

TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Town Meeting
March 09, 2010**

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Victoria Smith called the 234th Annual Town Meeting to order at 5:20pm. The Girl Scout Troop led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Grantham Town Report was dedicated to Allen W. Walker. Kenneth Story, Assistant Moderator and long time friend of Allen Walker spoke to the dedication. Allen's love of Grantham's history and the care of this history is about the most important thing he can do for the town. He wants to get people of cross generations interested in the town history and to care about it.

Moderator Smith stated that the meeting having been properly warranted as it is certified on page 18 of the Town Report and by the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of New Hampshire I do now declare the 234th Annual Meeting of the Town of Grantham officially opened for business. Polls were officially opened at 10:00am for ballot voting and close at 7:00pm. Absentee ballots were counted at 1:00pm in the afternoon.

Moderator Smith introduced Selectmen: Constance Jones, Harold Haddock and Warren Kimball; Town Clerk/ Tax Collector Rita Eigenbrode; Town Administrator Becky Newton; Police Chief Walter Madore; Supervisors of the Checklist: Donna Stamper, Sandra Noordsey, Janet Goodrow; Assistant Moderator Ken Story. The four ballot clerks are Lorie McClory, Missy Walla, Deborah Cheever and Sandee Story.

The rules of the Meeting, on page 12 of the Town Report, were adopted and the Moderator directed the Town Clerk to make the rules of the meeting a permanent part of the meeting record.

Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

2010 Town Meeting Rules

1. Non-voters who are not officers of the town may be allowed to address the meeting only if the town votes to permit it.
2. All voters will direct their remarks to the moderator. Whenever a voter wishes to speak, he or she will address the moderator and identify him or herself.
3. Unless superseded by State law, reconsideration of a vote on any article should be brought up immediately after the vote has been declared. A vote on the issuance of bonds or notes over \$100,000 cannot be reconsidered at the same meeting. The town may also vote to restrict reconsideration of any other vote in the same manner.
4. The moderator will conduct a secret "yes-no" ballot vote when five voters make a written request prior to a voice or show of hands vote on any article open for discussion.

5. Any ruling by the moderator can be challenged. The moderator will conduct a secret “yes-no” ballot when seven or more voters question any non-ballot vote immediately after the vote is declared, and before any other business is conducted.
6. All proposed amendments to articles will be submitted in writing to the moderator prior to discussion of the amendment.
7. Registered voters only will be seated in the center section of the meeting hall. Non-Voters will be seated in the visitor’s gallery in the area bounded by the pillars and the inside wall of the meeting hall.

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

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

Constance A. Jones	Selectman	3 years
Alden H. Pillsbury	Planning Board	3 years
Rita Eigenbrode	Town Clerk/Tax Collector	3 years
Russell G. Clark	Library Trustee	3 years
Joy M. Gobin	Library Trustee	3 years
Mary Comeau-Kronenwetter	Library Trustee	2 years
Christopher Paquette	Cemetery Trustee	3 years
Todd R McIntire	Trustee of Trust Funds	3 years
Robert A. Lewis	Trustee of Trust Funds	2 years
Jessica Smith	Trustee of Trust Funds	1 year
Victoria H. Smith	Moderator	2 years
Sandra A. Noordsy	Supervisor of the Checklist	6 years

ARTICLE 2 – General Government

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$951,645.00** to defray the cost of **General Government** operations.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2009/2010	Proposed 2010/2011
Selectmen’s Office	\$140,150.00	\$139,965.00
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$98,453.00	\$100,450.00
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$7,900.00	\$ 6,840.00
Financial Administration	\$60,789.00	\$ 63,385.00
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$35,000.00	\$30,000.00
Legal	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00
Personnel Administration	\$379,900.00	\$419,900.00
Planning Board	\$7,750.00	\$7,750.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$2,450.00	\$2,580.00
General Government Buildings	\$98,470.00	\$123,275.00
Cemeteries	\$20,000.00	\$22,000.00
Insurance	\$23,000.00	\$25,000.00
Regional Associations	\$2,904.00	\$3,000.00
TOTAL	891,766.00	\$951,645.00

Moderator Smith recognized Selectman Harold Haddock to address the article. He stated that the significant increases in this article, from the prior year, are employee benefits and building operations.

Article 2 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 3 – Public Safety

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$542,941.00** to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2009/2010	Proposed 2010/2011
Police Department	\$370,100.00	\$372,260.00
FAST Squad	\$45,882.00	\$49,146.00
Fire Department	\$102,246.00	\$102,160.00
Forest Fire	\$375.00	\$375.00
Building Inspection	\$7,000.00	\$6,560.00
Emergency Management	\$12,300.00	\$12,440.00
TOTAL	\$537,903.00	\$542,941.00

Article 3 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 4 – Public Works

I was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$686,480.00** to defray the cost of **Public Works** operation.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2009/2010	Proposed 2010/2011
Highway Administration	\$174,913.00	\$203,880.00
Highway Maintenance	\$159,000.00	\$160,000.00
Street Lights	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Transfer Station	\$136,550.00	\$120,100.00
Waste Disposal	\$183,000.00	\$191,000.00
Landfill Monitoring	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
TOTAL	\$664,963.00	\$686,480.00

Selectman Warren Kimball was recognized by the Moderator to speak to the article. He explained that one of the additional costs had to do with the part time person working for the

Highway Department going full time and there is a new part time employee at the Transfer Station.

An amendment to article 4, submitted by resident John A Rogers, was accepted by the Moderator. The amendment: *Reduce the amount to be raised for Highway Administration by \$30,000. The requested increase of \$28,967 (17%) is neither warranted nor acceptable in this time of economic distress. Our roads are more than adequately maintained now.* The amendment was moved and seconded.

Mr. Rogers feels that the 18.316 Grantham miles do not warrant an increase in highway personnel. If extra help is needed it could be obtained on an as needed basis. Russell Lary was next to address the amendment. He reminded that 20 years ago there were about 4 or 5 houses in Olde Farms. There is close to 100 now. If the Town doesn't plow when there is an inch or two of snow on the ground and one of the residents has an accident the Town will be held responsible. The people in town have put the demand on all the departments in town, they want the services taken care of and they want their roads clear. The road agent is trying to keep the roads safe and it is important to support him. Ken O'Keefe spoke next by stating that the road crew did an excellent job and that's one of the reasons we don't need additional personnel. Aside from the \$30,000 mentioned in this amendment there is also an additional \$21,000 in benefits that would be saved. Road Agent Joseph Newcomb responded stating that the full time person for the Highway Department isn't just for winter maintenance or summer maintenance, for that matter. We spend approximately 20 hours a week, all summer long, doing cemetery clean-up, mowing, raking, etc, maintain around the municipal building and the parks and commons around town. During the winter, the extra person's time is spent at the Municipal building making sure that the yard is clean; the walks are shoveled and sanded. It is not just the highways. He has many different jobs to do. Town Administrator Becky Newton stated that there are 5 cemeteries in Grantham and it is not good use of a skilled Road Agent's time to be sitting on a mower in the summer when there are roads to be repaired, culverts to be exchanged and road upgrades to take place. This person would serve on the Joint Loss Management Committee, a Department of Labor requirement. New duties include mowing and maintenance at the Grantham Recreation Park. The \$30,000 for this employee would add \$0.03 on the tax rate. Kevin Cheever asked if the Board had looked into sub-contracting the work and what the difference would be between the 2 choices. Administrator Newton answered no but she could. Selectman Kimball stated that there were 72-75 hours for each of the Highway Department employees in the last pay period. If they didn't work that amount of time the roads and the yards would not be quite as clear as they are. **Yes 97 No 65 Amendment Passed by Majority Hand Count.**

Moderator Smith stated that the amended amount of article 4 was \$656,480.

