

**TOWN OF GRANTHAM
REVISED MINUTES
TOWN MEETING
MARCH 12, 2002**

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Merle Schotanus opened the 226th Annual Grantham Town Meeting at 10:00 a.m. The polls are legally opened for voting on articles 1, 2, and 3 and will stay opened until 7:00 p.m. Pastor Ron Bruce of the Grantham Methodist Church was recognized to give the invocation. The Grantham Girl Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator indicated the location of displays showing engineer drawings of the transfer station, Mount Trashmore, which might be helpful when considering article 5; the entries for the Grantham Town Seal competition and gave instructions on voting for the town seal.

Moderator Schotanus recognized Selectman Connie Jones to speak about the dedication of the 2002 Town Report to B. Joey Holmes. Selectman Jones said it gave her great pleasure to dedicate the town report to a life long resident of Grantham who has given so greatly to her family, her community and her church. Town Administrator Stearns read the poem she wrote to honor Joey. The poem follows:

B. Joey Holmes

Joey is a true Grantham native
This has always been her home
Here is where she chose to live
And never far did she roam.

Her contribution to this town
Are given from the heart
Parading dressed as a clown
A true sport from the start.

Serving as our Town Clerk
A position once held by her father
From her home she did the work
Never seeming like it was a bother

A life-long contributor at the Dunbar Free
She's happy helping patrons of any age
Among the books is where she'll be
Ready and waiting to turn the page.

Joey, you are one of a kind
Unique in every way
Never hesitant to speak your mind
People listen to what you say.

The flags you place at Veteran's graves
Show the quality of person you are
Families silently thank you as the flags wave
To them you are a shining star.

Always present at functions of the Church
Busy as a bee, never sitting still
For a better volunteer you'd have to search
She'll do what she can while she's able.

Thank you Joey, for taking pride in your town;
To you, we dedicate these pages.

Moderator Schotanus stated that article 4, which appears in the warrant, also appears on the official ballot. He cautioned the registered voters not to vote for article 4 and said he would explain why, shortly. The Moderator recognized the Grantham School District moderator, Carl Hanson, who read the offices being voted for on the school official ballot and notified the audience that the business portion of the school district meeting would take place on March 19, 2002.

The Moderator introduced the town officers: Town Clerk, Rita Eigenbrode, Selectman Bill Hutchins, Selectman Mike Hayward Sr., Selectman Connie Jones, Town Administrator, Tina Stearns and Deputy Town Clerk Cindy Towle. The Supervisors of the Checklist, Don Gobin for the School District; Donna Stamper, Deborah Cheever and JoAnn Purdy for the Town of Grantham. Police Chief Russ Lary is once again using the video camera to record the town meeting on tape. The ballot clerks for today are Sarah Barton, Connie Howard, Warren Kimball and Sandy Palermo.

The Moderator stated that the proposed rules for this year's Town Meeting have one change. The rule, from the 2001 Town Meeting, stating that a hand count is required on all articles that deal with the appropriation of money has been changed to allow both voice and hand vote. This being noted the Moderator asked for a motion to adopt the rules for the conduct of this meeting. Motion was made by Bob Osgood and seconded by Ella Reney.

PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

Articles 1 through 3 will be acted upon by official ballot vote and 4 through 16 will be open for discussion, debate and town meeting vote from the floor.

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

Selectman		
William E Hutchins	3 years	124 votes
Town Treasurer		
Christopher Morris	3 years	5 votes
Moderator		
Merle Schotanus	2 years	291 votes
Trustee of Trust Funds		
Theodore J T Short	3 years	276 votes
Planning Board		
Michael J Hayward Jr.	3 years	151 votes
Library Trustee		
Donna Stamper	3 years	202 votes
Library Trustee		
Sheara Bailey	3 years	165 votes
Library Trustee		
John B Trethaway	1 year	271 votes
Cemetery Trustee		
G Warren Kimball	3 years	289 votes
Supervisor of the Checklist		
Donna Stamper	6 years	281 votes
Supervisor of the Checklist		
Jo Ann Purdy	2 years	293 votes

ARTICLE 2: “Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendments to the existing Grantham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Zoning Board of Adjustment?”

A. AMEND ARTICLE III B 1 c A (III) and III b 2 c a (III) CONCERNING PLACEMENT AND HEIGHT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWERS to read: “(III) Within the Business and Business/Light Industrial Districts towers shall be limited to a maximum height of 190 feet. The design and structure of the

towers and their antennas shall blend in the natural setting and environment using materials, colors, textures, screening and landscaping to blend with the natural setting and environment.”

