

# TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

## TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2020

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Lorie McClory introduced herself and called the 244<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting to order at 6:30 pm. She welcomed everyone and asked those present to turn off their cell phones or set them to 'vibrate.' The Moderator welcomed Girl Scout Troop #58225 and asked them to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. After the pledge was recited, the Moderator thanked them.

The Moderator reminded those residents in attendance that they must have checked-in with the Supervisors and that they must have received one of the colored paper packets for the "Yes/No" voting. She added that she anticipates at least four secret ballot votes for which she has received petitions, so having one of these packets will be required in order to participate in voting on those articles. She noted that non-voters should be sitting off to the side, on the east side of the room; voters should be sitting within the posts in the room so that they will be allowed to vote on all articles. Emergency exits and rest rooms were identified. The Moderator asked if there were any residents who were new to town meeting. She welcomed those who raised their hands and thanked them for coming. She told them to participate and have fun. 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, and noted she will be referring to the warrant throughout the meeting.

The Moderator then asked those present to turn to page 7 of the town report for the dedication to the late Robert Schwartz. She then recognized Selectman Connie Jones for remarks regarding the dedication. Selectman Jones then read from the dedication in the town report and noted that Officer Schwartz was our neighbor and our friend.

The Moderator then stated "...that the meeting having been properly warned as certified on page 25 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 244<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Town of Grantham officially opened for business." She added that the polls opened at 10:00 am and will remain open until 7:00 pm for the purpose of voting on Articles 1 through 8 of the town warrant and for the school board election.

The Moderator introduced Selectmen Connie Jones, G. Warren Kimball, and Peter Garland; 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, Sandy Noordsy and Suzanne Goldman. She added that the assistant moderator is Dick Mark. The complete list of town officers begins on page 13 of the Town Report. She asked all present who wished to speak regarding an article to use the microphone at the front of the room, and to state their name and street address. She also noted that if someone in the audience is unable to come to the microphone, that they should raise their hand and a microphone will be brought to them. She then noted the presence of the four ballot clerks who will assist with counting in the event of a show of hands or a secret ballot.

The Moderator then announced that the rules of the meeting are on pages 14-15 of the town report. The Moderator then stated she could either read the rules or accept a motion to dispense with the reading of the rules. Barbara Jones of 825 Covered Bridge Lane made the motion and Ruth Ann Eastman of 9 Fairway Drive seconded. The Moderator then asked for a motion to adopt the rules of the meeting. Barbara Jones of 825 Covered Bridge Lane moved and Joy Gobin of 479 Burpee Hill Road seconded. Finally, the Moderator then asked for a motion to allow non-resident town officers and consultants to address the meeting as needed. Richard Karash of 23 Shore Road moved and Barbara Jones of 825 Covered Bridge Lane seconded.

*2020 Town Meeting Rules (listed on pages 14-15 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. *Even though the Moderator runs the meeting, this is your meeting. Any ruling by the moderator can be challenged.*
3. *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.*
4. *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.*
5. *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.*
6. *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.*
7. *All questions and comments should be addressed to the Moderator. The Moderator will choose who responds to the questions.*
8. *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 applies 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.*
9. *The moderator will conduct a secret “yes-no” ballot when:*
- A. *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.*
  - B. *seven or more voters question any non-ballot vote immediately after the vote is declared and before any other business is conducted.*
10. *All proposed amendments to articles will be submitted in writing to the Moderator prior to discussion of the amendment. Amendment forms can be found on the last page of your town report.*
11. *The Moderator will not accept negative 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 11:00PM, the Moderator may recess the Meeting to a future date.*

The Moderator then directed those present to the town warrant, beginning on page 16 of the town report. She noted that Articles 1 through 8 are on the official ballot, while articles 9-25 will be open for debate, discussion and a vote from the floor. Those articles begin with Article 9.

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

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

Selectman	3 years
Treasurer	3 years
Moderator	2 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	3 years
Cemetery Trustee	3 years
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library	3 years
Supervisor of the Checklist	6 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: (1) Amending Articles IV-A (Business District) and IV-B (Business Light Industrial Districts) to add solar energy and outdoor wood heating systems as permitted uses by special exception; and, (2) Amending Articles V-A (Rural Residential District One), V-B (Rural Residential District Two), V-C (Rural Residential District Three), and V-D (Central Village District) to add residential solar energy as a permitted use by special exception.

*[Rationale: There are currently no districts in Town where these renewable energy systems are a permitted use, meaning that any resident seeking to construct such a system must go through the difficult process of obtaining a variance. A special exception maintains abutter input into the approval process but makes it easier to obtain approval for renewable energy systems. The complete text of the amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Offices and on the Town website.]*

Recommended by the Planning Board

**Article 2 Passed: 204 Yes, 21 No**

### **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: (1) Amending Articles IV-A (Business District), IV-B (Business Light Industrial Districts), V-A (Rural Residential District One), V-B (Rural Residential District Two), and V-C (Rural Residential District Three) to require that forestry must be in accordance with Best Management Practices for Forestry published by the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands.

*[Rationale: Although State environmental laws apply to forestry in limited ways (e.g., wetlands protection, etc.), an Ordinance provision requiring forestry to be done in accordance with Best Management Practices provides an additional local safeguard against practices such as clear-cutting that have a negative impact on our Town's landscape and natural resources. Prior to the Town's acquisition of the Sawyer Brook Headwaters Parcel, when it was under threat, many residents expressed a desire for greater local protections against clear-cutting of parcels. The complete text of the amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Offices and on the Town website.]*

Recommended by the Planning Board

**Article 3 Passed: 196 Yes, 30 No**

**ARTICLE 4 – ZONING CHANGE**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amending Article XIII, A (General Provisions – Sanitary Facilities) and Article VIII (Accessory Dwelling Units) by clarifying the requirement that any structure intended for occupancy must have sanitary facilities and a sewage disposal system.

*[Rationale: The current Zoning Ordinance incorporates a variety of other laws and codes by reference. While it will continue to do so, the amendment will make the requirements of those codes clearer on the face of the Ordinance for the purposes of improving readability and compliance. The complete text of the amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Offices and on the Town website.]*

Recommended by the Planning Board

**Article 4 Passed: 192 Yes, 21 No**

**ARTICLE 5 – ZONING CHANGE**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amending Article XIII, F (General Provisions – Removal of Natural Material) to strengthen the Town’s excavation regulations governing the clearing, excavation, removal, and filling of lands.

*[Rationale: The Town’s excavation regulations were last updated on Oct. 12, 1983. The amendment contains exceptions to allow for ordinary activities and is concerned principally with large scale removal or placement of fill to safeguard against erosion, abutter impacts, and negative visual impacts. The amendment requires that clearing, excavation, removal, and filling of lands occur according to a plan approved by the Planning Board. The complete text of the amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Offices and on the Town website.]*

Recommended by the Planning Board

**Article 5 Passed: 181 Yes, 33 No**

**ARTICLE 6 – ZONING CHANGE**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amending Article XIV (Signs) to allow for certain temporary signs of limited duration and adding a revised definition of “Sign” to Article XIX (Definitions).

*[Rationale: These changes will provide a more precise definition of “sign” to increase the clarity of the Ordinance. The Town is attempting to strike a balance between an Ordinance that provides for traffic safety and reduction of visual clutter in Town. To that end, the amendment more clearly defines the kinds of temporary signs that may be displayed without a permit and for what duration. The complete text of the amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Offices and on the Town website.]*

Recommended by the Planning Board

**Article 6 Passed: 177 Yes, 31 No**

## ARTICLE 7 – ZONING CHANGE

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: (1) Amending Articles XIX (Definitions) to revise the Ordinance definitions of “junk” and “junk yard” by incorporating definitions provided in New Hampshire State Law. This would add “two (2) or more unregistered recreation vehicles... or trailers... that are no longer intended or in condition for legal use on the public highways” to items currently defined as junk.

*[Rationale: Many residents have expressed their support for the Town’s code enforcement efforts to get property owners to clean up large accumulations of junk on several properties. Based upon feedback the Town received from code enforcement subjects, the definitions above seek to more clearly explain what is prohibited. The complete text of the amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Offices and on the Town website.]*

Recommended by the Planning Board

**Article 7 Passed: 181 Yes, 33 No**

## ARTICLE 8 – ZONING CHANGE

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: Making technical and grammatical updates to reflect changes in state laws, agency names, etc.

*[The complete text of the amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Offices and on the Town website.]*

Recommended by the Planning Board

**Article 8 Passed: 195 Yes, 19 No**

## 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 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,346,904</b>	<b>\$1,376,710</b>	<b>\$29,806</b>

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. The Moderator then recognized Town Administrator Melissa White to review this article, including increases and decreases. The Moderator then asked if there were any comments or questions. Ellis Robinson of 58 Pintail Knob asked if there was a way to have the town report list the budgeted and the actual for comparison to the prior year. Town Administrator White referred her to the MS-636 located elsewhere in the town report, but also offered to provide that information separately. The Moderator then asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, she called for a vote.

**Article 9 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote**

**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 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$843,251</b>	<b>\$854,323</b>	<b>\$11,072</b>

The Moderator noted that this article will be voted upon by secret ballot, as she has received a petition signed by five registered voters. She said that she would confirm the presence of all five petitioners before proceeding to the vote. Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. The Moderator then opened up the floor for discussion and asked the board to commence its presentation on this article. Town Administrator White then recognized Police Chief John Parsons to deliver the presentation on behalf of the town. Chief Parsons clarified that this presentation would cover only the police department operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He added that splitting out the following three articles from the general operating budget gives residents the opportunity to vote yay or nay on each article separately. Chief Parsons pointed out that the proposed budget for the next fiscal year will decrease over the current budget year by approximately \$12,000. He reviewed how this was accomplished: 1) reducing the on-call budget by \$8,100; 2) reducing the on-call overtime budget; 3) reduction of vehicle maintenance budget by \$2,000; 4) reducing the line-item for uniforms and equipment by \$8,000; 5) reducing the budget for cruiser equipment; 6) reducing the office equipment budget by \$1,000; and 7) reducing office furniture line by \$400. The Chief then reviewed equipment purchases by the department using grants and matching grants, thereby significantly reducing expenditures. He highlighted the purchase of new security cameras both inside and outside the building, helping to protect the building and citizens using the parking lot outside the building. Grants have also been used to upgrade the emergency operations center (located in the Jerry Whitney Room in town hall). The Chief noted that many of these purchases benefit not only the PD but also other departments here at town hall. Finally, he noted Officer Gamble’s work to apply for a grant from the Department of Safety for Preliminary Breath Tests (PBTs), which are portable alcohol testing devices that are used both roadside and to comply with court-ordered testing required for some on probation who are required to complete periodic testing to remain in compliance with the terms of their probation. Chief Parsons then also reviewed the increases, which includes equipment purchases for both personnel and vehicles, and for the office, including increased internet speeds and dispatching costs. One increase includes money for completing repairs to the office itself, and

there was also an increase in the budget for travel for officer training. Chief Parsons concluded his presentation; Town Administrator White then continued reviewing the remainder of the budget including increases and decreases. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions. Bob Osgood of 77 Pillsbury Road thanked the Moderator for allowing him to submit his petition for a secret ballot vote for this article and the next three. He also recognized School Moderator Carl Hanson. He then reviewed the handout he brought regarding this article and the next three, and the costs associated with their passage. He noted that the vote on all four articles will be by secret ballot, so no one should feel afraid to vote as they see fit. The Moderator then asked if there were further questions or comments; hearing none, she noted that the vote would be taken by secret ballot. She then checked to make sure all five petitioners were present by asking each to indicate their presence. All five having done so, the Moderator then called for a secret ballot and identified the four ballot clerks sworn to assist with the counting, which are Chris Paquette, Dan McClory, Dave Cole and Terry Dorr and called them forward to assist with the collection of the paper yes/no ballots. She noted that it is the white ballot that should be used for this vote. The Moderator then declared the results of the secret ballot.

**Article 10 Passed by Secret Ballot: 89 Yes, 14 No**

**ARTICLE 11 – Reinstatement of 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Full-time Police Officer. Recommended by the Selectmen. (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. The Moderator then asked the Selectboard for their presentation; Town Administrator White recognized Chief Parsons to address this article. Chief Parsons began by making clear that neither this article nor the next article had anything to do with providing police coverage for the town of Croydon. These articles are intended purely to benefit the residents of Grantham. The Chief provided some historical background, including a breakdown of what the appropriated amount would be used for. He reviewed the fact that the 2007 town meeting authorized this position and that for the subsequent four years, the Grantham PD was unable to identify a candidate who could pass the criminal background check. In 2011 at town meeting, that money was returned to the town. The Chief then reviewed his rationale for asking for the reinstatement of this position. He cited the stress of the high number of shifts on his patrol officers and the fact that officers like the late Officer Schwartz are no longer able to fill in. He also noted the lack of other reserves he can call upon to help fill in and provide coverage for illnesses. Finally, he noted the increased stress on staff and the shortage of time away. These shortages also stress the overtime budget. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the article. Barbara Jones of 825 Covered Bridge Lane asked if the PD would be able to find qualified candidates now versus 2007 when it was so difficult to do so. Chief Parsons had no assurance that this situation has changed. He noted that the salary being offered will hopefully draw a qualified candidate who has already completed the training, etc. required for the position. Paul Nicolai of 18 Summit Drive asked why this need couldn't be filled with part-time help. Chief Parsons noted that rules regarding part-time officers have changed, making their training equal to what is required for full-time officers, making it that much harder to find even qualified part-time help. The Chief also noted the changes in the NH retirement system rules that impact the ability of retired officers to return to duty without negative impacts to both his/her own retirement and to the municipality that employs them. Nicolai asked if we have lost part-time people; Chief Parsons added that we have a few still available but not enough. Elizabeth Paquette of 195 Sugarwood Lane expressed her opinion that we are over-policed. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions. Hearing none, she re-read the article and called for a secret ballot vote. She then checked the presence of all five petitioners; all five being determined present, she proceeded to the vote. She noted that residents will be using the green paper yes/no ballot. The Moderator then declared the results of the secret ballot.

**Article 11 Passed by Secret Ballot: 64 Yes, 39 No**

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

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. The Moderator then asked Chief Parsons to address the article. Chief Parsons noted that this request was being placed in line with both the recommendations of the CIP committee and the town 2017 master plan. The Chief then provided background on the oldest vehicle in the police department fleet and explained the rationale for its replacement, including a review of the costs involved. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions regarding the remainder of the article. Hearing none, she called for the vote and confirmed the presence of the five residents who petitioned for the secret ballot. She then called re-read the article and called for the secret ballot. She noted that we will be using the blue paper yes/no ballot. The Moderator then declared the results of the secret ballot.

**Article 12 Passed by Secret Ballot: 73 Yes, 26 No**

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

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. The Moderator then recognized Chief Parson to address the article. Chief Parsons and Chief Hastings of the Grantham Fire Department spoke to the article. Chief Parsons discussed the slide showing this type of vehicle (known as a UTV) and discussed its utility to the town. He noted that this vehicle would be used by both the police department and the fire department. He reviewed various features of the vehicle and what they would be used for. He added that EMS could also use the vehicle. He added information about the sizeable forested areas we have in town and noted that his cruisers can only access many of these in a very limited way. Finally, he said that such other commissions in town, like the cemetery commission and the conservation commission, could use the vehicle to conduct inspections, monitoring, etc. Chief Hastings added that having this vehicle will also improve the response time for incidents in which residents and/or visitors who are using one of these areas require assistance; he said this could also help to respond to forest fires. Chief Parsons noted that he had looked into grants that might be available to assist with the purchase of this vehicle. Though there are none, he noted that the purchase price of this vehicle can be used as a match to request a grant to purchase the trailer that will be required to transport this vehicle. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions. Ruth Ann Eastman of 9 Fairway Drive asked if this vehicle would provide access to the Reney Forest and to the Croydon Turnpike; Chief Hastings explained that it would provide the same access as the ATVs seen driving around these rural areas right now. Paul Nicolai of 18 Summit Drive asked how many of these incidents have occurred in the past three years where we couldn't get done something that needed to get done. He also asked if purchasing such a vehicle used might not be an option. Chief Hastings responded that we have never not responded to someone who needed help and have always found a way to help. Chief Parsons said he hadn't looked into the used option for this vehicle but expressed concern that you get what you pay for. Peter James of 28 Split Rock Road noted that the previous August the Cemetery Trustees had the opportunity to visit the Grantham Mountain Cemetery. He noted that there is a lot of land in town that could cause problems with emergency access. He noted the importance of having such an emergency vehicle and asked those present to vote yes on this article. Sheridan Brown, 500 Dunbar Hill Road, spoke to this article from a conservation standpoint and asked the town to support this article. He gave background on the most recent land purchase approved by the town and noted the recreational aspect that was part of the motivation for this purchase. The Moderator then asked if there was any more discussion regarding this article; hearing none, she again confirmed the presence of the five residents who signed the petition calling for the secret ballot. Having done so,

she then called for the vote. She re-read the article and noted that residents will now be using the yellow yes/no ballot. The Moderator then declared the results of the secret ballot.

**Article 13 Passed by Secret Ballot: 71 Yes, 27 No**

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

Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the particulars of this purchase, which will allow more efficient cleaning of the turn-out gear for the fire fighters. Chief Hastings noted that the current equipment allows the washing of only one-half a set of gear at a time; however, the new equipment will allow the washing of four sets of gear at a time. The Moderator then asked if there were any other questions or comments on the article; hearing none, she called for a vote.

**Article 14 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2019/2020</b>	<b>Proposed 2020/2021</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$794,343</b>	<b>\$847,900</b>	<b>\$53,557</b>

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Town Administrator White addressed the article and reviewed the budget. The Moderator then asked for any questions or comments; hearing none, she called for a vote.

**Article 15 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the fact that we offer this every other year, and this is the year it is due. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions or comments on this article. Maria Dahlman of 634 Dunbar Hill Road asked what was covered by the \$15,000. Town Administrator White replied that this covers the full cost of the disposal of the hazardous waste. The Moderator asked for any other questions or comments; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 16 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2019/2020</b>	<b>Proposed 2020/2021</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,500</b>	<b>\$45,500</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>Community Agencies:</b>	<b>Budget 2019/2020</b>	<b>Proposed 2020/2021</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	\$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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the budget. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions or comments; hearing none, she called for a vote.

**Article 17 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

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

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the budget. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions. Paul Nicolai of 18 Summit Drive asked for a more detailed explanation of the library budget increase. Dawn Huston, Librarian, provided more detail about the particulars of the budget. The Moderator then asked if there were any other questions or comments; hearing none, she called for a vote.

**Article 18 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2019/2020</b>	<b>Proposed 2020/2021</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$218,437</b>	<b>\$157,602</b>	<b>(\$60,835)</b>

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the budget. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions; hearing none, she called for a vote.

**Article 19 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

<b>Account Title</b>	<b>Budget 2019/2020</b>	<b>Proposed 2020/2021</b>	<b>Change Increase or (Decrease)</b>
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)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$230,000</b>	<b>\$393,000</b>	<b>\$163,000</b>

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the budget. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions; hearing none, she called for a vote.

**Article 20 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

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

Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Megan Alexander of 98 Smith Hastings Road spoke to the article as the Trustee/Treasurer for the library and explained its background. Paul Nicolai of 18 Summit Drive asked why a service was being included in this article. Alexander noted that the library currently does not have any IT support under contract, so when issues occur with aging or defective equipment the library must hire that assistance and it is difficult to budget for such unexpected events. Peter James of 28 Split Rock Road noted that these types of expendable trust funds are being used more and more to put money aside for contingencies that come down the road without that money lapsing at the end of the fiscal year. The Moderator then called for further discussion; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 21 Passed by Majority Voice Vote**

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

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. The Moderator then called for further discussion. Chief Parsons then spoke to the article. He explained the current dispatching system and how outdated it is. He stressed the importance of our system being compatible with other local municipalities and with the state system. He finished by noting that the upgrade would help the town avoid losing years of data. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

**Article 22 Passed by Majority Voice Vote**

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

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Town Administrator White spoke to the article and Chief Hastings noted the utility of this budgeting tool. The Moderator asked for any comments or questions; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

### **Article 23 Passed by Majority Voice Vote**

#### **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

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.

Ken Dolkart, 6 Turner Brae, moved the article and Mary Giveen, 115 New Aldrich Road, seconded. Ken Dolkart spoke to the article and gave background on its origin. He reviewed the current figures regarding the costs of health care in this country and made the point that this level of costs does not need to be this way. Finally, he made a plea for the passage of the article. Peter James of 28 Split Rock Road questioned the line in the resolution requiring the Selectboard to send the requested letter(s). Dolkart then asked the Selectboard whether or not it would be a problem to send these letters, assuming passage of the article. Selectman Kimball responded that while it wouldn't be a problem, letters from individual citizens to the same elected officials might be more effective. Peter James then added that while he's not opposed to this article, he's concerned that the language requiring the Selectboard to write these letters could be a problem down the road. The Moderator then called for further discussion. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

### **Article 24 Passed by Majority Voice Vote**

**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 by the Selectmen. (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball moved and Selectman Garland seconded. The Moderator asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting.

Barbara Jones, 825 Covered Bridge Lane, wanted to say how proud she is to live in this community. She thanked the town for all its hard work, and the citizens for how civil they are to each other. Her only request was that Representative Linda Tanner’s name was excluded from the caption of the photograph in the town report, and she asked that it be included. Maria Dahlman of 634 Dunbar Hill Road asked that in next year’s town report, a column of actual expenditures be included in all the budget articles.

The Moderator noted that the Selectmen have nominated residents for the positions of Hog Reeves and Fence Viewers. She noted that these are nominated annually by the Selectboard.

For *Hog Reeves*, the Selectmen have nominated Collette Simons and John Parsons.

Selectman Kimball moved, Emily Owens of 9 Longwood Drive seconded.

The Moderator then asked for any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she called the vote.

**Elected by Majority Voice Vote**

For *Fence Viewers*, the Selectmen have nominated Janet Gilson and Adam Howard.

Selectman Kimball moved, Emily Owens of 9 Longwood Drive seconded.

The Moderator then asked for any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she called the vote.

**Elected by Majority Voice Vote**

The Moderator then asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to dissolve the meeting. Jay Fountain of 6 General Court moved and John Parsons of 320 Olde Farms Road seconded. The Moderator then called for a vote.

**Article 25 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote**

The Moderator declared the 244<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

A true copy attest,



Kenneth Story, Town Clerk/Tax Collector