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TOWN OF GRANTHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Peter Garland, called the public Budget Hearing to order at 5:52 PM. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Lower Level at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, New Hampshire and provided electronic access to those individuals who did not feel comfortable physically attending.

Roll Call of the Board of Selectmen: Chairman Peter Garland - Yes; Selectman Warren Kimball - Yes; Selectman Constance Jones – Yes

Present were: Chairman Peter Garland; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief John Parsons; Assistant Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Town Clerk/Tax Collector Ken Story; Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott; Road Agent Jeff Hastings; Athletics/Activities Director Emily Rinde-Thorsen; Library Director Dawn Huston; Lorie McClory; Richard Mark; C. Peter James; and others electronically

Chairman Garland stated the following: As Chair of the Board of Selectmen, due to COVID-19/Coronavirus and in accordance with Governor Sununu’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically, and these reasons shall be reflected in the minutes. Members of the public were provided with the link to join this public hearing by video as well as via telephone. If, at any time during the meeting, there becomes a problem with access, please call 603-863-6021 or email at info@granthamnh.net. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled at a later time.

Attendees were given copies of the FY2022 (07/01/2021 – 06/30/2022) proposed budget and warrant articles and copies were available on the Town of Grantham website for anyone wishing to join electronically.

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers - By Official Ballot at the Polls on March 9, 2021 from 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Administrator White summarized the town budget as follows:

Item	Prior Year (FY2021)	Ensuing Year (FY2022)
Total Operating Budget	\$3,590,925	\$3,900,906
Special Warrant Articles	\$418,000	\$1,359,000
Individual Warrant Articles	\$212,342	\$88,000
TOTAL Appropriations	\$4,221,267	\$5,347,906
Less: Amount of Estimated Revenues & Credits	\$1,541,645	\$2,471,700
Estimated Amount to be raised by taxes	\$2,679,622	\$2,876,206

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- The estimated amount to be raised by taxes, after estimated revenues and credits, is \$2,876,206; an increase of \$196,584 from the prior year (FY2021).
- The estimated tax impact of this proposed budget (FY2022) is .38 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. So, a home assessed for \$250,000 could expect to see a tax increase of \$95.00. In addition, there are two bond articles totaling \$1,000,000, and if they are approved, the estimated tax impact (based on the 2020 Town valuation) is .38 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
- Anticipated loss of state revenues is projected to be approximately \$158,000. However, the Board of Selectmen have voted to use \$160,000 from the undesignated fund balance to make up for this anticipated loss of state revenue.

There were no questions or comments from those joining remotely.

Questions from those in attendance:

Lorie McClory, 38 Brookridge Road, asked to clarify the second bullet point where it states the estimated tax impact is .38 cents per \$1,000; that the .38 cents is if both of the bond articles pass and, if just one bond article is passed, the impact would be .19 cents per \$1,000. Also, that it would be only for the first year of the bond issue so other years could be higher or lower depending on what happens. Town Administrator White said that is correct. McClory said she thought it was important to specify that this is in the first year of the bond and not every year thereafter.

White stated another thing she would like to clarify is that Grantham is a fiscal year town so the first bond payment wouldn't be until the next budget year which would start in July 2022.

ARTICLES 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.

There were no questions or comments on this Article.

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

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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.

White asked if there were any questions from those joining remotely.

Chris Barrett, 10 Sandy Brae, asked what the timeline is for the other vehicles with the Fire Department. How much service do they have left? Assistant Fire Chief, Jay Fountain, said the next vehicle due to be replaced is the small pickup truck that they have but they decided to run that one into the ground. He said the next big purchase will be Engine 1 which is 10 years out, and then the Tanker. The Tanker is expected to survive well past its expected life because it’s a vacuum tanker, not a regular pump.

There were no questions or comments from those in attendance.

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)
Administration/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

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ARTICLE 4:

Administration (Selectmen's Office):

Reductions:

- To the advertising budget by \$500
- To the travel budget by \$500
- To the office equipment budget by \$2,000

Increases:

- \$11,200 allocated to salaries
- \$2,000 for costs associated with computer service needs
- \$500 for costs associated with COVID-19 supplies
- \$500 for costs associated with equipment repairs
- \$400 for costs associated with office supplies

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

Reductions:

- To the travel budget by \$1,000
- To the election supply budget by \$1,000

Increases:

- \$3,179 allocated to salaries
- \$500 for costs associated with computer services/software licenses
- \$500 for increased costs associated with postage
- \$800 for costs associated with office equipment and furniture needs

Supervisors of the Checklist: A decrease of \$4,158 due to one election in this budget cycle.

Financial Administration: Added \$4,000 for costs associated with auditing requirements

Tax Map/Assessing: Added \$13,000 for costs associated required software and computer upgrades

Personnel Administration: An increase of \$101,630 due to increased costs of health insurance and NHRS employer contribution rates

Zoning: Added \$400 for Adobe Professional.

General Government Buildings:

Moved the Groundskeeper salary to the Public Works budget. The "government buildings" portion of this salary is \$30,591.

Reductions:

- \$1,000 to the repair budget

Increases:

- \$1,365 allocated to salaries
- \$1,000 for costs associated with maintenance of the fixed equipment in the building.
- \$2,500 for costs associated with replacing the AED in the lower level of Town Hall.

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- \$1,000 for costs associated with COVID-19 supplies
- \$8,500 for costs associated with the maintenance policy for the security camera system. The increase is due to the upgrade in cameras from analog to digital.
- \$3,000 for costs associated with replacing the overhang, catch basin, and pavement for the basement entrance of the Town Archives building.

Cemeteries:

Moved the Groundskeeper salary to the Public Works budget. The “cemetery” portion of this salary is \$5,000.

Reductions: \$500 to the equipment repair budget

Increases:

- \$1,000 allocated to salaries
- \$4,300 for costs associated with repair and straightening of many stones in Memorial and Hilldale Cemeteries.
- \$500 for costs associated with cemetery software maintenance fees.
- \$300 to provide the Trustees with training opportunities provided by the NH Cemetery Association and the Attorney General’s office.
- \$1,000 for costs associated with installing granite posts and chain for the Fisher Cemetery.

White asked if there were any questions from those joining remotely.

Erin Zagadailov, 178 Meadowbrook Road, apologized if she missed information given previously. She said she lost the meeting for about eight minutes and then rejoined so she thought she missed the portion that she is going to inquire about. She also meant to give Jay Fountain a compliment on his excellent presentation. Her question related to Article 1 is when will the Town make ballots publicly available. Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Ken Story, said the ballots are on order and he is hoping to have them within a week. Zagadailov asked Story when the Town is going to disclose who the candidates for offices are and if there are any contested elections that warrant a candidate’s night. She said that she understood the School Board released that information at a public meeting last week, as far as the School Board candidates go. Story said that what they typically do is, when they receive the ballots, sample ballots are included, they post those and also put them on the Town website. Because they haven’t received them yet, they haven’t posted them. To answer her question, he said there are two contested elections; there are two positions for the Dunbar Free Library Trustees and there are three candidates for those two positions. The Trustee of the Trust Funds has a single position available and there are two candidates for that position. No other positions are contested. Chairman Garland asked Zagadailov if that answered her question. She said, just to be clear, the Town has had that information and known that information since the deadline for candidates to submit paperwork on Friday, January 29th, but has not made that information public yet. Story said they have not, and in the past, they have not either. It’s made public when the sample ballots arrive. Zagadailov said that she would like to make a point that it may be of interest to the Town to list who is running to represent them in the Town’s capacity of leadership. She added that she also did not receive an answer of when the ballots will be made public. Story said he believed he did answer, and the ballots will be made public when they arrive which they hope will be within the week, it might be a little longer, but they are being typeset right now. She clarified that this information will not be made public for a week. Story said yes, that is the best that he can do. Zagadailov thanked him.

Maria Dahlman, 634 Dunbar Hill Road, said she would like to go back to the slide where it shows a \$101,630 increase in the cost of health insurance and asked for a breakdown. Dahlman also asked how many employees

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of the Town are covered by the health insurance. White said there are 19 full time employees covered by the health insurance. She stated that the Town was given a not to exceed rate of 9% and explained that the Town has to have enough budgeted for employees who might have a qualifying change to move from one plan to another, for example, if an employee gets married and the new spouse has children, they could move from a single plan to a family plan, so they have to allow for some of those potential changes. Additionally, White informed that the employer's share of Group 2 under the New Hampshire Retirement System had an increase of 5.45 % and Group 1 has an increase of 2.9%. Dahlman asked what the percentage increase was from 2020 to 2021. White said that she did not have that information but would be happy to look it up after the meeting and provide it to her and then report to the Board at the next Board meeting so other participants can have that information. Dahlman thanked her.

White asked if there were any questions from those present.

Lorie McClory asked if the \$11,200 increase in salaries is for those 19 employees as well or if it is for a different number of employees. White said that is for the Selectmen's office and part of that is an increase in the part time line which is for board and committee meetings. She explained that the board clerk is paid from the Selectmen's budget as well and that the boards and committees are using Board Clerk, Emily Owen, more and more, so they had to allocate more money for the use of her time. McClory asked White how many employees are included in that \$11,200 increase. White said four. McClory asked what percentage that is. White responded 3%. McClory said, with the explanation about the clerk, what is the increase in the amount of money put into that line. White replied \$6,000. McClory asked to clarify that \$6,000 of the \$11,200 is an increase in time for the clerk. White said that is correct and added part of that is also an increase for the part time receptionist for coverage of vacations. She explained that there is a part time person in the office 24 hours per week. McClory suggested that she clarify that for town meeting because it looks like your giving four people \$11,200 salary increases. White thanked McClory.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ARTICLE 5:

Police Department: Net increase of \$8,448 (1.44%)

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Reductions:

- \$8,000 to the part-time officer's budget
- \$11,550 to the building maintenance budget (flooring project is complete; monies are no longer needed)

Increases:

- \$17,512 allocated to salaries
- \$2,000 allocated to overtime
- \$2,808 for costs associated with dispatch service fees.
- \$3,000 for costs associated with required training.
- \$1,000 for costs associated with equipment warranties
- \$678 for costs associated with computer services
- \$500 for costs associated with miscellaneous supplies
- \$500 for COVID-19 supplies

Police Chief, John Parsons, explained the above reductions and increases:

\$8,000 to the part-time officer's budget: Chief Parsons stated that he removed \$8,000 from the part-time officer's budget line. A lot of that had to do with the hiring a fifth officer and him covering the part-time officer's shifts. He did leave enough money in there to equate to up to 300 hours of coverage by a part-time officer, which realistically, is only 39 days. That would allow for mandatory training that they would still have to come in for, unexpected illnesses, other special events, holidays, and things along those lines. He said he made the first reduction of this year after looking at some of the data after hiring Sergeant MacKenna. As they continue on through this current budget year, if additional reductions need to be made with what they are experiencing in terms of shifts that need to be filled, that is something that he will consider looking at for next budget year and the budget year after that.

\$11,550 to the building maintenance budget: Parsons stated that at town meeting last year, they requested more money be put into the building maintenance line in order to finish the flooring project in the Police Department. The project has been completed so they don't need any more of the money and it is being removed from his budget.

\$17,512 allocated to salaries and \$2,000 allocated to overtime: Parsons stated that they have not increased the overtime line since 2017, so this is a combination of a natural progression and increase in salaries over those years, their caseloads and the ability to cover the 12 Town holidays throughout the year. He said he based that overtime on his top step patrolman, who is Vince Cunningham, at his overtime rate which equates to just under \$5,800 if he were to work all 12 of them. He said that number might ebb and flow depending on the holiday, he might have to have two patrolmen working or other variable so there is no concrete number.

\$2,808 for costs associated with dispatch service fees: This is for the increase in the dispatch service fees that they pay to Hanover Dispatch.

\$3,000 for costs associated with required training: Parsons said the \$3,000 for costs associated with required training is for the Power DMS applicant and web-based system. Chief Parsons said that it's two-fold, it's the second part of their policy project. Everything is uploaded to the cloud and the officers can track it, use it, and read it either sitting at their desktop stations, in their cruiser or by utilizing their smart phones. The second portion of this is that if he sends an officer to training, and he comes back with a booklet, pamphlet or other information, all of that can be scanned and uploaded into the Power DMS system so all of the officers will have the ability to access it.

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\$1,000 for costs association with equipment warranties: Parsons said two major portions are for their tasers. One is for the tasers themselves and the other is an application that allows them to receive both live field use cartridges as well as training cartridges and batteries.

\$678 for costs associated with computer services: Parsons explained that some of this is for nominal increases in their Comcast bill. They need to pay for the static IP's that are used with the system that are CJS compliant, as well as for Allan Treadwell who manages all of their MBT and IMC related costs. IMC, which is their CAD records management system had a slight increase as well.

\$500 for costs associated with miscellaneous supplies: Parsons explained that this line has always traditionally been \$500. They seem to usually go over it by \$100-\$200 because something will come up that they need to pay for that doesn't actually fit into any of their other budget lines. So, where do you put it, miscellaneous, so they increased this line by \$500.

\$500 for COVID-19 supplies: This is at the request of Town Administration for COVID-19 supplies, whatever they may be, they may not fit in any of the Department's other budget lines.

Equipment and Grants obtained by the Police Department:

Parsons emphasized that, over the past couple of years, the Department has sought, pretty heavily, various grants for equipment, not only for use by the Police Department, but for other Town agencies and departments as well. He reviewed the following grants:

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

2019-2020 Budget year:

- ▶ **EMP2G Grant:** Used to purchase equipment to upgrade the CCTV system at town hall. The total cost of this equipment was \$40,000. A matching grant was awarded in conjunction with the approval of the 2018 warrant Article 6-Public Safety Communication Upgrades. No additional cost to the town.
- ▶ **HSEM/EOC Grant:** Used to purchase equipment for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the Jerry Whitney Room of Town Hall. The total cost of this equipment was \$17,416. A matching grant was awarded in conjunction with the approval of the 2018 warrant Article 6 - Public Safety Communication Upgrades. No additional cost to the town.
- ▶ **NHSP/Dept. of Safety:** Used to purchase PBT's and associated support equipment. The total cost of this equipment was \$3,360.

2020-2021 Budget year: Grants totaling \$14,226 were awarded through the EMPG grant program for the purchase of:

- ▶ Portable on-scene lighting equipment for use by multiple town agencies. Lights are noise-less, battery powered, and can be set up by a single person. They have been used during the recent state and national elections. The total cost of this equipment was \$9,200.00. A matching grant was awarded in conjunction with the approval of the 2019 warrant Article 10-Utility Task Vehicle.
- ▶ A handheld GPS and vehicle mounting system for installation into the Utility Task Vehicle. This allows for plotting and navigation along off-highway routes. Also assists with marking way points for emergency medical extraction. The total cost of this equipment was \$930.00. A matching grant was awarded in conjunction with the approval of the 2019 warrant Article 10-Utility Task Vehicle.
- ▶ A trailer for the Utility Task Vehicle. The total cost of this equipment was \$4,400.00. A matching grant was awarded in conjunction with the approval of the 2019 warrant Article 10-Utility Task Vehicle.

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Parsons added the following to the above three grants obtained in fiscal year 2020-2021, relating to the Utility Task Vehicle that was approved at the 2019 Town Meeting:

The first grant in the amount of \$9,200.00 was for the purchase of four on-scene lights that can be transported and set up by a single person. Two are carried in the Expedition and two are at the Police Department. They are not only for use by the Police Department but can be used by other Town Agencies. Parsons said they used them as recently as the elections in September and November.

The second grant in the amount of \$930.00 was the result of hard work by Sergeant MacKenna in coming up with the portable hand held GPS system to be used with the UTV so they will be able to go out and not only download trail maps for Grantham and some of the surrounding areas, but if they come across trails that are not on the maps, they can create some of their own maps and put in information such as which snowmobile bridges they may or may not be able to go over, what trails may not be accessible by a UTV, to be able to further enhance their response time whether it be for a police emergency, a fire emergency or an EMS emergency.

The last grant in the amount of \$4,400.00 was to get a trailer to tow the UTV to wherever it may need to go. As an aside, since they didn't take the liberty due to COVID-19, until sometime in September, they have utilized it twice so far. One was to go out and assist with a missing juvenile here in Grantham, late at night who was found unharmed. The other was to go out and assist Croydon with a serious snowmobile crash and help with the evacuation of two wounded parties from high up within Corbin Park.

Since 2018, over \$143,000 has been awarded for the purchase of equipment not only for direct GPD use, but also that of other town agencies.

Equipment obtained through LESO (Law Enforcement Support Office)

(15) pairs of ESS safety glasses. These have multiple lens, a protective case, and are utilized during EMS calls as well as times when flying debris may cause issues. This allowed for one to be assigned to each officer (7), with a spare pair for each officer/allowance for condition of equipment. These retail for \$100.00 each and we received all 15 for a total of \$79.69 (cost of shipping from N.C.).

Since 2018, \$36,942.00 worth of equipment has been obtained through LESO with an actual cost to Grantham PD of \$333.69.

Parsons said another avenue they continue to explore, primarily through the work of Captain Cunningham, is obtaining equipment through the LESO Program, Law Enforcement Support Office, in Concord. This year he was able to successfully find 15 pairs of ESS Safety glasses which have multiple different lenses and a protective case and are utilized as part of their COVID-19 protocols while responding to an EMS situation and can also be used when they are out in high winds to protect their eyes. They were able to get enough for each officer to have one and several spares. He explained that, when they order through LESO, they can't specify how many they want and get that number, they tell them a number and then, they get what is available. The retail cost for these glasses is \$100.00 each and they received 15 pair, although one pair was damaged. The cost to the Department for all 15 pair was \$79.69. The Department pays for shipping only.

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Assistance to other Town departments

We were able to aid the Highway Department in upgrading the radios within their (4) vehicles. By trading in old, unused police radios, we were able to save the Highway Department \$3,300.00. They are also now able to utilize the old Grantham Police Department frequency, allowing for increased radio coverage and communication abilities throughout town and Hanover Dispatch.

EMS Department:

Reductions:

- To the training budget by \$1,000
- To the equipment and maintenance budget by \$500
- To the uniforms and safety equipment budget by \$3,000 (monies were for two sets of turn-out gear which were purchased in the prior budget)
- To the budget by \$3,100 (monies were for the purchase of two portable radios which were purchased in the prior budget)

Increases:

- To the salary budget by \$500
- To the dispatch services budget by \$250
- To the supply budget by \$300
- To the ambulance services budget by \$2,500

Fire Department:

Reductions:

- To the vehicle and equipment repair budget by \$2,000
- To the machinery and equipment budget by \$2,710
- To the vehicle fuel budget by \$1,000
- To the miscellaneous budget by \$500
- To the telephone budget by \$600
- To the medical services budget by \$500
- To the heating budget by \$500

Increases:

- To the other services budget by \$10,000 for updating the department's SOP's
- To the salary budget by \$5,100
- To the reference books budget by \$1,000
- To the COVID-19 supply budget by \$500
- To the Dispatch budget by \$375

White asked if there were any questions from those joining remotely.

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Maria Dahlman started to ask a question when it became apparent that there was a technical problem. The phone in Town Hall was inadvertently muted and Owens asked Dahlman to hold on while they fix it.

The problem was resolved. Maria Dahlman asked about the total budget amount on the PowerPoint slide on page 25, in the column under “Budget 2020/2021” in the amount of \$912,066. She said she looked at the proposed budget in the Annual Report last year and the figure is \$854,223 and wondered why it is different. White explained that last year, they had a separate, individual warrant article for the hiring of the fifth police officer for residents to vote on, so the total proposed budget in the warrant article for Public Safety showed less last year.

Dahlman had another question. She said the presentation shows the budget and proposed budget for the following year and asked if they can add another column and show what was actually expended. Selectman Jones stated that they are not finished with the budget year yet, so they can’t show final figures on what was expended from the budget. Dahlman thanked them.

White asked if anyone present had a question.

Lorie McClory asked if the salary increases throughout this budget are at 3%. White said on average they are 3%. McClory asked Chief Parsons how many people are involved in the \$17,512 allocated to salaries. Chief Parsons said there are six full time employees: five full time Officers and the Administrative Assistant.

McClory, who is also the Town Moderator, thanked Parsons for the use of the lights at the elections in September and November and said she is looking forward to seeing them again in March. Parsons confirmed they will be there.

McClory asked what the situation is for the \$3,000 reduction in the EMS budget for turn-out gear. Assistant Fire Chief Fountain said that because they are asking for \$10,000 to update the SOP’s, they looked at the budget to see where they could cut. They have enough turn-out gear for the employees that they have right now, so they reduced that budget. He said next year, it will probably go back in. McClory asked the Selectmen if they think they should start some kind of trust fund for this so there is money to be expended as needed so we don’t have to wait for town meeting in order to approve gear if we have new people coming in. She said, just a thought. White thanked her.

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. Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ARTICLE 6:

During the 2020 Town meeting, Article 9-Police Cruiser was voted on and approved. This was to allow for the replacement of the 2014 Dodge Charger with a 2020 Dodge Charger. The 2020 Charger would be moved into the front-line fleet, and the 2015 Dodge Charger would become the alternate police duty use vehicle.

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After town meeting, we learned that Dodge had ceased making the 2020 Charger, and there were not any available. Dodge would not be taking orders for the 2021 Charger until December of 2020. It was also not known whether any of the equipment in the 2015 Charger would be able to be moved to the 2021 model.

A meeting was sought with the CIP Committee (CIPC) to discuss options for the cruiser replacement. They recommended replacing the 2014 Dodge outright with a 2021 Dodge. The Selectmen agreed with the CIPC. This cruiser was ordered in December of 2020, with an estimated delivery date range of Jan-March 2021. At this time, it is still unknown about moving any equipment from the 2015 Dodge into a 2021 model.

The purpose of this article is to replace the 2015 Dodge Charger outright, per discussions with the CIP committee. The amount requested represents the current cost of the 2021 Dodge Charger and the removal of all equipment from the 2015 Dodge/installation into the 2021 Dodge.

Chief Parsons reviewed the above additional information for Article 6. He summarized by saying, after talking with the CIP Committee, the plan is to get rid of the 2015 Charger and replace it with the 2021 Charger with enough money in this current article so that should they need to replace certain things, the cages, the center console, etc., there is enough money. The one thing that is not part of this is any type of trade in. He said they were offered \$3,000 for the 2014, which is rear wheel drive, so there is hope that there may be a little bit more of a trade in value on an all-wheel drive 2015.

White asked if there were any questions from those joining remotely. There were none.

White asked if anyone present had a question.

Lorie McClory had a question in the PowerPoint slide, on page 32, third paragraph, where it says, "At this time, it is still unknown about moving any equipment from the 2015 Dodge into a 2021 model". She asked if that is supposed to say "2014 Dodge". Parsons said the slide is correct, they want to replace the 2015 Charger which is fully marked, and they still don't know, as of right now, if any of that equipment will go into a 2021 Charger. He asked if that answered her question. She said it did, but the way that paragraph is written is very confusing.

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)

- The current hose is aging; most of it is over 20 years old.
- We are losing 2 - 5 lengths a year due to failing hose testing.
- The new hose would increase firefighter safety. It is lighter, made with stronger materials, and more efficient with better flow rates and lower friction loss.
- We are applying for a grant to help with this purchase, which would pay 95% of this cost.

There were no questions or comments.

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

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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

Additional information for Article 8:

Highway Administration: Groundskeeper salary moved here (up to \$46,550)
Increases:

- To the salary budget by \$5,450
- To the overtime budget by \$1,000
- To the telephone budget by \$600
- To the electricity budget by \$500
- To the dues and membership budget by \$200
- To the COVID-19 supply budget by \$200

Highway Maintenance:
Increases

- To the gravel budget by \$2,000
- To the winter sand budget by \$1,000
- To the winter salt budget by \$2,000

Transfer Station Administration
Reductions: To the tire budget by \$2,000

Increases:
○ To the salary budget by \$3,600
○ To the office supply budget by \$300

Transfer Station Disposal
Reductions: To the hazardous waste budget by \$15,000

Increases:
○ To the municipal solid waste disposal budget by \$15,000
○ To the construction and demolition disposal budget by \$5,000
○ To the landfill monitoring budget by \$1,500

There were no questions or comments.

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ARTICLE 9 – HEALTH & 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

Community Agencies:	Budget 2020/2021	Proposed 2021/2022	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 Behavioral Health	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$0
Public Health Council of the Upper Valley	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Visiting Nurse & Hospice of VT/NH	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Total	\$18,800	\$18,800	\$0

There were no questions or comments on this Article.

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)

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

Additional Information for Article 10:

Recreation:

Reductions:

- Moved the groundskeeper salary to the highway department \$11,000
- To the events budgets by \$1,550
- To the league fees budget by \$300

Increases:

- To the salary budget by \$1,800
- To the miscellaneous budget by \$400
- To the COVID-19 budget by \$200

Library:

- To the salary budget by \$3,450
- To the benefits budget by \$4,000

Reductions: To the general expenses of the library by \$800

There were no questions or comments on this Article.

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)

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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)

Additional information for Article 11:

Conservation: Reductions: \$750

Bonds & Notes:

- Town Hall Bond – year 17 out of 20
- Library Bond – year 6 out of 10
- Fire Engine Bond Interest only
- Miller Pond Road Improvement Project Bond Interest Only

There were no questions or comments on this Article.

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)

Town Administrator White clarified that the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund has a \$525,000 balance as of December 30, 2020, however, \$330,000 of that money is designated for the plow truck purchased last year and the one that will be purchased this year. The money needs to be requested from this Capital Reserve Fund.

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There were no questions or comments on this Article.

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)

Lori McClory asked White if she posted the deadline requirements for petitioned articles. White said she did not and there is no requirement to do so.

J. Barrett, who was calling in remotely, asked to clarify if Chief Parsons is looking to replace the 2015 Charger, if he would be looking to order that later in the year so that it is being replaced with a 2022 so that we do not have two Chargers that are purchased with a date of 2021 and then, need to replace two Chargers at the same time in four, five, six or seven years from now. C. Peter James, Member of the CIP Committee, said the intent was that when the new Charger comes in, it will be assigned as the new administrative vehicle. Because it's not a front-line patrol vehicle, it will last longer, and replacing two cruisers in the same year won't come up. Barrett thanked him and said she agreed with the earlier statement that the way the article is worded is very confusing and, perhaps, there needs to be some rewording of that article including that they are anticipating more longevity of that vehicle. She thought that would go a long way with taxpayers not worrying about replacing two cruisers in one year down the road. James thanked her for her input.

Dawn Huston, Dunbar Free Library Director, asked if the entire floor meeting is on May 15th. White said they will be officially announcing it at a Board of Selectmen meeting.

C. Peter James commented that the School will have absentee ballots on March 9th and asked if the Town will also have absentee ballots for voting on March 9th. Lorie McClory, who is the Town Moderator, said she believed that the School would have absentee ballots on March 9th for the election of officers like they do every year and the Town will have absentee ballot also. She emphasized that you cannot vote on warrant articles by absentee ballot.

A motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing portion of the meeting at 7:26 PM was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Kimball. *Unanimously approved.*

Selectman Constance Jones made a motion that the Board of Selectmen unanimously recommend Articles 2 through 13; seconded by Selectman Warren Kimball. *Unanimously approved.*

By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant