

APPROVED

**TOWN OF GRANTHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

The budget hearing was called to order at 5:00pm on February 15, 2017 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; Lorie McClory; Energy Committee Member Kristina Burgard; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; C. Peter James; Police Sergeant John Parsons; Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott; Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.; Athletics Director Marsha Googins; Ed Jenik; F. Robert Osgood, Judith King; Bob Lewis; VNH Representative Terry Hyland; David Beckley; Bob McCarthy; Library Director Dawn Huston; Brenda Molloy

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator White

Attendees were given copies of the 2017-2018 proposed budget and warrant articles.

Articles 1 – 3: By Official Ballot at the Polls March 14, 2017 from 10am – 7pm

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

ARTICLE 2 – Zoning Change

ARTICLE 3 – Zoning Change

Administrator White reviewed the budget summary:

Item	Prior Year (FY2017)	Ensuing Year (FY2018)
Total Operating Budget	\$3,171,248	\$3,387,874
Special Warrant Articles	\$118,000	\$313,817
Individual Warrant Articles	\$169,345	\$137,743
TOTAL Appropriations	\$3,458,593	\$3,839,434
Less: Estimated Revenues & Credits	\$1,114,030	\$1,419,402
Estimated Amount to be raised by taxes	\$2,344,563	\$2,420,032

The proposed budget, after revenues and credits, is \$2,420,032. This is an increase of \$75,469 or approximately 3.25% over the prior year (FY2017).

It takes approximately \$46,500 to affect the tax rate by \$.10. This budget would increase the tax rate by approximately \$0.15.

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A property assessed for \$250,000 would pay approximately \$37.50 more in property taxes.

White summarized the major increases:

- The addition of a full-time building and maintenance person; net increase of \$55,000, including benefits
- Health insurance increase of 13.76% (GMR) - \$67,500 (including the additional FT position)
- Salary increases - \$76,200 (including the salary for the additional FT position)

F. Robert Osgood asked if the position was currently part-time. White said yes. Osgood asked how many hours per week the person currently works. White estimated approximately 10 to 15 hours per week.

C. Peter James asked for clarification between Glenn Carey's duties as Groundskeeper and the duties of the proposed full-time, building maintenance person. White explained that Groundskeeper Glenn Carey would still take care of all the outside grounds keeping tasks, and the new building maintenance person would be for the interior cleaning and maintenance of the buildings, sidewalks, steps etc.

ARTICLE 4 - Shall the town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:70, 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 a woodheating energy system (as defined in RSA 72:69) 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 woodheating energy system equipment under these statutes.

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

Energy Committee member Kristina Burgard explained that this article was on the 2016 Town Meeting Warrant and there were some misunderstandings as to what qualifies and what does not qualify. The definition, as defined in RSA 72:69 is as follows:

72:69 Definition of Woodheating Energy System. – In this subdivision "woodheating energy system" means a wood burning appliance designed to operate as a central heating system to heat the interior of a building. The appliance may burn wood solely or burn wood in combination with another fuel. A central heating system shall include a central appliance to distribute heat by a series of pipes, ducts or similar distribution system throughout a single building or group of buildings. A wood burning appliance shall not include a fireplace, meaning a hearth, fire chamber or similarly prepared place with a chimney intended to be usable in an open configuration whether or not it may also be closed and operated closed; or a wood stove meaning a wood burning appliance designed for space heating purposes which does not operate as a central heating system or as a sole source of heat.

Ms. Burgard stated that an outdoor fireplace, that has a chimney and emits smoke into the environment, would not qualify under this definition. She went on to explain that it needs to be a central system that is connected by a series of pipes and ducts that goes throughout the house and heats the house. In that typical system, it would, as with a typical furnace or boiler in a basement, have a vent that vents gases or steam rather than wood smoke.

Mr. James asked if an outside boiler would qualify. Burgard answered that if it was a high efficiency, totally enclosed system, that was connected through a series of ducts and pipes that went into the house, it could qualify. Burgard further explained that those systems are high efficiency and clarified that the systems that create a lot of wood smoke would not qualify.

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Burgard stated that the Energy Committee would be holding a woodheating workshop on February 28, 2017 at 7pm in the lower level meeting room of Town Hall. The workshop would have vendors that have both, typical wood stoves and inserts, as well as those systems intended to be within the definition of RSA 72:69.

ARTICLE 5 - Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500, the same amount as the optional veterans' tax credit voted by the town under RSA 72:28.

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

Selectman Jones explained that this statute was adopted by the legislature and signed by the Governor last year and now each town has the option to adopt it. There was a brief discussion of how this statute became law. F. Robert Osgood stated he was very much in favor of adopting this article.

ARTICLE 6 – Shall the town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$44,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$66,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$82,500. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive 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 to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$80,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$100,000 or, if married, combined net assets not in excess of \$200,000, excluding the value of the person's residence.

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

Administrator White stated that the elderly exemption was last modified in 2012 as follows:

65 years of age, up to 75 years - \$40,000;

75 years of age, up to 80 years - \$60,000;

80 years of age or older - \$75,000;

Have a net income of not more than \$40,000 for single persons;

If married, have a combined net income of less than \$60,000; and

Own assets not in excess of \$100,000 or \$120,000 if married (excluding the person's residence)

If adopted, this article would increase the exemption amount by:

65 years of age, up to 75 years - \$4,000;

75 years of age, up to 80 years - \$6,000;

80 years of age or older - \$7,500; and

Raise the asset limits for married persons by \$80,000

There was a brief discussion about what type of assets are included and Mr. Osgood stated that when he applied, he learned that if someone has a retirement fund that can be cashed out; that it would count toward the asset limit even if they are using it to live on.

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ARTICLE 7 – General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million three hundred sixty-four thousand, six hundred seventy-eight dollars (**\$1,364,678**) 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 2016/2017	Proposed 2017/2018	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Selectmen's Office	\$209,088	\$232,950	\$23,862
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$115,109	\$116,788	\$1,679
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$7,400	\$6,910	(490)
Financial Administration	\$40,200	\$40,200	\$0
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$0
Legal	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Personnel Administration	\$605,855	\$694,990	\$89,135
Planning Board	\$7,850	\$4,050	(\$3,800)
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$2,450	\$2,050	(\$400)
General Government Buildings	\$117,635	\$132,125	\$14,490
Cemeteries	\$19,200	\$19,600	\$400
Insurance	\$34,063	\$37,000	\$2,937
Regional Associations	\$3,974	\$4,015	\$41
Other General Government	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,236,824	\$1,364,678	\$127,854

Administrator White explained the increases as follows:

Administration – total increase of \$23,862

- Salary increases; \$5,862
- Moved the clerk wages from planning, zoning and conservation to this account; \$7,000
- Added \$5,000 for part-time recording secretary/clerk for other boards and committees
- Added \$5,000 for improvements in functionality to email, website etc.
- Added \$1,000 for training

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – total increase of \$1,679 for computer replacement and training

Supervisors of the Checklist – total decrease of \$490

Personnel Administration – total increase of \$89,135:

- Health insurance increase of 13.76%; \$67,500
- NHRS increases:
 - Group I – from 11.17% to 11.38%; total increase of .21% or \$6,100
 - Group II – from 26.38% to 29.43%; total increase of 3.05% or \$9,700
- Payroll taxes – total increase of \$4,590
- Workers compensation & unemployment insurance – total increase of \$2,245

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Planning – total decrease of \$3,800

- Moved \$4,000 for clerk wages to the Selectmen’s budget
- Increased postage and advertising by \$400 and decreased other services by \$200

Zoning – total decrease of \$3,800

- Moved \$1,500 for clerk wages to the Selectmen’s budget
- Added \$1,100 to provide additional training opportunities to board members

General Government Buildings – total increase of \$14,490

- Added wages for a full-time building/maintenance person to be shared with the library 20% of the time
- Currently, independent contractors are utilized for the once per week cleanings for town hall and the library, and we have a sporadic, part-time custodian for town hall. The current budget for this is \$25,000.
- \$11,000 for wages for the additional full-time position was added to this budget. The remainder of the wages, \$9,000, is allocated in the library portion of the budget.