Article 4 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 5 – Health and Welfare

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000.00** to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2009/2010	Proposed 2010/2011
Boarding Animals	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Community Services	\$13,155.00	\$10,500.00
Town General Assistance	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
TOTAL	\$24,155.00	\$20,000.00

Article 5 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 6 – Culture and Recreation

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$211,458.00** for **Culture and Recreation**.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2009/2010	Proposed 2010/2011
Recreation	\$26,677.00	\$27,910.00
Dunbar Free Library	\$150,531.00	\$156,057.00
Activities	\$26,082.00	\$26,091.00
Archives	\$500.00	\$1,400.00
TOTAL	\$203,790.00	\$211,458.00

Moderato Smith recognized Town Administrator Newton. Administrator Newton said there was a change in the Dunbar Free Library line. The dollar amount is adjusted downward by \$4,400 to \$151,657. An amendment was presented to remove \$4,400 from the Dunbar Free Library proposed budget. The total of article 6 would be \$207,058. **Amendment to article 6 Passed by Majority Voice Vote**

Article 6 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 7 – Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Notes

It was moved and seconded: “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$105,800** for **Conservation, Bond Notes, Interest and Tax Anticipation Notes**.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2009/2010	Proposed 2010/2011
Conservation Commission	\$1,600.00	\$2,500.00
Bond Payment	\$65,000.00	\$60,000.00
Bond Interest	\$46,500.00	\$43,200.00
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100.00	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$113,200.00	\$105,800.00

Article 7 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 8 – Capital Reserve Funds

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$88,000.00** to be placed in previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2009/2010	Proposed 2010/2011
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$10,000.00	\$ 0
Highway Equip Capital Reserve	\$25,000.00	\$15,000
Town Office Equip Capital Reserve	\$1,000.00	\$ 1,000
Transfer Station Capital Reserve	\$10,000.00	\$10,000
Police Vehicle Capital Reserve	\$10,000.00	\$ 0
Library Addition Capital Reserve	\$20,000.00	\$10,000
Mowers Capital Reserve	\$2,000.00	\$ 2,000
Athletic Fields Capital Reserve	\$25,000.00	\$10,000
Land Preservation	\$0	\$10,000
Revaluation	\$0	\$15,000
Town Buildings	\$0	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$103,000.00	\$88,000

Article 8 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 9 – Burpee Hill Road (Inserted by Petition)

We the undersigned are residents of Burpee Hill Road and are asking the Selectmen to have the rest of Burpee Hill Road paved. The road has seen an increase of traffic and therefore has seen an increase of ruts and additional road damage. By Petition

(A majority vote on this article will have no legal effect. The warrant article fails to “raise and appropriate” funds.)

(Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 10 – New Aldrich Road (Inserted by Petition)

Petition:

WHEREAS, WE are residents of New Aldrich Road; and

WHEREAS, New Aldrich Road is partially paved (.4 of a mile with approximately 1 mile dirt road); and

WHEREAS, New Aldrich Road is heavily trafficked and used by commercial vehicles and residents of Dunbar and Olde Farms Roads as a “short cut” to gain access to Routes 10 and 89N to avoid the Center of Town.

WHEREAS, New Aldrich Road is frequently in great disrepair and in need of constant maintenance; and

WHEREAS, New Aldrich Road constitutes a threat of damage to our cars and our personal safety; and

WHEREAS, Numerous homes have recently been built and are being built on New Aldrich Road, now

THEREFORE, We the undersigned respectfully ask the Selectman of the Town of Grantham to pave New Aldrich Road

(Inserted by petition)

(A majority vote on this article will have no legal effect. The warrant article fails to “raise and appropriate” funds.)

Moderator Smith commented in regards to article 9 and article 10. The way the articles were written and submitted does not follow State statutes. If we vote on these articles it will have no legal effect. The articles failed to say, “raise and appropriate” and did not note a sum.

Article 9 and 10 Passed Over by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 11—Wien Property

It was moved and seconded: To authorize the Grantham Board of Selectmen to sell by whatever means appropriate a “plus or minus” 2.5 acre portion of Tax Map 241 Parcel 07 commonly known as the Wien Property. The portion of the land to be sold is depicted on a “Conceptual Sketch Plan of Subdivision” prepared by Clayton E. Platt, January 22, 2010.