Rationale: These sub-ordinances, as written by limited location to over one half mile of each other, do not recognize the advantage of co-location of towers within the approved districts. It would be more advantageous environmentally to have towers located as near to each other as technically feasible rather than to have towers spread throughout the districts. Further, these sub-ordinances do not put any restriction on the height of a tower, put another way, a tower of any height is allowable under the current sub-ordinances. It would be more advantageous to limit the towers to under 200 feet, say a maximum of 190 feet, since towers over 200 feet are required by the FAA to be lighted. Also, the sub-ordinances do not specify the type of construction or the camouflaging of towers to better blend in with the surrounding environment and to minimize impact on the surrounding view shed.

(Recommended by Planning Board)

Yes 240 No 39 Passed by Official Ballot

B. AMEND ARTICLE VII, H, 3 (c) to read: “(c) The denial of the Variance would result in unnecessary hardship if (i) a zoning restriction as applied to the property interferes with the reasonable use of the property, considering the unique setting of the property in its environment; (ii) no fair and substantial relationship exists between the general purposes of the zoning ordinance and the specific restriction on the property; and (iii) the variance would not injure the public or private rights of others.

Rationale: There are five considerations, which must be voted on by the Zoning Board of Adjustment in the affirmative if a variance is to be granted to an applicant applying for a variance for relief from the Town’s Zoning Ordinances. These considerations currently read as follows:

- a. That no diminution in value of surrounding properties will be suffered.*
- b. The granting of the Variance would not be contrary to the public interest.*
- c. The denial of the Variance would result in unnecessary hardship to the owner seeking the Variance.*
- d. That, by granting the Variance, substantial justice will be done.*
- e. That the use must not be contrary to the spirit of the Zoning Ordinance.*

Clause (c) in the five considerations as written above has been declared obsolete by the New Hampshire Supreme Court because it “...has become too restrictive in light of the constitutional protection by which it is tempered”. As of January 29, 2001 hardship was to be considered under new guidelines established by the Court. The Grantham Zoning Board of Adjustment has already complied with this ruling and applied the new guidelines in its decisions since January 29, 2001.

The New Hampshire Office of State Planning has recommended that all Towns amend their Zoning Ordinance to conform to the Supreme Court's ruling.

(Recommended by Planning Board)

Yes 232 No 29 Passed by Official Ballot

ARTICLE 3: "Shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Grantham, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$15,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$20,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$25,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 6 years, own the real estate individually, or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$16,400, or if married, a combined net income of less than \$23,400; and own assets not in excess of \$40,000 excluding the value of person's residence."

Rationale: To adjust the exemptions in order to prevent hardship to the elderly property owners.

The Selectmen recommend this article

YES 241 No 37 Passed by Official Ballot

ARTICLE 4: (Petitioned Article) "To see if the Town will vote to accept as a Class V highway a right-of-way, commonly known as Yankee Barn Road, beginning at the northerly end of said Yankee Barn Road and extending in a northerly direction for approximately twelve hundred feet (1200'), being more specifically shown on a Plan entitled "Easement and Right of Way Plat for Yankee Barn Road Realty Trust", prepared by Hathorn Surveys, Inc., which plan is dated January 14, 2002 and being Project No. 164702, which acceptance will be effective upon completion of improvements to the aforesaid right-of-way at the expense of Yankee Barn Road Realty Trust, its successors and assigns, in accordance with applicable Town of Grantham road specifications for Class V highways."

*By Petition
Majority Vote Required*

The Moderator called attention to the first article open to discussion. As he indicated earlier, article 4 will appear on the official ballot but you should not vote on it. It should be voted on at the time we put this article on the floor for discussion.

The Moderator stated that this is a petitioned article that has fallen victim to some procedural and substantive confusion. The article cannot be voted on by official ballot because the law requires that if it is going to be on an official ballot it had to have a public hearing. This article did not have a public hearing. The wording of the article has given rise to some confusion, as well.

Selectman Bill Hutchins was recognized by the Moderator to make a motion on this article. He moved the article for discussion purposes only. Seconded by Chick Pillsbury. Selectman Hutchins spoke to the article by saying that it was the opinion of the Board that the article was premature. It would be in conflict with the past practices of the town to approve or disapprove the road prior to construction. The position of the Board should not be interpreted as approval or disapproval by the Board but rather recognition of the very unique circumstances of this article.

The Moderator said the petition was brought forth by Bob MacNeil, one of the owners of Grantham Indoor. Bob MacNeil is not a registered voter in Grantham and he had to be out of town so he asked his representative, Jim Morris, from Orr and Reno in Concord to speak. Hearing no objections from the voting audience, the moderator recognized Mr. Morris. Mr. Morris stated that Bob MacNeil wanted to improve that portion of Yankee Barn Road, that is not a town road after you cross the bridge and the road turns to dirt. Yankee Barn Road Realty Trust wants to build that road beyond, approximately 1200 feet, up to town specifications and, where appropriate, to state specifications so that it can be accepted by the town of Grantham as a Class 5 town road. One of the legal and title issues that Yankee Barn Road Realty Trust has to overcome is that a portion of the roadway will have to dip down into the right of way that is adjacent to I-89 and is owned by the State. The purpose of petitioned article 4 was to get a feeling from the town if the criteria were met would the town accept the road. It was not intended to be an approval before the roadway was constructed. Yankee Barn Road Realty Trust realized that the petition was premature and apologized to town for having it brought forward as a warrant article at this time.

The Moderator recognized Don Noordsy who made a motion to indefinitely postpone action on this article. Seconded by Don Fuller. Mr. Noordsy spoke to his motion by saying that based on the comments by Mr. Morris, the Moderator, and Selectman Hutchins it seemed inappropriate to vote on this article prior to the road being brought up to standards. The Moderator then recognized Rosie Bard and she spoke about Yankee Barn Road being a right of way and she didn't understand how a right of way could become a road. She is concerned about flooding when the road is brought up to specifications and about the precedent that would be set if the town accepted a right of way as a town road. The Moderator recognized Selectman Hutchins for further comment. Bill stated that one of the unique aspects of this situation is that when the I-89 right of way was put in it took Route 10 North and that is what is being discussed at the moment. It is not a driveway.

Moderator Schotanus posed the question: Should article 4 be indefinitely postponed?

Yes 117 No 13 Passed by Majority Hand Vote

ARTICLE 5: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$375,000 (gross budget) for the closure of the landfill and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$350,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of \$25,000 from the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose.

*2/3 Majority Ballot Vote Required
Special Warrant Article
The Selectmen recommend this appropriation*

The Moderator recognized Selectman Mike Hayward for a motion and he moved that article 5 be adopted as written. Seconded by Harold Haddock. Selectman Hayward explained that there would be a five year bond and it would affect the tax rate in a declining situation of 35 cents per thousand the first year down to 30 cents per thousand in the final year. Chick Pillsbury was recognized and wanted to know what the \$375,000 entailed. The CMA Engineers that did the design for the landfill closure, Bill Straub and Paul Schmidt, were called upon to answer questions concerning article 5. Paul Schmidt explained that their firm was retained by the town a couple of years ago to design the landfill closure in accordance with NH DES requirements. The landfill is approximately 3 ½ acres and will be closed with a soil capping system which entails a foot of cover of a buffer sand and cast migration layer, 18 inches of a low permeability soil which is designed to stop infiltration of water through the waste, and 6 inches of loam. There would be a passive gas system to vent landfill gases, and stabilization of the site. There would be some waste relocation before we started capping it to pull it back from the wetlands a little bit and create a proper slope on top of it. The town received bids for construction through local contractors that were quite favorable for a landfill of this size. and the amounts appropriated are quite favorable for this type of land fill closure. The landfill design meets NH DS standards. This is pretty much a relatively small landfill closure.

Chick Pillsbury spoke to the article. He strongly recommends that they come up with a good plan, but, bureaucracy in Concord is still running amuck and they have one plan that is supposed to fit everybody and every town and how you close a landfill. Well the landfill was closed in 1984 and approved by DES. At this time, they said they lost all the paperwork that we had generated and the only paperwork that is left is what we have at the town office. So the DES insists that it was never closed. Well, we did test pits and monitoring wells around that landfill for a long time, since, I believe, the late 70's, and we have never had a problem with leaching. So I think the landfill is a safe land fill the

way it is capped now. It needs some more work on top. What I do object to is the State of New Hampshire insisting that we do this, but if you have any problems in the future...guess who pays for this. It's not going to be the state .It's going to be the town of Grantham. We are going to have to remove all the stuff we are putting on now if we do have a problem, and re-do the whole thing. I know this is a lot cheaper than it was a few years ago and I commend the Selectmen for the work they have done on it, but I still think there is nothing the State can do about it, other than berate you every year to do something. If the town votes it down there is nothing the state can do anyway. I don't think we should put \$300,000 into something with no guarantee or that lets us off the hook. We are still going to need monitoring wells for 30 years. I think tax dollars could be better spent, but that is only my opinion.

The Moderator called for question or debate on article 5. He then recognized Dick Horton who asked if we had a legal opinion on this. Selectmen Hayward replied that "No we haven't gone that far, we have had the State up and we interviewed them and we were told if we didn't do this they would have to take the next step and we never got the answer what the next step would be." Dick Horton said he agreed with Chick and thought we should have a legal opinion before we move and spend this much money. Moderator Schotanus recognized Jeff Holmes who asked if the funding includes black topping of the new transfer station. The Moderator stated the answer is no.

The Moderator recognized Cindy Covell. Her question," if we don't do it this way, what are our other options?" The engineer replied that with respect to current regulations this is the most simple option that the town can do and from a technical point of view this is the standard practice in landfill closure. Several years ago the requirements were actually stricter and the town would have been facing a geomembrane cap at a significantly higher cost. To briefly address the DES position on this we did review with DES at length the landfill as it sits now. In their records, as it sits now, in 1984 the town placed the material over the landfill and then set up the transfer station. There has been 16 plus years of operation at that landfill. The town decided to move the transfer station, in part, to make room for a final capping system. We did investigate the soil that is on the surface. There is 1 to 2 feet of soil that did not meet the current requirements. The moderator recognized Cindy Covell and she asked if an option was to remove the soil and what kind of contamination are you finding in the monitoring wells? The engineer replied that the alternative to removing the soil would be to relocate the entire landfill and would cost probably millions of dollars. The site, has relatively low levels of contamination compared to other sites in the state. In general, the contamination is contained on the site and has not left the site. The way to deal with that is to put a cap on it.

Moderator Schotanus recognized Bob Guyette. Mr. Guyette commented that on that day in 1984 he was there at the landfill, as a selectman with Chick Pillsbury, the state people, David Hastings and Leon Geil the County Engineer. At that time the holes were dug. There were no problems with leaching. What concerns me now is that after 16 years we still do not have a problem with leaching.

The Chair recognized Al Bryniarski to ask his question. He wondered what exposure the town of Grantham would have if we postponed this article for one year. It seems like we should get together with the legal people and if they are ignoring us, maybe we could ignore them for one year. Selectman Connie Jones responded by saying she didn't think there was anything, legally, that we can do. We have been ordered by the state to close the landfill by date certain. In searching for the information and written documentation that this landfill was closed and amount the amount of soil that have been put in we have not been able to find any record of this. The County, which provided engineering services to towns, stopped that service and when they did they got rid of all of their records. I talked personally to Leon Geil, who was the engineer for the town of Grantham at that time. Leon said that there were specifications drawn up for the closing of this landfill. However, he said he was not there when the topping was put on. He said that whatever gravel or soil was put on was done and he was not notified until after it had been put in place. He could not verify what was or was not done. Subsequently, in Concord they have no final record of what was used or how much was put on this landfill. Two years ago the cost for capping the landfill was \$700,000. We moved the transfer station so that we could reduce that cost. Now, as each year goes by it will cost more and more. The danger, if it has not been capped properly and we continue to leave it as it is there is the danger of something happening and contamination starting to leach out. The State position is that they want these old landfills closed and they have ordered that we do it. Postponing the closure for a year, in my opinion, will only lead to more cost.

Moderator Schotanus recognized Sandy Palermo for a question. Sandy asked if we approve this article and close the landfill what happens ten years from now when the State has new standards. Do we have to close it again? Bill Straub said he thought the period of uncertainty was over with the DES regulations.

Connie Howard was recognized next for a question. She asked what the penalties would be if we didn't cap the landfill. Selectman Mike Hayward responded that they didn't know what penalties would incur but did know that there would be a penalty if we waited another year. We would lose the contractor that we have and it would cost more money for more engineering and their prices would most likely increase in another year.

The Moderator recognized Phil Schaefer who asked if there was any time dependant change in the impact on the water supply as it stands now. Over the past 17 years has there been an increase or decrease in the amount of leaching going into the water supply and is there any indication that is going up, at the present time? The CMA Engineers responded by saying there are seasonal variations with the water quality. Certain contaminants go up and down with the wet and dry seasons. Over all, the situation has somewhat stabilized to a situation where the site is not pristine. There are water quality impacts on this landfill but they are known and understood. They are at the low end of the scale but they are not absent. That allows us to go with the simple capping system that we've talked about here.

The Moderator recognized Selectman Bill Hutchins who said that he agreed with Alden Pillsbury that what we are going through with this second closing is infuriating. He said

that if it would not delay the proceeding on the closure the Selectmen would seek a legal opinion.

The Moderator recognized Pat Short for a question. She asked if the system would allow for a future use for this property or can we assume that it will be forever closed. The engineer said that at this point in time the landfill could not be used without further expenditure. The DES allows uses over old landfills but you would have to expend additional moneys to deal with landfill gas and issues at that site.

The Moderator stated that this is a ballot vote. Without objection the ballot box will be open until 12:05, one hour, and the Moderator will declare a 20 minute recess to allow the majority of people to get through the voting process.

Passed by 2/3 Ballot Vote Needs 105 yes votes to pass Yes 135 No 22

ARTICLE 6: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$476,145 to defray the cost of **General Government** operations."

<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Budget 2001/2002</u>	<u>Proposed 2002/2003</u>
Selectmen's Office.....	89,450	90,395
Town Clerk/Tax Collector.....	69,242	62,146
Financial Administration.....	40,500	47,360
Tax Maps/Assessing.....	16,500	16,500
Legal.....	12,000	12,000
Personnel Administration.....	129,806	147,812
Planning Board.....	3,425	3,425
Zoning Board of Adjustment.....	1,875	2,450
General Government Buildings.....	73,330	72,110
Cemeteries.....	7,550	8,750
Insurance.....	23,000	12,000
Regional Associations	1,197	1,197
TOTAL	467,875	476,145

(majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Schotanus recognized Selectman Connie Jones for a motion on article 6. Connie moved that article 6 be adopted as written. Seconded by Ella Reney. The Moderator then invited Selectman Jones to speak to the article. The bottom line of this article is up \$8270 due to an increase in financial administration. We are adding a part-

time office person to assist in busy times. In personnel administration, health insurance had no increase this year but, we had more personnel covered this year. The zoning board would like to buy a new tape recorder for their meetings. The Moderator recognized Pierce Baugh who asked how we saved so much money on the health insurance? Selectman Jones said we switched insurance carriers, from NHMA to Primex and it was for better coverage.

Passed by unanimous voice vote

ARTICLE 7: "To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$305,154 to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations."

<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Budget 2001/2002</u>	<u>Proposed 2002/2003</u>
Police Department.....	231,604	237,169
FAST Squad.....	30,050	18,450
Fire Department	55,250	49,160
Forest Fire	375	375
 TOTAL	 317,279	 305,154

(majority vote required)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

The Moderator recognized Mike Hayward for a motion on article 7. Mike moved that the article be adopted as written. Seconded by Donald Barton. Selectman Hayward spoke to the article by saying article 7 had a total reduction of \$12,125 from last year due to last year's purchase, by the Fire Department, of a defibrillator and a decrease in necessary repairs to the fire department facilities.

The Moderator recognized William Black for a question. Mr. Black asked if the Police Department had plans to increase the number of officers and, if so, at what cost. Chief Lary stated the he had no plans to increase officers this year. The Moderator then recognized Bob Osgood. Bob said that he came to Grantham in the early fifties. In 1965 he served under Charlie Pearce as an assistant police officer. He then gave a brief history of the police force from that point to the present day budget and by doing so emphasized the increase that has occurred in the last 37 years. After this history Bob spoke to the line item in the warrant pertaining to the police budget and its increase from 1998 to 2002 of \$75,000.00. Bob spoke of his support to the police department that he has given in the previous years, but today he spoke as a concerned, retired citizen and wanted to know where are the increases going to stop in this magnitude? He expressed concern for people on fixed income and the tax increases that have occurred in past years, while emphasizing his support of the future concerns of the police department pertaining to

personnel and housing. He then spoke against the purchase of a new cruiser and adding another policeman at this point in time. He thanked all the volunteers in the fire department and fast squad for volunteer time spent in service to the town.

Passed by Unanimous Voice

ARTICLE 8: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$482,038 to defray the cost of Public Works operation."

<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Budget 2001/2002</u>	<u>Proposed 2002/2003</u>
Highway Administration.....	209,360	222,080
Street Lights	2,400	2,400
Solid Waste Collection	71,400	133,058
Waste Disposal.....	111,000	118,000
Landfill Monitoring	10,000	5,000
Sewage Disposal	1,500	1,500
TOTAL	405,660	482,038

(majority vote required)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

The Moderator recognized Selectman Bill Hutchins for a motion on article 8 and he moved that it be adopted as written. Seconded by Daniel Boynton. Selectman Hutchins spoke to the article saying there is a 10 percent increase in the highway line item primarily due to the second truck which got heavy use. Solid waste collection increased because we now have a full time superintendent at the landfill. It is our optimistic overview that we will be recovering some of these expenses with better recycling. There is a \$30,000 amount for paving the new transfer station. The solid waste disposal is a heartbreaking situation. Please keep in mind that as we recycle we are cutting down on the material that we are transferring to the Wheelabrator facility. At the moment, that is going up to \$87.00 a ton and we generate over 100 tons a month and that increases every year. Bill then asked to introduce Art Magowan who has been Grantham's representative to Wheelabrator for well over a year. He has done an excellent job keeping us abreast of things. He has brought highly valued opinions to us.

Selectman Hutchins then introduced Grantham's road agent, Joseph Newcomb, and his assistant, Jeff Hastings. He gave full credit to these gentlemen for the work that has been done on the transfer station and thanked them for their work well done.

Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 9: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,154 to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations."

<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Budget 2001/2002</u>	<u>Proposed 2002/2003</u>
Boarding Animals	300	300
Lake Sunapee Home Health.....	3,575	3,754
Meals on Wheels.....	500	500
Kearsarge Council on Aging.....	795	1,000
Southwestern Community Action Program.....	500	600
Town General Assistance	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	10,670	11,154

(majority vote required)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Schotanus recognized Selectman Connie Jones for a motion on article 9 and she moved that it be adopted as written. Seconded by Marjorie Bostrom. Selectman Jones spoke to the article by citing the increase in Lake Sunapee Home Health was caused by serving 211 more people this year over last year. Kearsarge Council on Aging generally sends Grantham a letter asking for a donation and they state the amount. Southwestern Community Action Program is up \$100 and town general assistance is \$5000.00

Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 10: It was moved and seconded "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums for **Culture and Recreation**."

<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Budget 2001/2002</u>	<u>Proposed 2002/2003</u>
Recreation	4,000	6,000
Dunbar Free Library	82,550	98,531
Town Archives.....	500	500
Old Home Day	2,000	2,000
TOTAL	89,050	107,031

(majority vote required)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

The Moderator recognized Selectman Mike Hayward to speak to Article 10. Selectman Hayward stated that there was an increase of \$17, 981 from last year. Part of this is due to the increase in the population of students and the need for more equipment for sports. The largest increase is from the Dunbar Free Library.

The Moderator recognized Trustee of the Dunbar Free Library, Dudley Smith. Dudley spoke to the 19% increase in the library budget which translates into a \$16,000 increase. \$14,000 of this increase is for salary and benefits. We propose to increase part-time employee hours from 15 to 20 hours. This will give us an increase of 12 ½ hours per week. The rationale to this is reflected in circulation going up 11% and almost 30,000 items going out of the library this last year. The number of visits is 15,000 up 12%. Our per capita circulation is 11.9. Our single librarian is handling almost double the average number of patrons in comparison to state statistics. The addition to the library in 1999 doubled the size of the library and increased the scope of the administrators job. The children's library service functions have increased along with the addition of internet service to the library. All of these additions require a more focused staff, more than a volunteer staff can provide. The trustees are also looking at the hours the library is open. With the passage of this budget, the prospect of the library being open on Friday is possible and our chances of getting a good library director is greatly improved. Lorie McClory asked Dudley, "Do we have a specific charge for non-resident use of the library and what is it?" The answer, a nonresident card is \$15.00 per year. McClory stated she would like to see that increased because other towns charge more. Also, she stated "What is not being done now that will change with more library hours?" Dudley replied "I think the quality and selection will be increased significantly with full time and benefits. We will address the non-resident fee at our next library trustee meeting and will consider McClory's suggestion then."

Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 11: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums for Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Notes."

<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Budget 2001/2002</u>	<u>Proposed 2002/2003</u>
Conservation Commission	1,100	1,100
Bond Interest	0	8,251
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	100	100
TOTAL	1,200	9,451

(majority vote required)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

The Moderator recognized Selectman Connie Jones to speak to this article. She moved that the article be adopted as written. Seconded by Bob Guyette. Selectman Jones spoke to the article stating that the increase in that article is \$8251.00 for bond interest for landfill closure.

Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 12: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate funds to be placed in previously established **Capital Reserve Funds** as follows:"

<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Budget 2001/2002</u>	<u>Proposed 2002/2003</u>
Fire Department Capital Reserve.....	25,000	25,000
Mowers Capital Reserve	1,500	1,500
Highway Dept. Equipment Cap Reserve	30,000	30,000
Municipal Building Capital Reserve.....	50,000	25,000
Landfill Closure Capital Reserve.....	25,000	0
Radio Console/Accessories CRF	10,000	0
TOTAL	141,500	81,500

(majority vote required)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

The Moderator recognized Selectman Hutchens for a motion on this article. He moved the article as read. Seconded by Don Fuller. Selectman Huthcins spoke to the article. The capital reserve account is simply to relieve the tax burden or any increase in equipment purchases from impacting your tax rate. It does give the department head and your board an opportunity to do some planning. The favorable impact on this figure that is before you is the municipal building reserve, the landfill closure figure and the police radio figure which give us a savings of \$55,000 compared to last year.

Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 13: “To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund created in 1990. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the town’s general fund.”

(Majority vote required)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article

Mike Hayward moved article 13 be adopted as written. Seconded by Cindy Covel. Mike then spoke to the article. This account was zeroed out last year because of the purchase of the new town truck. This is redundant because it is already covered now under article 12 under highway equipment. I recommend that we do away with this capital reserve fund for just the highway truck. Question from William Black. What is the life of a vehicle that is purchased under this fund? Could not money still be collected in this fund and earn interest? Tina Sterns explained that this article is just a formality and we had closed it last year and what we have now is a highway equipment capital reserve which allows the highway department to purchase what equipment they have on their list that needs replacing. The truck capital reserve was specifically for a truck. There is no money in this account right now, it was depleted when we bought a new highway truck. Basically we have to go through this formality to get this off the books. William Black asked what is the advantage of closing this account? Tina explained there is no advantage to keeping this account open.

Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 14: “To see if the town will vote to purchase a motor vehicle for the custodial staff and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for this purchase.

(Majority vote required)
The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Schotanus recognized Selectman Connie Jones for a motion on this article. She moved the article as written. Second by Warren Kimball. Selectman Jones spoke to the article. The vehicle that the town has been using died and will be used by the fire department for training. The custodian uses this vehicle to transport equipment for mowing, snow removal and rubbish. This vehicle is also used to transport water samples to Concord for testing. Daniel Boynton asked where the town would get the vehicle and he suggested the State Surplus in Concord. Selectman Jones replied we do utilize the state sales.

Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 15: "To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred dollars (\$30,900.00) payable over a term of thirty-six months (36) at a rate of Ten Thousand Three Hundred (\$10,300.00) per year to purchase a new 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Three Hundred (\$10,300.00) for the first year's payment for that purpose."

(Majority vote required)

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Moderator Schotanus recognized Mike Hayward for a motion relative to this article. Mike moved article 15 to be adopted as written. Seconded by Don Barton. Selectman Hayward deferred speaking to the article to Chief Lary. Chief Lary said this purchase would replace the old Tahoe. He spoke of the utilization of the cruisers. We would be replacing the old Tahoe with 92,000 miles on it while it still has some equity on it. It is important for all vehicles to be up and running to be able to be of good service to the town and the Chief hoped the town would support this article. John Zentis questioned the Chief. "Does this money we are appropriating include the trade in? Is this a net or a gross?" Chief Lary replied, "the trade in includes cost of transferring the radios into the new vehicle. We take whatever trade in value and we utilize that to cover the cost of getting the new vehicle up and running because that is a somewhat unpredictable cost. What ever is left over we use that towards the purchase of the new vehicle and the excess money will go into the general fund." William Black questioned if the proposed new unit will be marked? It was his understanding that we bought a new unit two years ago and is that marked? Chief Lary replied that the cruiser that we got last year is a low profile. It has all the equipment and is used for patrol, but is more discreet and is used in investigations. Cindy Covell asked how many officers we have on duty at one given time and why didn't we buy a Tahoe last year and use the money to buy a 4 wheel drive instead of another cruiser? Chief Lary spoke to the question. Last year the money that was requested was for the Crown Victoria. The Tahoe wasn't replaced last year. This is a 1998 with 93,000 miles on it. The other two vehicles are logging the miles. As far as the number of police officers we have on at one given time that depends on what the situation is. From time to time it may appear that we have two officers on at the same time but they may be doing two separate jobs. So it is not a very predictable thing, we have to arise to the needs of the community and emergency calls. Deborah Cheever questioned what year the three police vehicles were purchased? The 98 Crown Vic, a 2001 purchased last year and this year we want to replace the 1997 Tahoe. Ms. Cheever's next question concerned the mileage put on the Tahoe. Last year at the town meeting you stated the purchase of this vehicle would lessen the miles put on the other vehicles, especially the 4-wheel drive cruiser and mileage accrues on the average of 100 miles per shift. Cheever stated that she voted last year to purchase the new cruiser so the miles on the Tahoe could be lessened. However, she sees the 4 wheel drive used even in the summer, which is counter productive to what Chief Lary said would happen. Now we are put in the position to spend another \$30,000 over the next three years to replace a

vehicle that could have had the mileage kept down on it if it wasn't used constantly. Chief Lary responded that these vehicles are only used in response to the calls the public gives us. The need of these vehicles is increasing on a daily basis. They are used for police work and that's what they do. The new cruiser has 10,000 miles on it and that would have been put on the Tahoe. We try to keep the cruisers in good shape. We are trying to be as frugal as we can and it's the cost of doing business in the emergency service world. The Moderator recognized Rita Eigenbrode. She stated the Tahoe now has 93,000 miles on it and does it have anything else wrong with it? Russ replied there isn't anything wrong with it at this point, but we have 6 more months on that vehicle before it's going to be tradeable and we want to keep it in as good shape as possible. Once emergency vehicles get near 100,000 miles things start going wrong with them fast and that's what we are trying to avoid. Lorie McClory questioned whether the maintenance schedule was kept up on the vehicle? The answer was yes. Her next question was, do we have any capital reserve fund for police vehicles or for the police department like we do for other town departments? The selectmen indicated no. Lorie asked if this is because we rotate these vehicles so often we don't have time to accrue money? Selectman Hayward replied probably. She then asked if we have 3 officers, we need 3 vehicles, so if next year we get another officer will we need another vehicle to make sure everybody can be where they need to be in case of a big emergency? Chief Lary said that is not a prediction right now. Mike Holdowsky addressed his question to Chief Lary. One alternative would be to maintain the vehicle for an additional year. Now there would be additional maintenance cost and also no trade in value. Do you know the cost if the alternative was to maintain the vehicle for an additional year? Chief Lary replied it is very difficult to make a prediction on what repairs will be necessary on an emergency vehicle but once they approach 90,000 to 100,000 miles if you don't get rid of them you can plan on spending thousands of dollars. It has been proven it is counter-productive to keep emergency vehicles after 100,000 miles. The Moderator recognized William Black for a second question. He wondered if the town should be establishing a funding account for some of these predictable liens. Selectman Jones stated the Selectmen would take that under consideration for next year. The request to establish a capital reserve account must be on the warrant. Arthur Harkins moved the question and it was seconded on the floor.

Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 16: "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."

The results of the new town seal were #1 with 11 votes, #2 with 13 votes and #3 with 107 votes, the winner was submitted by James Wassell from Sunapee, New Hampshire.

Bob Osgood spoke in recognition of Ken Barton, Sr, Fire Warden. Kenneth O. Barton is the longest continuous serving officer in the Town of Grantham. He asked for a show of appreciation with a round of applause for Mr. Barton.

Allen Walker spoke to the Grantham Historical Society announcing meetings and speakers.

Arthur Lotz spoke to the Grantham Community Crisis Fund. He gave a brief outline of the activities of the fund and he appealed to people to contribute to the fund. Mary Zentis asked about the apparatus used in the Ice Out raffle and he explained it was very detailed. It consisted of a concrete block out on the lake with a 100ft rope and a clock. When the block sinks through the ice and pulls the rope, the clock stops and the time is declared. There are a couple of people with telescopes watching so, Arthur warned people not to tamper with anything. Mr. Lotz stated Chief Lary has a video camera and will be taking pictures.

Warren Kimball nominated Alden and Mary Pillsbury as Hog Reeves. He also stated that we expect a report from next years Hog Reeves and Fence Viewers in the town report.

Warren Kimball nominated Jeffrey and Brandi Blackinton for Fence Viewers.

By majority voice vote the nominees were elected.

The Moderator reported that this year turnout for town meeting was up 58% from last year.

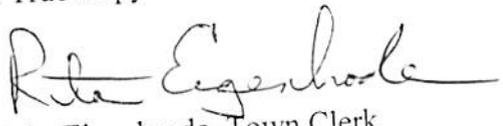
Dave Springsteen spoke that he was very pleased with the town auditors report this year and commended the staff at the Town Office on a job well done.

Moderator Schotanus thanked Chris Palermo for his help in running the microphone at this meeting.

Dick Horton made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Connie Howard.

There being no further business or reports, Moderator Merle Schotanus declared the 226th meeting of the Town of Grantham adjourned at 12:58pm.

A True Copy Attest:


Rita Eigenbrode, Town Clerk

April 10, 2002

