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**TOWN OF GRANTHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020**

The Budget Hearing was called to order at 5:02 PM on February 5, 2020, 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 Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief John Parsons; Police Sergeant Gordon “Vince” Cunningham; Police Department Secretary Judy DiPadova; Fire Chief Justin Hastings; Assistant Fire Chief Jay Fountain; EMS Lieutenant Lori Avery; Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott; Road Agent Jeff Hastings; Recreation Director Emily Rinde-Thorsen; Library Director Dawn Huston; Library Trustee Meg Alexander; Moderator Lorie McClory; Sheridan Brown; Richard Hocker; Renee Gustafson; Dave Wood; Carole Wood; and C. Peter James

Attendees were given copies of the FY2021 (07/01/2020 – 06/30/2021) proposed budget and warrant articles.

By Official Ballot at the Polls on March 10, 2020 from 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

ARTICLES 2 through 8 – Zoning Amendments

(A red-lined copy is available for review in the Town Clerk’s office or on the homepage of the Town’s website at www.granthamnh.net)

Town Administrator White reviewed the following Summary of Proposed Budget:

Item	Prior Year (FY2020)	Ensuing Year (FY2021)
Total Operating Budget	\$3,550,587	\$3,590,925
Special Warrant Articles	\$450,000	\$418,000
Individual Warrant Articles	\$555,240	\$212,342
TOTAL Appropriations	\$4,555,827	\$4,221,267
Less: Amount of Estimated Revenues & Credits	\$2,007,601	\$1,541,645
Estimated Amount to be raised by taxes	\$2,548,226	\$2,679,622

White stated that the estimated amount to be raised by taxes, after estimated revenues and credits, is \$2,679,622; an increase of \$131,396 from the prior year (FY2020).

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The estimated tax impact of this proposed budget is .27 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. So, a home assessed for \$250,000 could expect to see a tax increase of \$67.50 annually.

ARTICLE 9 – General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million, three hundred seventy-six thousand, seven hundred ten dollars (**\$1,376,710**) 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 2019/2020	Proposed 2020/2021	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Selectmen's Office	\$257,195	\$266,835	\$9,640
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$125,538	\$136,648	\$11,110
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$9,000	\$14,258	\$5,258
Financial Administration	\$45,200	\$46,200	\$1,000
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$0.00
Legal	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$5,000
Personnel Administration	\$633,000	\$620,496	(\$12,504)
Planning Board	\$5,050	\$5,600	\$550
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$2,550	\$2,550	\$0
General Government Buildings	\$129,690	\$136,741	\$7,051
Cemeteries	\$19,800	\$19,600	(\$200)
Insurance (Property & Liability)	\$33,781	\$36,641	\$2,860
Regional Associations	\$4,100	\$4,141	\$41
Other General Government	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$1,346,904	\$1,376,710	\$29,806

Administration (Selectmen's Office):

Reductions:

- To the equipment repair budget by \$1,500
- To the printing budget by \$1,000

Increases:

- \$9,000 allocated to salaries
- \$3,000 for costs associated with computer service needs

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

Increases:

- \$3,360 allocated to salaries
- \$1,300 for overtime costs associated with office coverage, and three elections in this budget cycle.
- \$500 for costs associated with software licenses
- \$400 for costs associated with election supplies
- \$700 for increased costs associated with postage
- \$5,000 for costs associated with obtaining a new folder-stuffer. The current one is no longer serviceable and at the end of its useful life.

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Supervisors of the Checklist: An increase of \$5,258 for costs associated with holding three elections in this budget cycle.

Financial Administration: \$1,000 for the Clerk of the Trustees of the Trust Funds

Legal: \$5,000 increase

Personnel Administration: An overall decrease of \$12,504 due to savings in health insurance.

Planning: \$550 for costs associated with providing training opportunities to Board members.

General Government Buildings:

- \$2,251 allocated to salaries
- \$2,000 allocated for the purchase of an automatic floor scrubber for Town Hall.
- \$1,250 for costs associated with the inspection and maintenance of the safety systems (fire alarm, sprinkler system, fire extinguishers, access control system)
- \$500 for costs associated with maintenance and repair of fixed equipment (septic, furnace, generator, HVAC, etc.)
- \$500 for costs associated with travel
- \$500 for costs associated with electricity

Resident Dave Wood asked how savings in health insurance were achieved. White explained that there was some plan shifting, which resulted in a little bit of savings. Wood asked – without a reduction in quality? White said that is correct and explained further that the Board looked at that and ensured that the quality of benefit would not be reduced. White explained that they are going to be dropping the option for the Blue Choice Plan and are going to offer the AB20 and a small deductible plan for employees to choose from.

McClory asked if the Town was anticipating something to cause the \$5,000 increase in Legal. White stated that the Town is heading into a revaluation year for a statistical update and there could be other unforeseen matters that come up.

ARTICLE 10 – Public Safety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred fifty-four thousand, three hundred twenty-three dollars (**\$854,323**) 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 2019/2020	Proposed 2020/2021	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Police Department	\$543,131	\$530,479	(\$12,652)
EMS Department	\$136,646	\$141,504	\$4,858
Fire Department	\$141,474	\$150,280	\$8,806
Building Inspection	\$12,000	\$18,000	\$6,000
Emergency Management	\$10,000	\$14,060	\$4,060
TOTAL	\$843,251	\$854,323	\$11,072

Police Department: Net decrease of \$12,652

- Reduced the budget for on-call coverage by \$8,100
- Reduced the budget for on-call overtime by \$11,700
- Reduced the budget for vehicle maintenance by \$2,000

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- Reduced the budget for uniforms and equipment by \$8,000
- Reduced the budget for cruiser equipment by \$8,000
- Reduced the budget for office equipment by \$1,000
- Reduced the budget for furniture by \$1,200

2018-2019 Budget year: Grants totaling approximately \$68,000 were awarded for the purchase of equipment not only for direct GPD use, but also that of other town agencies.

2019-2020 Budget year:

- ▶ **EMPG Grant:** Used to purchase equipment to upgrade the CCTV system at town hall. The total cost of this equipment was \$40,000. A matching grant was awarded in conjunction with the approval of the 2018 warrant Article 6-Public Safety Communication Upgrades. No additional cost to the town.
- ▶ **HSEM/EOC Grant:** Used to purchase equipment for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the Jerry Whitney Room of Town Hall. The total cost of this equipment was \$17,416. A matching grant was awarded in conjunction with the approval of the 2018 warrant Article 6 - Public Safety Communication Upgrades. No additional cost to the town.
- ▶ **NHSP/Dept. of Safety:** Used to purchase PBT's and associated support equipment. The total cost of this equipment was \$3,360.
- Increased the budget for salaries by \$8,854
- Increased the budget for computer services by \$8,328:
 - ❖ \$7,200 For Digital Ally (Cloud storage and computer system for Cruiser camera/Body Camera systems)
 - ❖ \$478 for Comcast (Switched to Business class account for increased internet speeds, encrypted lines for security video feeds, and an additional static IP for use with IMC and Hanover Dispatch.)
 - ❖ \$635 for Twin Bridges (additional IT services for IMC-desktop and MDT's)
 - ❖ \$15 for upgrade of IMC licenses
- Increased the budget for dispatch services by \$1,572
- Increased the budget for building maintenance by \$9,550
- Increased the budget for travel by \$1,000
- Increase the budget for dues and subscriptions by \$150

Police Chief Parsons informed that, in going over last year's budget, they were able to go through and identify quite a few places where they could remove money from the budget for things that were previously appropriated for, or in looking at the data, the money was not needed so the overall decrease in the Police Department budget is \$12,652. Parsons further explained where the reductions were taken:

- The on-call coverage line was reduced by \$8,100. He said looking at the data over the past two years, the maximum amount of times that he could have an officer on call during the week is about four times as opposed to seven and, with the current staff levels, didn't see it moving beyond four times a week from six to eight hours per shift. Taking that into account, he anticipated it being roughly two to four days per week, fifty-two weeks per year, roughly 208 days. That resulted in the \$8,100 reduction from that line. To give an idea of where the Department is at now, from July 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020, the end of the last pay period, the Department spent just under \$5,100 out of the on-call coverage budget which amounts to 703 hours of additional coverage with an officer being on call during that time. There have been 45 calls that have come in, either to the Grantham Police Department or Hanover Dispatch, when an officer was not working so this could have been after hours or a time when he didn't have a patrolman scheduled to work. Out of those 45 calls, 36 were either dispatched to the NH State Police or they didn't result with any Grantham Officer responding. Out of those 36, 8 of those were medical calls. The rest of them were reports of things like motor vehicle complaints on the interstate and there

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were two animal complaints – one was a fox running around at the Circle K and a skunk in somebody's back yard. Out of the remaining nine, an officer was on call and did respond to handle those. From January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, approximately \$9,300 was spent for having an officer on call which resulted in an extra 1,285 hours of coverage. With a reduction in the on-call coverage, the Department also saw a reduction in the amount of on-call overtime hours. That was originally budgeted for three calls a week and in looking at the historical data, they are not anywhere near that. So far this year, from July 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020, an officer has been called out nine times which resulted in an expenditure of that line of \$1,111.86. He explained that there is no true way to break that down by officer because the overtime rate depends on which officer is on call that night. That is why there is a little bit of flexibility in that number. To put that in perspective, from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, an officer was called out 17 times during that budget year and we are already at nine calls in this current budget year, plus one call after the close of the last pay period and those numbers will be reflected at town meeting. Last year for the 17 call outs, we spent a total of \$1,887.

- The vehicle maintenance line was reduced by \$2,000 by getting new cruisers which means a lot less wear and tear and regular scheduled maintenance. After looking at historical data from the past couple of years and realizing that the Department was not spending what was budgeted, they reduced it accordingly.
- The uniform and equipment budget was reduced by \$8,000. Two years ago, they bumped that line by \$8,000 for the purposes of purchasing helmets and plate carriers. Of the \$8,000, they were able to recoup \$6,000 through a grant. He kept the \$8,000 in this current year's budget to help with the purchase of body cameras. Since the Department does not have any further expenditures and they have enough body cameras, he removed the \$8,000 from that budget.
- The same thing applies to the cruiser equipment. Two years ago, they put additional money in that budget line for the purchase of two mobile dock terminals, the laptops that are in the cruisers. They were able to get back about \$3,000 plus from a matching grant from the State. He kept the \$8,000 in the budget for this current year and used it to offset the cost of replacing the light bars of the two marked sedans which were well beyond end of life and needed to be replaced. Those lights have been replaced and since they didn't need it, that money was removed from the cruiser equipment line. One of the articles this year is a scheduled replacement of a cruiser. They were able to reduce that cost by \$7,000 because of the lights that were purchased. Going forward, those lights should last six to seven years so that is an expense we won't need further down the road.
- The office equipment line was reduced by \$1,000. That was bumped up last year for the purchase of new chairs. We have the chairs, so we don't need the extra \$1,000.
- The same thing applies to the office furniture. The conference room table was replaced so the \$1,200 was removed.

Parsons pointed out some other things to look at; last year from 2018 – 2019, the Police Department was able to get roughly \$68,000 in grant money for the purchase of equipment, being their plate gear, helmets and MDT's and also the electronic message board that is currently outside of the Fire Department as well as a traffic trailer which is the black trailer that is parked across the way from the entrance to Town Hall. That trailer contains sawhorses, cones and all sorts of traffic control equipment. Parsons stated that the Police Department was the mechanism to obtain them, but those particular things are also used by the Fire Department, Fast Squad, Highway Department and the Transfer Station. So, while they were the mechanism to get this equipment, it was for the greater use of other departments within the town.

Parsons stated that so far this year, what they have been able to accomplish is a \$40,000 EMPG grant for the use of upgrading all of the security cameras that are located throughout town hall, both inside and out. The security cameras provide an additional level of security for not only the building, but the employees, the residents who come out here and our parking lots which get used somewhat frequently for things such as child custody exchanges which are sometimes

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court ordered and we know about it and sometimes we don't. Police Departments throughout the State and country are also being used as quasi meeting places for things people are buying off of Craig's List. They were able to obtain the EMPG grant through the warrant article that was approved in 2018 which was to completely overhaul the police and fire Departments' radio communications. This was something that was approved to help improve the radios and their ability to communicate within the town and they were also able to get additional resources for the town as a whole.

In addition to the above grant, through that same warrant article in 2018, they were able to apply for and get another grant for just over \$17,000 to improve the Emergency Operations Center equipment. Most of it is going to be located in the Jerry Whitney Room here in town hall. That will be an upgraded telephone system, a large screen TV, another radio system that can be plugged into the TV so that if we have to open up the Emergency Operations Center, people can listen to the police channel, the fire channel and dispatch things from there. He said the nice thing about this television system is that it will be compatible with most laptops. In the past, when a presentation was done at Board or Committee meetings, you saw a system very much like this where they had to bring in the screen, the projector and a laptop. The television will allow someone to plug a laptop into the TV with just an HDMI cable so that everything can go up on the big screen and, hopefully, eliminate some of the older technology.

Lastly, Officer Gamble was able to obtain a grant through the New Hampshire Department of Public Safety for just over \$3,300 for the purchase of PBT's which are preliminary breath tests, a small little hand held breath test device that you would use either out in the field doing an investigation involving a minor in possession of alcohol or DWI. Some people are required as part of bail conditions to not consume any alcohol and are required to come to the Police Department to blow into a PBT to make sure that they are abiding by the conditions of release. Officer Gamble was not only able to get the PBT's, but also the various accoutrements that go along with them at no additional cost to the town.

In the past two years, through grants, the Police Department has obtained just a little bit under \$129,000 in grant money for equipment, for use not only by the Police Department but other town departments as well.

Chief Parsons explained the budget increases as follows:

- Increased the budget for salaries by \$8,854
- Increased the budget for computer services by \$8,328:
 - ❖ \$7,200 For Digital Ally (Cloud storage and computer system for Cruiser camera/Body Camera systems)
 - Chief Parsons explained that when they replaced the cruiser cameras a couple years ago, they went with a high-end system because it had better low light capabilities as there is not a lot of extra light here in town. Shortly after that system was purchased, Digital Ally came out with something brand new and they actually stepped up to the plate and said anybody who purchased the previous system, which was the 800 HD, we will give you this new video system for free. They also came to the Department and installed it. As part of the deal, the Department could purchase body cameras at a reduced rate to go along with that system. The \$7,200 is for their cloud storage system so that all of their videos, whether they are from the cruiser cameras or their body cameras, are now uploaded into the cloud. They are joined together so it's possible to have video from a cruiser along with video from the officer's body camera. This system will meld it all into one so if they need to produce a video to be reviewed for prosecutorial purposes or defense purposes, it's all one video. The video system also has necessary redaction software, so he has the ability to blur out faces or alter video. All of this is required by New Hampshire law. With the advent of the body cameras, New Hampshire also has a law specific to body cameras and there are certain events that are required to be held for a certain period of time, some of it in perpetuity.

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- ❖ \$478 for Comcast (Switched to Business class account for increased internet speeds, encrypted lines for security video feeds, and an additional static IP for use with IMC and Hanover Dispatch.)
 - This was needed to add some extra static IP's and infrastructure to do certain things to maintain their records management system.
- ❖ \$635 for Twin Bridges (additional IT services for IMC-desktop and MDT's)
 - Twin Bridges deals specifically with records management.
- ❖ \$15 for upgrade of IMC licenses
 - This is an increase in the cost.
- Increased the budget for dispatch services by \$1,572
 - ❖ The Department dispatches with Hanover and when their cost increases, our cost also increases.
- Increased the budget for building maintenance by \$9,550
 - ❖ Two years ago, they replaced one half of the flooring in the Police Department. It was getting old and cracked and the sub-floor had some major issues. They replaced the tile with a new floor that is very rugged and easy to clean which reduced the maintenance budget for cleaning. He obtained a quote to replace the remaining flooring, which is currently indoor/outdoor carpet, and anticipated that, next year, the maintenance cost should go down. They won't have to have the carpets cleaned once or twice a year
- Increased the budget for travel by \$1,000
 - ❖ Chief Parsons said that when he sends an Officer away to training, he tries to have the Officer take a Department cruiser to save on the cost of gas and tolls but there are times when he doesn't have a cruiser available and the Officer has to take his own vehicle. This is giving the travel budget an extra cushion.
- Increase the budget for dues and subscriptions by \$150
 - ❖ Chief Parsons said he has been sending all of his Officers to various command schools through FBI LEEDA. After graduating from these classes, the Officers get to enroll in the associations as a part of that and this will cover that cost.

Resident, Dave Wood, asked Chief Parsons if he has an opportunity to look at what goes on in Hanover and whether the charges they incurred can be reduced. Chief Parsons explained that Hanover has a formula much like every other town which consists of a base rate, calls for service, population and other things. That number is what it will cost for dispatch for not only the Police, but Fire and EMS. When they get that number, they look at who is generating the most calls for service and it is the Police Department. It gets divvied up in a way through all of this that is equitable the best it can be for all of the agencies. Wood said that he isn't worried about their formula, he is worried about what the total cost is. Assistant Fire Chief, Jay Fountain, said that he thinks what Wood is asking, is if Chief Parsons has any input in Hanover's budget. Chief Parsons said that he does not, that Hanover sets its own rate. Chief Parsons expressed that we have gained a lot by going with Hanover in terms of the quality of service, the type of service and just the knowledge base that Doug Hackett has, who is not only the Chief of Communications in Hanover, but also the Police Chief in Cornish, which is a small agency that has the same communication issues as we have, and the same infrastructure challenges we have. He emphasized that Hackett's knowledge on all things related to, especially communications, in his mind is well worth the \$1,500 increase. Fountain added that Hackett has done a lot of work with getting grants for the Hanover Police Department and dispatch because Hanover Police Department runs the dispatch. Fountain said that about 18 months ago,

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they hired a company to go in and review all stages of dispatch as a whole, including personnel, policies and procedures, because they were losing people to different dispatch agencies so some of this increase is part of those salary increases to bring them closer to par with the rest of the dispatch agencies.

Resident Lorie McClory said she has a question directed more to the Selectmen than to Chief Parsons and asked why we keep our building maintenance in one area of the budget under General Government Buildings rather than disbursing it by separate buildings. White said the Police Chief decides what he does on his side of the building so to give him an allocation for the maintenance needs is better because he has to grant access to his cleaning personnel, etc. McClory said she understands that but said she would like to see how much it costs to maintain and fix this building and everything altogether in one spot. White said it could be something to talk about for the next budget.

Resident Sheridan Brown said he just wanted to say thank you to Police Chief John Parsons for all of the great work he does and commented that we get so much detail every year that you leave with your head hurting because we learn so much. He added that he really likes that we are able to find savings and put that into officers and training and that we have managed to have some longevity with folks in the department and the skill level is great. We can be really proud of the Department we have.

ARTICLE 11 – Reinstatement of 5th Full-time Police Officer

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred two thousand, three hundred forty-two dollars (**\$102,342**) for the costs associated with the reinstatement of the 5th Full-time Police Officer. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Police Chief Parsons stated that he is looking to reinstate funding for the 5th Full-time Officer. He explained that in 2007, at Town Meeting, the town voted and authorized a salary for a 5th full-time officer. He said they tried for four years to find somebody who could pass a background check, and he wasn't talking about someone who stole a six-pack of beer from the 7-11, this is stuff that really would shake your head. In 2011, after trying all that time to fill it, the position was defunded, and the money was removed from the Police Department budget. He is trying to bring that back for several reasons.

- The amount of money in Article 11, \$102,342, is not what he is going to be paying his officer. He said he is asking for a salary of \$57,743. The remainder of that is benefits; health insurance, retirement and everything that goes along with that. In 2007, the position was voted on and approved for \$50,000. If that officer had been hired, with just the standard increases over those years, that officer today would be making over \$71,000.
- The average officer has the ability, without counting overtime, to work roughly 260 shifts a year. That's five eight-hour shifts a week for 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year. That is 260 times that an officer will be here on duty. That is before vacations, personal time, sick time, training and all the things along those lines. In November of last year, the Department lost Officer Bob Schwartz. Chief Parsons said he was his stalwart. He was someone that he could call on to come in and work. Since 2014, he averaged 60 shifts per year. Just for 2019 which was from January 1, 2019 through the last time he worked, August 1, 2019, he had worked 30 ¼ shifts. Chief Parsons expressed that he is now sorely lacking in that ability to call and ask him to work if something happens or someone calls out. What that has resulted in so far this year is an increase in what he is having to pay in his overtime line. Between July 1, 2018 and January 31, 2019, he paid out \$7,100 in overtime. From July 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020, he has paid out \$9,600. His ability to fill those shifts without Officer Schwartz is causing his overtime line to go up.
- In terms of their calls for service, when this officer was authorized in 2007, the total calls for service was 945 for that year. The total calls for 2019 was 2,411. The number of calls has increased every year. What this means is that they are getting busier and they are trying to do it with less people. The FBI puts out statistics about the number of officers per capita for various regions throughout the country. For the northeast region, the FBI states that we should have 2.2 officers per 1000 people. We currently have 1.34 officers per 1000 people and that was

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based on the census of 2010 which said there were 2985 people in town. Chief Parsons said that he is willing to bet that when we have our next census, we will be over 3000. He emphasized the importance of having officers who work here in town and who have a vested interest in town and gave the following example: The previous Monday, he and Sergeant Cunningham were supposed to be on duty. He was home with the flu which left Sergeant Cunningham. Sergeant Cunningham had to be in court. At 8:30 AM, there was a domestic in progress going on here in town. There were no state police around, but they were able to call in an officer from Enfield to come in and help us out. It is better having officers here in town, ready to work, ready to respond as opposed to they get a call in Eastman and, hopefully, their GPS will get them from Point A to Point B and not send them over hill, over dale which has happened in the past.

There was no public comment on this Article.

ARTICLE 12 – Police Cruiser

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 for the purchase of a new Police Cruiser, and to convert the existing 2015 Dodge Charger to an alternate police duty use vehicle and to permit the Selectmen to dispose of the existing 2014 Dodge Charger by “trade in” allowance, by sale or as deemed in the best interest of the Town of Grantham. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Police Chief Parsons explained that this is something they first did in 2017 when it was time to replace the Crown Victoria which was the chief’s car/admin car. His thought back then, prior to becoming a Chief and even being a Chief now, is that he doesn’t need a brand new car, he would rather have one of his officers driving it. When they replaced the Crown Vic, the new Charger that they bought was marked up, striped up and put in the front line fleet and the oldest Charger became the unmarked admin car. That is what he is looking to do now. The admin car that he currently drives is a 2014 and has 63,000 plus miles. It is also their last rear wheel drive vehicle. He is looking to replace the 2014 with a 2020 cruiser. That 2020 would be marked and striped to go into the front line and the oldest car, which is the 2015, would be de-striped, de-marked and become the new admin unmarked car. In doing that, all of their cars would be all wheel drive. Last year, Officer Gamble did some extensive research on tires and he found a set of all season tires that the Alaska State Police and the Michigan State Police use on their Chargers. The only thing is that you can only use them on all wheel drive cars. The car that he is using now, being a rear wheel, needs a set of summer tires and winter tires and it has to go into the shop twice a year to take one set off and put one set on. With the all-wheel drive vehicles, it’s one set of tires so this would ultimately save money not only in their tire line but in the maintenance line. When they first did this in 2017 with a new cruiser, it was \$42,000 for the car and to do the two tire swaps, unmark one car, totally strip out another one and then remark the second one. This year it will cost \$35,000. The car itself is a little over \$25,000 and the remainder is taking stuff out of the unmarked car so that it can be put in one of the cars that has to be striped and things like that. He reiterated that they are able to do that because of the money that he kept in his budget this year to replace their light bars. Going forward, all of the equipment that they have should go from car to car to car. He said this is something that was denoted in the Master Plan that was approved in 2017 about replacing the cruisers in a five to six-year cycle and this is also something that was recommended by the CIP Committee.

Lorie McClory, addressing Chief Parsons, said you mean to tell me that for \$35,000, we are getting a new cruiser, are going to be able to convert over the old one for your use and whatever we get for the existing cruiser would go into that. Chief Parsons said yes, it actually comes out to \$34,000 and some change. The cruiser itself is \$25,000 and change. He has a quote from Adamson’s, who are their long time outfitters/de-fitters for \$2,000 to take everything completely out of Cruiser 2 which is the unmarked car and then the remainder of it is to install the stuff that is coming out of Cruiser 2 into Cruiser 4 and then to take the other stuff that is in Cruiser 4 to make that the new car and then the striping/outfitting, so yes, those are the hard numbers that he got for this. McClory thanked him.

Dave Wood said he is not sure that he is following all the numbers but he thought it was admirable for the Chief to want to use the oldest car as the admin and put the newest car into the fleet but there is a substantial cost to moving everything around. He asked if that really makes sense or would it be better just to buy the car he needs. Chief Parsons said that if he

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was going to buy a brand new car and not want to move stuff out, what we would have to pay for brand new stuff is astronomical. Wood said no, for the admin car. Parsons reiterated that they are trying to keep these cars as long as they can and he doesn't feel, personally, as the Police Chief, that he needs a brand new car. He would much rather that it be marked, striped and have his officers utilize that. Wood said that he appreciates that, but his nobility adds an extra cost. Assistant Fire Chief Jay Fountain explained that it doesn't because it is the same car and it has the same equipment and stuff in it, it just doesn't have the outside striping.

Someone else asked if this is something they are doing every year or was the last time in 2017. Chief Parsons replied that the last time they did this was in 2017 and explained that, before, when it came time to buy a new car, they bought a new car, and they didn't reuse one that still had some equity in it. Now, they are extending the life span of the vehicles that they have but not past a date certain where it becomes detrimental.

McClory said she had a question for the Selectmen. On page 34 of the PowerPoint presentation, she saw \$30,000 in a Capital Reserve Fund for Police Vehicles and you are proposing to put another \$10,000 into that fund and we are going to actually be appropriating \$45,000 toward police vehicles this year and not taking any money out of the capital reserve fund for this vehicle. Is that correct? Town Administrator White explained that Chief Parsons asked that his capital reserve fund for vehicles be funded at a level that he would have enough money to be able to replace the Expedition if something happened to it. Chief Parsons, to further explain, said if one of his vehicles blew up or a tree fell on it or something catastrophic like that happened and he had to replace a car, he would have enough money in the capital reserve fund to do that. McClory asked if the unexpended fund balance can be used in that way by the Selectmen if something happened like that. White said she didn't have an answer for that but could look into it and get back to her. McClory thanked her.

Resident C. Peter James, who is also a member of the CIP Committee, stated that the CIP Committee has looked into this on a regular replacement basis. We have four vehicles; three sedans and an SUV. The SUV will cost more to replace so the anticipated plan is to replace a vehicle three years in a row, skip a year but put money into the capital reserve fund so there are constant payments each year either buying a vehicle or putting money in the capital reserve fund so that when the SUV comes up, we don't get hit with a big number all at once.

ARTICLE 13 – Utility Task Vehicle

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of purchasing and upfitting of a Utility Task Vehicle. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

This vehicle would contain:

- 67 Gallon water tank/ 3 gallon Class A Foam Cell
- 6 HP rear mounted pump
- Capable of drafting up to 19 feet vertically
- 70 feet of hose
- Compactable full size stokes basket
- Attendant seat

Police Chief Parsons said that on a different note, he is not asking for a car, he is asking for an UTV. There was laughter and Parsons said that this is not just for the Police Department, but all first responders. Referring to a diagram of the proposed UTV in the PowerPoint presentation, Parsons described the Polaris UTV, which is a utility task vehicle, as having room inside of it for five to six people prior to gear. In the back on the left hand side is a wildland fire fighting pump which has a 67 gallon water reserve, and a three gallon foam reserve, seventy plus feet of hosing and the ability to draft vertically 19 feet. On the right side, you will see a collapsible rescue sked for being able to pull somebody who is wounded or hurt out of the woods or in an off road situation. This would be something that would be utilized not only by the Police Department but by the Fire Department and the Fast Squad as well. The impetus behind this is, especially last year, the Town invested a lot of money in the Sawyer Brook Headwaters Conservation Project which consists of 385

Approved

acres. Sherwood Forest consists of 850 acres, the Cote Forest is 420 acres and our Town Forest at the end of Miller Pond Road is 433.8 acres. Those are just four large parcels of land here in town that the Police Department, the Fire Department and EMS would be responsible to respond to for any type of emergency. We currently don't have the ability to get up there and get into some of these areas. To visualize it, the water area of Eastman Pond is 335 acres. He said this past summer, they were asked to direct patrols in the Sawyer Brook Headwaters up on the road due to ATV usage and other things. They conducted over 68 patrols up there and what those consisted of was driving a cruiser from the pavement at the sharp intersection to the first log landing because that was as far as he could get his Dodge Chargers. They could get the Expedition to the second log landing but that is miniscule to the amount of property that is up there and as somebody who had to do a 75 point turn because he went up the road and there was a tree down in the middle of it, it's kind of a pain in the neck. To have this piece of equipment would give them the ability to be able to respond to a law enforcement related issue, a wildland fire related issue, or a medical related issue whether it be in some of these wooded areas or any of the trail systems located throughout Eastman. Chief Parsons referred to a map with color coded areas of where they can't get to right now. He said that he can't speak totally towards the mutual aid capabilities of the local Fire Departments, but he is willing to bet that their ability to get into some of these areas is about the same as the Police Department, if not worse. He added that, again, while the Police Department is possibly the mechanism for potentially obtaining this, it is something that the Police Department is going to use, the Fire Department is going to use, and the FAST Squad is going to use. He looked for grant money for this machine but he could not find any, however, in talking with the folks at New Hampshire Emergency Management and Homeland Security, there is a potential to get another EMPG grant, like they did when they purchased the Expedition, for the tractor trailer with the emergency equipment and the electronic message board. That grant would potentially allow them to get a trailer to cart this UTV around. New Hampshire Fish and Game does offer a grant to offset the cost of patrols. They have a program for local law enforcement agencies that have these types of capabilities to help offset the cost of patrols. He added that this is something that could be used to access some of the local cemeteries that are well off the beaten path as well.

Resident Renee Gustafson asked why the tires are so small. Chief Parsons said that he wasn't sure exactly which tires are in the picture, but they offer several different varieties of them. They have tires that are compatible with off-road, but you can also drive them on the street which might be the ones shown in the picture. He said he is not looking for those type of tires but tires that would be most suitable for the terrain they would be accessing.

Resident Carole Wood asked if any other local communities around here have such a vehicle. Chief Parsons said the only one that he is somewhat aware of is Newport; their Fire Department purchased something last year, but it is a two-seater, so you have the driver and one other person. The only thing in the back is a large pump so it wouldn't have the ability to, in a wildland fire situation, bring the machine that has the ability to pump water, put foam on it but also have anywhere from four to five fully outfitted firefighters on the scene right then and there to do what they need to do. If we had a critically injured patient, they would be able to bring not only members of our FAST Squad, but members of Lebanon ambulance out there to help treat the patient and then load them on the back of the UTV to be able to drive them out instead of having to walk them out. Wood asked if other towns, like Hanover, could go in together to share cost. Chief Parsons said he couldn't answer that because they have not spoken to other towns, but he did say it would create some problems such as; who has ownership of it and primary responsibility for it. He said that he couldn't speak for Fire Chief Hastings but suggested that this is something he could bring with him in a mutual aid situation. Chief Hastings said that Enfield has a Gator, sort of like this, but it is only a two-seater and we could call them in to help as well so our mutual aid agreements would allow us to bring that somewhere else as well as them bringing stuff to us. Selectman Garland added that Henniker has one with tracks on it. Assistant Fire Chief Jay Fountain said that Warner has one similar to this but it's a two-seater, has the pump in the back, didn't have the stretcher and has tires and tracks that they switch out twice a year. He added that a two-seat vehicle is useless for anything that Fire needs to do because you need more people.

Lorie McClory asked where this will be stored. Fire Chief Hastings said it will most likely be stored at the Fire Department; that they have a space already available for it and the Police Department will be able to utilize it whenever they need to.

Sheridan Brown spoke in support of this article from the conservation perspective of the transaction we did last year of appropriating up to \$300,000 towards the Sawyer Brook parcel which has a total project cost of \$515,000. He said Chief

Approved

Parsons asked him about this a while back and if there were any grants he could think of. He said he couldn't but that we were going to try to do what we promised at town meeting of bringing a substantial amount of money back to the town as part of the conservation deal and we did that. Some of the unrestricted fund balance is money that is not being spent out of that \$300,000. The Town saved \$50,000 out of that because we received \$215,000 from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program grants. We received another \$24,000 from the Moose Plate grants. The Eastman Charitable Foundation made a sizeable grant to this, he thought the largest in their history, we received \$25,000 from Dorothy Byrne in Hanover so we have had a lot of good contributions come in from private fund raising. Long story short, the Town is not being asked to put up that \$300,000. The \$250,000 that was spent was the only thing that was needed for the Sawyer Brook Project. In fact, we did well enough with the private and other fund raising that once we get the second closing done, because now we have to buy the other share that is held by another organization, there will probably be another \$20,000 or so coming back to the Town. Brown said he looks at this as a great way to honor the spirit of what we did last year and preserve that investment we made because we did it not only to protect the land but to protect the quality of life we have here in town. We want people to get out and use those lands and, certainly, they would feel more comfortable doing that if they know that help can get out there to them if they need it. This also has a deterrence value. Sawyer Brook has tremendous access from all sides and that also invites some trouble which we saw a little of last year when people were doing donuts and whatnot in those log landings and the Chief did some directed patrols out there. He thought it subsided when people knew that there was a presence out there. He said he thinks that it is penny wise and pound foolish to buy a big piece of property like that and then not have the ability to get out there and adequately police it so he thought it would be good to have something like this to help protect our investment.

Lorie McClory asked if we have all this money coming back from that project, why we can't use some of that to buy this? Several people said; that is what he is saying. McClory said that is not how the article is written. There was much discussion about the unassigned fund balance. McClory felt that it looked better to have this article come from unassigned fund balance. Selectman Jones said that it is not available to use yet.

ARTICLE 14 – Fire Department Washer/Extractor Machine

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase and installation of a washer/extractor machine for the Fire Department. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

- Currently, a regular household washing machine is being used and it is at least 15 years old. This machine would properly remove the carcinogens from the turnout gear.

There was no public comment on this Article.

ARTICLE 15 – Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred forty-seven thousand, nine hundred dollars (**\$847,900**) 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 2019/2020	Proposed 2020/2021	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Highway Administration	\$252,345	\$264,010	\$11,665
Highway Maintenance	\$178,700	\$205,700	\$27,000
Street Lights	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0.00
Transfer Station	\$153,798	\$168,690	\$14,892
Waste Disposal	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0.00
Landfill Monitoring	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$794,343	\$847,900	\$53,557

Approved

Highway Administration:

- \$3,965 allocated to salaries
- \$1,000 allocated to the part-time position
- \$3,500 allocated for overtime
- \$1,000 allocated for equipment maintenance
- \$2,000 allocated for vehicle fuel

Highway Maintenance:

- \$2,000 allocated for winter sand and salt
- \$25,000 allocated for paving

Transfer Station:

- \$3,272 allocated to salaries
- \$7,920 allocated to the part-time salary budget (for coverage when full-time staff is off)
- \$1,000 allocated for vehicle repairs
- \$2,000 allocated for tires for the Bobcat

Resident Dave Wood asked about the \$25,000 allocated for paving under Highway Maintenance. White explained that the town has never had a separate account for resurfacing when a culvert is replaced, when there is a road washout, or some other unforeseen repair needed; it always took away from the paving budget which is the shim and overlay, so it is now separated from the \$100,000 that is allocated for the shim and overlay budget.

ARTICLE 16 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to defray the cost of holding a household hazardous waste collection day for Grantham residents only. Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Town Administrator Melissa White stated that if this article is approved, the event will be held on July 18, 2020 from 9 AM – 12 PM.

ARTICLE 17 – Health and Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand, five hundred dollars (**\$45,500**) 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 2019/2020	Proposed 2020/2021	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Health	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0.00
Boarding Animals	\$700	\$700	\$0.00
Community Services	\$18,800	\$18,800	\$0.00
Town General Assistance	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$45,500	\$45,500	\$0.00

Approved

Community Agencies:	Budget 2019/2020	Proposed 2020/2021	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Lake Sunapee VNA	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0
Newport Food Pantry	\$500	\$500	\$0
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$300	\$300	\$0
Kearsarge Area COA	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$0
Southwestern Community Services	\$900	\$900	\$0
West Central Services	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$0
Public Health Council of the Upper Valley	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Visiting Nurse & Hospice of VT/NH	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Total	\$18,800	\$18,800	\$0

There was no public comment on this Article.

ARTICLE 18 – Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred eight thousand, eight-hundred ninety dollars (**\$308,890**) for **Culture and Recreation**. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2019/2020	Proposed 2020/2021	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Recreation	\$85,300	\$87,696	\$2,396
Dunbar Free Library	\$215,352	\$220,444	\$5,092
Archives	\$1,500	\$750	(\$750)
TOTAL	\$302,152	\$308,890	\$6,738

Recreation:

- \$1,176 allocated to salaries
- \$1,140 allocated to officiating

Library:

- Reduced the benefits account by \$2,000
- \$4,557 allocated to salaries
- \$2,515 allocated to library expenses

There was no comment on this Article.

ARTICLE 19 – Conservation, Debt Principal, Debt Interest, and Tax Anticipation Note Interest

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty-seven thousand, six hundred two dollars (**\$157,602**) 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)

Approved

Account Title	Budget 2019/2020	Proposed 2020/2021	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Conservation Commission	\$3,000	\$3,750	\$750
Town Hall Bond/Interest	\$74,808	\$73,425	(\$1,383)
Library Bond/Interest	\$59,406	\$57,356	(\$2,050)
Fire Department SCBA Lease	\$37,197	\$0.00	(\$37,197)
Police Cruiser Lease (2018)	\$22,971	\$22,971	\$0.00
Highway 1-Ton Lease	\$20,955	\$0.00	(\$20,955)
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100	\$100	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$218,437	\$157,602	(\$60,835)

Conservation:

- \$550 for costs associated with providing training opportunities to commission members

Bonds & Notes:

- Town Hall Bond – year 16 out of 20
- Library Bond – year 5 out of 10
- 2018 Police Cruiser Lease/Purchase – final payment

There was no public comment on this Article.

ARTICLE 20 – Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred ninety-three thousand dollars (\$393,000) to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds, as listed below with said funds to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. 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 2019/2020	Proposed 2020/2021	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Highway Equipment CRF	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$150,000
Transfer Station Equipment CRF	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0.00
Library Building Repair CRF	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0.00
Town Building Maintenance CRF	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$3,000
Fire Department Apparatus CRF	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0.00
Police Vehicles CRF	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Road Improvement ETF	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Town Office Equipment CRF	\$3,000	\$2,000	(\$1,000)
Municipality Revaluation CRF	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Equipment CRF	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$1,000
Town Emergency Repair ETF	\$5,000	\$0.00	(\$5,000)
TOTAL	\$230,000	\$393,000	\$163,000

Approved

Highway Equipment CRF:

- The 2015 plow truck has been unreliable since it caught fire in March 2017 and continues to break down during most storms. This requires us to use the 1-ton truck to plow our roads, which will reduce its anticipated life as well.
- Since obtaining this truck, we have spent approximately \$19,000 in repair costs. This does not include the hours Jeff & Brian have spent fixing it.
- It takes approximately one full year to purchase and upfit a new plow truck, so, we are requesting this CRF to be funded by an additional \$150,000. Also, this truck has been out-of-service several times for warranty work all stemming from the fire.

Road Improvement ETF:

- Requesting an additional \$15,000 so that we can continue with permitting and engineering costs for the Miller Pond Road Safety and Drainage Improvement Project.

Meg Alexander asked for confirmation that voters are being asked to put an additional \$250,000 in the Highway CRF this year to bring it to a balance of \$550,000. White said that is correct and explained that there is a \$200,000 pending withdrawal so once we receive the plow truck that was ordered last year, that will leave a balance of \$104,000. White said a plow truck costs approximately \$150,000 and there is other equipment to consider as well such as the grader and the backhoe. She said she is not sure when the grader is due to be replaced and asked Road Agent, Jeff Hastings, how much a grader cost. Hastings informed that a new grader costs approximately \$500,000. White asked Hastings how old it is. He said it is a 2002. C. Peter James, member of the CIP Committee, stated that this was a subject, excluding the problem truck, that a lot of thought, time and discussion with department heads went into. He said a lot of people think the role of the CIP Committee is to deny things that people want but that's not true. If you want our town employees in all departments to be efficient, they need to have the right tools to do the job. All of the equipment will need to be replaced at some point, but the elephant in the room is the grader. It was used when we bought it, it has served us well but when the time comes, it is going to be very expensive. The point is that if we put money aside every year, we won't get a big hit when the time comes to replace it. The same thing applies to the Fire Department for when it comes time to replace a fire truck which will cost between \$500,000 and \$750,000. We want to have that money there, so we don't have to go out and bond it. He added that the problem that has come up is the 2015 plow truck we have now. He said he thought it would be prudent to think about ordering a new plow truck July 1st because it will take 12 plus months to get a new truck.

Lorie McClory pointed out that this money is all coming from unexpended fund balance. White said yes, all \$393,000 will come from the unexpended fund balance.

Sheridan Brown said he thought we should all thank Jeff (Hastings) for his heroic efforts to put out the fire.

ARTICLE 21 – Establish Library Technology and Office Equipment Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Library Technology and Office Equipment Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of maintaining, upgrading, and purchasing new technology and office equipment for the library and its patrons, as well as the associated costs for technology consultations and support, and to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to put in the fund to come from Unassigned Fund Balance; further to name the selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Meg Alexander, Library Trustee, explained that the Library does not employ a technology person. Usually, in their budget, they have allocated \$2,000 for office and computer equipment, and they found that it doesn't necessarily work for

Approved

them. They usually let technological projects build up so that it is worthwhile to bring someone in and pay them for their consulting work. Some years, they use the \$2,000 and some years they don't. They are now looking to do it as a CRF so that they can have the funds build up so that when they do have a larger project, the funds will be there. She said traditionally they would be asking for \$2,000 but their current server is on its last leg so they have been investigating some ways in which they can either replace it or move it up to the cloud. There are some one-time costs with their interlibrary loan system to upgrade it and also the purchasing of a new server. They are still exploring options as to what is the most cost effective for the Library and also the most secure, data-wise, for the technology that they have. So, their idea is, instead of trying to figure out the worst case scenario before budget and not needing it, is to put it toward a CRF so that if we use some of it, we will work it down, if we have a bigger project, it will be there.

There was no public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 22 – Establish Public Safety Technology Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Public Safety Technology Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of purchasing or repairing the Records Management System (RMS), and the Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD) and other ancillary equipment, software, or cloud-based subscription services related to these systems for the Police, Fire, and EMS Departments and to raise and appropriate \$15,000 to put in the fund to come from Unassigned Fund Balance; further to name the selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Police Chief Parsons explained that currently, they use a system that is called IMC that they have had since well before he was here in 2006. When he started in Lebanon in 1999, they were using it and are still using it today. Within the last six months, Doug Hackett, at Hanover Dispatch, and a bunch of other agencies have learned that it is rapidly becoming end of life and the parent company behind it is rolling out a brand new product within the next two years. The current system that we have will no longer be supported. What this does is, help them do their reports in the station and it's also the MBT's in the cruisers that they use to talk back and forth with dispatch. It also allows them to generate calls for service when they see things that are going on and it's another means of communication with the employees. In talking to Hackett about the cost, he recommended roughly \$15,000 this year, maybe something equal next year or the year after so when it comes time to purchase this new software system, it won't be a fight over something that we will have to purchase.

There was no public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 23 – Establish Fire-EMS Department Equipment/Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish a Fire-EMS Department Equipment/Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund per RSA 35-1, for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining safety equipment for the Fire and EMS Departments, and to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to put in the fund to come from Unassigned Fund Balance; further to name the selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended/Not Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

There was no public comment on this article.

ARTICLE 24: Inserted by Petition A TOWN RESOLUTION To PROMOTE LEGISLATION To CREATE UNIVERSAL, HIGH QUALITY, READILY ACCESSIBLE and AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE For AMERICANS

WHEREAS, there is legislation in the US Congress which would work towards UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE to assure AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY, READILY ACCESSIBLE medical care and

Approved

WHEREAS current costs of prescription drugs, equipment and hospital services are UNAFFORDABLE and UNSUSTAINABLE in our country, and such services, including primary and preventative care; emergency services; dental and vision care; and long-term care are essential for the HEALTH of our CITIZENRY and

WHEREAS fellow Grantham residents have experienced BANKRUPTCY due to medical bills, unheard of in any other developed nation, and many do not fill prescriptions or defer needed medical care due to unjustifiable costs and unaffordable deductions and

WHEREAS ABSENCE of UNIVERSAL, READILY ACCESSIBLE and AFFORDABLE INSURANCE contributes to inability to intervene early with and obtain medical care for opioid addiction, depression and other medical conditions which have reduced US life expectancy in recent years, and

WHEREAS the duration and quality of life for the residents of Grantham will improve since all can access ongoing care, instead of waiting until there is a medical emergency that could disrupt their lives and further burden local resources;

WHEREAS the Town of Grantham and its associated School Districts currently spend 25,944\$/year for private health insurance premiums for a teacher's family, and Health Insurance just for town employees represents 8% of total budget, our taxpayer costs would potentially be reduced via alternative lower cost, comprehensive national health insurance programs.

BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Grantham New Hampshire enthusiastically support legislation that furthers UNIVERSAL, HIGH QUALITY, READILY ACCESSIBLE and AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE For AMERICANS, and instruct Grantham's congressional representatives to work towards immediate enactment of legislation that assures appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States.

IF A MAJORITY of voters support the question, the Select Board shall immediately send a written notice to Grantham's US congressional delegation informing them of the instructions of their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

The Petitioner was not present.

Assistant Fire Chief Jay Fountain asked what this does. White said it is a resolution to send to Grantham's US congressional delegation if it is supported.

ARTICLE 25 – 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)

Selectman Peter Garland made a motion that the Board of Selectmen unanimously recommend ARTICLES 9 through 23 and ARTICLE 25; seconded by Selectman Constance Jones. *Unanimously approved.*

Reminders:

- The business portion of Town Meeting (the voting on the town budget for FY2021) will begin at **6:30 PM** on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.
- If voters approve the funding for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, it will be held on Saturday, July 18, from 9 AM – Noon at Town Hall.

Approved

By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant