominence in the Zoning Ordinance.

YES 295 NO 68
PASSED BY OFFICIAL BALLOT

ARTICLE 3 – Zoning Change – Article III – G: Central Village Residential District (CVRD) Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 proposed by the Planning Board for the town Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Create “Article III-G Central Village Residential District (CVRD)” to include thirty-nine (39) existing and mostly smaller, adjacent lots in the primarily residential area of central Grantham on and near the intersection of Routes 10 and 114. The majority of these lots are less than one-acre in size and are presently included in the one acre zoned Rural Residential District. The proposed district would eliminate the need for these lots to conform to the one acre zoning restrictions by reducing certain dimensional requirements to be more in scale with the smaller average lot size.

Rationale: The Town of Grantham’s Master Plan recommended the formation of a Central Village District to better define and maintain the unique character and historic value of the downtown area.

**YES 301 NO 62
PASSED BY OFFICIAL BALLOT**

ARTICLE 4 – Petitioned – Recreation Park Land Purchase

It was moved and seconded: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred fifty-one thousand dollars (\$451,000) for the purchase of Tax Map 234 Lot 126 comprised of ~53 acres of land with structures located on Howe Hill Road, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$451,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the board of selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (2/3 ballot vote required)

Moderator Smith recognized the Petitioners to give a presentation for the Recreation Park Land Purchase. Rick Anderson stated that in May 2006 the Selectmen suggested that a Ball Field Committee be formed to look at different parcels of property and come back with a recommendation of a site for the ball fields. The committee was formed, met just about every week since May. We used the Master Plan and growth projections to develop our mission statement to establish a recreation area that will grow with the needs of the town and promote community activities for our children and residents. The population of Grantham has grown over 300% in 20 years. The Grantham children are still playng on the single ball field at the Grantham Village School that their parents played on 20 years ago. The spring baseball season consists of nine teams sharing one field. The fall season saw 72 children K-6 sign up for soccer. The committee evaluated eight different sites. We got really close with one site and worked on it for two months. The land was on Yankee Barn Road , 12-acre parcel, which we would get in return for putting in a Class 5 road. The problem with this site was wetlands. The committee decided to further look into the land on Howe Hill Road. The site is 53 acres with a price of \$451,000. The site has over 1,400 feet of road frontage, borders Eastman and has room for expansion for years to come. It could be a recreation area for both children and adults. Grantham could have much more than ballfields with this parcel.

The Committee gave four presentations in the town and a couple questions came up that we had to get answered. Is the land contaminated? The answer is no. Eastman maintenance had a leak in the fuel tank that contaminated the ground water on some sites on Howe Hill. We contacted NHDES as well as the engineering firm that does the sampling. There are two wells on the property that do not show any signs of contamination. Has the land been appraised? The answer is yes. We had two appraisals done this week. One by Robert Hill from Sunapee That appraisal was \$400,000 calculated with six comparables. The other, by Griffin Appraisal from Nashua, for \$448,000 calculated with three comparables. What is the impact on the Grantham tax rate? A 10-year bond for \$451,000 would impact the tax rate by \$0.12/1000. A 20-year bond would impact the tax rate \$0.09/1000. Rick Anderson ended the presentation by saying that most articles are for items that will only depreciate. This is a chance to spend money on something that will appreciate.

The Moderator recognized Jeff Figley who asked that everyone who wants to speak to this article have the chance. Laura Wiltshire asked why money in the general fund reserve account could not be used for this purchase. Selectman Haddock responded by saying it would have to be brought to the voters. Pam Harkins wanted to know what the dollar impact would be on \$400,000 valuation. The 10-year bond would mean \$48.00/year on \$400,000. Jeremy Turner asked what is the total project projection. He also asked if residents of Howe Hill Road were asked how they feel about the impact of this project. Rick Anderson stated that the committee hoped that the costs for ball fields could be raised by grants, gifts. He stated that members of the committee spoke to some residents on Howe Hill and the response was mixed. Bob LaGassa asked if the road would tie into Eastman. Rick's reply was no. Karen Ryan asked what the property was assessed for by the town. Rick answered \$147,000. Karen wondered if the appraisers were under the impression that this property was subdividable and therefore more valuable. Rick answered that the appraisal was done as stated in the present existing deed, which states that it can be subdivided. Chief Lary said that this is an investment in the welfare of our children. There is no place in town for them to play. Paula Dorr asked if places that were more accessible were examined. Rick replied that they have looked but the property is not viable because of wetlands. In planning for this park have you thought about a place to swim. There have been no plans made for swimming but the property on Howe Hill has plenty of room for a pool. Deborah Cheever questioned why land on Miller Pond Road, already owned by the Town of Grantham, could not be used for ball fields. Rick Anderson said that the Miller Pond Road property was examined by the ball field committee and the engineers. The site has wetlands, a cemetery, and a ten-foot cliff to get on the site. The engineer's opinion about this property was to sell it and use the money to buy a workable piece of land. Phil Schaefer asked the Selectmen to address the difference between the Town of Grantham assessment and the assessment of the property done recently. Selectman Haddock responded by saying the appraisers have gone on the basis of comparable pieces of property in the area. The lower assessment was based upon our reassessment two years ago. He stated that he thought it was a matter of timing and different approaches in assessing the property. Kelly Spiller voiced concern over the safety of Howe Hill and asked if there would be an alternate way of getting to the recreational Park other than Howe Hill Road. Rick Anderson said that there was the option of having access from Eastman. Maynard Goldman, Chairman of the ECA Board of Directors, stated that the issue of access from Eastman was never brought before the Board of Directors.

Moderator Smith explained the voting procedures for article 4. The Moderator then opened the voting for article 4 and called a recess until 1:00pm.

ARTICLE 7 – General Government

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$811,302** to defray the cost of **General Government** operations. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

	Budget 2006/07	Proposed 2007/08
Selectmen’s Office	121,513	119,884
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	87,654	93,436
Supervisors of the Checklist	2,000	7,901
Financial Administration	71,440	76,499
Tax Maps/Assessing	40,000	40,000
Legal	20,000	15,000
Personnel Administration	262,975	309,482
Planning Board	8,650	8,200
Zoning Board of Adjustment	3,340	3,750
General Government Building	97,450	84,200
Archives Building	4,100	4,200
Cemeteries	13,700	15,000
Insurance	31,000	31,000
Regional Associations	2,384	2,750
TOTAL	766,206	811,302

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Jones to speak to this article. Selectman Jones stated that the increase in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector line was due to the purchase of a fireproof file cabinet. The increase in the Financial Administration was due to increases in auditing expenses. Increases in Personnel Administration was due to increased mandated NH Retirement percentage, added full-time employees, worker’s comp. insurance and increases in average health insurance for employees.

PASSED BY MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 8 – Public Safety

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$535,232** to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2006/07	Proposed 2007/08
Police Department	307,683	357,936
FAST Squad	54,630	51,053
Fire Department	82,650	110,668
Forest Fire	375	375
Building Inspection	5,250	5,150
Emergency Management	8,800	10,050
TOTAL	459,388	535,232

The Moderator recognized Selectman Harold Haddock to speak to this article. He stated that the two major increases were in the Police Department due to the addition of one full time patrolman. The increase in the Fire Department budget is due primarily to replacing the roof on the fire station. Selectman Haddock requested that Chief Lary speak to this article. Chief Lary stated that the ability of the police department to give good security service is based on manpower that is available and equipment and transportation to get there. He explained that with the number of people he has working now we have enough police officers to cover 2 shifts, 16 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are covering 3 shifts 2 or 3 days a week and 2 shifts the rest of the week. We are spreading ourselves thin and covering as much as we can. I believe that the coverage that we are asking for is legitimate. The Moderator recognized Kevin Cheever for a question. Mr. Cheever asked how the hours would change if the additional police office was hired. Chief Lary answered by saying there have been requests for increased patrol coverage and more night shifts. The Chief is planning on 5 nights a week, 24 hours a day. It would fluctuate between 4 to 6 days a week. We still will not have the manpower for 7 days a week.

The Moderator recognized Lorie McClory for an amendment to article 8. The amendment changed the amount of the Police Department line to \$307,936. It is my intent that this will remove the \$50,000 for the 5th full-time police office from the proposed Police Department budget. The other line items stay the same. The total proposed budget of Public Safety would then be \$485,232. **It was moved and seconded to accept the amendment.**

The Moderator asked Lori McClory to speak to the amendment. Mrs. McClory stated that she compared Grantham to Enfield which is about twice our size, has a large vacation time population and a highway to patrol. They have seven full-time officers. Mrs. McClory does not think that Grantham really needs that 5th full time officer.

Moderator Smith then stated that she had a petition that asked for voting by paper ballot on Article 8 and any amendments to the article. **AMENDMENT FAILED by MAJORITY PAPER BALLOT. YES 59 NO 74.**

Article 8, as originally written, **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 **\$613,467** to defray the cost of **Public Works** operation. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2006/07	Proposed 2007/08
Highway Administration	145,264	157,917
Highway Maintenance	97,500	129,000
Street Lights	2,400	2,600
Transfer Station	116,100	130,950
Waste Disposal	175,000	185,000
Landfill Monitoring	8,000	8,000
TOTAL	544,264	613,467

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS 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 **\$20,332** to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2006/07	Proposed 2007/08
Boarding Animals	300	1,000
Community Services	10,819	11,832
Town General Assistance	10,000	7,500
TOTAL	21,119	20,332

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Jones to speak to this article. She stated that the Boarding Animals line increased because of the contract the town had to sign with the Upper Valley Humane Society to take the animals we pick up. It was nonnegotiable.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS 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 **\$186,974** for **Culture and Recreation**. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2006/07	Proposed 2007/08
Recreation	18,610	23,400
Dunbar Free Library	141,361	141,274
Old Home Day	21,000	21,800
Archives	500	500
TOTAL	181,471	186,974

The Moderator recognized Selectman Haddock to comment on this article. Selectman Haddock said that the increase in Recreation was due to the need to purchase new uniforms. He also stated that Old Home Day is now Our Town, directed by Laurie Fields.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS 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 **\$196,663** for **Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Notes**. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2006/07	Proposed 2007/08
Conservation Commission	1,100	1,600
Bond Payment	135,000	135,000
Bond Interest	59,963	59,963
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	100	100
TOTAL	196,163	196,663

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 13 – Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$71,500** to be placed in previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2006/07	Proposed 2007/08
Fire Department Capital Reserve	75,000	25,000
Ball Field Capital Reserve	5,000	10,000
Highway Equip Capital Reserve	30,000	25,000
Computers Capital Reserve	1,500	1,500
Transfer Station Capital Reserve	10,000	10,000
Police Vehicle Capital Reserve	10,000	0
TOTAL	131,500	71,500

The Moderator recognized Todd Cartier for a motion to amend article 13 to add \$90,000 to the Ball Field Capital Reserve and change the total of the proposed budget to \$161,500. The Moderator recognized Scott Holland who asked why the Ball Field Capitol Reserve amount was being tripled without warning to the tax-paying public. Moderator Smith asked Todd Cartier to answer and he responded by saying the ball fields cost a lot of money and if we can start banking for them it’s a good idea. Selectman Jones stated that every year we put in money in the Ball Field Capital Reserve Fund. We do it with the thought that we will have the monies there when we need them. The amendment to increase the amount to \$100,000 is so we will have monies put aside so that when the time comes we will be able to pay for the ball fields without asking the taxpayers again for money. **Amendment passed by Majority Voice Vote.**The Moderator called for a vote on article 13 as amended.

PASSED BY MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 14 –Police Cruiser 2001 Crown Victoria Replacement

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-three thousand five hundred dollars (\$23,500) for the replacement of the 2001 Crown Victoria cruiser and authorize the withdrawal of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) is to come from general taxation and the trade-in value of the existing vehicle. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The Moderator recognized Selectman Jones to speak to this article. Selectman Jones said that they had already spent \$5,000 for repairs and the trade-in value is going down. She believes this is the time to vote for this article. Chief Lary commented that this was the cruiser that was going to be replaced last year but was passed over. The Moderator had received a petition to vote for this article by paper ballot.

YES 96 NO 23
PASSED BY MAJORITY PAPER BALLOT

ARTICLE 15 – Police Cruiser 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe Replacement

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$27,000) for the replacement of the 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD cruiser. The total amount is to come from taxation less the trade-in value of the existing vehicle. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The Moderator recognized Selectman Jones and she stated that this vehicle has had many repairs and it is time to trade it in. Deborah Cheever asked how many miles were on the Tahoe. Chief Lary said 81,000. It is in need major repairs. Four wheel drive vehicles wear out very fast. Lori McClory asked if the new vehicle would be saved for back road and bad weather use. Chief Lary said they would try to keep the mileage down but they don't always have the luxury of doing that.

YES 79 NO 33
PASSED BY MAJORITY PAPER BALLOT

ARTICLE 16 – Replacement of Highway Department Backhoe

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-two thousand dollars (\$72,000) for the replacement of the John Deere Backhoe and authorize the withdrawal of fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$57,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of fifteen thousand (\$15,000) will be the trade-in value of the existing equipment. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

The moderator recognized Selectman Haddock. Selectman Haddock asked Joseph Newcomb, Road Agent, to speak to the article. Mr. Newcomb said that the old backhoe was purchased in 1998 and we have a ten-year recycle program. It will be 10 years old in May 2008.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 17 – Replacement of F.A.S.T. Emergency Vehicle

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$145,000) for the replacement of the F.A.S.T. Emergency Vehicle and authorize the withdrawal of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of seventy-five thousand (\$75,000) to come from taxation. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Haddock to speak. Selectman Haddock invited Stuart Gillespie, Head of the Fast Squad, to address this article. Mr. Gillespie stated that over the past few years there have been significant problems with the electrical system of the vehicle. The maker of the vehicle is no longer in business. Bob Schwartz asked if it would be possible to find someone to overhaul the vehicle. Mr Gillespie said they had looked into putting the box on a different chassis, but he was unable to find any one who would touch the box.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 18 – Transfer Station Building Construction

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) for the construction of a building at the Transfer Station and other modifications as needed and authorize the withdrawal of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) from the Reclamation Trust Fund and thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Jones to speak to the article. Selectman Jones said this building would offer proper sanitation for the workers and we would be able to keep the trucks under cover.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 19 – Highway Department Building Addition

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) to construct an addition to the existing highway garage located at 34 Dunbar Hill Road. The selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Jones to speak to this article. Selectman Jones asked Road Agent Joseph Newcomb to comment on this article. Mr. Newcomb said that with 2 trucks and a backhoe in the garage the space is very tight. It makes servicing the vehicles difficult. An additional bay will allow us to put the two plow trucks in the current garage and the backhoe in the addition.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 20 – It was moved and seconded: Refuse Disposal District Dissolution

Are you in favor of the dissolution of the Sullivan County Regional Refuse Disposal District? The selectmen recommend this article. (2/3 vote required)

The Moderator asked Selectman Haddock to speak to this article. The Selectman asked Arthur Magowan, representative to the Sullivan County Solid Waste District, to speak to this article. Mr. Magowan said the project, a joint venture between Vermont and New Hampshire Districts, is coming to an end sometime between 7/1/2007 and 12/31/2007. It will be just the financial aspects that keep that venture alive during that time. The representatives of the district have met and agreed to dissolve the district, but the voters of those towns must vote and it must be a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting that makes this dissolution of the Sullivan County Regional Refuse Disposal District occur. Mr. Magowan stated that there is little, if not any, real justification to continue in the District. There were no questions or discussion concerning this article.

YES 74 NO 2
PASSED BY MAJORITY PAPER BALLOT

ARTICLE 21 – Withdrawal from NH Solid Waste District

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to allow the withdrawal from the NH Solid Waste District as per RSA 53-B:6. The selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The Moderator recognized Arthur Magowan to speak to the article. Mr. Magowan stated that if the 15 communities sum total do not vote a 2/3's majority this vote will allow the Town of Grantham to withdraw on its own from the District at the time when all legal and financial aspects have been resolved. Selectman Haddock stated that the 15 communities were voting the same articles on.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 22 – Methodist Church Deeds – It was moved and seconded: To see if the voters will allow the Board of Selectmen to quitclaim deed the use of the lower level of the Grantham United Methodist Church back to the church. The selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The Moderator recognized Selectman Jones to speak to this article. Selectman Jones said that last year at Town Meeting the Selectmen talked about deeding the lower portion of the church building back to the church. The Selectmen cannot do that on their own. It needs the vote of the people at Town Meeting. That is why it is being brought up today.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 23 – Pursue Subdivision of Learning Drive Property

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will support the Board of Selectmen pursuing the subdivision of Map 233 Lot 75 which consists of 35 acres of land, the Memorial Cemetery, the Grantham Village School, Municipal Gymnasium and all other buildings in order to adequately divide the land currently owned by the Town of Grantham and occupied by the Grantham Village School. The selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

The Moderator recognized Selectman Haddock to answer questions raised by this article. Lorie McClory was recognized and asked how this article would affect the plowing and road maintenance of the school property. Selectman Haddock said that this is something that is negotiated between the Town and SAU from time to time. Nothing will change.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 24 – DFL Spend & Accept Monies (RSA 202 & 204)

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will accept the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-c providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the public library trustees to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the town meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year. The selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 25 – DFL Acceptance of Donations

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will accept the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-d to authorize the public library trustees to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the library for any public purpose, and such authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of town meeting. The selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 26 – DFL Use of Additional Funds

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will accept the provisions of RSA 202-A:11-a to authorize the public library trustees to retain all money received from the library’s income-generating equipment in a non-lapsing fund and used for general repairs and upgrading and for the purchase of books, supplies and income-generating equipment. The selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 27 – New Hampshire Climate Change Resolution

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of Grantham.

These actions include:

1. Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.
2. Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investment.

In addition, the Town of Grantham encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions. The selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

Moderator Smith recognized Pam Hanson, Town Liaison and Coordinator for the Carbon Coalition, for comments regarding this article. Ms. Hanson said the Coalition is a group of grass roots towns that have come together to put this item on their town warrant in the hopes that this will have an impact on Primary candidates that will come here and let them know that we care about what is happening to our environment. Merle Schotanus was recognized by the Moderator to further comment on this article. Mr. Schotanus took this opportunity to say that it is significant that this article has been recommended by the Selectmen of the Town instead of it being a petitioned article as it is in many of the other towns. The Selectmen were briefed by the Carbon Coalition on the 25th of October and without much deliberation accepted the resolution.

PASSED BY MAJORITY VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 28 – Change of Ball Field CRF Purpose

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of an existing Ball Field Capital Reserve Fund to the Athletic Fields Capital Reserve Fund. The selectmen recommend this article. (2/3 vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 29 – Change of Town Office Computer CRF Purpose

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of an existing Town Office Computer Capital Reserve Fund to the Town Office Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The selectmen recommend this article. (2/3 vote required)

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

ARTICLE 30 – 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.

Moderator Smith recognized Bob and Cynthia Chew, 2006 Hog Reeves, for a report. The Fence Viewers, David and Sarah Beckley, were not present but stated that no fences had moved. For 2007, the Moderator officially appointed Peter and Julia Hadlock as Fence Viewers and Luke and Morna Felthun as Hog Reeves.

Moderator Smith recognized Merle Schotanus to speak to the revisited article 6. He said that he thought it would be physically and logistically impossible to hold Town Meeting and School Meeting on the same day as referenced in article 6. The concern for the timing of the two meetings is the issue of town people knowing when they go to town meeting how much has been appropriated for the school budget. Although non-binding the Moderator called for a vote on the revisited article 6. **FAILED by Unanimous Voice Vote.**

Moderator Smith thanked all the volunteers that help the Town of Grantham.

There being no further business or reports, Moderator Smith declared the 231st Town Meeting adjourned at 4:19pm.

A True Copy Attest:

Rita Eigenbrode, Town Clerk
March 21, 2007