

**Approved**

**Town of Grantham – Board of Selectmen  
Public Budget Hearing Minutes  
Wednesday, February 10, 2016**

The budget hearing was called to order at 5:00pm on February 10, 2016 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 Sheridan Brown; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.; Police Sergeant John Parsons; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott; Road Agent Jeff Hastings; Athletics Director Marsha Googins; Activities Director Jamielynn Garland; Ed Jenik; F. Robert Osgood, Judy King; Bob Lewis; Jenna Chenevert; Brenda Molloy; Dave Wood; John Murphy; Deb Brown; Andy Gelston; C. Peter James; Lorie McClory; and others

Attendees were given copies of the 2016-2017 proposed budget and warrant articles.

Administrator White presented the summary budget:

**Estimated Budget Summary**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Prior Year (FY2016)</b>	<b>Ensuing Year (FY2017)</b>
Total Operating Budget	\$2,947,625	\$3,171,248
Special Warrant Articles	\$1,552,978	\$118,000
Individual Warrant Articles	\$73,891	\$169,345
TOTAL Appropriations	\$4,574,494	\$3,458,593
Less: Estimated Revenues & Credits	\$2,374,453	\$1,114,030
Estimated Amount to be raised by taxes	\$2,200,041	\$2,344,563

- The proposed budget, after revenues and credits, is \$2,344,563. This is an increase of \$144,522 or 6.6% over the prior year (FY2016).
- This amount is assuming no use of fund balance.
- It takes approximately \$46,000 to affect the tax rate by \$.10. This budget would increase the tax rate by approximately \$.32.
- A property assessed for \$250,000 would pay approximately \$80 more in property taxes.

**Approved**

## **Summary of Major Increases**

- Health insurance increase GMR of 10.45% - \$37,500
- Salary increase of 3% overall - \$31,500
- Police – Dispatch, IT Services, Police Officer Recruitment \$10,500
- Ambulance Services - \$10,000
- Paving - \$10,000
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day - \$10,000
- 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - \$7,000
- Library Bond & Interest - \$57,000
- Streetlight upgrade - \$18,000 (eligible for a \$2,600 rebate)
- Lighting upgrades to Town Hall, Fire Station & Transfer Station - \$41,845 (eligible for a 50% rebate)

Resident Lorie McClory asked what the chances are of the town getting the rebates for the lighting upgrades. White said the town is already in the queue for them.

### **Articles 1 – 4: By Official Ballot at the Polls March 8, 2016, 10am – 7pm**

#### **ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers**

#### **ARTICLE 2 – Zoning Change**

#### **ARTICLE 3 – Zoning Change**

#### **ARTICLE 4 – Zoning Change**

**ARTICLE 5** - Shall the town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61-64 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying solar energy system equipment under these statutes.

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

Energy Committee Co-Chair Jenna Chenevert explained that this is just a neutral assessment and is an incentive for residents to install renewable energy without higher tax consequences.

**ARTICLE 6** – Shall the town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:65-68 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with wind powered energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying wind-powered energy system equipment under these statutes.

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

## Approved

Resident Dave Wood asked if all of these exemptions apply to just private homes or if they would apply to commercial wind farms or solar farms. Selectman Brown stated they would not apply to commercial wind farms or solar farms the way it is defined in the RSA. He explained that the RSA refers to energy systems that are used to power or heat the interior of a building so it would be for residential homes or a commercial business only for the purpose of heating or powering the building.

**ARTICLE 7** - Shall the town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:69-72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with wood heating energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying wood-heating energy system equipment under these statutes.

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

No public comment on this Article.

**ARTICLE 8** – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen thousand, five hundred dollars (**\$17,500**) for the purchase and installation of upgrading the existing streetlights in town to LED streetlights.

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

White stated:

- In April 2015, an Energy Committee was established and since that time their work has comprised of many things including helping the Town with energy audits of our buildings and review of our streetlights.
- If approved, Article 8 would allow the replacement of the existing 26 streetlights in town with LED fixtures.
- This project is eligible for a \$2,600 rebate from Eversource.
- Estimated savings is 57%.

Dave Wood asked if the savings was projected in dollars per year. White said approximately \$1,900.00; based on the current rate from Eversource.

Selectman Brown added that another benefit to this would be that the lights would have dimming capabilities which would adjust energy consumption based on the amount of activity going on near those lights so not only would it save energy but it would control some of the light pollution around town. White added that the dimming is programmable as to what percentage the light dims and the radius that triggers it. She stated further that the life span of the lights is about 20 years.

Resident F. Robert Osgood asked if the town ever intentionally shuts off some of the 26 streetlights to save energy and if all 26 are operational. White replied that the town does not have the ability to shut off street lights; that just a couple of months ago, all were operational.

**ARTICLE 9** – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty one thousand, eight-hundred forty five dollars (**\$41,845**) for the purchase and installation of LED fixtures and lights in the Municipal Town Building, Fire Station and Transfer Station.

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

## Approved

White stated:

- If approved, Article 9 would allow the existing lighting in the Fire Department, Town Hall, & Transfer Station to be updated.
- Fire Department projected cost is \$8,563
- Town Hall projected cost is \$31,592
- Transfer Station projected cost is \$1,689
- Altogether, the estimated payback is 4.8 years
- This project (for all 3 buildings) is eligible for a 50% rebate from Eversource (savings of \$20,922)

Library Trustee Ed Jenik asked if the Library will get a rebate for the new LED lights installed in the new parking lot. It was suggested that Jenik check with the contractor.

### ARTICLE 10 – General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million two hundred thirty-three thousand three hundred twenty-four dollars (**\$1,233,324.00**) 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 2015/2016	Proposed 2016/2017	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Selectmen's Office	\$208,150	\$209,088	\$938
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$116,350	\$115,109	(\$1,241)
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$4,500	\$7,400	\$2,900
Financial Administration	\$40,200	\$40,200	\$0.00
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$42,000	\$43,000	\$1,000
Legal	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0.00
Personnel Administration	\$556,119	\$602,355	\$46,236
Planning Board	\$21,750	\$7,850	(\$13,900)
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$2,375	\$2,450	\$75
General Government Buildings	\$114,100	\$117,635	\$3,535
Cemeteries	\$18,200	\$19,200	\$1,000
Insurance	\$31,416	\$34,063	\$2,647
Regional Associations	\$3,935	\$3,974	\$39
Other General Government	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,189,095</b>	<b>\$1,233,324</b>	<b>\$44,229</b>

White stated:

Administration: Increase of \$938 (salaries - 3% increase)

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Due to changes in personnel, there is an overall decrease of \$1,241

Supervisors of the Checklist: 3 Elections – State Primary in September, Presidential Election in November & Town Meeting in March. \$2,900

Tax Maps & Assessing: \$1,000 increase due to costs associated with software maintenance and tax map updates.

Personnel Administration: Health insurance - \$37,500 (10.45% guaranteed maximum increase); Payroll taxes & NHRS \$9,000

Planning Board: Decrease of \$13,900; Monies for updating the Master Plan are no longer needed.

General Government Buildings: Increase of \$3,535 for maintenance of the grounds surrounding our buildings.

**Approved**

Cemeteries: Added \$1,000 for equipment repair – the 2006 1-Ton is mostly used for the cemeteries and recreation park.  
Other General Government: Added \$1,000 for the Energy Committee to attend workshops and hold educational sessions for our residents.

Lorie McClory asked what the town is doing with the \$3,535 for the maintenance of the grounds surrounding the buildings. White explained that most of it is the 3% salary increase for the Groundskeeper and his time is allocated among three departments.

**ARTICLE 11 – Public Safety**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred thirty-two thousand, seven hundred forty-two dollars (**\$632,742.00**) 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)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2015/2016</b>	<b>Proposed 2016/2017</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
Police Department	\$382,418	\$404,586	\$22,168
Ambulance (FAST Squad)	\$71,026	\$80,450	\$9,424
Fire Department	\$126,670	\$127,206	\$536
Building Inspection	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0.00
Emergency Management	\$12,600	\$12,000	(\$600)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$601,214</b>	<b>\$632,742</b>	<b>\$31,528</b>

White stated:

Police Department:

- Pay increases of 5.2% for the 2 full-time patrol officers; 2% for remaining staff (\$7,500)
- Added \$2,000 for overtime
- Added \$2,000 for extra coverage by our part-time Officers
- Dispatch Services - \$3,000
- IT - \$1,000
- Officer Testing - \$6,500

FAST Squad: Ambulance services increased by \$9,500

C. Peter James asked if the \$9,500 increase was for the Lebanon Ambulance. White responded yes; that New London Ambulance would have cost \$68,000.00.

Lorie McClory asked if Police Officer Recruitment from the first slide is the same as Officer Testing. White answered yes and explained that Chief Madore is retiring in April, 2017 and those monies are needed for the recruitment process.

Bob Lewis commented that he saw an advertisement for a police officer and asked if we lost a police officer. White said yes. Lewis asked if this is a typical pattern, that we train them and then they go somewhere else. Selectman Jones explained that Officer Soucy has gone to the Bedford Police Department where he will be making \$22.00 plus per hour which is much higher than what he made here and it is also much closer to where he lives. She said it is difficult to keep young police officers which are who we attract and we lose them to bigger departments. Jones stated further that in our area, Hanover is down seven police officers and they are offering a \$10,000 sign on bonus, Lebanon is down and Enfield is down three officers. White said she heard recently that Hanover bumped up its sign on bonus to \$12,500. Jones stated that we are competing with much higher salary schedules and it makes it tough to acquire and retain officers. Police Chief

**Approved**

Madore informed that Lebanon is advertising for a Patrol Officer starting at \$51,000 with no experience. He said he spoke with the Enfield Police Chief and the starting salary there is now \$24.50 per hour and Grantham is currently at \$18.46 per hour. He said many towns have a starting salary at least \$10,000 higher per year than Grantham.

Lorie McClory asked if we require officers to stay for any length of time. Chief Madore said yes; that a three year training contract is required which is based on the rate of pay, the cost of training, and an administrative fee for benefits. He noted that it's cheaper for another town to buy out a contract to get a trained officer than to start from scratch. McClory suggested bumping it up to a five year contract. Police Sergeant John Parsons stated that would only create another deterrent to attracting new officers.

**ARTICLE 12 – Public Works**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred thirty-four thousand, two hundred thirty dollars (**\$734,230.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Works** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

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

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2015/2016</b>	<b>Proposed 2016/2017</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
Highway Administration	\$221,220	\$228,430	\$7,210
Highway Maintenance	\$147,200	\$158,200	\$11,000
Street Lights	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0.00
Transfer Station	\$137,100	\$137,600	\$500
Waste Disposal	\$196,000	\$197,000	\$1,000
Landfill Monitoring	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$714,520</b>	<b>\$734,230</b>	<b>\$19,710</b>

White stated:

Highway Department:

- Pay increase of 3% \$4,000
- Vehicle repairs and maintenance \$2,000
- Paving - \$10,000
- Culverts - \$1,000

Transfer Station:

- Recycling Disposal - \$1,000

Part time Transfer Station Attendant F. Robert Osgood discussed his concerns about the wages listed in the 2014 Town Report for Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott (\$17.13/hour) and full time Transfer Station Attendant Buddy Sweeney (\$13.00/hour). Osgood felt the wages are too low and that they are underpaid for what is expected of them: They are required to have a CDL license; they are both required to work every Saturday and Sunday except for holidays and vacation; when Chris is on vacation, Buddy is the Supervisor in charge; Chris presents and maintains the budget every year; and they have to make sure that all the rules and requirements by the State are followed so the town doesn't get fined. Osgood proposed that Scott's hourly wage be increased to \$21.00 and Sweeney's to \$18.00.

Osgood also asked the Board of Selectmen to consider in the budget next year to build an enclosure at the Transfer Station measuring 20' x 12' x 10' high for the swap shop items that people leave off. He said this would protect the items from the rain because once they have been rained on, they have to be thrown in the construction box which costs the town money to dispose of.

## Approved

Dave Wood said he thought Osgood's comments as to the wage concerns were worth considering and asked if Grantham participates in salary surveys with towns that are commensurate with Grantham and where Grantham falls among the other towns. White answered that the town does participate in those surveys and further, that the town of Tamworth did a survey at the end of 2014 of about 20 towns that fall in that group. In that survey, the Transfer Station Attendants made a low of \$9.18 and a high of \$18.54 and the supervisors made a low of \$14.25 and a high of \$26.20 with the median being at \$17.77. Wood asked if Grantham had a policy of trying to be in a certain percent range. White stated that Grantham doesn't have a policy but tries to be competitive and keep people here without it impacting taxes too much. Selectman Jones said it shows when we advertise as we don't exactly have people knocking down our doors to come in for interviews especially when they find out the pay scale and that working weekends is required.

Brenda Molloy asked if the positions include benefits. White answered that the full time employees have full benefits and full time is 40 hours per week.

Wood asked if there is a change in the amount or revenue the town receives for recyclables. Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott answered yes, the value has drastically declined but so far, it is still cheaper than putting it in with the regular trash.

### **ARTICLE 13 – Highway Department Backhoe**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110,000 for the purchase of a new John Deere Backhoe for the Highway Department with \$30,000 to come from trade-in and to authorize the withdrawal of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) 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 stated:

- This will replace the 2007 410J Backhoe Loader which has over 5,600 hours.
- Repairs have increased especially with the electrical.
- Salt accelerates the deterioration of equipment.
- Trade in value will decrease by \$10,000 - \$15,000 once the hours hit 6,000.

Resident C. Peter James commented that he is pleased to see this on the Town Warrant so the voters can have their say.

### **ARTICLE 14 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to defray the cost of holding a household hazardous waste collection day for Grantham residents only.

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

No public comment on this Article.

### **ARTICLE 15 – Health and Welfare**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-four thousand three hundred dollars (**\$44,300.00**) 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)

**Approved**

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2015/2016</b>	<b>Proposed 2016/2017</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
Health Officer	\$0.00	\$1,700	\$1,700
Boarding Animals	\$700	\$700	\$0.00
Community Services	\$16,900	\$16,900	\$0.00
Town General Assistance	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42,600</b>	<b>\$44,300</b>	<b>\$1,700</b>

<b>Community Agencies:</b>	<b>Budget 2015/2016</b>	<b>Proposed 2016/2017</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
Lake Sunapee VNA	\$8,000	\$6,500	(\$1,500)
Newport Food Pantry	\$0.00	\$500	\$500
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$200	\$200	\$0.00
Kearsarge Area COA	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$0.00
Southwestern Community Services	\$900	\$900	\$0.00
West Central Services	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$1,000
Mascoma Valley Health Initiative	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0.00
Community Alliance of Human Services	\$500	\$500	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,900</b>	<b>\$16,900</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

Lorie McClory asked what the purpose is of the position of Health Officer and if we didn't have one before, why do we need one now. White said we have had a Health Officer but it has always been held by a volunteer. This would allow us to offer a small stipend. She further explained that the town is required by statute to have a Health Officer and that position monitors the Health and Human Services listserv and conduct day care inspections, etc.

**ARTICLE 16 – Culture and Recreation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred seventy-four thousand, seven hundred eighty dollars (**\$274,780.00**) 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)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2015/2016</b>	<b>Proposed 2016/2017</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
Recreation	\$45,976	\$47,450	\$1,474
Dunbar Free Library	\$191,837	\$197,980	\$6,143
Activities	\$27,800	\$27,850	\$50
Archives	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$266,613</b>	<b>\$274,780</b>	<b>\$8,167</b>

White stated:

Recreation:

- Salary increase of 2% - \$474
- Added \$1,000 for coaching & officiating

Library:

- Salary increases of 2.75% - \$2,600
- Associated benefits (insurance, payroll taxes & NHRS) \$3,500

**Approved**

Lorie McClory asked if we are paying our coaches now. Athletics Director Marsha Googins explained that because the coaches put in so much time and dedication, they want to start recognizing them with a small stipend and they are hoping to address that at the third through six grade level where they start more competitive play and there is a lot more transportation involved. She clarified that there are still volunteer coaches that do not get paid.

**ARTICLE 17 – 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand dollars (**\$7,000**) to defray the cost of holding a celebration in honor of the Town’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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

White stated that there is a small committee that is starting to plan some events such as a big event in the park. Selectman Brown said the plan is to leverage these funds and also try to get some private sponsors to come in and help us with this, not only for that one event in the park but to involve the Conservation Commission and the Historical Society and have a series of events throughout the year that people can participate in. White added volunteers are welcome.

**ARTICLE 18 – Conservation, Debt Principal, Debt Interest, and Tax Anticipation Note Interest**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thirty-four thousand eight hundred seventy two dollars (**\$234,872.00**) 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)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2015/2016</b>	<b>Proposed 2016/2017</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
Conservation Commission	\$5,400	\$4,400	(\$1,000)
Town Hall Bond Payment	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0.00
Town Hall Bond Interest	\$28,200	\$25,200	(\$3,000)
Library Bond Payment	\$0.00	\$50,000	\$50,000
Library Bond Interest	\$8,580	\$15,555	\$6,975
Highway Plow Truck Lease	\$31,603	\$31,603	\$0.00
Police Cruiser Lease	\$13,505	\$10,817	(\$2,688)
Fire Department SCBA’s	\$40,386	\$37,197	(\$3,189)
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100	\$100	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$187,774</b>	<b>\$234,872</b>	<b>\$47,098</b>

White stated:

**Bonds & Notes:**

- Town Hall Bond – year 12 out of 20
- Library Bond – year 1 out of 10
- Plow Truck Lease/Purchase – year 3 out of 5
- Police Cruiser Lease/Purchase – year 2 out of 3
- Fire Department SCBA’s Lease/Purchase – year 2 out of 5

No public comment on this article.

**Approved**

**ARTICLE 19 – Capital Reserve Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thirteen thousand dollars (**\$113,000.00**) 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)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2015/2016</b>	<b>Proposed 2016/2017</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
Highway Equip Capital Reserve	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$20,000
Town Office Equip Capital Reserve	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0.00
Transfer Station Capital Reserve	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Police Vehicle Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Revaluation CRF	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Town Buildings CRF	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0.00
Library Expansion Capital Reserve	\$25,000	\$0.00	(\$25,000)
Library Building Repair Capital Reserve	\$15,000	\$5,000	(\$10,000)
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Equipment CRF	\$3,000	\$2,000	(\$1,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$114,000</b>	<b>\$113,000</b>	<b>(\$1,000)</b>

C. Peter James asked about the balance in the Library Expansion Capital Reserve. White stated that money has been spent on the renovation but she has not processed the withdrawal yet.

**ARTICLE 20 – Police Department Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the town will vote to establish a Police Department Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of purchasing or repairing repeater, radio and other ancillary equipment related to communications for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to put in the fund; further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

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

- In 2018, the FCC will reduce the radio band width from 12.5 to 6.5 which will reduce the range of broadcasting and result in communications problems for our Officers.
- Audio output is also affected.
- This Article, if approved, will allow us to plan for a new repeater in 2018 and also serve to meet any other unexpected needs relating to communications for the Police Department.

C. Peter James asked why the Fire Department won't be affected by the same problem. White replied they should have been included and explained that the FCC is being met with a lot of opposition about implementing this narrow band width and there is time to plan for the other departments next year. After discussion it was decided to change the wording in the Article from "Police Department Expendable Trust Fund" to "Public Safety Expendable Trust Fund" to be all inclusive.

**Approved**

**ARTICLE 21 – 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)

Lorie McClory asked if the \$0.32 increase to the tax rate stated in the Estimated Budget Summary includes all the Warrant Articles. White replied yes.

**THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING:**

**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.*

**ARTICLE 18:** *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

**ARTICLE 19:** *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

**ARTICLE 20:** *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

**ARTICLE 21:** *Unanimously approved to recommend this article.*

**Approved**

**ADJOURNMENT**

By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper  
Administrative Assistant