

2001 Town Meeting Minutes



Grantham
May 12, 2001

SS: STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Merle Schotanus called the 225th Grantham Town Meeting to order at 10:00AM. He invited the Rev. Howard Beardslee to offer the invocation. Moderator Schotanus brought to our attention the framed flag hanging on the wall. The flag was donated to the Town of Grantham by the Hutchins family in loving memory of Ed, a WWI veteran, who passed away a few years ago. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Troop 60 Brownies. Lea Frey was recognized for being presented an award for Volunteer of the Year by the NHMA at their annual conference of 2000. The Town of Grantham received a second place award for the 2000 annual town report.

This year the town report is dedicated to Ella Reney. Moderator Schotanus asked Selectman Connie Jones to speak to the dedication. Connie said that Ella was the moving force behind the Historical Society and a wealth of information regarding the town and it's inhabitants. Ella epitomizes the true volunteer spirit, which is the life blood of this community. She was a teacher in the old school house that now houses the Town Offices; a library trustee, and a reporter for the Argus Champion. A devoted wife, mother and friend, we thank you for all you have given us. As a side note, this is Ella's 59th Town Meeting. Ella received a standing ovation from the audience. The moderator recognized Ella Reney to say a few words. Ella said she felt it was nice to be recognized.

Howard Beardslee, a school board member, was recognized as spokesperson for the Grantham School Board since Carl Hanson, School Board Moderator, could not be present. Howard stated the winners of the election held on May 8, 2001.

The moderator introduced the Town Officers: Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Eigenbrode, Selectman Bill Hutchins, Selectman Mike Hayward Sr, Chairman of the Selectboard Connie Jones, and Town Administrator Tina Stearns. Police Chief Russ Lary is manning the video camera as usual. The Supervisors of the Checklist are Allen Walker, who is retiring this year, Cindy Towle and Deborah Cheever. The microphone runner is Heather Stearns.

Four ballot clerks appointed by the Moderator are Connie Howard, Candy Gosselin, Lorie McClory and Jen Mansfield.

Moderator Schotanus spoke about changes in the 2001 Town Meeting Rules. Rule #3 states that all votes pertaining to appropriations shall be taken by show of hands or ballot. This year all votes pertaining to appropriations shall be taken by hand count.

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 himself or herself.
3. All votes pertaining to appropriation shall be by show of hands or ballot.
4. 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
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. All proposed amendments to articles will be submitted in writing to the moderator prior to discussion of the amendment.

This was moved, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Moderator Schotanus stated that Article 1 and Article 2 were voted on by official ballot during the first half of this meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 2001. The results are as follows:

Article 1: To choose by ballot and major vote for the ensuing years as enumerated:

Selectmen:

Constance Jones.....3 years.....170 votes

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

Rita Eigenbrode.....3 years.....260 votes

Planning Board:

Patricia J Wells.....3 years.....198 votes

Robert Barnes.....3 years..... 73 votes

Trustee of Trust Funds:

Conrad F Frey.....3 years..... 234 votes

Cemetery Trustee:

Thomas E Buckman..... 3 years.....120 votes

Trustee of Dunbar Free Library:

M. Hope Hunter.....3 years..... 228 votes

Adam A Johnson.....2 years.....82 votes

Supervisor of the Checklist:

Donna Stamper.....1 year..... 237 votes

Article 2: "Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendments to the existing Grantham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by Petition?"

A. (*Petitioned Article*) AMEND ARTICLE III A OF THE TOWN ZONING ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW RURAL RESIDENTIAL II DISTRICT consisting of all the property located with the Olde Farms Subdivision in Grantham, New Hampshire. "To rezone the Olde Farms Subdivision RRD Rural/Residential District as currently described in the Town of Grantham, New Hampshire, Zoning Ordinance, dated May 11, 1999 from the current Town Zoning minimum lot size of one (1) acre to four and a half (4.5) acres."

Said zone to include: "All that area starting at the northern most point of Map 216 Lot 10 south along I-89 to the southeastern most point of Map 226 Lot 11; thence westward along the southern boundary of Lot 11, Map 226 and Map 221, to the northern most point of lot 5; thence south along the eastern boundaries of Lots 5, Map 221 and Lots 6, 7, and 8, Map 226; thence west along the southern boundaries of Lots 8-10, Map 226 and Lots 10, 11, 25, and 20, Map 227 to Dunbar Hill Road; thence north along the western boundaries of Lots 20 and 19, Map 227 and Lots 7-10, Map 220; thence west along the southern boundaries of Lots 11, 12, 26, 29, 30 and 31 to the intersection of Croydon Turnpike; thence north along Croydon Turnpike to the most western point of Lot 34, Map 217; thence east along the northern boundaries of Lots 34-40, 4-7, 41-45, and 8, Map 217, and Lots 5, 6, and 10, Map 216 to the intersection of I-89."

