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**Town of Grantham – Board of Selectmen
Public Budget Hearing Minutes
Wednesday, February 4, 2015**

The budget hearing was called to order at 5:55pm on February 4, 2015 by Chairman Warren Kimball. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Lower Level at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, New Hampshire.

Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Ken Story; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott; Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Friedman; Road Agent Jeff Hastings; Athletics Director Marsha Googins; Activities Director Jamielynn Garland; Ed Jenik; Jan Jenik; Judy King; Bob Lewis; Katrina McCurley; Sara Lang; Michael C. West; Bob MacNeil; Patricia MacNeil; Lorie McClory; Rae Tober; Heather Grohbrugge; Jeff Walla; Missy Walla; Barbara Jones; Sandra Noordsy; Sheridan Brown; David Cullen and others

Public Hearing

Attendees were given copies of the 2015-2016 proposed budget and warrant articles.

Administrator White read the following budget overview:

Item	Prior Year (FY2015)	Ensuing Year (FY2016)	Amount of Increase
Total Operating Budget	\$2,866,931	\$2,947,625	\$80,694
Special & Individual Warrant Articles	\$223,000	\$1,626,869	\$1,403,869
TOTAL Appropriations	\$3,089,931	\$4,574,494	\$1,484,563
Less: Estimated Revenues & Credits	\$1,072,919	\$2,374,453	\$1,301,534
Estimated Amount to be raised by taxes	\$2,017,012	\$2,200,041	\$183,029

- Total operating budget has increased 2.8%
- Total estimated amount to be raised by taxes has increased 9%
- If everything passes, the estimated tax impact would be approximately 47 cents per \$1,000; or \$117.50 on a home assessed for \$250,000.
- General operating increases include:
 1. Contracted services
 2. Insurance & retirement
 3. Pay increases of 3% overall

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ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

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

Selectman	3 years
Planning Board	3 years
Planning Board	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	3 years
Cemetery Trustee	1 year
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library	3 years
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library	3 years
Supervisor of the Checklist	6 years

Administrator White informed that voting for the election of officers will be by ballot at the polls on Town Meeting day, March 10, 2015, between 10:00am & 7:00pm. The business portion of Town Meeting will be at 5:00pm.

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 2 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine hundred and fifty three thousand nine hundred and seventy eight dollars (\$953,978) for the purpose of renovation and addition construction, including site work, landscaping and parking lot expansion, and equipping and furnishing to the Dunbar Free Library. Two hundred sixteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$216,500) to come from library capital reserve and two hundred forty two thousand four hundred seventy eight dollars (\$242,478) to come from private funds the library has custody of. Further to authorize the issuance of not more than four hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars (\$495,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq. as amended; and to authorize the Selectmen to issue, sell and deliver said bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest there on and to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. **2/3 Ballot vote required.**

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 3 – To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our Governor and State Legislators: “Resolved that the State of New Hampshire provide a comprehensive meaningful system of funding for State Education needs. To see if the Town will vote to ask our Governor and our State Legislators to reform state funding for education with that reform to be directed to significant reduction of property taxes. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Select Board to the Governor and State

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Legislators informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.”

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Bob MacNeil asked for clarification on this warrant article. White explained that this is only for the purpose of sending a message to the Governor and State Legislators to find a better way to fund education to take the burden off property tax payers. B. MacNeil asked if the Selectmen had anything in mind. Chairman Kimball answered no. B. MacNeil asked the Selectmen if they want relief from property taxes and they want the State to figure out a way to do it. Selectman Jones replied yes. B. MacNeil asked isn't this just another way of going to another type of tax like an income tax or a sales tax. Selectman Jones explained that the Town of Webster sent this resolution to all of the towns in New Hampshire asking for support so the State Government will know that towns are concerned.

Bob Lewis asked if Grantham paid monies to belong to a coalition of towns for this issue. Selectman Jones explained that is different from this resolution and has to do with donor towns and the formula used to determine how much a town pays. Selectman Story clarified that the towns all pay a small fee to the Coalition which works to prevent the donor town system from returning. Selectman Jones added that the Coalition has not asked for any money this year but they continue to monitor the issue and keep us informed.

ARTICLE 4 – General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million one hundred eighty nine thousand ninety five dollars (**\$1,189,095.00**) to defray the cost of **General Government** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Selectmen's Office	\$200,700	\$208,150
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$112,706	\$116,350
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$6,200	\$4,500
Financial Administration	\$36,700	\$40,200
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$41,000	\$42,000
Legal	\$20,000	\$30,000
Personnel Administration	\$536,100	\$556,119
Planning Board	\$7,750	\$21,750
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$2,175	\$2,375
General Government Buildings	\$114,100	\$114,100
Cemeteries	\$18,100	\$18,200
Insurance	\$29,492	\$31,416
Regional Associations	\$3,860	\$3,935
TOTAL	\$1,128,883	\$1,189,095

Pat MacNeil asked if the Selectmen recommended a 3% pay increase for town employees. White answered yes. P. MacNeil asked how they arrived at that number. Chairman Kimball explained that they have tried to use approximately 3% every year to keep and appreciate the well trained employees we have instead of hiring someone for less and spending a lot of money training them. P. MacNeil asked if they

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really felt that an employee would cut and run if they were only offered 1%. Chairman Kimball expressed the Selectmen felt uncomfortable offering that. He stated the town operates very smoothly and the Selectmen are very happy with how the employees perform their jobs; that this is partially in appreciation of that and partially a cost of living increase.

Bob MacNeil agreed that he thought the employees of the town do a good job but implied the taxpayers who are paying the taxes are not getting 3% increases and the CPI increased .4%. He also expressed his unhappiness at not being able to get the proposed budget and warrant articles until around noon the same day as the budget hearing. He said it takes time to go through the budget especially when it is summarized and, in the future, would like to have a more detailed breakdown well in advance of the budget hearing. White explained that the deadline to receive petitioned warrant articles that are not zoning or building code related was the first Tuesday in February and suggested that, in the future, the budget hearing be held a week later so that the proposed budget would be available to residents a week in advance of the hearing. Selectman Story agreed with that idea. Selectman Jones offered an alternative of making a draft of the proposed budget available with the final figures to be confirmed at the budget hearing.

Bob MacNeil commented that it looks like the Selectmen are providing benefits for all the employees in personnel administration. He asked the Selectmen to allocate the amount of the benefits that are in the personnel administration category to the respective departments so they can then evaluate properly how much of a percentage those individual departments went up. MacNeil said he has asked for this in the past. White explained that the town's chart of accounts are set up the same way as the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration's guideline for the chart of accounts which is why the benefits are lumped together and not broken down per department. MacNeil stated you could have told me that before now. White recognized she should have touched base with MacNeil and his request and apologized and explained that she wears many hats in the office and was onto the next task. Selectman Jones suggested B. MacNeil come to the Selectmen's office sometime to see how the accounting is accomplished because this issue cannot be resolved at this hearing.

Lorie McClory asked how much the 3% salary increase represents. White stated total salary increases including part time employees approximately \$26,000. Ed Jenik asked if there was a step system for salary increases. The Selectmen answered no.

Bob MacNeil asked if the Personnel Administration line was for benefits. White answered yes. B. MacNeil stated there is an increase of 3.8% which is in addition to the 3% salary increase. White reported the Personnel Administration line includes health insurance, dental insurance, short term and long term disability, life insurance, Fica, Medicare, New Hampshire Retirement System, worker's compensation and unemployment insurance.

Sara Lang asked why legal has increased so much. White cited Fairpoint is suing all of its towns for the right of way tax, the town has some ongoing legal issues to deal with and general advice such as building a bridge, welfare assistance, planning and zoning enforcement, etc. Bob MacNeil asked if the town belongs to the New Hampshire Municipal Association and if they would take on Fairpoint. Selectman Jones explained that Grantham is represented with a large group of towns being represented by one law firm.

White reported the health insurance rate increased by 6.87% but they were able to keep it at a 4.4% increase overall based on the current status of employees.

White informed that retirement contributions are increasing .5% for Group 1 employees and 1.08% for Group II Employees (Police).

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White informed the Planning Board budget has increased due to update of the Master Plan and have allocated \$16,000 for that project.

Lorie McClory asked how much of the health insurance is paid for by the employees. White stated the Employees pay 10% and the town pays 90%. McClory said she thought the town portion is a lot and suggested the town look at that.

Sara Lang asked if they compared the budget numbers for salaries and benefits to other towns this size. White said they do look at that information and recently, the Town of Tamworth completed a comprehensive salary and benefit survey for about 22 towns that are the size of Grantham. White stated that Grantham wages were at or below the median. White said they also look at the New Hampshire Municipal Association's yearly health insurance survey but it is sometimes hard to do a comparison for a small town like Grantham with only 16 full time employees.

