

# TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

## TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2017

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Susanna Schweizer introduced herself and called the 241<sup>st</sup> Annual Town Meeting to order at 5:05pm. She asked those present to turn off their cell phones or set them to 'vibrate.' The assembly was lead in the Pledge of Allegiance by Luc Gauvin; the colors were presented by Boy Scout Troop #71 and Cub Scout Pack #276. The Moderator thanked them.

The Moderator reminded those residents in attendance to sit within the posts in the room so that they will be allowed to vote on all articles. Non-voters were instructed to sit behind the police tape on the east side of the room. She also reminded them to be sure to pick up their yes/no paper ballots if they have not already, as those will be necessary for any secret ballot votes. Emergency exits and rest rooms were identified.

The Moderator welcomed new residents to Grantham. She also advised residents to pick up a copy of the Town Report at the rear of the room, as a copy of the warrant is included within the report.

On page 11, sixth paragraph, the Moderator noted the Selectboard's dedication of the town report. She noted that this year's dedication is to "this wonderful place we call home, Grantham." She then recognized Selectman Sheridan Brown to deliver the remarks relative to this dedication. Selectman Brown highlighted the recent work on the Brookside Park and how volunteers contributed to the work there, and at such other locations as the library, and he also noted the work of other volunteer organizations within the town. He made specific mention of the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and how this will provide an opportunity for those volunteer organizations to showcase their contributions to our town. He noted that those volunteer activities compose one of the major ways in which the town shines. He finished by saying that the Selectboard wanted to be sure to recognize those volunteers, a number of whom are working at town meeting itself. He added that there remain many ways in which new volunteers can help out and give back in ways that will be meaningful to them and to the community.

The Moderator stated that the meeting having been properly warned as it is certified on page 70 of the Town Report and by the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of New Hampshire I do now declare the 241<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Town of Grantham officially opened for business. Polls were opened at 10:00am for ballot voting and close at 7:00pm. Articles 1-3 appear on the ballot and will be voted on by ballot. Ballots are available from the Supervisors of the Checklist at the rear of the room.

The Moderator introduced Selectmen Constance Jones, Sheridan Brown and G. Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Melissa White; Town Clerk/Tax Collector Ken Story; Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Penny Palmer; and the Supervisors of the Checklist Donna Stamper and Sandra Noordsy (she noted that the third Supervisor, Suzanne Goldman, was at the polls earlier in the day). She also introduced the Assistant Moderator, Lorie McClory. The complete list of town officers is on pages 8-10 of the Town Report.

The Moderator then also recognized people who had recently retired from their roles with the town. Charlie McCarthy retired from the Planning Board and Chris Morris retired as Town Treasurer. She asked for a round of applause.

The Moderator then noted that state law vests the Moderator with the authority to establish rules of procedure, and also vests the meeting with the power to overrule the Moderator's rules or rulings; in other words, if the Moderator makes a ruling and anyone present is unhappy with that decision, that decision can be challenged. The Moderator announced that she would not read the rules unless this was requested. She added that Rules #2, 4, 6, 8 and 9 are prescribed by state law and RSAs 40:7, 40:10, 40:4-a and 40:4-b. Rule 10 was specifically put in place to accommodate this meeting with respect to the barriers and the chain links.

The Moderator then announced that there were two administrative motions she needed before proceeding. She asked for a motion to adopt the rules of the meeting and she asked the Clerk to make those rules a permanent part of the meeting. David Wood of 103 Road Round The Lake moved and Rae Tober of 27 Clearwater Drive seconded. The Moderator then called for a voice vote.

**Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

The Moderator then asked for a motion to allow non-resident town officers and consultants to address the meeting as needed. Marjorie Bostrom of 2 Pioneer Point moved and Jackie Guillette of 21 Wintercroft Circle seconded. The Moderator then called for a voice vote.

**Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

*2017 Town Meeting Rules (listed on page 68 of the Town Report)*

1. *The Moderator will use the following general rules of procedure, the main purpose of which are to keep the meeting moving and not get bogged down in procedural quagmires.*
2. *Non-voters who are not officers of the town or consultants to the town may be allowed to address the meeting only if the town votes to permit it. A simple majority is required.*
3. *The Moderator will consider each Article as follows:*
  - A. *The Moderator will announce the Article number, and the text of the Article will be displayed on the overhead screen or will be otherwise made available at the Meeting. The Moderator need not read the full text of the Article.*
  - B. *The Moderator will recognize a member of the Board of Selectman or the petitioner (if a petitioned Article) to move the adoption of the Article.*
  - C. *If the Motion is seconded, the Moderator will recognize a member of the Board of Selectmen or the petitioner to explain the Article.*
  - D. *The Meeting will debate and then vote on the Article.*
4. *ALL voters will direct their remarks to the Moderator. Whenever a voter wishes to speak, he or she will go the microphone, address the Moderator by first identifying him or herself and providing his or her street address. The microphone is necessary for accurate recording of the meeting.*
  - A. *If a voter is unable to reach one of the stand-up microphones, the voter should raise*

- his/her hand and one of the hand-held microphones will be provided.*
- B. In order for everyone to have the opportunity to speak, speakers will be limited to three minutes (with the exception of initial presentations on warrant articles).*
  - C. No one will be recognized to speak a second time until everyone who wishes to speak a first time has had the opportunity.*
  - D. If you agree with someone, it is OK to say that instead of repeating something that has already been said.*
  - E. The microphone will also be used by people wanting to “Call (or Move) the question.” Anyone shouting it out from his or her seat will not be recognized. This will avoid preempting people who are already in line to speak to an issue.*
  - F. A motion to “Call the question” requires a 2/3 vote. If this motion is passed all voters standing at a microphone or holding a microphone and anyone seated at the head table who has previously told the Moderator that he/she wishes to speak on the Motion will be allowed to speak.*
  - G. The Moderator shall have the right to refuse to recognize a Motion to Call (or Move) the question if, in the Moderator’s opinion, the voters have not yet had an adequate opportunity to discuss an issue.*
- 5. All questions and comments should be addressed to the Moderator. The Moderator will choose who responds to the questions.*
  - 6. Unless superseded by State law, reconsideration of a vote on any article should be brought up immediately after the vote has been declared and may only be made by a voter who voted on the prevailing side of the vote to be reconsidered.*
    - A. Mandatory Restriction: A vote on the issuance of bonds or notes over \$100,000 cannot be reconsidered at the same meeting. In accordance with RSA 33:8-a, if a motion to reconsider a ballot vote on a bond issue of over \$ 100,000 passes, the Article cannot be reconsidered until a reconvened Meeting that is at least seven (7) days after the original vote. With respect to bond votes, the restrictions on reconsideration automatically apply without the need for the Meeting to vote for it.*
    - B. Optional Restriction: Voters may postpone reconsideration of any Article at this Meeting by voting to restrict reconsideration of the Article in accordance with RSA 40:10. If the Meeting passes such a motion, then the Article cannot be reconsidered until a reconvened meeting held at least seven (7) days after the date of the original vote.*
  - 7. The Moderator will conduct a secret “yes-no” ballot when five voters make a written request prior to a voice or show of hands vote on any article open for discussion. All five*

*voters must be present and identified.*

- 8. Any ruling by the Moderator can be challenged. The Moderator will conduct a secret "yes-no" ballot when seven or more voters question any non-ballot vote immediately after the vote is declared and before any other business is conducted.*
- 9. All proposed amendments to articles will be submitted in writing to the Moderator prior to discussion of the amendment.*
- 10. Registered voters only will be seated in the center section of the meeting hall. Non-voters will be seated in the visitor's gallery located in the area bounded by the pillars and the inside wall of the meeting hall.*
- 11. The Moderator will not accept negative motions; that is, motions which require a "no" vote to vote in the affirmative such as "I move that we not adopt the budget."*
- 12. If the Meeting is not finished at 11:00 pm, the Moderator may recess the Meeting to a future date.*

**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
Trustee of Trust Funds	3 years
Cemetery Trustee	3 years
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library	3 years
Treasurer	3 years

**ARTICLE 2 – Zoning Change**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Remove “Cluster Residential Developments” as a permitted use in Rural Residential District II.

*Rationale: This change approved at the 2006 Town Meeting was inadvertently omitted during the retyping of the Zoning Ordinance.*

*Recommended by the Planning Board*

**Passed by Official Ballot – Yes 143; No 23**

**ARTICLE 3 – Zoning Change**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Add a new article to the Zoning Ordinance permitting attached dwelling units to single family dwellings by special exception as mandated by New Hampshire State Statute RSA 674:71-73.

*Rationale: The general purpose of an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is to offer the opportunity for low cost rental housing for a sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation living area to be attached to single family dwellings. An ADU would be no larger than 40% of a single family dwelling up to a maximum of 1,000 square feet and will have its own exterior entrance and an interior door to the principal residence. No more than two bedrooms or four occupants are permitted in an ADU. An ADU shall be owned only by the owner of the single family dwelling and said owner shall occupy either the main dwelling or the ADU. The ADU shall be architecturally compatible with the single family dwelling to which it is attached and comply with New Hampshire State well and septic requirements, building codes and zoning requirements for setbacks for height and lot coverage.*

*Recommended by the Planning Board*

**Passed by Official Ballot – Yes 141; No 24**

The Moderator then called upon Selectman Brown to review certain terms that will be used in the upcoming discussion to be sure those present understood them. He noted that some questions arose at the recent budget hearing and that the Selectboard thought it might be helpful to introduce people to these definitions. He referred to the slide

that indicated the specific terms and proceeded to explain them, the goal of which was to be clear about what is meant by these terms and to be sure no one feel as if they are being misled.

Town Administrator White then reviewed the budget summary slides, including proposed increases over the prior year. She concluded that the increases included in the proposed budget will increase the tax rate by approximately fifteen cents and presented the illustration that a property assessed at \$250,000 would pay approximately \$37.50 more in property taxes.

**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 wood-heating 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 wood-heating energy system equipment under these statutes.

**Recommended by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

Selectman Brown moved; Selectman Jones seconded. The Moderator then opened the floor for discussion. She recognized Mark Lewis of 3 Corbin Court. He asked about the rationale behind this article and noted that given all the pollutants created by wood-burning heating systems, he wondered why we're giving this special break to those who heat with wood. The Moderator recognized Selectman Brown to answer the question. Selectman Brown then asked if anyone from the Energy Committee was present who could speak to this question. Selectman Brown noted all the work done by the Energy Committee on researching these systems and also organizing a recent presentation about these systems. He added that the Energy Committee did not try to include every available system and focused upon the newer, higher efficiency systems. The state's interest in approving these systems is to help reduce emissions via these newer systems but it's also a recognition of how much we're paying for energy in this state and a recognition of the state's limited capacity for both producing and transmitting energy. There are multiple goals at work here and emissions remain a concern, but the goal is to promote the higher efficiency systems to help address that. One of the main concerns is not to penalize those who invest in these systems by raising assessments and so tax rates. Last year we did adopt the provisions dealing with solar and wind for on-site generation; at that time there was not enough information on wood-burning systems. The Energy Committee has worked since then to explore what are really the best systems to be included. Here we're really dealing only with a system that will be connected via a series of pipes and ducts and will have more components to it than those we see outdoors. So, it won't cover everything, such as wood stoves, but it really is intended to cover the higher efficiency systems. He then recognized Jenna Chenevert of 16 Wildwood Drive from the Energy Committee, who noted that a few weeks before the Energy Committee hosted a workshop on these new wood-burning systems relative to whole house furnaces. The new systems function the same way as oil or propane systems, using the same ductwork, vents, etc. So, rather than using fossil fuels, these systems use a high-efficiency pellet that is produced locally, helping to sustain the local economy, and the emissions are actually less than fossil fuels. There is also an incentive for the homeowner for installation, so it's good for the local economy. It will keep your house 'toasty warm' and you can supplement a traditional heating system with this system. If you're a new home builder, you can install one of these or install it in conjunction with an existing system. There is no exterior furnace, like some systems we've seen with lots of exterior trash, etc. This entire system is inside the home; the pellets are fed into exterior storage similar to a propane tank and automatically fed into your furnace with very little mess. Once or twice a month there may be a little dust, but that's it. The Energy Committee feels good about bringing this option forward and believes that last year it was not well-presented and thus it failed. Robert Lewis of 304 Splitrock Road asked about the average cost of such an installed system. Chenoweth replied that the installed price would depend on the size of the house, and added that the Public Utilities Commission rebate would cover up to 40% of the installation cost of the system up to a maximum of \$10,000 for residential, high-efficiency, fuel-fed wood pellet central heating boilers and furnaces that become operational, including designed, installed and certified on or after July 9, 2016. So, if you're installing a unit that costs \$10,000 you get a 40% rebate. Robert MacNeil of 78 Howe Hill Road asked if this system was only for residential or was it for all taxpayers. Selectman Brown replied that it applied to all taxpayers and was not restricted to residential use. He added that the one

restriction is that the energy produced be used on-site and is not available for sale to others. He confirmed that it is available for use within a business. Brian Sullivan of Olde Farms Road commented that he attended the Energy Committee's presentation on these systems and commended them on a well put-together program and added that he strongly supported this article. He thinks people have an image of a wood fire with smoke coming out; with this system, it only fires up when your house requires heat. It burns at a very high temperature, and when it does there is very little smoke and very little waste. It's a high-efficiency, low pollution system and he strongly supports this. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions; hearing none, she called for a voice vote.

#### **Article 4 Passed by Majority Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Selectman Jones spoke to the article. She noted that this credit was adopted by the state legislature in 2016 and now each town has the opportunity to adopt it. Honorably discharged veterans and qualifying members of the National Guard can receive the credit. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions; hearing none, she called for a voice vote.

#### **Article 5 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Brown seconded. Kimball spoke to the article and said it's certainly something that affects a few people and that the Selectboard believes they deserve this kind of treatment. There was a difficulty before for married people who didn't seem to benefit and the Selectboard is glad this has finally been cleared up. The Moderator then called for any comments or questions. David Wood of 103 Road Round The Lake stated that he fully supported the intent of this warrant article but raised a concern about the phrasing. He was concerned that the language could give the impression that property taxes would be reduced by \$44,000 rather than the assessment being reduced by that amount. Selectman Brown noted that this has already been adopted in town but what this article does is indexes for inflation and brings that amount up to what is reasonable for 2012. Selectman Jones corrected that to indicate that the numbers were being brought current through 2016. Selectman Brown added that the language being used comes from the state's Department of Revenue Administration (DRA); they put out the language for towns to use. Towns can deviate from that language and get that approved, but the goal was to do it at town meeting. If the language gets changed at the budget hearing then there remains time to go back to DRA to get their approval, but he recommended sticking

with their language. All the article seeks to do is change the dollar amounts of the exemption. Sarah Fogg of 22 Draper Mill Road said that she believed Selectman Brown did not answer the question and clarified what she thought was being asked. Selectman Kimball responded that the exemption is on the assessment. The Moderator asked Town Administrator White to show the slide that indicated that the exemption was to be applied to the assessed value. Selectman Jones added that this is the same language used when the exemption was first adopted in 1996. The Moderator then asked if there were any other questions; hearing none, she called for a voice vote.

**Article 6 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2016/2017</b>	<b>Proposed 2017/2018</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,236,824</b>	<b>\$1,364,678</b>	<b>\$127,854</b>

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Selectman Jones asked Town Administrator White to review this budget and provide additional information. She reviewed the increases and decreases, line by line, with specific mention of how the figures reflect the money being added and re-allocated to fund the new full-time town custodial position. The Moderator then called for questions and comments. Bob MacNeil of Howe Hill Road wanted to clarify that the new position was for buildings and maintenance. He then asked if the \$55,000 for the new position was to include salary and benefits and does it not include the \$9,000 re-allocated from the library or is that amount included in the \$55,000. Selectman Brown replied that the \$9,000 is supporting the creation of this new position. To create this new position we’ve taken as much of the existing money currently going to independent contractors, including part-timers, and merged it into this. Mr. MacNeil then asked to clarify that the amount formerly budgeted to the library has been re-allocated to the overall cost of this position. Selectman Brown said this was correct and that a portion of the time of this new position will be spent at the library and a portion will be spent at town hall. Mr. MacNeil then asked to clarify that the \$55,000 will include benefits and Selectman Brown said it did. Town Administrator White then corrected that number and said that the entire funding for the position, including salary and benefits, is \$84,000. Mr. MacNeil then asked to confirm that the outside vendors will not be used to come in once a week; Town Administrator White confirmed that this was

correct. Mr. MacNeil then stated that his understanding was that the total weekly compensation (wages and benefits) for the position would be \$1,600/week. Town Administrator White then explained that her reason for requesting this position is that having a part-time custodian has been problematic for the needs of the town buildings. Right now the town is scheduling the contractors for when work needs to be done; if needs arise outside of that scheduling window, the Town Administrator then needs to stop what she's doing and address whatever building-related need occurs. The Town Administrator ends up wearing the custodial hat a fair amount of the time. Mr. MacNeil agreed that this is not a good use of the Town Administrator's time. Deborah Cheever of 31 Allen's Drive said she's somewhat confused about the full-time position versus the part-time position. She asked if her understanding that the salary for the full-time position was \$55,000 was correct. Town Administrator White responded that this was the maximum. Ms. Cheever said that how she interpreted the position was that the salary was \$55,000 and that the benefits cost an additional \$29,000, to bring the total cost of the position up to \$84,000. Town Administrator White responded that the budget includes a maximum salary, depending on the candidate, of \$45,000. Estimated benefits would be \$39,000. Ms. Cheever then asked for an explanation of what benefits were costing \$39,000. Town Administrator White responded that the benefits figure includes the estimated cost of a two-person health care plan. Ms. Cheever then asked for the total of what is paid out now for the maintenance of town buildings. Town Administrator White added that for services wages we're paying \$25,000 and that the library has a budget of \$5,000. Ms. Cheever then confirmed that these amounts are what we currently pay the outside contractors and there are no benefits involved with outside contractors. Town Administrator White confirmed that this is correct. Ms. Cheever then asked for a rough estimate of how much of the Town Administrator's time is spent dealing with the outside contractors, and she added that she believes these duties are part of the Town Administrator's job. She also commented that this seems like a huge leap in cost. Selectman Brown commented that one of the benefits the Selectboard saw was making an investment in the maintenance of the town's buildings and facilities the same way we would do in our homes and avoiding the costs of deferred maintenance. Having contractors come in to clean carpets, clean floors, etc. is not the same as having a full-time presence to help identify problems that may be coming up and that might cost much more down the road. This position would coordinate regular maintenance. Previously the town has managed these duties via a 'hodge-podge' of contractors and from the Selectboard's perspective this situation has taken a significant portion of the Town Administrator's time; she shouldn't be spending her time changing light bulbs, etc. The idea is to have a more regular presence here, someone to take ownership of all the town facilities, including the general custodial but also all the maintenance duties. Ms. Cheever then asked to clarify if the duties of the new position would be inside or outside the buildings. Town Administrator White responded that the duties would be inside. Ms. Cheever then asked for the bottom line difference, approximately, between what we pay the independent contractors and what we could possibly be paying the new position. While Town Administrator White calculated this amount, Selectman Jones commented that we must take into consideration that the town hall building is used a great deal; in the winter, it should be vacuumed every night. She does not believe it should be up to the people working in the Selectmen's Office to run the vacuum. This is about what the town needs to take care of town hall and the library, with the new addition, which should be taken care of the same way. She added that getting by with part-time contractors has not been taking proper care of the regular maintenance. Also, when people come in to rent the downstairs space there's a lot of clean-up; they're supposed to clean up after themselves, but they often don't. Regular use results in wear on the floors and walls and the room was starting to look shabby. Having a regular person to help maintain the buildings is the way to go rather than piecemeal. Without this attention regular staff end up attending to these issues themselves which is not a good use of their time. Town Administrator White then answered Ms. Cheever's question by saying it's \$59,000 and the \$9,000 is in the library budget. Peter James of Splitrock Road noted that not too many years ago the town voted to spend a lot of money to construct this building and it's used by a lot of groups, as noted by Selectman Jones. He said that not having someone here full-time would be like only having someone come to clean the school on Saturday. The town hall gets a lot of use as well. He also mentioned that if you drive by in the summertime and see that the grass is mowed, bushes are trimmed and things look nice, none of that just happens. We should be very proud that our Selectmen have decided that we need a full-time groundskeeper. The groundskeeper does these things because he is responsible and he cares. We should be very proud we have someone who wants to do this. We need someone of the same type of personality to be in this building, keeping it clean, and giving us something we're proud of and not

something starting to look shabby. Dan McClory of 38 Brookridge Drive said he was a little confused about the benefits and asked to confirm the total. Town Administrator White said it's \$39,000. Mr. McClory asked for a breakdown of the costs included, as that's about 60% of the salary and he's accustomed to it being 25-30%. He also asked what town employees pay toward their health insurance. Town Administrator White responded that town employees pay 10% of their premiums; the estimated town portion of the new position's two-person plan would be \$29,250. She added that the town would also pay into retirement. Bob MacNeil of Howe Hill Road asked about the reference to costs being for the first year and asked if this was correct. He mentioned an earlier slide that referred to Tier 1 and Tier 2, and asked if the new position would be Tier 1 or Tier 2. Town Administrator White noted that health insurance increased 13.76% and wasn't sure how to answer the question. Mr. MacNeil clarified that Tier 1 and Tier 2 referred to retirement plans, not health insurance, which Town Administrator White confirmed. She also confirmed that the new position would be in Group 1 (not 'Tier 1'). Mr. MacNeil then asked if the retirement plan was going up 13%; Town Administrator White replied that retirement for Group 1 employees was going up .21%. Mr. MacNeil then asked for the total benefit increase from the current year to next year for Group 1 employees. Town Administrator White responded that it will be \$6,100. Mr. MacNeil then asked if we could anticipate a benefit increase of 10-12% next year and is it the same amount each year. Town Administrator White replied that she couldn't be sure of that. He then asked how the benefit costs have been trending over the past five years. Town Administrator White asked if he was asking about retirement or health insurance. Mr. MacNeil then stated he was trying to anticipate the increases for the new position. He then asked if we could anticipate a roughly 10% increase each year. Town Administrator White replied that it was likely. Kevin Cheever of 31 Allens Drive suggested that as an alternative, budget 32 hours for the position with no benefits and see how it works out. For sub-contractors, under 32 hours per week does not require paying benefits. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions. Given that there was no further discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. A voice vote was taken; the Moderator initially declared that it passed by a majority voice vote, but sufficient concern was raised that she decided to take a count via a show of hands. The ballot clerks were directed to count the 'yes' and 'no' votes.

**Article 7 Passed by Hand Count – Yes 52; No 24**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2016/2017</b>	<b>Proposed 2017/2018</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$644,242</b>	<b>\$694,821</b>	<b>\$50,579</b>

Selectman Brown moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Selectman Brown asked Town Administrator White to review the increases and decreases, line by line. The Moderator then asked for any questions or comments; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 8 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

## **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 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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)**

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Brown seconded. Selectman Kimball noted that this is a replacement for one of the older police vehicles. The lease program gives us more of a regular payment and helps us to anticipate costs. Sargeant John Parsons was then introduced and invited to give more background on this article. Sargeant Parsons of Olde Farms Road explained the ages of the current vehicles and the features of the current vehicles, including those that have all-wheel drive. The new vehicle will be an all-wheel drive vehicle and will replace the one Dodge Charger that is not all-wheel drive. That vehicle, in turn, will be demarked and will then become the new Chief's vehicle. The Crown Victoria (the current Chief's car) will be retired. He addressed the fact that the question has been raised about whether or not the current Chief's vehicle will come up for bid. Sargeant Parsons noted that years ago we traded in a 2006 Crown Victoria and got \$2,000 worth of trade-in value. The potential exists to get more money for the current Chief's vehicle through private bid. The plan is to move all possible equipment from the Dodge Charger to the new vehicle and to swap out and get the best value for all equipment currently in the Chief's vehicle. While the amount requested for the new vehicle is far higher than the costs anticipated, the idea is to budget for a number of unanticipated costs to be sure we have enough money to thoroughly outfit the new cruiser. Mark Lewis, Gray Ledges, asked 1) how many miles are put on every year and 2) is maintenance done when a problem occurs or is there regular maintenance performed on the cruiser. Sargeant Parsons responded and said the 2014 Dodge Charger currently has 35,412 miles on it; the 2011 Crown Victoria has roughly 88,000 miles on it; the 2015 Dodge Charger has roughly 15,000-16,000 miles on it. Currently the police cruisers are part of a regular maintenance program that includes tire rotation and oil changes, performed approximately every 4,000 miles. Maintenance is done locally if possible but done in the area when local maintenance is not possible. Chris Buchanan, 43 Deer Run, asked if any thought had been given to going with another SUV as opposed to a cruiser given the rural nature of the town. Sargeant Parsons responded that he's been with the department since 2006 and they've always run one SUV. Because these vehicles are so big they tend to require maintenance and repair more quickly, while the sedans work better overall, especially given the good job the town does maintaining its roads. Smaller SUVs, while available, tend to be too small for the amount of emergency equipment officers carry in their vehicles. They also tend to have a significantly lower towing capacity. Chief Madore then spoke to the research he did on the SUVs versus sedans and it was his decision to go with one full-size SUV only. The Expedition works well with respect to winter access and weight rating. The Moderator then asked if there was further discussion; hearing none, she announced that she had received a request for a secret ballot, using the colored 'yes/no' ballots handed out at the beginning of the meeting. She announced the white ballot would be used. The Moderator said she would move on to the next article until the vote was tallied on this article; once completed, she would return to Article 9 to announce the results.

### **Article 9 Passed by Secret Ballot – Yes 73; No 15**

## **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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)**

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Selectman Jones stated that this money will be used to replace windows and doors at the fire department; update insulation; replace exterior siding and trim;

and paint the interior. She invited Jay Fountain, Fire Chief, to comment; he declined. The Moderator asked for discussion. Given that there was no discussion, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 10 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2016/2017</b>	<b>Proposed 2017/2018</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$744,230</b>	<b>\$758,963</b>	<b>\$14,733</b>

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Selectman Kimball asked Town Administrator White to speak to the increases and decreases in this article, line by line. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions; hearing none, she called for a vote.

**Article 11 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

Selectman Brown moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Selectman Brown asked to review the slide on this article. He noted that the current truck is ten-years-old and has a lot of rust, and the plow equipment on the truck is also rather old. The Moderator called for discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 12 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Brown seconded. Selectman Jones spoke to the road situation on Miller Pond Road and that it is a condition that needs to be addressed. She noted that it is not a simple fix and will require extensive engineering, planning, permitting, etc. She added that it is a project that can no longer be put off. Lorie McClory, 38 Brookridge Drive, noted that the article mentions the first phase, and she wanted to know how many phases were anticipated and what will be the total project cost. Selectman Kimball replied that the town is hoping it will be two phases: the first phase is engineering and design, and the second phase will be installation. As yet the town has no handle on the cost of the installation given the difficulty of the site, the ledge on one side of the road, plus the fact that we don't know if we might need to move the road slightly to make it work. There are so many variables involved that instead of pulling a number out of the sky the plan is to complete the engineering and design work first and then have a better handle on the overall cost to complete the project. The Moderator then called for further discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 13 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2016/2017</b>	<b>Proposed 2017/2018</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$44,300</b>	<b>\$44,900</b>	<b>\$600</b>

<b>Community Agencies:</b>	<b>Budget 2016/2017</b>	<b>Proposed 2017/2018</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,900</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>	<b>\$600</b>

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Kimball noted that there's a pretty extensive list of agencies. The Selectboard received a fair amount of feedback regarding these requests and they came up with a list developed from that feedback. The Moderator then asked for further discussion; hearing none, she called for a vote.

**Article 14 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2016/2017</b>	<b>Proposed 2017/2018</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$281,780</b>	<b>\$306,874</b>	<b>\$25,094</b>

Selectman Brown moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Selectman Brown reviewed the increases and decreases, line by line. The Moderator asked for discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 15 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2016/2017</b>	<b>Proposed 2017/2018</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$224,055</b>	<b>\$217,638</b>	<b>(\$6,417)</b>

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Brown seconded. Kimball reviewed the increases and decreases, line by line, noting that most of these fluctuations reflect operational costs. The Moderator then called for discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 16 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Selectman Jones explained that this article honors the commitment entered into when the lease was executed. The Moderator asked for discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 17 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2016/2017</b>	<b>Proposed 2017/2018</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
Highway Equipment CRF	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
Transfer Station Equipment CRF	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$20,000
Library Building Repair CRF	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
Town Building Maintenance CRF	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$25,000
Fire Department Apparatus CRF	\$20,000	\$75,000	\$55,000
Police Vehicles CRF	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Public Safety ETF	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Town Office Equipment CRF	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Municipality Revaluation CRF	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Equipment CRF	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Town Emergency Repair ETF	\$0.00	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$118,000</b>	<b>\$303,000</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>

Selectman Brown moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Selectman Brown explained that this article is fairly self-explanatory. The Selectboard chose to place a portion of this year’s fund balance to invest in capital reserve funds as we have done in recent years. The Moderator asked for discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 18 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen** (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Brown seconded. Selectman Kimball explained that this article is also fairly self-explanatory. The library expansion project is complete and this allows the library to move out the little money that's left over for other purposes. Bob McCarthy, 11 Fernwood Lane, thanked the citizens of Grantham for supporting this bond fund. He asked all the townspeople to continue to support the library and visit as often as possible. The Moderator asked for discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

#### **Article 19 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

#### **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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)**

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Selectman Jones noted that town hall is ready to be painted and probably should have been done several years ago. It needs to be done as does the Highway Garage, which has not had a new coat of paint since the addition was put on. The Moderator asked for discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

#### **Article 20 Passed by Majority Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)**

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Brown seconded. Selectman Jones noted that this is a housekeeping article that should have been passed along with others of the same genre back in 1994-95. In order to cover ourselves we need to pass this article, as without it, if we wanted to accept any gifts to the town we would have to call a special town meeting to allow it and that would incur significant additional cost to the town. The Moderator asked for discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

#### **Article 21 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

#### **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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)**

Selectman Brown moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. The Moderator then asked those present if anyone had any other business to be brought up at this time. Selectman Kimball noted the duty of the Selectboard to nominate candidates for fence viewers and hog reeves. Selectman Kimball then nominated Susan Garrity and James Eibner as hog reeves and Cynthia Scott and Adam Connelly as fence viewers. Several seconds were offered

from the room. The Moderator asked for discussion; hearing none, she called for a vote. Dave Wood asked if any of the nominated parties were present; none appeared to be.

Peter James of Splitrock Road thanked the Moderator and all those involved in postponing this year's town meeting, in spite of the fact that certain state officials thought we should all be out driving in some of the most hazardous conditions of the year. He noted that these people had the courage to buck the state and do something sensible.

The Moderator then asked for a motion to dissolve the meeting. Jay Fountain moved and John Parsons seconded. The Moderator asked for discussion; hearing none, she called for a vote.

**Article 22 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

There being no further business or reports, the Moderator declared the 241<sup>st</sup> Town Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

A true copy attest,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Story". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kenneth Story, Town Clerk/Tax Collector