Rationale: To establish additional Rural Residential District to allow stricter regulations regarding the lot size of property located in Olde Farms.

(No recommendation by the Planning Board)

Yes 166 No 74

Passed by Official Ballot

Moderator Schotanus recognized Selectman Connie Jones to speak about the entire budget and Town tax rate. Connie stated that our local tax rate will be \$2.38 as compared with \$2.43 in 2000 if everything on the warrant passes as written. The municipal tax is the only component that the selectmen have any control over. The local school tax is voted on by the towns people. The state school tax is dictated by Concord and the county tax rate is decided by county delegation. Regarding the county, Myron Cummings is a member of the study committee that has been looking in to the workings of county government and the ever escalating costs of operations. He represented Grantham extremely well and we owe him a big thank you. A copy of the study committee report is available at the town office.

ARTICLE 3: It was moved and seconded "To see if the Town will vote to appropriate sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) from the unreserved fund balance for year ending June 30, 2001 for the purchase of 41.5 acres of land on Route 114."

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this appropriation.
Majority Vote Required*

The Moderator recognized Connie Jones to speak to the article. Selectman Jones said that the town will use the money appropriated last year for the transfer station landfill to purchase 41.5 acres across the road from the present transfer station for \$60,000. By relocating the transfer station across the street it gives us much needed room which we do not have at the present location.. Before this land became available the plan was to keep the transfer station on top of the old landfill. This becomes very costly and was adding greatly to the cost of capping the landfill. By moving the transfer station it would decrease the cost of capping the landfill. The purchase would be made with 2000 funds and would have no impact on the 2001 tax rate.

The Moderator recognized Phil Schaefer for comments on the article. He asked for more specific figures on capping the landfill. Connie answered that "if we leave the transfer station where it is we are looking at \$500,000 – 700,000. If this article passes we are asking for \$90,000 to do the actual move and preparation of the new site." Phil Schaeffer then asked for clarification of the costs. He wanted to know by how much the cost would be reduced. Selectman Jones stated it would be reduced by \$300,000. The moderator recognized Rick Morgan who asked what was to become of the old landfill. Do we still have to cap it off and protect the environment from run off? How much would it cost? Selectman Jones responded with \$300,000. The moderator recognized Glenn Carey who asked why it was \$400,000 difference for capping the landfill? Connie stated the State of NH requires that you do special things if you are going to keep a transfer station on top of a landfill even though you've closed it. The do not allow any expansion. The moderator recognized Audrey Sears. She wanted to know if the proposed new site was suitable for a landfill. Connie Jones said yes and that it would be a transfer station and not a landfill. There is a difference.

PASSED by Unanimous Hand Vote

YES 82 NO 0

ARTICLE 4: It was moved and seconded "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) for the relocation of the Transfer Station."

If Article #3 is defeated the intent of the Board of Selectmen is to pass over this article."

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this appropriation.
Majority Vote Required*

Moderator Schotanus recognized Selectman Connie Jones to speak on the article. She said that the \$90,000 would be used for site preparation, concrete pads, a shed roof over the compactor, septic system, power, chain link fence and moving the containers and operator station. We would be leaving in a row of trees for a buffer. The Moderator recognized Ken Barton who asked where the entrance to the transfer station would be placed. The entrance would be just beyond the current entrance of the existing Mount Trashmore on the south side of Route 114 going towards Springfield. Selectman Bill Hutchins, recognized by the

ARTICLE 6: It was moved and seconded "To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$317,279** to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations."

Account Title	Budget 2000/2001	Proposed 2001/2002
Police Department.....	220,194	231,604
FAST Squad.....	25,862	30,050
Fire Department	47,400	55,250
Forest Fire	375	375
TOTAL.....	293,831	317,279

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this appropriation.
Majority Vote Required*

The Moderator recognized Selectman Bill Hutchins to speak to the article. He said we have the police budget up 5% due to increase in personnel expenses. The Fast Squad obtained a new defibrillator. The Fire Department increase was due to maintenance on the building.

PASSED by Unanimous Hand Vote

YES 85 NO 0

ARTICLE 7: It was moved and seconded "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$399,860** to defray the cost of **Public Works** operation."

Account Title	Budget 2000/2001	Proposed 2001/2002
Highway Administration.....	190,166	209,360
Street Lights	2,400	2,400
Solid Waste Collection.....	76,318	71,400
Waste Disposal.....	111,000	111,000
Landfill Monitoring.....	25,000	10,000
Sanitation (Sewage Disposal).....	0	1,500
TOTAL.....	404,884	405,660

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this appropriation.
Majority Vote Required*

The Chair recognized Selectman Connie Jones to offer an amendment to this article. The amendment would read "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$405,660** to defray the cost of **Public Works** operation.". It was seconded by Harold Haddock. Connie Jones spoke to the amended article. Under highways administration we have a second full time hourly employee. The cost of gas and diesel have gone up and because we have another person the cost of uniforms and safety equipment has increased. We

are going to be paving the entire length of Cote Road and there is an increase in the cost of sand and gravel. The land fill monitoring has gone down because of the change to CMA engineers, the group that is doing the engineering of the landfill closure. The sewage disposal is an annual, municipal contract with Claremont Waste Water Treatment Facility. This is done on a per capita basis and Eastman sewer customers are subtracted. This expense is mandated by an RSA. Each town must have a facility that will accept the septage.

Amendment adopted by unanimous voice vote in the affirmative

Article 7, as amended:

ARTICLE 7: It was moved and seconded "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$405,660 to defray the cost of Public Works operation."

Account Title	Budget 2000/2001	Proposed 2001/2002
Highway Administration.....	190,166.....	209,360
Street Lights	2,400.....	2,400
Solid Waste Collection.....	76,318.....	71,400
Waste Disposal.....	111,000.....	111,000
Landfill Monitoring.....	25,000.....	10,000
Sanitation (Sewage Disposal).....	0.....	1,500
TOTAL.....	404,884.....	405,660

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this appropriation.
Majority Vote Required*

The Chair recognized Donna Stamper. Donna wanted to know why Cote Road is being paved. Selectman Jones responded by saying that it is the next road on the Road Agent's list. Donna wanted to know about the long term plan and the process for choosing the roads that get paved. The Road Agent, Joseph Newcomb, was not in attendance and therefore could not address this issue. Selectman Jones responded that she did not have a copy of his plan. The Chair recognized Chief Lary. He stated that the part of Cote Road that is unpaved is unsafe. Paving it would make it better to maintain and safer in the wintertime. The Chair then recognized Cindy Towle for a statement. Cindy wanted to know if the people of Cote Road have any say in the paving decision if the majority of the people that live on the road don't want it paved. Selectman Connie Jones responded by saying that if the majority of the people on Cote Road don't want it paved it would be good to let the Selectboard know.

The Chair recognized Lorie McClory who wanted to know if there was any chance that we could start recycling more plastics than we do now. Administrator Tina Stearns said she would check with our hauler. Right now we can only do #1 and #2 plastics.

Moderator Schotanus recognized Donna Stamper. She wanted to know if there were any accidents on Cote Road and directed the question to Chief Lary. He said yes, there were two between Merle Schotanus's old place and Jericho Road. Donna wanted to know if only the

trouble spot could be maintained and not pave the whole unpaved section. The Chair recognized Adam Johnson. He stated that he lived off Jericho Road and that the stretch of Cote Road that is unpaved is not all that long. The Chair recognized Cindy Covell. She said that she lives on Jericho Road and she doesn't want that part of Cote Road paved because people fly down that road as it is now and will only go faster if it is paved.

The Chair recognized Selectman Bill Hutchins and he said other factors must be taken into account when paving is considered. The amount of traffic and condition of the road sometimes make it sensible to pave it. Also, we have a long range plan. We look at the roads, what is necessary to maintain them, what the traffic is and weigh our decisions on this information. The Chair recognized Patricia Wells. Pat asked if there was a way to allow public input, such as a roads committee.

Cindy Towle was recognized and said that she lives at the bottom of Cote Road. The road was paved in front of her house and she had nothing to say about it. People drive faster on pavement and if you pave the whole of Cote Road people will fly down the road. Secondly, if we lose some of the "ruralness" that we all want in this town by paving over dirt and the majority of the people don't want it why do we have to do it. She repeated that she hopes the town doesn't pave Cote Road. The Moderator recognized Ed Buckman to speak on this issue. Ed said his concern is Burpee Hill Road and now that we have a grader to maintain the dirt roads it should be easier to maintain the dirt roads.

The Chair recognized Phil Schaefer. He stated that there were a number of people affected by the paving project. At least for the future, there ought to be notification going out to everybody on the road that is going to be paved, prior to including the road in the budget, so that those people directly affected could come in and express their concerns before we get to Town meeting and we have a vote on a budget item which is actually concealed in the highway line item. For this project, he wished the town would say how many people were going to be affected and what is the cost of the project? Selectman Connie Jones responded by saying that they would definitely establish a road committee. The Selectboard will definitely be talking with the road agent regarding his paving project and his 5 year plan. Prior to this, Connie stated, she had never been to a town meeting where anybody had objected to having their road paved. It will cost \$60,000 so if there are enough people who don't want it paved we can probably do something else with it like buy more sand and gravel.

The Moderator recognized Cindy Covell who stated that if there was a way to amend that article so that we can take that portion of the budget and allocate it for somewhere else other than Cote Road she'd like to do that. The Moderator asked if there were any other comments. Connie Jones asked that if that amount was taken out of the budget what would be used to pay for sand, gravel, equipment and time to do that road as it should be as it should be done. Cindy Covell asked why we couldn't just leave the amount that is normally budgeted for the sand and gravel part and just not pave it. Connie Jones replied that she had no idea what that would cost. The Selectmen conferred and said the cost would be \$60,000.

The chair recognized Harold Haddock who said that the Selectboard heard the comments of the residents of Cote Road. We should now let the Selectboard deal with the problem. There

are other places that want paving and we ought to just leave the budget alone at this point. The Chair recognized Chris Paquette. He said before we put the money into a road like Burpee Hill Road, which is a dead end road and only benefits the residents of that road, we need to consider that there are more people using Cote Road. So, as far as the greater good is concerned, it doesn't make sense to me to pave a dead end road versus a more traveled road.

The chair recognized Myron Cummings who said he would encourage the voters not to take any money out of the budget. He has been up there and knows the Selectmen are getting the message. He knows the Selectmen will not pave that road without talking to everybody on it. The Selectmen know they have to be a little more public about what their plans are. The Moderator recognized Donna Stamper. She wanted to go on record as saying she will agree to leave the money in the budget but please do not pave Dunbar Hill Road. The Moderator recognized Cindy Towle. Cindy made a motion to amend Article 7 to leave the money as it is but specify that they don't pave Cote Road with it. The Moderator asked Cindy Towle to present him with a written amendment to article 7. He then stated that he rejected the amendment on the grounds that an amendment to this article can only increase or decrease the amount that is appropriated for a given purpose. It cannot change the purpose, as this amendment intended. The Moderator ruled that the amendment was out of order.

PASSED by Majority Hand Vote

YES 75 NO 9

Article 8: It was moved and seconded "To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,670 to defray the cost of Health and Welfare operations."

Account Title	Budget 2000/2001	Proposed 2001/2002
Boarding Animals	300	300
Lake Sunapee Home Health	3,510	3,575
Sullivan County Nutrition Svcs.....	500	500
Kearsarge Council on Aging	795	795
S.W. Community Action Program	500	500
Town General Assistance.....	5,000	5,000
TOTAL.....	10,605	10,670

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this appropriation.
Majority Vote Required*

The Chair recognized Selectman Mike Hayward to speak to the article. He stated that the Health and Welfare budget had a small increase in community social services. Everything else stayed the same.

PASSED by Unanimous Hand Vote

YES 86 NO 0

ball fields. Tina said yes, Little League fields. The Chair recognized Deborah Cheever. Deborah wanted to know if the new field would be ready by the time the old field was closed. Would there always be a usable field. The Chair recognized Dan McClory. He said that there were no definite plans to move the playground to where the old ball field is situated.

PASSED by Majority Hand Count

YES 85 NO 2

ARTICLE 13: 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 purchase a new Highway Truck and authorize the withdrawal of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of up to fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$58,000) to come from general taxation."

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this appropriation.
Majority Vote Required*

The Moderator recognized Connie Jones to propose an amendment to the article. Selectman Jones moved that the amendment read "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to purchase a new Highway Truck and authorize the withdrawal of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of up to sixty-three thousand dollars (\$63,000) to come from general taxation." Charlie Pearce seconded it. The Moderator recognized Connie Jones to speak to the amendment. Connie stated that Joe Newcomb, the Road Agent, said he made a \$5000 mistake and he needed that \$5000 moved in to make the \$63,000 for a 6 wheel 3500gvw dump truck with a sander, plow and wing. It will be either a International or a Freightliner. We will be keeping the one ton and our present dump truck. Now that we have another man we feel that we need this other dump truck, especially in the winter. The Chair recognized Ed Buckman. Ed wanted to know why we bought the road grader. Isn't the road grader to plow the roads in the winter? Connie Jones answered that we did use the grader this winter because the town didn't have the additional truck. The truck would be more efficient. The Chair recognized Adam Johnson who wanted to know how this amendment would effect the bottom line concerning the budget. Selectman Jones answered 4 cents. Connie Howard was recognized and wanted to know if there was a reason accumulated interest in the capital reserve fund was not being used. There is \$731.81 as of April 30, 2001. Tina Stearns said it was an oversight and that there is no reason not to use that interest. The Moderator restated the amendment and a voice vote was taken.

Amendment Adopted by Majority Voice Vote

The Chair recognized Lorie McClory to propose an additional amendment to article 13. The proposed amendment would read "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to purchase a new Highway Truck and

authorize the withdrawal of all money from the capital reserve fund created for that purpose. The balance to come from general taxation. Connie Howard seconded the amendment.

Amendment Adopted by Majority Voice Vote

Article 13, as amended:

ARTICLE 13: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to purchase a new Highway Truck and authorize the withdrawal of all money from the capital reserve fund created for that purpose. The balance to come from general taxation.

PASSED by Majority Hand Vote

YES 85 NO 3

ARTICLE 14: It was moved and seconded "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) to purchase a Fire Department Tanker and authorize the withdrawal of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of eighty-one thousand dollars (\$81,000) to come from federal grant monies."

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this appropriation.
Majority Vote Required*

The Moderator recognized Fire Chief Bob Seavey. Bob proposed an amendment to the article. It would read "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) to purchase a Fire Department Tanker and authorize the withdrawal of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose, and to accept five thousand dollars (\$5,000) from the Grantham Volunteer Firemen's Association. The balance of one hundred twenty six dollars (\$126,000) to come from federal grant monies." The proposed amendment was seconded by Myron Cummings. Bob Seavey then continued to speak to his motion. Chief Seavey said that equipment is more expensive. He also stated that he had applied for grant money from the Fire Act. The long term goal is to have a new 2000 gallon Tanker so more water can be taken to the fire scene, pumped faster and lower the ISO insurance rating from Class 9 to Class 8.

Amendment Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

Article 14, as amended:

Article 14: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) to purchase a Fire Department Tanker and authorize the withdrawal of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose, and to accept five thousand dollars (\$5,000) from the Grantham Volunteer Firemen's Association. The balance of one hundred twenty six dollars (\$126,000) to come from federal grant monies."

Passed by Unanimous Hand Vote

YES 86 NO 0

ARTICLE 15: It was moved and seconded "To see if the town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of the Landfill Closure and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in this fund. Selectmen to be named agents to expend."

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this appropriation.
Majority Vote Required*

The Moderator recognized Mike Hayward to speak to the article. Mike said the money would be used for the ongoing closure of the landfill. The Chair recognized Dick Armstrong. He said he thought the closure was included in the \$90,000 in article 4. Selectman Hayward stated that the \$90,000 was just for moving the transfer station to the new piece of property.

Passed by Unanimous Hand Vote

YES 76 NO 0

ARTICLE 16: It was moved and seconded "To see if the town will vote to change the purpose of the Town Building Capital Reserve Fund to the Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve Fund."

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this article.
(2/3 vote required)*

The Moderator recognized Connie Jones to speak to the article. Connie said that the DRA recommends that it be combined so that we just have one fund that covers municipal buildings.

Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 17: It was moved and seconded "To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of twenty-six thousand forty-six dollars (\$26,046) payable over a term of thirty-six months (36) at a rate of eight thousand six hundred eighty-two dollars (\$8,682) per year to purchase a new Ford Crown Victoria for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand seven hundred seventy-six dollars (\$8,682) for the first year's payment for that purpose.

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this lease.
2/3 ballot vote required*

The Moderator recognized Selectman Bill Hutchins to speak to the article. A typo was noticed in the amendment by Donna Stamper who then offered an amendment to correct the error. It read "To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of twenty-six thousand forty-six dollars (\$26,046) payable over a term of thirty-six months (36) at a rate of eight thousand six hundred eighty-two dollars (\$8,682) per year to purchase a new Ford Crown Victoria for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand six hundred eighty-two dollars (\$8,682) for the first year's payment for that purpose. The amendment was seconded by Pierce Baugh.

Amendment adopted by Unanimous Voice Vote

Article 17, as amended:

Article 17: "To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of twenty-six thousand forty-six dollars (\$26,046) payable over a term of thirty-six months (36) at a rate of eight thousand six hundred eighty-two dollars (\$8,682) per year to purchase a new Ford Crown Victoria for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand six hundred eighty-two dollars (\$8,682) for the first year's payment for that purpose.

The Moderator recognized Chief Lary to speak to the article. Chief Lary stated that the police department needs two things, personnel and transportation to get the personnel where they have to go. The purchase of this vehicle would lessen the mileage load on the other vehicles especially the four wheel drive cruiser. Mileage accrues at an average of 100 miles per shift.

Passed by 2/3 Ballot Vote Needs 53 Votes to Pass YES 55 NO 25

ARTICLE 18: It was moved and Seconded "To see if the town will vote to authorize the Town Clerk to collect a motor vehicle registration surcharge, the amount which is set forth in RSA 261:153, V as follows:

\$5 for heavy vehicles, including mobile home and house trailers, heavy trucks and truck-tractors whose gross weight exceeds 18,000 pounds, and buses;

\$3 for automobiles, light vehicles including trucks, and commercial motorized vehicles including tractor trailers; and

\$2 for special use vehicles including all-terrain vehicles, agricultural and farm vehicles, historic vehicles, and 2-wheeled vehicles including moped, motorcycles, and non-motorized car and boat trailers;

And further, to require the Town Clerk, after deducting \$0.50 from each fee to cover administrative costs, to deposit the remainder into a town reclamation trust fund, which is hereby created pursuant to RSA 149-M:13-a, to be held by the Town Treasurer in a separate account, and to be spent under the direction of the Selectmen to pay for the collection and disposal of used motor oil, motor vehicle batteries, and motor vehicle tires; any excess in the fund may be used for the recycling and reclamation of other types of solid waste.”

*The Selectmen RECOMMEND this article.
Majority Vote Required*

The Chair recognized Town Clerk Rita Eigenbrode to offer an amendment to correct an error in the RSA number. The amendment should read **ARTICLE 18**: “To see if the town will vote to authorize the Town Clerk to collect a motor vehicle registration surcharge, the amount which is set forth in RSA 261:153, V as follows:

\$5 for heavy vehicles, including mobile home and house trailers, heavy trucks and truck-tractors whose gross weight exceeds 18,000 pounds, and buses;

\$3 for automobiles, light vehicles including trucks, and commercial motorized vehicles including tractor trailers; and

\$2 for special use vehicles including all-terrain vehicles, agricultural and farm vehicles, historic vehicles, and 2-wheeled vehicles including moped, motorcycles, and non-motorized car and boat trailers;

And further, to require the Town Clerk, after deducting \$0.50 from each fee to cover administrative costs, to deposit the remainder into a town reclamation trust fund, which is hereby created pursuant to RSA 149-M:18, to be held by the Town Treasurer in a separate account, and to be spent under the direction of the Selectmen to pay for the collection and disposal of used motor oil, motor vehicle batteries, and motor vehicle tires; any excess in the fund may be used for the recycling and reclamation of other types of solid waste.” It was seconded by Charlie Pearce.