Katrina McCurley asked if they have ever done a comparison to similar positions in the private sector. White said they have not.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Friedman pointed out that even though the employees paid 10% of their health insurance, the plan has been changed so that they are paying more out of pocket expenses. Friedman added that the town employees are not in a union and would like to hear these questions asked at other meetings in town except the answer would be it's the union. Friedman commented that the town has loyal, honest, hardworking employees.

Bob MacNeil said it has nothing to do with loyalty or the quality of work or anything else, it's who is paying the bill and are they getting comparable services and increases. Chairman Kimball stated that the proposed budget is how they would like to operate the town but are here to listen to residents express their opinions and concerns. B. MacNeil countered that the Selectmen only have to listen to the town residents two meetings a year but they have to listen to their employees 365 days a year so he expects they would be more empathetic to their employees than they would be to a taxpayer two times a year.

Bob Lewis asked the Selectmen if they would base their recommendation for each article on what the people want. Selectman Jones said regarding this article, she felt she would want to take it to Town Meeting so she would recommend it. She expressed that she felt very strongly that the town employees deserved the 3% raise and stated that in everything they do, this town runs very smoothly. She stated that she has been everywhere to observe how the town employees work and how they fit in with the town and is very comfortable with giving them a 3% raise. She emphasized that she would recommend it and let the people at Town Meeting vote. She informed that she was willing to look at different items that have been brought to their attention but she was not willing to change her mind on what was in the budget for the raises. Lewis commented that what she was hearing were some frustrated people saying that they disagreed with the recommendation and wanted to have some input into changing it and are trying to explore where that would occur in this process. Selectmen Jones confirmed at this point it would occur at Town Meeting. She stated the operating budget is what is needed to run the town, plow the roads, keep everything open, etc. and advised that where there was room to change was in the special articles, that if they compared the operating budget, which is up 2.8%, with the other articles, the operating budget is a lot less.

Pat MacNeil asked White if she recalled what the salary increases were over the last four years. White stated last year was 3%, the year before was 2% and the year before that was 1%. White added that changes had been made to the actual health insurance plan over the last two years such as increased co-pays for doctor visits and prescriptions to keep the cost stable.

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Bob MacNeil suggested that the town consider merit increases as a way to find and keep good employees. Lorie McClory suggested doing a 3% pool and then give employees a 1.5% increase and use the other 1.5% for merit increases where they are due.

Katrina McCurley pointed out that they had been talking about two separate benefits, the health insurance and the pay increase, and had been weighing them against all the other benefits and she suspected that the other benefits that have not been talked about were lower than the average, like the amount of vacation or sick time, etc. so she presumed that when they were looking at 3% or 90%, they were weighing that against the whole benefits package and thought it was important to remember that the two numbers that had been discussed did not represent the whole picture. Secondly, McCurley mentioned that she had worked for this town and three other towns and agreed with Selectman Jones that the employees do a great job here. She added that when she worked for this town, there were two years where there were wage freezes and she never saw more than a 2% increase.

Jamielynn Garland, a part time employee of the town, commented that it's been her observation that the 16 full time town employees work very hard to complete their jobs regardless of the hours they are scheduled to work.

Sara Lang said she didn't believe that anyone questioned the value or work ethic of the town employees but were looking to compensate them in a way that was fair to the taxpayers.

ARTICLE 5 – Public Safety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred one thousand two hundred fourteen dollars (**\$601,214.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Police Department	\$370,680	\$382,418
Ambulance (FAST Squad)	\$69,450	\$71,026
Fire Department	\$119,879	\$126,670
Building Inspection	\$8,000	\$8,500
Emergency Management	\$13,100	\$12,600
TOTAL	\$581,109	\$601,214

White informed the major increases for Article 5 are as follows:

- Dispatch and computer services
- Radio repairs
- Equipment testing
- iPad contracts for Fire & FAST Squad vehicles – ability to track location of first responders and what equipment is needed in real-time which aids in making better decisions in responding to emergencies. Also contains emergency preparedness plans and other emergency guide books.

Bob MacNeil noted the building inspections increased \$500 and asked if the money for building permits goes into the revenue. White said it does.

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Lorie McClory asked what the increase of \$12,000 was in the Police Department budget. White said computer services increased \$1,000 and dispatch services increased \$3,000.