(Majority vote required)

Selectman Harold Haddock stated over the past year it has been suggested that the Wien property be sold and that we could better use the funds that would be generated by the sale of

the house for other purposes in the recreation park. A non-partisan committee examined the alternatives and returned a report, which is on page 103 of this town report.

The Moderator recognized Karen Ryan, member of the Wien House Subcommittee. She noted that the other members of the subcommittee were Ron Bauer, Don Gobin, Bill Zimmerman. We determined that at this time that selling the house on about 2.5 acres was the most feasible solution. The residence is not set up as a public building and it would need approximately \$75,000-\$100,000 into the building in order to make it ADA compliant. Selling the property would give the town funds for a storage building for the Recreation Department and the Activities Department and provide money to work on the fields. John Zentis questioned the access to the house. Karen Ryan said the existing driveway into the house would be just for the house. There is adequate access to the fields on either side of Shedd Road. That is what is used for the fields now. Bob McNeil questioned whether the money from the sale of the house would go back to the town and whether improvements to the recreation field would be voted on. Administrator Newton responded that when the property is sold the money would go back into the general fund. Before that money can be used for any other purpose it will need to come back onto the Town Warrant with an article that says we *raise and appropriate* the money for XYZ purpose.

Article 11 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 12 – Mutual Aid

It was moved and seconded to: To authorize the Town of Grantham Fire Department to go to the aid of another city, town, village or fire district within or without the state, for the purpose of extinguishing a fire, rendering other emergency assistance or performing any detail requested in accordance with NH RSA 154:24.

(Majority vote required)

Article 12 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 13 – Taxpayer Coalition

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000) and to expend said funds by making a contribution to the Coalition Communities group headed by the City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The Coalition Communities group consists of 35 towns and represents the Town of Grantham in attempting to find a solution to the educational funding issue that does not reinstate donor towns but allows Grantham to continue to keep the statewide education property tax for local use to fund local schools. The Coalition already has saved the Town of Grantham hundreds of thousands of dollars per year for several years. The Coalition is continuing to fight to reverse any new “donor town” formula. Less than \$0.01 Impact on tax Rate.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority Vote Required)

Article 13 Pass by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 14 – Grantham Recreation Park

It was moved and seconded: To raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to come from the Athletic Fields Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose and to expend said funds on building new playing fields and for other physical upgrades at the Grantham Recreation Park.

No tax impact.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN.

(Majority Vote Required)

Selectman Kimball noted that the \$25,000 had already been set aside, at Town meeting last year, to work on the project. Some work was done but we were unable to expend these funds. This article lets us move those funds into an area where we can use the funds for this particular purpose.

Article 14 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 15 – Assessing Services

To raise and appropriate the sum of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) and to expend said funds for the purpose of assessing services in the form of a statistical update or other such acceptable assessing manner as required by the NH Department of Revenue Administration; said funds to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount to be raised from taxation.

No tax impact.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority Vote Required)

Article 15 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 16 – Bridge Capital Reserve Funds

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will authorize the establishment of a capital reserve fund (pursuant to RSA Chapter 35) for the design, permitting and construction of all Town owned bridges and to vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-three thousand and two-hundred fifty dollars (\$33,250) toward this purpose, and to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Majority Vote Required)

Article 16 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 17 – Disposal of Town Owned Property

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of any acquired properties through sealed bids or auction, with the Selectmen reserving the right to accept or refuse any or all bids.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority Vote Required)

Article 17 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 18 – End of Meeting

To hear the reports of agents, officers, and committees heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
(Majority Vote Required)

This year's Hog Reeves are Kenny and Sandee Story. The Fence Viewers are Jeremy Turner and Laura French.

There being no further business or reports, Moderator Smith declared the 234th town Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

A True Copy Attest:



Rita Eigenbrode, Town Clerk

March 15, 2010