Amendment Adopted by Unanimous Voice Vote

Article 18, as amended:

ARTICLE 18: “To see if the town will vote to authorize the Town Clerk to collect a motor vehicle registration surcharge, the amount which is set forth in RSA 261:153, V as follows:

\$5 for heavy vehicles, including mobile home and house trailers, heavy trucks and truck-tractors whose gross weight exceeds 18,000 pounds, and buses;

\$3 for automobiles, light vehicles including trucks, and commercial motorized vehicles including tractor trailers; and

\$2 for special use vehicles including all-terrain vehicles, agricultural and farm vehicles, historic vehicles, and 2-wheeled vehicles including moped, motorcycles, and non-motorized car and boat trailers;

And further, to require the Town Clerk, after deducting \$0.50 from each fee to cover administrative costs, to deposit the remainder into a town reclamation trust fund, which is hereby created pursuant to RSA 149-M:18, to be held by the Town Treasurer in a separate account, and to be spent under the direction of the Selectmen to pay for the collection and disposal of used motor oil, motor vehicle batteries, and motor vehicle tires; any excess in the fund may be used for the recycling and reclamation of other types of solid waste.”

The Moderator recognized Rita Eigenbrode to speak to this article. Rita stated that in the last budget year approximately 4300 registrations were completed. The \$.50 fee would translate to \$2,150. That would go directly to the General Fund. The Reclamation Trust Fund, if we multiply \$2.50 by 4300, would be \$10,750. This is a relatively painless way to dispose of problem materials.

Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 19: It was moved and seconded “Do you favor the return of the annual town meeting to the traditional second Tuesday after the first Monday in March, to elect all officials and to consider all warrant items, in keeping with the annual school district meeting on that date.”

*By Petition
Special Warrant Article
The Board of Selectmen RECOMMEND this article.
Majority vote required*

The Moderator recognized Ella Reney to speak to this article. Ella stated that she doesn't think it is the day of the week or the time of the year that determines voter turnout. She thinks it is the issues. Also the School budget meeting is held in March but new officers are not elected until the May town meeting . This creates problems for the School Board. The Moderator recognized Bill Hutchins who said the Selectmen support Ella Reney's petition. The change to May town meeting did not turn out the way it was anticipated. The Chair then recognized Myron Cummings. He said that he had done some research and found that the legislature changed the law so that now you can have a March town meeting and have a July1 – June 30 fiscal year. He hasn't seen any bigger turnout with a May town meeting. The Chair recognized Mike Reney who suggested a paper ballot vote. He was told that there was a request to vote by paper ballot. The Moderator recognized Jen Mansfield who asked why town meeting couldn't be on Saturday in March. The Chair recognized Tina Stearns to answer. She said the RSA that pertains to when Town Meeting should be held says “A meeting of every town shall be held annually on the second Tuesday of March or in accordance with RSA 40:13 if that provision is adopted in that town for the choice of town

officers and the transaction of all other town business. A town meeting may be warned by the selectmen, when, in their opinion, there shall be occasion therefore. In no event shall a special town meeting be held on the biennial election day. Tina said she could check with town council to see if we could have town meeting on a Saturday. The other choice could be starting the business portion of town meeting after the polls close at 7:00pm on Tuesday. People who work could come out for the evening meeting just as they do for the school board meetings. The Moderator stated that he had a petition signed by five registered voters for a secret yes/ no ballot on this article.

Passed by Majority Ballot Vote

YES 59 NO 21

ARTICLE 20: 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 stated that it was time to elect this year's Fence Viewers and Hogreeves. Nominated for the 2001 Fence Viewers were Saralyn and Michael Carr. For 2001 Hogreeves the nominees were Larry Kirkpatarick and Nan Parsons. One ballot was cast by the Town Clerk and the nominees were elected. Alan Walker was presented with a gift from the Town to thank him for his years of service as Supervisor of the Checklist. Ella Reney was called to the front and Tina Stearns presented her with a token of thanks for all she has done for the town.

The Moderator said a few words about Wayne Strycharz, who was not present. The Town thanks Wayne for his many years of being Postmaster at the Grantham Post Office. He served for the past 10 years and during that time the office has grown to the extent that it handles the second largest volume of mail in the area. Only Hanover outranks it. It was due to Wayne's efforts that the lobby hours were expanded from 5pm to 8pm on weekdays and remained open on the weekends. He was always patient and helpful. If you threw your bank deposit in with your outgoing mail, he would go through the mail sack to retrieve it for you and you didn't have a lot of paperwork to fill out.

It is nice that Wayne, Judy and their son's are remaining in Grantham. We wish him success in his new "post" in Lempster. The audience gave Wayne a standing ovation.

There being no further business or reports, Moderator Schotanus declared the 225th Town Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.



A True Copy Attest:

Rita Eigenbrode
RITA EIGENBRODE, TOWN CLERK

DATE June 4, 2001