Cemeteries – total increase of \$400 for grounds keeping

Property & Liability insurance – total increase of \$2,937

Mr. James asked if health insurance costs are allocated to each department. White answered no, and stated that they are allocated in the personnel administration section of this warrant article.

Mr. James stated that one of the few things he has noticed since moving to Grantham is that we are very fortunate to have a full-time groundskeeper and he feels the same way about the proposed full-time building maintenance person for the library and town hall. Mr. James said that he felt it was important to have someone available to maintain and take care of our buildings; like the groundskeeper is responsible for the outside lawns and gardens, they always look nice because someone is responsible for it.

Ms. Burgard asked if the health insurance policies run with the fiscal budget year of the town and if what is going on federally, the town wouldn’t be impacted until the 2018-19 fiscal budget. White said yes.

Referring to the proposed additional full-time building maintenance position, Lorie McClory asked if the \$25,000 is what is spent on contractors now. White said the \$25,000 that is currently budgeted is for the contracted cleaning person and the part-time custodian. McClory asked if all of that \$25,000 is being rolled into the proposed full-time position. White said yes.

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ARTICLE 8 – Public Safety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred ninety-four thousand, eight hundred twenty-one dollars (**\$694,821**) 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 2016/2017	Proposed 2017/2018	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Police Department	\$416,086	\$457,517	\$41,431
Ambulance (FAST Squad)	\$80,450	\$89,949	\$9,499
Fire Department	\$127,206	\$125,855	(\$1,351)
Building Inspection	\$8,500	\$10,000	\$1,500
Emergency Management	\$12,000	\$11,500	(\$500)
TOTAL	\$644,242	\$694,821	\$50,579

White explained the increases as follows:

Police Department – total increase of \$41,431

- Salary increases total \$7,200
- \$20,000 for recruitment of NH certified officers
- \$2,000 for computer and dispatch services
- \$10,000 for a records storage system

Fast Squad – total increase of \$9,499

- Radios - \$4,400
- Defibrillator maintenance and service - \$1,500
- Ambulance services - \$3,000

Fire Department – total decrease of \$1,351

David Beckley asked if the monies for the Police Department records system included the setup. Chief Madore said yes; that company would do the setup, transfer all the files into the new system and relabel everything. Madore explained that the department has run out of room and stated that the new system would serve the department well into the future.

Dawn Huston asked if the monies for the defibrillator were something new. Fire Chief Fountain explained that it is a yearly service which was included for the first three years of owning it.

Lorie McClory asked how the \$20,000 for recruitment in the police department budget would be used. Chief Madore explained that he would be retiring effective July 7, 2017 and that the search for his replacement would be conducted by Municipal Resources, Inc. Madore stated that he did have a qualified candidate in the department that he hoped would apply and if there was an in-house promotion that would leave a vacancy in the department.

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F. Robert Osgood asked how long it has been since the last officer was hired. Sergeant Parsons answered July 2016.

Mrs. McClory asked why the Fire Department decreased by \$1,351. Chief Fountain said that it was due to lower heating costs.

ARTICLE 9 – Police Cruiser

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a three-year, \$42,000 lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of leasing to purchase a new 2017 AWD Dodge Charger Police Cruiser and to convert the existing 2014 AWD Dodge Charger (Unit #2) to an alternate police duty use vehicle, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,743 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This agreement contains an escape clause.

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

Selectman Jones stated that Sergeant Parsons made this proposal to the Board and asked him to address the article.

Sergeant Parsons informed that the 2014 Dodge Charger is not an all-wheel drive (AWD) vehicle and requested the removal of that reference. White said she would make the correction.

Sergeant Parsons explained that, if adopted, this car would replace the unmarked 2011 Crown Victoria which has more than 88,000 miles on it. Parsons stated that the 2011 Crown Victoria was primarily used by the Police Chief; that the incoming Police Chief doesn't need a brand new car. Parsons explained that the 2014 Dodge Charger, fully marked cruiser Unit #2, is not AWD; that the cruiser bought in 2015 is AWD and there is a distinct difference in driving the AWD cruiser.

Parsons stated the proposal is to take the car they hope to purchase in 2017, make that a fully marked, frontline cruiser. That would make the three front-line cruisers be the two AWD Dodge Chargers and the four-wheel drive Expedition. The 2014 Dodge Charger would be demarked and turned into an alternate police duty use vehicle.

Parsons explained that the budget was prepared before the state bids were awarded; that the \$42,000 is a worst-case scenario. The equipment that is currently in the Crown Victoria is for a Crown Victoria; some of it is not made any more and some won't fit in a Dodge Charger such as the blue lights. Some of the equipment from Unit #2 could potentially go onto the new cruiser such as the light bar, radio, cages, the back seats, cameras and as much other equipment as possible.

Parsons stated that the costs for the purchase of the 2015 Dodge Charger was \$31,462; that the quotes to purchase a 2017 Dodge Charger, including up-fitting (so that it is completely marked), and then to demark cruiser Unit #2 and make it the unmarked car is approximately \$32,706. Parsons explained that one of the unknowns at this point is what Unit #2 will look like once the markings are removed. Depending on what would need to be done, the costs would be anywhere from \$4,000 - \$5,000 for the entire car. Parsons said there is a potential that none of the paint would need to be touched and that there is a strong likelihood that the \$42,000 is a high number and the project would not cost anywhere near that amount.

Parsons said the future plan is to continue this rotation. As the marked fleet becomes older and needs to be replaced, they would be taken out of the frontline and made the alternate use vehicle for the department (as long as it is still serviceable) and have the new car be placed into the frontline fleet.

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Marsha Googins asked if any monies would be realized on the Crown Victoria. Parsons said there is real potential in putting it out to bid because 2011 is the last year the Crown Victorias were made and people have approached the chief wanting to know when his car would be coming up for bid.

A questioned was asked about the escape clause. Administrator White explained that if monies are not approved at future town meetings the vehicle is returned without penalty.

ARTICLE 10 – Fire Department Building Improvements

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to come from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance, for the purpose of building improvements for the Fire Department. No amount to be raised from taxation.

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

Administrator White explained the Fire Department would like to replace windows, doors, insulation, exterior siding and trim and paint the interior of the station.

Lorie McClory stated she never liked the statement “no amount to be raised from taxation” because she felt instead of turning that money back to lower taxes, it is being used for something else and asked if that money could have been used to lower taxes further. Someone from the audience answered yes.

C. Peter James agreed with McClory and stated he felt that statement was misleading because that money was raised by taxation.

There was a brief discussion about how to rephrase that statement and Selectman Brown stated that the phrase is referring to the fiscal year under consideration, so in terms of the fiscal year that is being voted on at Town Meeting, there is no amount to be raised by taxation.

ARTICLE 11 – Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty-eight thousand, nine hundred sixty-three dollars (**\$758,963**) 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)

Account Title	Budget 2016/2017	Proposed 2017/2018	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Highway Administration	\$228,430	\$232,758	\$4,328
Highway Maintenance	\$158,200	\$177,200	\$19,000
Street Lights	\$5,000	\$4,000	(\$1,000)
Transfer Station	\$137,600	\$139,005	\$1,405
Waste Disposal	\$207,000	\$200,000	(\$7,000)
Landfill Monitoring	\$8,000	\$6,000	(\$2,000)
TOTAL	\$744,230	\$758,963	\$14,733

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White explained the increases as follows:

Highway Department – total increase of \$23,328

- Salary increases total \$3,628
- Added \$1,000 for equipment rentals
- Added \$10,000 for paving
- Added \$5,000 for sand and gravel
- Added \$2,000 for winter sand and salt
- Added \$2,000 for guardrail repair/maintenance

Transfer Station Administration – total increase of \$1,405

Transfer Station Disposal – total decrease of \$7,000; largely due to not holding a household hazardous waste collection day.

F. Robert Osgood stated he felt the salaries for the employees at the transfer station should be increased. White explained that the salaries were adjusted in the proposed budget.

C. Peter James asked why the landfill monitoring decreased by \$2,000. Administrator White stated the expenses over the years have remained stable; that the proposed budget is closer to what has been paid in the past.

ARTICLE 12 – Highway Department 1-Ton Truck

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a three-year, \$60,000 lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of leasing to purchase a new 1-Ton Truck, with a plow and sander, for the Highway Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This agreement contains an escape clause.

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

Administrator White stated:

- This would replace the 2006 1-Ton Truck
- The truck is 10 years with a lot of rust and will not pass inspection without a considerable amount of bodywork.
- The plow equipment came from previous trucks, is over 17 years old and requires constant maintenance/welding.

C. Peter James asked if the new truck would be used by the groundskeeper. White said yes.

ARTICLE 13 – Miller Pond Road Guardrail Replacement

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to come from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance for the purpose of surveying, engineering, and permitting costs associated with the first phase of replacing guardrails on Miller Pond Road. No amount to be raised from taxation.

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

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C. Peter James stated that it was his understanding that Miller Pond Road was the highest cost for maintenance; that every year the road becomes “difficult” and asked if there were plans to address that or would that be a continual maintenance problem for the town. White asked Mr. James if by addressing it, he meant paving the road. James said no, he wasn’t suggesting it be paved, that there are other options like digging out the mud and clay that is underneath it. White stated that Road Agent Hastings has already done that and estimated that several 900 foot sections of fabric have been installed.

David Beckley stated that the guardrails are at “road grade” due to the improvements that have been done over the years.

Mr. James asked if the road bed itself has been improved so residents can get to their homes in the spring time without the problems that currently exist. Chairman Kimball clarified that the issue with that section of road just after the bridge is that it is essentially built on ledge, on the north side of the hill.

Mr. James asked about the status of the remaining red-listed bridges, specifically the one on Olde Farms Road, and if it was scheduled to be worked on in the near future. Administrator White stated Road Agent Hastings has that bridge on his radar but he hasn’t come to the Board to request it be repaired. Mr. James commented how well the Miller Pond Bridge came out.

ARTICLE 14 – Health and Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-four thousand, nine hundred dollars (**\$44,900**) 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 2016/2017	Proposed 2017/2018	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Health	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$0
Boarding Animals	\$700	\$700	\$0
Community Services	\$16,900	\$17,500	\$600
Town General Assistance	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$44,300	\$44,900	\$600

Community Agencies:	Budget 2016/2017	Proposed 2017/2018	Change Increase or (Decrease)
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Lake Sunapee VNA	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0
Newport Food Pantry	\$500	\$500	\$0
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$200	\$200	\$0
Kearsarge Area COA	\$3,800	\$3,900	\$100
Southwestern Community Services	\$900	\$900	\$0
West Central Services	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
Public Health Council of the Upper Valley (formerly Mascoma Valley Health Initiative)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Community Alliance of Human Services	\$500	\$0	(\$500)
Visiting Nurse & Hospice of VT/NH	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total	\$16,900	\$17,500	\$600

Administrator White stated there is a new funding request from the Visiting Nurse & Hospice of VT/NH; that they had requested \$2,000 but only \$1,000 of their request was included in the proposed budget. White stated they provided 266 visits to Grantham residents in the previous year. Terry Hyland, Representative of the Visiting Nurse & Hospice of VT/NH (VNH) introduced himself and asked if there were any questions. F. Robert Osgood said he felt it was money well spent.

C. Peter James asked how their agency overlapped with Lake Sunapee VNA. Mr. Hyland stated they have been serving Grantham since 2008; that this is the first time his agency has ever requested funding. Hyland explained that in New Hampshire, there are not any boundaries for service areas so Grantham has three intersecting VNA's, VNH, Lake Sunapee VNA and Central New Hampshire VNA. Hyland said that until recently, hospitals had been closed minded about who they would refer, simply because they didn't know VNH was there. In the past year, VNH had 22 patients, while Lake Sunapee VNA had 82 so that is why they, Lake Sunapee VNA, receive more funding. Hyland said that because they have been seeing a steady rise in service over the last nine years of more than 15 patients per year, they decided to request funding. Hyland said in Vermont, there isn't any competition; that they serve all the way from the Massachusetts border up to Bradford. They are just now moving into New Hampshire because they have the bandwidth to do so. Hyland said it is the patients choice if they are eligible for visiting nurse services, they can choice Lake Sunapee VNA or VNH.

ARTICLE 15 – Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred six thousand, eight hundred seventy-four dollars (**\$306,874**) 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)

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Account Title	Budget 2016/2017	Proposed 2017/2018	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Recreation	\$47,450	\$47,700	\$250
Dunbar Free Library	\$197,980	\$226,164	\$28,184
Activities	\$34,850	\$31,510	(\$3,340)
Archives	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
TOTAL	\$281,780	\$306,874	\$25,094

White explained the increases as follows:

Recreation – total increase of \$250

Activities – total decrease of \$3,340

Library – total increase of \$28,184

- Salary increases - \$4,411
- Added \$9,000 for the library’s portion of the full-time building maintenance person
- Associated benefits (insurance, payroll taxes & NHRS) - \$12,788
- Added \$1,985 for operating expenses

Lorie McClory asked what the decrease in Activities was for. White said that last year there were monies appropriated for the 250th Anniversary Celebration that aren’t needed this year.

ARTICLE 16 – 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 seventeen thousand, six hundred thirty-eight dollars (**\$217,638**) 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 2016/2017	Proposed 2017/2018	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Conservation Commission	\$4,400	\$4,500	\$100
Town Hall Bond/Interest	\$85,200	\$80,733	(\$4,467)
Library Bond/Interest	\$65,555	\$63,505	(\$2,050)
Highway Plow Truck Lease	\$31,603	\$31,603	\$0
Fire Department SCBA Lease	\$37,197	\$37,197	\$0
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100	\$100	\$0
TOTAL	\$224,055	\$217,638	(\$6,417)

Administrator White stated:

- Town Hall bond – year 13 out of 20
- Library bond – year 2 out of 10
- Plow Truck Lease/Purchase – year 4 out of 5
- Fire Department SCBA’s Lease/Purchase – year 3 out of 5

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ARTICLE 17 – 2015 Police Cruiser Lease Final Payment

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,817 for the final payment of the 2015 Police Cruiser lease with said funds to come from the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation.

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

David Beckley asked if monies would be maintained in this Capital Reserve Fund. White said yes.

ARTICLE 18 – Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred three thousand dollars (**\$303,000**) to come from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance and to be placed in previously established **Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds, as listed below**. No amount to be raised from taxation. 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	Current Balances as of 1/31/2017	Budget 2016/2017	Proposed 2017/2018	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Highway Equipment CRF	\$67,931.52	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
Transfer Station Equipment CRF	\$39,576.63	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$20,000
Library Building Repair CRF	\$19,389.36	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
Town Building Maintenance CRF	\$51,311.23	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$25,000
Fire Department Apparatus CRF	\$145,001.38	\$20,000	\$75,000	\$55,000
Police Vehicles CRF	\$22,131.23	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Public Safety ETF	\$5,035.07	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Town Office Equipment CRF	\$12,609.13	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Municipality Revaluation CRF	\$123,915.75	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Equipment CRF	\$7,131.46	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Town Emergency Repair ETF	\$13,490.27	\$0.00	\$10,000	\$10,000
TOTAL		\$118,000	\$303,000	\$185,000

C. Peter James asked what the Capital Improvement Projects Committee said about the Fire Department Apparatus replacement. White said the committee had not provided a new one for this budget. Chief Fountain said that Engine 4 is a 2000 model year and would need replacing in seven years at a cost of approximately \$500,000. Mr. James stated that Homeland Security offers grants for this type of purchase. Fountain said that those grants are extremely competitive and hard to secure. David Beckley said that the need profile of Grantham does not meet their criteria.

Library Trustee Ed Jenik stated he thought the Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund was going to be dropped and put into the Library Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund. White said it is being addressed in the next article. Trustee Jenik stated that Article 19 is written to put that money back into the general fund. White explained that the only way to discontinue a Capital Reserve Fund is to put it back into the general fund, that is why in this article we are requesting \$15,000 be added to it (the Library Building Repair CRF).

APPROVED

ARTICLE 19 – Discontinue Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund.

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

Lorie McClory asked about the current balance of the Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund. White said as of the January 31, 2017 report from the Trustees of the Trust Funds, there is \$15,490.56.

ARTICLE 20 – Exterior Painting

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000 to come from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance for the purpose of exterior painting of Town Hall and the Highway Garage. No amount to be raised from taxation.

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

Administrator White stated that Town Hall has never been repainted since it was built and the highway garage has been a very long time since it was repainted.

F. Robert Osgood asked what the scope of the project would be. White stated the buildings would be debugged and then two coats of paint would be applied. Mr. Osgood asked how old the building is and what the warranty would be. White said the building is 12 years old. Osgood asked if it could be expected that the paint would last another 12 years. White said that typically repainting is done every eight years.

ARTICLE 21 - To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 31:19 to accept and hold in trust gifts, legacies and devises made to the Town for the establishment, maintenance, and care of libraries, reading-rooms, schools, and other educational facilities, parks, cemeteries, and burial lots, the planting and care of shade and ornamental trees upon their highways and other public places, and for any other public purpose that is not foreign or incompatible with the objects of the town. This authority shall remain in effect indefinitely or until rescinded by vote at town meeting.

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

Selectman Jones stated that this is a housekeeping article that would be required at all future town meetings if not adopted.

ARTICLE 22 – 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

Lorie McClory stated that she understands what “no amount to be raised from taxation” means and commented that by added up all the articles that have no effect on this year’s tax rate, \$287,000 is being spent which equals sixty cents on the tax rate. McClory felt that the taxpayers should be made aware that the tax rate could have gone down sixty cents if the general fund unassigned fund balance wasn’t being used for these articles.

Selectman Brown stated that the “no amount to be raised from taxation” language comes from the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) so the town uses that language, to both, not run afoul of the legal requirements for our warrant but also for the sake of administrative efficiency. Brown stated that the town runs on a small staff, people get sick, new issues crop up, so if there is a model set of language the DRA requests we use, that’s what we do. Brown said there are tight timelines for Town Meeting and when changes are requested that means deprioritizing something else. Brown felt that staff resources need to be stewarded wisely and for him it doesn’t mean rewriting model language that is received from DRA.

McClory reiterated that she understands that and restated her point that it does affect the tax rate. Brown said he didn’t think anyone was disputing her point.

C. Peter James felt the language should be clearer so residents understand it is money that was previously raised by taxation but not spent.

Brenda Molloy stated she agreed with Mrs. McClory and Mr. James and suggested adding a simple explanation, perhaps at the beginning of the presentation, just to clarify the meaning of “no amount to be raised from taxation”.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa M. White

Melissa M. White
Town Administrator