Bob MacNeil asked if the town switched dispatch services. White replied no; that the Police use Newport Dispatch; Fire uses Hanover and the Fast Squad uses New London.

ARTICLE 6 – To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five-year, \$175,000 lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of leasing to purchase sixteen (16) new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's) and compressor filling station and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,386 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This agreement contains an escape clause.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

White read the following additional information for Article 6:

- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are one of the most vital pieces of equipment a firefighter will use, second only to their turnout gear.
- Currently, none of our SCBA's are current with the national safety standard which is the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1981 Standard on open circuit Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.
- Only 75% of our SCBA's meet the 1997 standard and the rest only meet the 1987 standard. Because we are using two different standards there are some differences between the units themselves. Upgrading to the current standard means all of our equipment will be the same and there will be no confusion as to what piece of apparatus firefighters are working with.
- Because our SCBA are so out-of-date it is costing more and more each year have them inspected and maintained to pass their annual inspection.
- Our current set of air bottles that go with these backs are due to reach their 15 year life at the end of the year. The testing company will no longer test these tanks and they will be out of service.
- The new air tanks will have a 30 year life instead of the 15 year life that the current bottles have.
- The new SCBA's will meet the new NFPA 1981 standard and have up-to-date technology including the heads up display showing the amount of air left in the system. Our current equipment does don't have this function nor does it have the ability to buddy breath if something happens to one of the team members inside a hazardous condition.
- By upgrading our SCBA's to the current edition of the NFPA standard we can reduce the exposure to deadly chemicals like Hydrogen Cyanide and Carbon Monoxide as well as many other chemicals our firefighters will see at the emergencies they respond to.
- Funding this request will provide the entire department with the most up-to-date equipment and be in compliance with the current 2013 edition of the NFPA 1981 Standard, thus maintaining our firefighter's health and safety so they can better respond to any emergency that should arise.

Bob MacNeil asked if this was a lease/purchase and stated it's essential that we do this. White said yes.

ARTICLE 7 – To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the purchase and installation of an engine exhaust removal system for the Fire Department.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

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White read the following information for Article 7:

Currently, the fire department does not have an effective way to remove the toxic diesel exhaust emitted from the Fire and Fast vehicles in the station other than leaving the station bay doors open for long periods of time. In the winter months, a lot of heat is lost in this process. Installing this exhaust removal system would allow us to close the bay doors immediately upon exiting or returning from a call and completely filter the air in the building in less than 10 minutes.

Removing the exhaust fumes:

- Protects the firefighters and building occupants from toxins and carcinogens carried in the diesel exhaust.
- Extends the life of the protective equipment used by the fire fighters as well as the building itself.
- Provides a cleaner environment within the building.

No public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 8 – To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a three-year, \$33,463 lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of leasing to purchase a new 2015 AWD Dodge Charger Police Cruiser, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,505 for the first year's payment for that purpose, with an estimated \$2,000 to come from trade-in; the remainder to come from taxation. This agreement contains an escape clause.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

White informed that the cruiser to be replaced is a 2008 two-wheel drive vehicle with approximately 98,000 miles on it and the new cruiser would be an all-wheel drive vehicle which allows for better access to areas in town that are difficult to access with the current two wheel drive cruiser. She said costs to maintain the current cruiser have increased along with multiple days of being out-of-service.

Bob MacNeil asked if this is a substitute for one vehicle for another. White said that is correct. B. MacNeil asked how many cruisers the Police Department has. White answered four. MacNeil questioned the need for four cruisers with the current police schedule and there being only one cruiser on the road at any given time. White advised that Chief Madore was dealing with an emergency situation at this time, otherwise he would be here to answer these questions.

MacNeil asked the Selectmen if they were going to recommend this article. Chairman Kimball responded yes. B. MacNeil remarked that they were going to continue to recommend that the town maintain four cruisers even though there is only one cruiser on the road at any given time. He continued that the CIP Committee recommended that they change this, but recognized that the CIP is only advisory to the Selectmen and the Selectmen chose not to pay attention to it. He noted he will speak about this at Town Meeting. Selectman Jones explained that the town voted to have four cruisers and until the town votes to eliminate one, there are four cruisers. B. MacNeil said two years ago the town voted not to adopt the vehicle and then, unfortunately, a cruiser was totaled on the highway so the Chief went out and bought another vehicle and claimed that the money was available in Capital Reserve which was inaccurate. Selectman Jones reiterated that the town voted to have four vehicles and the town has never voted to remove a vehicle, that if the town wishes to vote to remove a vehicle then they can do so at Town Meeting.

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Lorie McClory stated the town doesn't vote to have four cruisers, they vote to replace them as they come up. White clarified that when each cruiser was added to the fleet, the wording of the warrant article said to authorize the additional vehicle to the fleet.

Bob MacNeil said it was discovered that the additional vehicle was slotted for when the town decided to add an additional officer, then when the town decided not to hire the additional officer, they kept the vehicle anyhow and that's when the fourth vehicle came into play and he believed that two years ago the town voted down that vehicle.

Chris Scott explained that the town voted against replacing the SUV one year and then the next year the Chief came back and the town voted to replace it, then last year was the incident with the Charger being totaled and destroyed before Town Meeting. Bob Lewis added that there was an article last year to replace a cruiser but it got totaled on the interstate and the article was removed before Town Meeting. Scott emphasized that the town never voted to take away a cruiser, they have only voted to replace a cruiser.

B. MacNeil confirmed that the Selectmen want four vehicles in the fleet and it will be up to the voters at Town Meeting to eliminate a vehicle. Chairman Kimball answered yes. B. MacNeil questioned if the Selectmen really believe we should have four cruisers. Chairman Kimball said they did based on Chief Madore's reasoning.

McClory asked if this is to replace a two-wheel drive vehicle, how many two wheel drive vehicles are in the fleet. Road Agent Jeff Hastings responded, in Chief Madore's absence, that all police vehicles everywhere are going to all wheel drive because of the difficulty getting around in snow and he believes the vehicle to be replaced in this article and the Chief's vehicle are the only two wheel drive vehicles currently in the fleet.

B. MacNeil asked if the town would be offering the 2008 cruiser for bid instead of trading it in. White said she and Chief Madore discussed this but a decision has not yet been made.

ARTICLE 9 – Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fourteen thousand five hundred twenty dollars (**\$714,520.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Works** operation. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Highway Administration	\$216,700	\$221,220
Highway Maintenance	\$156,200	\$147,200
Street Lights	\$5,000	\$5,000
Transfer Station	\$130,412	\$137,100
Waste Disposal	\$204,000	\$196,000
Landfill Monitoring	\$8,000	\$8,000
TOTAL	\$720,312	\$714,520

White stated that, overall, this article has decreased despite rising costs for vehicle repairs and maintenance.

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Pat MacNeil said she noticed that the Waste Disposal line is down and asked why. Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott said it was mainly due to not having Hazardous Waste Day this year.

Bob MacNeil asked if Landfill Monitoring goes forever. White responded that she believes we have 17 years left.

ARTICLE 10 – Highway Department 1-Ton Truck

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 for the purchase of a new 1-Ton Truck for the Highway Department and to authorize withdrawal of eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

White provided the following information for Article 10:

- This will replace the 2004 white pick-up truck which has over 192,000 miles.
- The repairs for the white truck have increased significantly and useful life has expired.

White stated the plan was to keep the current 1-Ton and allow the Groundskeeper to use it to aid in his job in removing leaves from the cemeteries and Recreation Park. White explained currently he is making several trips with the small pick-up truck.

Road Agent Jeff Hastings said this would also give him a spare sanding truck if needed that currently he does not have a backup one of his plow trucks broke down.

ARTICLE 11 – Miller Pond Road Bridge Rehabilitation/Replacement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate four-hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the rehabilitation/replacement of the Miller Pond Road Bridge to come from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by June 30, 2019, whichever is sooner.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

White stated the following:

- The Miller Pond Road Bridge currently serves as the only access to approximately 65 full-time residential homes.
- A traffic count conducted in November 2012 revealed the road is traveled by more than 260 vehicles per day.
- The bridge has been red-listed for more than 15 years and is structurally deficient.

Lorie McClory asked how much remains in the unassigned fund balance after they take out the \$400,000. White replied \$1,246,009. McClory asked what DRA recommends. White answered between 5% and 17% and that keeps us at 10% which is in line with the Board's Fund Balance Policy.

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ARTICLE 12 – Health and Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-two thousand three hundred dollars (\$42,300.00) to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Boarding Animals	\$700	\$700
Community Services	\$15,970	\$16,600
Town General Assistance	\$20,000	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$36,670	\$42,300

Community Agencies:	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Lake Sunapee VNA	\$8,000	\$8,000
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$200	\$200
Kearsarge Area COA	\$3,000	\$3,500
Southwestern Community Services	\$850	\$900
West Central Services	\$2,420	\$2,500
Mascoma Valley Health Initiative	\$1,000	\$1,000
Community Alliance of Human Services	\$500	\$500
Total	\$15,970	\$16,600

Bob MacNeil asked if the Agencies’ request for money is based on the population. White said each agency has a different formula for requesting money.

Bob MacNeil asked if the town still belongs to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and where it is accounted. White said yes, that it is in Article 4 in line item titled Regional Associations. White informed that the town used the Commission to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan and they will work with the town on the Master Plan update. She asked B. MacNeil if he wanted to volunteer for the Master Plan Committee. MacNeil said he did.

ARTICLE 13 – Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixty-six thousand six hundred thirteen dollars (\$266,613.00) for **Culture and Recreation**. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Recreation	\$43,757	\$45,976
Dunbar Free Library	\$186,769	\$191,837
Activities	\$27,000	\$27,800
Archives	\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$258,526	\$266,613

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Pat MacNeil asked what the difference is between Recreation and Activities. White explained Recreation encompassed all of the sports programs and Activities included all of the other events such as Old Home Day, Music in the Meadow, Breakfast with Santa, Scarecrows, etc.

ARTICLE 14 – Conservation, Debt Principal, Debt Interest, and Tax Anticipation Note Interest

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thirty-three thousand eight hundred eighty three dollars (**\$133,883.00**) for **Conservation, Debt Principal, Debt Interest, and Tax Anticipation Note Interest**. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Conservation Commission	\$2,100	\$5,400
Town Hall Bond Payment	\$60,000	\$60,000
Town Hall Bond Interest	\$34,200	\$28,200
Library Bond Interest	\$0.00	\$8,580
Highway Plow Truck Lease	\$44,031	\$31,603
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100	\$100
TOTAL	\$140,431	\$133,883

White stated the following:

Conservation:

- Added \$900 for increased trail maintenance at the newly expanded Brookside Park which will include trail re-blazing, trail clearing and informational mailings for GCC events etc.
- Added \$2,500 for the Town’s portion of a pedestrian bridge at Brookside Park. The Conservation Commission will apply for a state grant that would cover 80% of the cost of the bridge.

Town Hall Bond will be in year 11 out of 20.

Highway Plow Truck Lease/Purchase will be in year 2 out of 5.

If the Library bond passes the first payment on the interest will be due in this budget cycle – estimated at \$8,580.

Conservation Commission Chair Sheridan Brown pointed out that in the chart total under Budget 2014/2015 the Highway Plow Truck Lease appears to have been omitted. White apologized for her math error.

Bob MacNeil asked if the Library Bond passes at Town Meeting if there will be partial disbursement through construction or does the town get all the monies up front to keep in the general fund. White replied the town is given all of the Bond proceeds up front.

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ARTICLE 15 – Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-nine thousand dollars (**\$89,000.00**) to be placed in previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$25,000	\$10,000
Highway Equip Capital Reserve	\$50,000	\$30,000
Town Office Equip Capital Reserve	\$1,000	\$1,000
Transfer Station Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$5,000
Police Vehicle Capital Reserve	\$0	\$10,000
Revaluation	\$45,000	\$10,000
Town Buildings	\$5,000	\$5,000
Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve	\$50,000	\$0
Library Building Repair Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$15,000
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Equipment CRF	\$2,000	\$3,000
TOTAL	\$198,000.00	\$89,000

Lorie McClory commented that she liked that the current balance was shown on the PowerPoint presentation.

Bob Lewis asked if the amounts shown were up to date. White said yes.

ARTICLE 16 – Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (**\$25,000.00**) to be placed in previously established **Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund**.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Bob MacNeil asked if this goes away after the library expansion is complete. The Selectmen answered yes.

Katrina McCurley asked if this goes away if the expansion does not happen. Selectman Jones explained that it won't go away because the Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund already exists and they can put money into this fund for future expansion.

Bob Lewis noted that passing this article is critical to funding the expansion because they are factoring this \$25,000 being available in the vote to expand the library.

ARTICLE 17 – 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.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

APPROVED

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING:

ARTICLE 2: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 3: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 4: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 5: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 6: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 7: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 8: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 9: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 10: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 11: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 12: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 13: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 14: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 15: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 16: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ARTICLE 17: *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

ADJOURNMENT

By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant