

TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MAY 15, 2021

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Lorie McClory noted the time of 10:00 am and reminded everyone to check in with the Supervisors so that they can obtain their 'Yes/No' ballots, which will be required to vote on Articles 2 and 3. McClory then introduced herself and called the 245th Annual Town Meeting to order. She reminded those present to put cell phones on mute or vibrate so they do not interrupt the meeting. In the interest of safety she did not invite the Boy Scouts to present the flag this year. She then asked all in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator reminded residents to sit within the posts so that they will be allowed to vote on all articles. She noted that this year we do not have any non-voters. She asked all who cannot or will not wear a mask to sit in the kitchen, though she added she did not see any voters who required this. 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. She also advised residents to pick up a copy of the Town Report – available at the rear of the room – as the warrant is printed within; she noted she will be referring to the warrant throughout the meeting. The Moderator added that the version of the rules of the meeting included in the town report was written for the outdoor meeting that was originally planned; the revised rules were printed and handed out at the entrance before the meeting this morning.

The Moderator asked those present to turn to page 4 of the town report for the dedication. This year's town report is dedicated to the Susie Stitches. She recognized Selectman Peter Garland for remarks regarding the dedication. Selectman Garland noted the high demand for masks that began a year ago, at the start of the pandemic, and added that we had this group of individuals who recognized the shortage and wanted to help. The Stitches (which included both Grantham and Springfield residents) produced, at their own cost, over 6,000 masks for citizens. This resulted in everyone receiving a mask who requested one. He finished by noting that the commitment shown by these folks clearly deserved the dedication of the town report for their efforts and thanked them very much for all they did.

The Moderator then stated "...the meeting having been properly warned as certified on page 19 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 245th Annual Meeting of the Town of Grantham officially open." She added that the elections listed under Article 1 were taken care of in March and will therefore not be dealt with today; today's business meeting will discuss Articles 2 through 13.

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 also mentioned Assistant Moderator Dick Mark. The complete list of town officers begins on page 7 of the Town Report. She notified all present that if you choose to speak to an article at today's meeting you must use the microphone at the front of the room and noted the availability of sanitizing wipes next to the microphone stand. She also noted that residents who cannot walk to the microphone can avail themselves of the hand-held microphone which will be brought to them. She also identified the three ballot clerks who will assist as necessary to count a show of hands or a secret ballot: Dan McClory, Sarah Fogg and Rob Fogg.

The Moderator then noted that state law vests the Moderator with the authority to establish rules of procedure, and she repeated that the new rules were handed out prior to the opening of the meeting this morning. The Moderator announced that she would read the rules unless a motion was made and seconded to suspend the reading of the rules. She asked for such a motion from the floor; Ellis Robinson of 58 Pintail Knob moved and Rob Fogg of 22 Draper Mill Road seconded. It passed unanimously by voice vote. The Moderator then asked for a motion from the floor to allow non-resident officers and consultants to speak at the meeting. Rob Fogg of 22 Draper Mill Road moved and Karla Karash of 23 Shore Road seconded; unanimously approved by voice vote. The Moderator then directed all present to refer to page 14 of the town report for the warrant.

2021 Town Meeting Rules (revised as of May 15, 2021)

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. *Masks or other face coverings that cover the nose and mouth must be worn inside the building. Voters who cannot or will not wear masks must be seated in the designated area.*
4. *Registered voters only will be seated in the center section of the meeting hall, with the exception of non-masked voters (see rule 3).*
5. *All non-voters must wear masks and will be seated in the visitor's gallery located in the area bounded by the pillars and the inside wall on the right-hand side of the meeting hall.*
6. *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.*
7. *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. Any exceptions will be discussed at the beginning of the meeting and approved by the voters.*
8. *Voters will direct their remarks to the Moderator. Whenever a voter wishes to speak, they will go the microphone, address the moderator by first identifying themselves and announcing their street address. The microphone is necessary for accurate recording of the meeting. Once the speaker is done, they will wipe the microphone with one of the available antiseptic wipes.*
 - a. *Any voter wishing to speak and who is unable to go to the stand-up microphone or who is seated in the non-masked voter section should raise their hand and one of a 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 their 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 (or Move) the question" requires a 2/3 vote. If this motion is passed, all voters who have not yet spoken and who are standing at a microphone or holding a microphone, and anyone seated at the head table who has previously told the Moderator that they wish 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.*
- 9. All questions and comments should be addressed to the Moderator. The Moderator will choose who responds to the questions.*
- 10. 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 7 days after the original vote. With respect to bond votes, the restriction on reconsideration automatically applies without the need for a vote.*
 - 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 7 days after the date of the original vote.*
- 11. The moderator will conduct a secret "yes-no" ballot when:*
 - a. the moderator deems it necessary.*
 - b. at least 5 voters make a written request prior to a voice or show of hands vote on any article open for discussion. All 5 voters must be present and identified.*
 - c. at least 7 voters question any non-ballot vote immediately after the vote is declared and before any other business is conducted.*
- 12. 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 the town report.*
- 16. The Moderator will not accept a negative motion, that is a motion which require a "no" vote to vote in the affirmative such as "I move that we not adopt the budget."*
- 17. If the Meeting is not finished at 3:00 p.m., the Moderator may recess the Meeting to a future date.*

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

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

Selectman	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	3 years
Trustee of Dunbar Free Library (two positions)	3 years
Cemetery Trustee	3 years
Planning Board (two positions)	3 years
Supervisor of the Checklist	6 years

The Moderator noted that Articles 2 & 3 are bond issues for \$500,000 each and by law will need to be voted by secret ballot with the ballot boxes being open for at least one hour. The Moderator proposed consideration of each of these two articles consecutively, each being opened for discussion and debate, with the vote on both being taken thereafter. She noted the white “Yes/No” ballot will be used for Article 2 – to be placed in the blue ballot box – and the pink “Yes/No” ballot will be used for Article 3 – to be placed in the red ballot box. She then asked that, after voting, all voters leave the building through the back door, where they can take a mask break and enjoy the sunshine for a bit before returning to their seats through the main entrance. Once it appears all voters have voted, she will reconvene the meeting and move on to Article 4. She repeated that by state law the ballot boxes must be open for a minimum of one hour. She asked for any objections to handling these articles in this fashion and heard none.

ARTICLE 2 – Miller Pond Road Safety and Drainage Improvements

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 for the purpose of safety and drainage improvements to Miller Pond Road; \$500,000 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity of other terms thereof; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote thereto. Recommended by the Selectmen; 3/5 ballot vote required.

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. The Moderator then recognized Town Administrator White to deliver a presentation on this article. White opened by noting this article was drafted in response to concerns expressed by residents on Miller Pond Road regarding the condition of the guardrails along an approximately 1,000-foot section of the road. The current guardrail is in three sections covering about 675 linear feet. The current condition of the guardrail is a liability due to the fact that it is no longer at a height sufficient to protect vehicles traveling that road; thus a vehicle is just as likely to roll over the guardrail rather than be kept within the roadway. The rails themselves have also degraded and are not properly supported in places sufficient to perform their function; there are also erosion issues surrounding the supports that have raised concern about their stability. Thus the guardrail needs to be replaced with 785 linear feet of new guardrail; also, the location of the guardrail needs to be moved closer to the road. This section of Miller Pond Road has a gravel surface and severe mud in the spring, and wash-boarding in the summer. Discussions with the road agent, Selectboard and engineers led to the decision to refurbish this section of the road and bring it up to town standards in terms of materials, drainage and safety. This project will make the road a uniform, twenty foot-wide paved road with two-foot shoulders widened to three-and-one-half feet in the sections where the guardrail is present. Geo-tech style fabric will be installed between the old gravel and the new to increase the load-bearing capacity. The limits of the road will extend from the end of the existing pavement to approximately seventy-five feet beyond the top of the hill. Maintenance of the remaining gravel portion of the road beyond the pavement is more convenient to the town’s equipment, particularly the road grader. For this bond, the estimated tax impact per \$100,000 of property valuation, in the budget we’re voting on today, would be \$2.00, then \$20.00 for the next budget year, and \$19.00 for the remaining budget years. White then

showed a map of the proposed work and concluded her presentation. The Moderator asked if anyone from the Selectboard wanted to add any further comments on this article; hearing none, she opened up the floor for discussion. Shannon Hastings of 81 Smith Hastings Road asked if there have been any accidents on this stretch of Miller Pond Road resulting in a rollover. Chief Parsons responded there had been one such accident. The Moderator then asked for any other questions or comments about this article; seeing none, the Moderator closed discussion on this article and moved on to Article 3.

ARTICLE 3 – Fire Truck

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$675,000 (gross budget) for the purchase and upfitting of a new Fire Truck; \$500,000 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity of other terms thereof; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote thereto; and to authorize the withdrawal of \$175,000 from the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund for use on said project. Further to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of the existing Fire Truck by “trade-in” allowance, by sale, or as deemed in the best interest of the Town of Grantham. Recommended by the Selectmen; 3/5 ballot vote required.

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. The Moderator then recognized Assistant Fire Chief Jay Fountain to make the presentation regarding this article. Fountain recapped tests done on the current fire engine – Engine #4 – after last year’s town meeting and noted the pump failure and the costs of repair being approximately \$7,000. Discussion then ensued to form committee to explore replacement, especially given that this particular engine was close to its ‘retirement’ age. Fountain then provided historical background on the current engine, including age and condition, noting the deterioration throughout. He discussed the replacement process and the members of the committee, which included himself, Ryan Avery, Ryan Gallien, Corey Howard, Selectman Kimball and resident C. Peter James. After much review the decision was made to seek potential vendors. The committee visited several local fire departments that had purchased equipment recently to evaluate their purchases and hopefully gain insight into the best possible option for the town. A set of vendor guidelines was established, which Fountain outlined. He also listed a set of design considerations for the new engine. A Request For Proposals (RFP) was sent out to three vendors: Pierce, HME and E1. Proposals were received and opened at the October 28, 2020 meeting of the Selectboard. During the comparison of the proposals, value became a primary consideration, which Fountain noted does not necessarily mean price. It was finally decided to purchase the HME engine. Fountain directed those present to the slide of the new engine and added that there are posters in the hallway that also show the new truck. Fountain mentioned that of the \$675,000 total cost of the new truck, \$175,000 would come from the capital reserve fund (CRF) dedicated to this purpose and the remaining \$500,000 would come from the bond issue. Fountain then reviewed the principal features of the new truck, including the pumps, engine, body, and other equipment. Finally, Fountain addressed several questions the committee received regarding the existing equipment and the new truck. The Moderator then opened up the floor for discussion and recognized David Cullen of 27 Nightingale Lane, who asked about the expected longevity of the new truck. Fountain answered 20-30 years. Cindy Towle of 77 Cote Road asked for clarification that the new truck could not only do the speed limit but was capable of exceeding it. Fountain confirmed that it can go faster than that. Brandon Mason of 464 Burpee Hill Road noted that he’s been on the Grantham FD for seven years and wanted those present to know the concern felt by firefighters about a truck that might not be capable of doing its job or about equipment that might break in the middle of a call. He asked all to consider these things before voting. Sergio Maggi of 274 New Aldrich Road asked if the current engine could be repurposed for other use by the town or by another town rather than being disposed of via trade-in. Fountain replied that given the damage to the pump it was not realistic to think we could send this engine to a fire department elsewhere. Mary Kronenwetter of 39 Troon Drive asked if the price might drop if we waited on the purchase; Fountain replied that the price the town received is being held for a significant period of time but that the town cannot count on it being held longer. In response to the question of how soon the town could expect the engine once the order is placed, he replied that the town could expect the new engine within 300 days. Steve Bookless of 42 Shore Road asked if the Grantham

FD applied for any FEMA grants; Fountain replied that they did not apply for these grants due to how competitive that process is. He added that they did apply for grants for other fire-fighting equipment. Meg Alexander of 98 Smith Hastings Road asked why more of the total cost is not being withdrawn from the CRF, especially considering the healthy state of this particular CRF. Fountain replied that bond rates are lower than interest rates, so the more taken out of the CRF the more the town loses in interest income. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions, and reminded all present that it is possible to make amendments to warrant articles. Hearing none, she proceeded to the vote.

The Moderator then outlined the upcoming voting process. She said she would recess the meeting to open the voting officially and reviewed the voting procedures using the “Yes/No” ballots and the appropriate ballot boxes for Articles 2 and 3. She then declared the ballot boxes open at 10:38 am and directed all eligible voters to cast their votes on these articles now.

The Moderator reconvened the meeting to proceed with the remaining warrant articles at 10:50 am, while voting on Articles 2 and 3 continued. At the conclusion of the required hour, the ballot clerks will open the ballot boxes and count the votes, and once completed will present the Moderator with the results. At 11:38 am the Moderator noted that there were 8 minutes remaining before the ballot boxes closed; at 11:46 am, the Moderator officially closed the ballot boxes and directed the ballot clerks to tally the votes.

Article 2 Passed by Secret Ballot: 105 For, 22 Against (Passed with 83%)

Article 3 Passed by Secret Ballot: 101 For, 11 Against (Passed with 90%)

ARTICLE 4 – General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million, five hundred forty thousand, five hundred eighty-nine dollars (**\$1,540,589**) to defray the cost of **General Government** operations. Further, to use \$160,000 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)

Account Title	Budget 2020/2021	Proposed 2021/2022	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Selectmen’s Office	\$266,835	\$278,300	\$11,465
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$136,648	\$139,727	\$3,079
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$14,258	\$10,100	(\$4,158)
Financial Administration	\$46,200	\$50,200	\$4,000
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$41,000	\$54,000	\$13,000
Legal	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$0.00
Personnel Administration	\$665,095	\$766,725	\$101,630
Planning Board	\$5,600	\$5,600	\$0.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$2,550	\$2,950	\$400
General Government Buildings	\$136,741	\$122,465	(\$14,276)
Cemeteries	\$19,600	\$21,200	\$1,600
Insurance (Property & Liability)	\$36,641	\$39,057	\$2,416
Regional Associations	\$4,141	\$4,265	\$124
Other General Government	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$1,421,309	\$1,540,589	\$119,280

Selectman Garland moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. Town Administrator White then reviewed the increases and decreases in the budget compared to last year. The Moderator then opened up the floor for discussion and asked for questions or comments. Ellis Robinson of 58 Pintail Knob asked for clarification regarding the pages in the town report where the warrant appears. She also asked if the information regarding the special funds

appears in later articles. Her questions were answered by Town Administrator White. The Moderator asked if there were any other questions or comments; hearing none, she called for the vote.

Article 4 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 5 – Public Safety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine hundred twenty-five thousand, eight hundred eighty-eight dollars (**\$925,888**) 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 2020/2021	Proposed 2021/2022	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Police Department	\$588,222	\$596,670	\$8,448
EMS Department	\$141,504	\$137,713	(\$3,791)
Fire Department	\$150,280	\$159,445	\$9,165
Building Inspection	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$0.00
Emergency Management	\$14,060	\$14,060	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$912,066	\$925,888	\$13,822

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. The Moderator then asked Town Administrator White to speak to this article; White asked Chief Parsons if he wanted to speak to his budget. Chief Parsons reviewed the increases and decreases in this article from the previous year, including grants applied for by the police department to acquire and update equipment without adding cost to the taxpayers. Town Administrator White then reviewed the remainder of the budget, including the increases and decreases. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the article. Richard Karash of 23 Shore Road asked if any officers have had occasion to deploy their tasers in anything besides a training environment in the last few years, and if any officers have had to discharge their firearms in anything besides a training environment. Chief Parsons answered no to both questions, the only exception being the use of a firearm to dispatch an injured animal. John Hock of 40 Barn Owl Overlook asked for clarification regarding why the overtime budget has not decreased with the addition last year of a fifth officer. Chief Parsons explained that at least twelve holidays require coverage and the law requires any officer providing holiday coverage be paid overtime. He also noted that court coverage on a day when an officer is not scheduled for duty requires overtime. Last minute illnesses also could require overtime. Mr. Hock reiterated that with the addition of the fifth officer he expected this budget line to be reduced. Dan McClory of 38 Brookridge Drive asked if there are ever instances where two officers are scheduled to be on duty at the same time. Chief Parsons said that there is some overlap but not two officers who work identical shifts at the same time. Mr. McClory then asked the Selectmen to review the police department budget as it is his understanding that the town’s police budget is one of the highest in the Upper Valley per capita, coming in at about \$200 per resident. He added that he sees town officers in the median on I-89, running radar, and he’d rather see them patrolling in town. Chief Parsons replied that town officers may be in the I-89 median for a myriad of reasons, including assisting with an accident where they can respond within minutes while it might take forty-five minutes for a state trooper to respond all the way from Concord. The Chief added that it’s all about responding to situations that keep people safe, wherever officers may be at any given time. Shannon Hastings of 81 Smith Hastings Road asked how many full-time and part-time officers we currently have. Chief Parsons responded five full-time and two part-time. Ms. Hastings also asked about the traffic jam at the school and if there has been any consideration to having any police involvement in managing that situation. She also asked about drivers crossing double-yellow lines to pass school buses. Chief Parsons noted that the state statute does not prohibit drivers passing school busses if they do not have their flashing lights and stop signs deployed. Ms. Hastings also asked if we receive any report from the state police about the time they spend responding to calls in Grantham. Chief Parsons responded that unless we specifically ask for that, we do not receive such information. Ms. Hastings asked if we know how many hours state police officers spend responding to calls in Grantham. The Chief responded that unless that call somehow comes through dispatch, we do not know that information; however, if that call does come through dispatch, then we will have that information.

Finally, Ms. Hastings asked if that information is included in the town report and she was directed to page 81. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions. Hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 5 Passed unanimously by voice vote

ARTICLE 6 – Police Cruiser

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,000 for the purchase and upfitting of a new Police Cruiser, and to permit the Selectmen to dispose of the existing 2015 Dodge Charger by “trade-in” allowance, by sale or as deemed in the best interest of the Town of Grantham; estimated to be \$1,000 with the remainder to come from taxation. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. The Moderator then asked Chief Parsons to review this budget article. Chief Parsons noted that in accordance with the Master Plan and the recommendations of the town’s Capital Improvement Committee (CIP), he proposed to replace his oldest marked car, a 2015 Dodge Charger, with a 2021 version. The 2015 would hopefully be worth something in trade-in value. The Chief discussed circumstances surrounding the replacement of the older vehicle and some of the challenges posed by last year’s global pandemic in terms of receiving the cruiser approved at last year’s meeting. The Moderator then opened the floor to discussion. Rob Fogg of 22 Draper Mill Road asked if any consideration was given to using any of the CRF balance for the police department to be used toward the purchase of this vehicle; and if not, what is this fund being used for. Chief Parsons replied that he considers the CRF his ‘rainy day’ fund and sets that aside for the purchase of a replacement vehicle should one of the current cruisers get totaled. C. Peter James of 28 Split Rock Road noted that as a member of the CIP committee the recommendation has been that the CRF was being added to gradually each year for the purpose of replacing the Expedition, which is currently the most expensive vehicle used by the police department, and the goal was to make sure there were sufficient funds set aside to help defray the cost of that vehicle when it was due for replacement. Maria Dahlman of 634 Dunbar Hill Road asked if our current insurance on the cruisers will cover replacement costs should they get totaled. Chief Parsons responded in the affirmative. Ms. Dahlman then asked how many cruisers are currently in service; Chief Parsons responded that we have four. The Chief then explained the assignment of each vehicle to an officer and that they rotate them out to try and reduce the mileage on each vehicle. Ellis Robinson of 58 Pintail Knob asked if any consideration had been given to hybrid vehicles for police use. Chief Parsons responded that the only hybrid vehicle he knew of being used by police departments occurs with a few police departments in California, and those vehicles are Teslas, which are prohibitively expensive. He also noted that the equipment needed to upfit vehicles – cages, bumpers, etc. – are not typically available for hybrid vehicles. Ms. Robinson added that she has seen such vehicles elsewhere with police decals in other states. Dan McClory of 38 Brookridge Drive asked for clarification regarding the current mileage on the vehicle being considered for trade-in; Chief Parsons confirmed that this vehicle currently has 58,000 miles. Shannon Hastings of 81 Smith Hastings Road asked for clarification regarding the vehicle being used during the current week for training and asked if the cost of having the vehicle away from Grantham for a week is greater overall than the cost of mileage reimbursement for an officer using his personal vehicle. Chief Parsons noted that if that officer were to be involved in an accident in a personal vehicle while on police business, then the cost to the town of resolving that situation might be more than if that officer had used a cruiser. Finally, Ms. Hastings asked if there was a way to know the amount of state police coverage in Grantham and added that she’d like to see those numbers. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions regarding the remainder of the article. Hearing none, she called for the vote.

Article 6 Passed by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 7 – Fire Hose Replacement

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purchase of new fire hose for the Fire Department. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Kimball seconded. The Moderator then recognized Assistant Fire Chief Jay Fountain to make a presentation on this article. Asst. Chief Fountain discussed the need to replace all the current hoses as all are aging and some no longer pass required testing. New hoses are not only in better condition but also lighter and easier to use during firefighting. Fountain added that the fire department has applied for a grant to cover this cost but as yet has not heard back, so the department needs to go forward with this request. Moderator McClory asked what happens to the money being requested if the grant comes through later; Town Administrator White replied that it will go into the general fund. The Moderator then asked if there were any other comments or questions; hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 7 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 8 – Public Works

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine hundred thirty thousand, nine hundred ninety-five dollars (**\$930,995**) 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)

Account Title	Budget 2020/2021	Proposed 2021/2022	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Highway Administration	\$264,010	\$318,510	\$54,500
Highway Maintenance	\$205,700	\$210,700	\$5,000
Street Lights	\$3,000	\$3,200	\$200
Transfer Station	\$168,690	\$170,585	\$1,895
Waste Disposal	\$215,000	\$220,000	\$5,000
Landfill Monitoring	\$6,500	\$8,000	\$1,500
TOTAL	\$862,900	\$930,995	\$68,095

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. Town Administrator White reviewed the increases and decreases in this article. The Moderator then asked for any questions or discussion. Duncan Wood of 15 Pioneer Point asked if the deduction in the waste disposal line means we would not be having a hazardous waste disposal day in the next budget year. Town Administrator White responded that this is correct, as we have this event every other year. The Moderator then asked if there were any other questions; hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 8 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 9 – 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)

Account Title	Budget 2020/2021	Proposed 2021/2022	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
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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

Selectman Jones moved the article and Selectman Garland seconded. Town Administrator White explained the article, noting no increases in this budget. The Moderator then asked for any questions or comments; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

Article 9 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 10 – Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred five thousand, one-hundred two dollars (**\$305,102**) 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)

Account Title	Budget 2020/2021	Proposed 2021/2022	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Recreation	\$87,696	\$77,257	(\$10,439)
Dunbar Free Library	\$220,444	\$227,095	\$6,651
Archives	\$750	\$750	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$308,890	\$305,102	(\$3,788)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Town Administrator White noted minor changes to the organization of the budget and noted the increases and decreases. The Moderator then asked if there were any questions or comments on this article; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

Article 10 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 11 – 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-two thousand, eight hundred thirty-two dollars (**\$152,832**) 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)

Account Title	Budget 2020/2021	Proposed 2021/2022	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Conservation Commission	\$3,750	\$3,000	(\$750)
Town Hall Bond/Interest	\$73,425	\$69,176	(\$4,249)
Library Bond/Interest	\$57,356	\$55,556	(\$1,800)

Police Cruiser Lease (2018)	\$22,971	\$0.00	(\$22,971)
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100	\$100	\$0.00
Fire Truck Pumper Bond Interest	\$0.00	\$12,500	\$12,500
Miller Pond Road Safety Improvements	\$0.00	\$12,500	\$12,500
TOTAL	\$157,602	\$152,832	(\$4,770)

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

Article 11 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 12 – Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred eighty-four thousand dollars (\$184,000) 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)

Account Title	Budget 2020/2021	Proposed 2021/2022	Change Increase or (Decrease)
Library Technology and Office Equipment ETF	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0.00
Highway Equipment CRF	\$250,000	\$50,000	(\$200,000)
Transfer Station Equipment CRF	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0.00
Library Building Repair CRF	\$15,000	\$6,000	(\$9,000)
Town Building Maintenance CRF	\$10,000	\$5,000	(\$5,000)
Fire Department Apparatus CRF	\$50,000	\$25,000	(\$25,000)
Fire-EMS Department Equipment/Maintenance CRF	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0.00
Police Vehicles CRF	\$10,000	\$5,000	(\$5,000)
Public Safety Technology Infrastructure ETF	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0.00
Road Improvement ETF	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$10,000
Town Office Equipment CRF	\$2,000	\$2,000	0.00
Municipality Revaluation CRF	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Equipment CRF	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$418,000	\$184,000	(\$234,000)

Selectman Kimball moved the article and Selectman Jones seconded. Town Administrator White noted a pending withdrawal from the highway equipment CRF and updated the balance for that line item. The Moderator asked if there were any comments or questions. Maria Dahlman of 634 Dunbar Hill Road asked if the grant that Assistant Chief Fountain mentioned under Article 7 comes through, could the money appropriated under that Article be moved to the Fire Department Apparatus CRF. Town Administrator White replied that she didn't believe so, as such an action would have to be voted on. The Moderator added that should this grant come through, the Selectman could decide to add such a transfer of funds to next year's warrant, where it would be presented to the legislative body for a vote. Richard Karash of 23 Shore Road asked about the nature of 'unassigned fund balance' and what that means. Selectman Jones responded on the nature of what this means and that money coming from unassigned balance means that money will not come from new taxation. Mr. Karash then asked about the amounts in that fund balance. Once he was directed to the appropriate page in the town report he then asked about holding four million dollars in the fund balance and why would the town do that. Selectman Jones generally outlined the guidance municipalities receive from the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) regarding how much to keep in the unassigned fund balance for emergencies and noted that there are warrant articles that stipulate funds should come from this fund. Mr. Karash then asked if the Selectmen considered it appropriate to hold these funds; Selectman

Jones replied in the affirmative and added additional explanation regarding how the unassigned fund balance can also be used to lower the tax rate once DRA sets the rate in the fall of each year. Maria Dahlman of 634 Dunbar Hill Road added clarification regarding the unassigned fund balance and what is actually available. The Moderator then asked if there were any other questions or comments; hearing none, she called for a vote.

Article 12 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 13 – 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 Garland moved the article and Selectman Kimball. The Moderator asked those in attendance if there was any further business that needed to come before the meeting. Rep. Brian Sullivan of 642 Olde Farms Road asked to make a brief presentation to the Selectman for the purpose of moving a resolution for fair and non-partisan redistricting. He noted that he is holding 53 signed petitions which he will present to the Selectman. He then read the resolution:

RESOLUTION FOR FAIR, NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING

By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Grantham to request the town vote to urge the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, to ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.

Additionally, these voters ask the town of Grantham to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way by:

- *sharing map-drawing assumptions,*
- *encouraging community input through public meetings and other options,*
- *not favoring a particular political party, and*
- *accommodating communities of interest.*

The record of the vote approving this resolution shall be transmitted, within 30 days of the vote, by written notice from the selectmen to Grantham's state legislators, the members of the NH Redistricting Committee, Governor Sununu, and the Congressional delegation, informing them of the resolve of their constituents.

Rep. Sullivan moved the resolution; Janice Vien of 149 Route 10 North seconded. Mr. Sullivan added his belief that voters should pick their representatives, not the other way around. He noted his belief in fair redistricting, not gerrymandering.

The Moderator asked for any further questions or comments; hearing none she called for a vote.

Passed by Voice Vote

The Moderator then asked if there was any further business to come before the meeting under this article; hearing none, she announced that the Selectmen have nominated residents for the positions of Hog Reeves and Fence Viewers. The Moderator then recognized Selectman Warren Kimball to present the candidates for Hog Reeves and Fence Viewers. Selectman Kimball announced the following:

For Hog Reeves, the Selectmen have nominated Nicholas Shepherd and Shelbie Clukey.

For Fence Viewers, the Selectmen have nominated Cameron Ackerman and Alyssa Hurst.

The Moderator then asked for nominations from the floor; hearing none, the Moderator called for a vote.

Elected by Unanimous Voice Vote

The Moderator then asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting. C. Peter James of 28 Split Rock Road congratulated the Moderator for running an excellent meeting. He added how proud he is to live in Grantham and how well this town is run. He finished by reminding those present that they are the legislative body and that the town's elected officials only have the power given them by the legislative body. He added how impressed he was with the turnout this morning and thanked everyone. The Moderator then asked if there was any other business to discuss. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to dissolve the meeting. Justin Hastings of 1583 Route 10 North moved and John Parsons of 320 Olde Farms Road seconded. The Moderator then called for a vote.

Article 13 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

The Moderator declared the 245th Town Meeting adjourned at 12:16 pm.

A true copy attest,

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

Kenneth Story, Town Clerk/Tax Collector