

**TOWN OF GRANTHAM
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 1998**

ss. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

The 222nd Grantham Town Meeting was called to order on March 10, 1998 at 10:00 a.m., by Moderator Merle Schotanus.

Following convocation and the Pledge of Allegiance by the Brownies, Moderator Merle Schotanus invited the School Moderator, namely Carl Hanson to read the School Warrant for the election of their officers. In continuation the Moderator announced that he would conduct the meeting under a modified version of Robert's Rules of Order. This was moved and seconded and passed by a unanimous voice vote. He further stated that the polls would remain open until 7:00 PM. The Moderator recognized Barbara Wells who stated that Marcia Llewellyn was a write-in candidate for School Board pending the failure of anyone to run for the office. Mr. Schotanus took a few moments to explain the new electronic voting system.

ARTICLE 1: It was moved and seconded:

(I) To Choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

(The polls closed at 7:00 PM, and following recount of the votes by the Moderator and Selectmen on Tuesday, March 17, 1998, the following votes were cast.)

For Selectman

Constance A. Jones	330
Allen L. Wilson	116
Charlie Witham	76

For Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Frances (Frankie) Hastings	233
Tina M. Stearns	322

For Library Trustee (3 Years)

Louise B. Robinson	492
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For Library Trustee (2 Years)

Lewis D. Hennigar	491
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For Library Trustee (1 Year)

Mary (Suzanne) L. Lower	502
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For Supervisor of the Checklist

Carrie Lynn Hastings	434
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For Planning Board (Vote for Two)

Robert (Bob) R. Weiss	373
Tammi N. Wilson	368

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For Trustee of the Trust Funds	
Conrad F. Frey	489
For Cemetery Trustee	
Francis D. Mutney	506
For Moderator	
Merle Schotanus	493

ARTICLE 2: It was moved and seconded to vote by ballot on amendments to the Grantham Zoning Ordinance. All the proposed zoning amendments passed and have been incorporated into the Town of Grantham Zoning Ordinance.

A. AMEND ARTICLE III B ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS - BUSINESS DISTRICT - PERMITTED USES #7 and BUSINESS LIGHT/INDUSTRIAL PERMITTED USES #8 by deleting "Indoor and Outdoor Racquet Sports Facilities" and inserting "Indoor and Outdoor sports facilities including soccer, basketball, hockey, baseball, golf, hiking trails for foot traffic only, and racquet sports". All accessory buildings to such facilities shall require Special Exception(s).

Rationale: The new terminology expands the use to include the sports as cited rather than limiting the sport use to just racquet facilities.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board.

Yes - 413

No - 82

B. AMEND ARTICLE III B ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS - BUSINESS DISTRICT AND BUSINESS/LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT by adding to the Permitted Uses sections "Farm and Craft Stands" under those section(s) that require Special Exceptions.

Rationale: The expansion to the "Permitted Use (s)" section under the Special Exception Clause allows for our local farmers to display and retail their home grown and handmade goods in the commercially visible sections of Grantham. By adding the amendment to the Special Exception Clause ensures that appropriate planning controls in terms of safety issues, health issues and neighborhood issues are adequately addressed.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen and Planning Board.

Yes - 425

No - 73

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C. AMEND ARTICLE III B ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS - 3. RURAL/RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (a) Permitted Uses #10 (e) by deleting "Outdoor tennis facilities, with necessary support facilities" and inserting the following amendment "Outdoor tennis, soccer, baseball, softball, football, lacrosse, basketball and field hockey facilities, with necessary support facilities."

Rationale: The additional language allows for the cited recreational uses and fields without detracting from the rural spirit and intent. As the town's population increases, there appears to be a need to provide in the town's zoning the ability to support the aforesaid type of activities which meet both the spirit and intent of the Zoning Ordinance and Masterplan.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board.

Yes - 431

No - 68

ARTICLE 3: It was moved and seconded to vote by ballot to allow the Board of Selectmen to choose an alternative date for the deliberative session of Town meeting. "Do you approve of having two (2) sessions for the annual Town Meeting, the first session for choice of town officers elected by an official ballot and other action required to be inserted on said official ballot, and the second session, (the deliberative/business session) on a date set by the Selectmen for the transaction of other business."

Rationale: This article, which is prescribed by law, basically provides the mechanism for the Board of Selectmen to move Town Meeting to a Saturday, if so approved. The moderator and the board want to not only be able to provide for the widest participation possible, but to have facilities available for food, refreshments and baby-sitting which changing to a Saturday meeting would be providable because the school would not be in session. Further parking facilities would be free of school employees and parent's vehicles. Elections would still have to take place on the prescribed Tuesday by law.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Yes - 325

No - 187

Article passed in the affirmative

ARTICLE 4: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to approve and support the hiring of a third full-time Police Officer."

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend support of this article

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The Moderator recognized Selectman William Hutchins who spoke in favor of the article citing the potential saving of tax dollars which he assured the audience the Police Chief would make a presentation, and the importance of having certified personnel out in the field to reduce the town's liability. Mr. Hutchins continued by stating that the introduction of a third officer, if supported, would hopefully reduce the overtime line by allowing the Sergeant to hand over to on-coming personnel any work that needed to be continued.

Selectman Hutchins invited the Chief to make a presentation denoting the cost savings by supporting the hiring of another officer -v- increasing the shift work by the part-time specials. The Chief produced overhead figures for the voters showing the cost of hiring -v- the extra shift work differential denoting an overall savings to the town of approximately \$4,000. The Chief entertained questions from the audience and advised that (1) the department could not produce 24 hour coverage with only 3 men, (2) that it would be necessary to retain some of the part-time specials to cover sick days, vacation days, and special events, and (3) that there would not be more than one officer at a time on duty i.e. no doubling of staff.

The Moderator stated that he had received a request for a secret ballot for the vote and confirmed that 5 signatures had presented the request all of whom were registered voters.

While the vote was being conducted, Mr. Schotanus invited Selectman Myron Cummings to make a presentation to the Fire Chief, Michael Traegde who was retiring from the position as of April 1. Mr. Cummings advised that the Chief was regrettably on vacation, but continued how appreciative the board were of the fine job that Mr. Traegde had conducted as Chief. He continued that the board will arrange to have his presentation pewter mug presented to him at a forthcoming Selectmen's meeting.

Ballots Cast: 126 Yes - 97 No - 29
Article passed in the affirmative

The board made another presentation to Lucia Ballantyne who was retiring from her position as Supervisor of the Checklist - Mr. Cummings thanked her for her many, many years of service, and on behalf of the town, presented a pen set. The board also thanked the two retiring Library Trustees, namely Jim McClune and Ronald Shepherd, who were unable to attend Town Meeting. Again the board stated their appreciation and will present them with a pen set from the Town.

The Moderator recognized Bin Lewis, President of the Board of Directors for the Eastman Community Association who read a resolution regarding the fine work by the Grantham Fire Department. It read, "The ECA Board of Directors commends the Grantham Volunteer Fire Department for professionalism, and dedication to duty. On numerous occasions during the past year the Fire Department has responded to alarms and possible emergencies at the Center at Eastman. Thankfully, the most harm done was water damage from a burst pipe. Nonetheless, the responding members of the Fire Department professionally, and ungrudgingly went about their duties regardless of the hour or nature of the alarm with a sense of urgency and prepared for the worst. The Town of the Grantham should, indeed, be proud of this fine group of volunteer citizens."

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ARTICLE 5: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$515,645 to defray the cost of General Government operations."

	\$ <u>1997</u>	\$ <u>1998/99</u>
Executive	80,546	144,253
Election & Registration	35,750	63,175
Financial Administration	28,499	46,003
Assessing/Tax Maps	1,550	10,000
Legal	25,000	25,000
Personnel Administration	63,865	132,616
Planning Board/Zoning Board	4,315	5,272
General Govt. Buildings	49,630	56,816
Cemeteries	9,550	9,200
Insurance	25,000	22,150
Regional Associations	1,160	1,160
TOTAL	324,865	515,645

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

Selectman Cummings spoke to the article and advised the methodology of the budget process especially in light that the numbers were indicative of an 18 month budget, and where the main increases were. David Springsteen questioned the raise in Personnel Administration and Mr. Cummings advised of the increases that were again mainly due to the longer time frame in the budget. He further advised of the employee's participation in a 10% co-payment towards their health benefit costs. Mr. Springsteen again questioned the combined dollar amount that was indicative of salaries and wages in the article's accounts. Following a few moments calculations, the Town Administrator indicated a dollar amount of approximately \$156,000.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative

ARTICLE 6: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$299,922 to defray the cost of Public Safety Operations."

	\$ <u>1997</u>	\$ <u>1998/99</u>
Police Department	125,455	213,520
FAST Squad	18,890	22,887
Fire Department	51,466	63,140
Forest Fire Protection	250	375
TOTAL	196,061	299,922

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

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Selectman William Hutchins spoke to the article advising of the budgeted items in detail.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative

ARTICLE 7: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$443,201 to defray the cost of Public Works Operations."

	\$ <u>1997</u>	\$ <u>1998/99</u>
Highway Administration	149,343	249,314
Street Lights	9,221	3,960
Solid Waste Collections	51,418	81,377
Waste Disposal	75,000	85,750
Landfill Closure	7,000	12,800
Bridges (Engineering)	0	10,000
TOTAL	291,982	443,201

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

Selectman Alden Pillsbury spoke to the article and advised of the road project for Dunbar Hill Road which had been encompassed into the operating budget of Highway Administration, and provided insights into the other budgets as presented.

Mr. Robert Guyette requested that the board consider a hazardous waste day in the next budget cycle. Mr. Pillsbury thanked him and confirmed that the board would so consider.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative.

ARTICLE 8: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,435 to defray the cost of health and welfare operations."

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	\$ <u>1997</u>	\$ <u>1998/99</u>
Boarding Animals	350	600
Lake Sunapee Visiting Nurse Assoc.	3,339	5,085
Meals on Wheels	500	750
Kearsarge Council on Aging	500	500
Southwestern Comm. Action	500	500
Town Welfare Administration	2,500	5,000
TOTAL	7,689	12,435

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this appropriation..

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative

ARTICLE 9: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums for Culture and Recreation."

	\$ <u>1997</u>	\$ <u>1998/99</u>
Parks and Recreation	2,000	4,000
Dunbar Free Library	56,285	93,480
Town Archives	500	750
Old Home Day	1,500	1,500
TOTAL	60,285	99,730

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

Library Trustee Suzanne Lower gave an overview of the current disposition of the future proposed library addition and the status of the building committee.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative

ARTICLE 10: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums for Conservation and Tax Anticipation Notes."

	\$ <u>1997</u>	\$ <u>1998/99</u>
Conservation Administration	500	750
Tax Anticipation Notes	100	100
TOTAL	600	850

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

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Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative

The Moderator recognized David Springsteen who stated that prior to moving onto the capital portion of the budget, requested to know if the recommendations as cited in the Auditors Report regarding the Tax Collector had been addressed. Mr. Cummings responded that the board had implemented the recommendations with the individual, but whether they had been successful would not be resolvable until the 1997 Audit.

ARTICLE 11: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a lease agreement for the purpose of leasing a police vehicle for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,332 for the first 15 month payment for that purpose."

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Selectman Hutchins spoke for the Article, advising of the intended lease of a 4-Wheel Drive vehicle. Concern was expressed at the expense factor and Mr. Hutchins confirmed that the vehicle would be part of the State of New Hampshire bidding process.

Voice Vote in the Affirmative.

ARTICLE 12: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate (i) \$53,754 for the purchase of a backhoe for the Public Works Department, and (ii) authorize the use/transfer of \$31,500 of the December 31, 1997 fund balance in aforementioned amount for this purpose.

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Selectman Pillsbury explained that support of this article would have a zero effect on the tax rate, as the money would be coming from surplus funds and trade-in values.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative.

ARTICLE 13: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate (i) \$6,495 for the purchase of a copier machine for the Town Offices and (ii) authorize the use/transfer of \$6,495 of the December 31, 1997 fund balance in aforementioned amount for this purpose."

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative

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ARTICLE 14: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate (i) \$12,000 for the purpose of acquiring a second hand grader for the Public Works Department, (ii) authorize the use/transfer of \$12,000 of the December 31, 1997 fund balance in aforementioned amount for this purpose and (iii) to see if the Town will vote to make this a non-lapsing fund as per RSA 32:7 VI that will continue until expended or June 30, 2001 whichever occurs first."

*(Majority vote required)
 (Special Warrant Article)*

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Selectman Pillsbury spoke for the article, and explained the rationale for designating this article as non-lapsing due to a proposed second-hand purchase. He further explained that, again, this article would produce a zero effect on the tax rate.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative.

ARTICLE 15: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate (i) \$21,600 for a tractor mower and snowblower, (ii) authorize the withdrawal of \$5,000 from the Mower Capital Reserve to defray the cost and (iii) authorize the use/transfer of \$16,600 of the December 31, 1997 fund balance in aforementioned amount for this purpose."

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Selectman Pillsbury spoke for the article and advised that the acquisition had been viewed to maximizing efficiencies for not only the cemetery department, but the highway and recreation department. Constance Howard questioned whether more men would be required with all the proposed equipment acquisitions. Mr. Pillsbury responded that he would turn the question around and propose that more equipment generally means less men as the equipment improves work performance. It was again noted the zero effect on the tax rate.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative.

ARTICLE 16: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purposes of removal of the underground 4,000 gallon oil tank located at the Fire House and to purchase and install new oil tanks."

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative

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ARTICLE 17: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will raise and appropriate (i) \$13,436 for the purchase of generators, and (ii) to see if the Town will vote to make this a non-lapsing fund as per RSA 32:7 VI that will continue until expended or June 30, 2000."

(Majority vote required)
(Special Warrant Article)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Selectman Cummings spoke for the article stating the proposed acquisition of a second hand generator for the School and a combined portable generator, and welder for the Highway and offices.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative.

ARTICLE 18: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to (i) establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purposes of acquiring a new radio console and accessories for the Police Department, (ii) to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to be placed in this fund and (iii) to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend."

(Majority vote required)
(Special Warrant Article)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Selectman Hutchins spoke for the Article and advised that the current system is approximately 18 years old and still copper-wired into the telephone system allowing for a break in communications when the telephone lines are down. Logistically, he advised that the next 18 months would be required to process applications with the FCC, look into antenna requirements, and determine which system would be in the best interest of Grantham, and the future needs.

Chief Lary concurred with Mr. Hutchins explanations.

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative.

ARTICLE 19: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate funds to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve Funds as follows:-

	\$ <u>1997</u>	\$ <u>1998/99</u>
Fire Department Capital Reserve	37,500	37,500
Gym Floor Sanding/Renovation Cap.Res.	5,000	7,500
Village School Road/Car Lot Paving Res.	10,000	15,000
Road Truck Reserve	0	5,000
Computer Non-Capital Reserve	2,000	1,000
Mowers Capital Reserve	1,500	1,500
TOTAL	56,000	67,500

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*(Majority vote required)
(Special Warrant Article)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article*

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative.

ARTICLE 20: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (i) \$35,000 to be added to the previously established Phase II Addition of the Dunbar Free Library Capital Reserve Fund and (ii) to designate the Library Trustees as agents to expend."

*(Majority vote required)
(Special Warrant Article)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.*

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative.

ARTICLE 21: It was moved and seconded, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,066 to add to the Phase II Addition of the Dunbar Free Library Capital Reserve Fund (previously established) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept the gift \$1,066 from the Library Trustees for such purposes.

*(Majority vote required)
(Special Warrant Article)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.*

Unanimous Voice Vote in the Affirmative.

ARTICLE 22: 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 Schotanus recognized Charles Amick in his capacity as a standing member of the Grantham Electrical Deregulation Committee. Mr. Amick read a report (copy enclosed) of the activities of the committee and current status.

The Moderator advised that he was accepting nominations for the important positions of Hog-Reeves and Fence Viewers. It was moved and seconded to nominate Polly and Eugene Eaklor for Hog-Reeves, voice vote unanimous, and it was moved and seconded to nominate Lori and Dan McClory as Fence Viewers, voice vote unanimous.

Lori McClory requested that the Board consider providing an alpha-index for the next town report and inquired as to where the "Bowling Alley" was located on page 107 of the statistics sheet in the Town Report. Mrs. McClory was advised that this was a state information sheet and was generic to the surrounding areas too. It was confirmed that the Bowling Alley as referenced was in the Newport area

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The Moderator recognized Selectman Hutchins who requested that the 222nd Town Meeting thank Myron Cummings for his stellar service as a long-standing Selectman of nine years duration. Mr. Cummings was presented with a pewter mug and stand, and a rocking chair as a Thank-you gift from the town together with a standing round of applause. Prior to allowing Mr. Cummings to speak, the Moderator read and presented a Proclamation from the State of New Hampshire citing his many accomplishments during his tenure as Selectman. Mr. Cummings thanked the Town and Moderator, and stated that being a Selectman had been one of the most enjoyable experiences of his life, but that he was looking forward to retirement, at least for a little while. He advised that he would continue to serve, and had been recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Visiting Nurse Association. Once again, he expressed his sincere appreciation of the support given to him over the years.

There being no further business or reports, Moderator Merle Schotanus declared the 222nd Town Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Tina M. Stearns
Tina M. Stearns, Town Clerk

A True Copy Attest:

Tina M Stearns
Tina M. Stearns, Town Clerk.

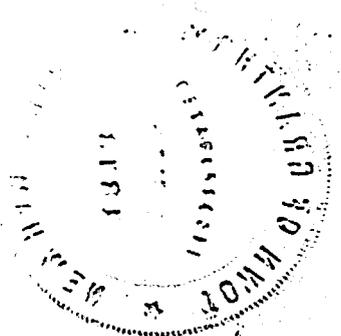
Date: 3/23/98

tnwrr98

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Report of Grantham Utility Deregulation Committee

In 1997, New Hampshire enacted legislation calling for all classes of electricity customers to have the choice of their power-generation suppliers no later than July 1, 1998. The December 1997 issue of "The Insider," our town's Newsletter, told that the Selectman had established a Utility Deregulation Committee. The purpose: to recommend how Grantham homes and businesses should organize to achieve the maximum relief from our present high electricity rates, and also to serve as an educational arm for all Grantham residents.

The Committee met several times since early last October, identifying major Grantham purchasers of electricity, then by personal contact, obtained the levels of their 1997 power consumption. The average usage data of Grantham homes can be estimated. The total residential/commercial demand appeared unlikely to give us much clout with power-generation companies around the country, who would be using wires owned by PSNH to deliver the kilowatt-hours. Our potential savings because of competition among the power-generation companies---- 10 to 15%.

We were fortunate to get information and advice from several sources:

- * State Representative Clifton Below of Lebanon attended one of our meetings. He was a cosponsor of the 1997 New Hampshire legislation to restructure the electric utility industry. Incidentally, a suit by Northeast Utilities (PSNH's parent company) will delay implementation of the NH legislation.
- * New Hampshire Municipal Association, at a meeting in Manchester
- * The policies of a Texas company, ENRON, at a Colby-Sawyer meeting.
- * The deregulation program of Granite State Electric, which provides power for a section north of Grantham. Jim Hurst, an employee of Granite State Electric, is a member of our committee, and his direct knowledge has been most helpful.

The Committee (1) believes that a program to aggregate Grantham's electricity usage with a "Power Pool," such as the New Hampshire Municipal Association, is the most promising direction for us to go, and (2) we believe that such an affiliation may not be necessary for several months.

Look out for further news!