

TOWN OF GRANVILLE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 3, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

1. To Elect a Moderator for the year ensuing. Vivian Branschowski moved the Article which was seconded by Ruth Cunningham. Vivian Branschowski nominated Roger Stauss which was seconded by Ruth Cunningham. Ruth Cunningham moved to close nominations, which was seconded by Vivian Branschowski. All in favor with none opposed. **One ballot cast for Roger Stauss as Moderator.**

2. To elect all Town Officers as required by law.

a. To elect a Selectperson for a 3 year term. Diane Eramo nominated Victoria Crowne which was seconded by Mary Falcon. Victoria Crowne declined nomination. Diane Eramo nominated Sean Linskey which was seconded by Eileen Dague. Eileen Dague moved to close nominations which was seconded. Mary Facon moved to cast one ballot for Sean Linskey as Selectperson which was seconded by Victoria Crowne. **One ballot cast for Sean Linskey as Selectperson.**

b. To elect a Lister for a 1 year term. Vivian Branschowski moved to table the article until after visiting Article 5 which was seconded by Ruth Cunningham. All in favor with none opposed. After voting on Article 5 it was discussed that if a Lister were elected their term would end in 45 days because the office was eliminated. It was also noted there is a need to continue duties until an outside appraiser takes over. Nancy Maston nominated Vivian Valtri Burgess which was seconded by Kate Stauss. Ruth Cunningham moved to close nominations, which was seconded by Melissa Mitchell. All in favor none opposed. **One ballot cast for Vivian Valtri Burgess as Lister.**

c. To elect a Treasurer for a 1 year term. Vivian Branschowski nominated Kathy Werner which was seconded by Nancy Demers. Kate Stauss moved to close nominations which was seconded by Charlie Needham. All in favor with none opposed. **One ballot cast for Kathy Werner as Treasurer.**

d. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for a 1 year term. Nancy Demers nominated Nancy Needham which was seconded by Vivian Branschowski. Danial Sargeant moved to close nominations which was seconded Ruth Cunningham. All in favor with none opposed. **One ballot cast for Nancy Needham as Delinquent Tax Collector.**

e. To elect a Town Grand Juror for a 1 year term. Sean Linskey nominated Mike Eramo which was seconded by Charlie Needham. Kate Stauss moved to cease nominations which was seconded by Charlie Needham. All in favor with none opposed. **One ballot cast for Mike Eramo as Town Grand Juror.**

f. To elect an Agent to Prosecute & Defend Suits for a 1 year term. Charlie Needham nominated Diane Eramo which was seconded by Kate Stauss. Victoria Crowne Moved to cease nominations which was seconded by Cheryl Sargeant. All in favor with none opposed. **One ballot cast for Diane Eramo as Agent to Prosecute & Defend Suits.**

g. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a 3 year term. Nancy Demers nominated Mark Belise which was seconded by Bruce Hyde. Kate Stauss moved to cease nominations which was seconded by Nancy Demers. All in favor with none opposed. **One ballot cast for Mark Belisle as Cemetery Commissioner.**

h. To elect a Second Constable for a 1 year term. Victoria Crowne nominated Brent Stickney which was seconded by Vivian Valtri Burgess. Kate Stauss moved to cease nominations which was seconded by Danial Sargeant. All in favor with none opposed. **One ballot cast for Brent Stickney as Second Constable.**

3. To Hear the Selectmen's report and act upon the same. Selectperson Victoria Crowne read the Selectboard report. David Black moved to accept the report which was seconded by Vivian Valtri Burgess. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 3 passed.**

4. To hear the Outside Auditors report and act upon the same. No one was present to represent the auditors to read the report. After a brief discussion, Bruce Hyde moved to accept the report as written. Motion was seconded by Ruth Cunningham. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 4 passed.**

5. Shall the Town of Granville vote to instruct the Selectboard to seek a Charter Change to accommodate a fulltime appraiser to oversee the Lister office? Vivian Branschowski moved to bring the article to the floor which was seconded by Kate Stauss. Vivian Branschowski moved to amend the article to read "shall the town vote to eliminate the office of Lister". Motion was seconded by Victoria Crowne. Mary Falcon asked what the amended article means. Vivian answered that the amendment would eliminate the office of Lister and would then allow the selectboard to hire an outside appraiser. Ruth Cunningham asked Lister Nancy Maston for her opinion on the proposed amendment who spoke in favor of eliminating the office of Lister. Vivian Vlatri Burgess asked the Selectboard what the cost would be to the town to hire an outside appraiser. Cheryl Sargeant stated between \$8,000 to \$10,000. Nancy Demers asked if State funds would be used to offset the cost which was answered with a yes. Kate Stauss moved to close discussion and to move the article as amended which was seconded by Robin Hagerman. All in favor of accepting article as amended with none opposed. **Article 5 passed as amended to eliminate the office of Lister.**

6. Shall the Town of Granville vote to increase the Capital Account for Town Highway Structures in the amount of \$9,000.00 for the purpose of meeting the 10% local match for the State Highway Structures Grant Agreement yet to be applied for. Ruth Cunningham moved to bring the article to the floor which was seconded by Melisa Mitchell. Mike Eramo asked what structure is planned to be worked on. Road Commissioner stated the grant would be for replacing a culvert on Plunkton Road. Ruth Cunningham moved to accept the article which was seconded. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 6 passed.**

7. Shall the Town of Granville vote to increase the Capital Account for building and maintenance in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of painting the Municipal Complex? Michele Brown moved to bring the article to the floor which was seconded by Mark Belisle.

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Ruth Cunningham inquired if the Town Hall was in need of painting. Selectboard Chair Cheryl Sargeant stated the plan is to raise \$5,000 per year for each side of the building to build the capital investment fund to paint the Town Hall in the future. Eileen Dague moved to call the question which was seconded. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 7 passed.**

8. Shall the Town of Granville vote to appropriate \$ 1,000.00 to the Rochester Public Library to provide library services to town residents? Vivian Valtri Burgess moved to bring the article to the floor which was seconded by Robin Hagerman. Ruth Cunningham asked why this is presented as an article and not in the budget. Cheryl Sargeant stated there was a petition for \$1,000 after the Selectboard proposed a lower amount in the town budget. Dick Poole suggested not enough information as to how many residents use the Rochester Library or how the amount of \$1,000 is justified. Ruth Cunningham moved to amend the amount to \$600. Motion was seconded by Danial Sargeant. Kate Stauss moved to call the question as amended. Motion was seconded by Roger Stauss. Majority in favor with two opposed. **Article 9 passed as amended as \$600.**

9. Shall the Town of Granville vote to continue to repay the Local Match of the FEMA expenses in the amount of \$ 20,000.00? Kate Stauss moved to bring the article to the floor. Motion was seconded by Norm Arseneault. Norm Arseneault explained the projected amount to repay the town's share of FEMA expense related to Tropical Storm Irene. If the town approves this payment, the balance will be reduced to around \$15,000. Ruth Cunningham moved to call the question which was seconded by Kate Stauss. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 9 passed.**

10. Shall the Town of Granville vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of paying back the Town's share of FEMA expenses? Mary Falcon moved to bring the article to the floor which was seconded by Michele Brown. Norm Arseneault explained that the loan most likely won't be needed. Approval is being requested just as precaution. Kate Stauss moved to call the question which was seconded by Nancy Demers. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 10 passed.**

11. Shall the Town of Granville vote to create a Capital Account for the purpose of covering expenses for Fire Protection in East Granville in the amount of \$1,500.00? Michele Brown moved to bring the article to the floor. Motion was seconded by Nancy Demers. Selectboard Chair Cheryl Sargeant explained the need to build investment funds for unexpected expense for fire protection in East Granville. Kate Stauss moved to call the question which was seconded by Danial Sargeant. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 11 passed.**

12. Shall the Town of Granville vote to create a Capital Account for the purchase of equipment for the First Constable in the amount of \$ 3,500.00? Mark Belisle moved to bring the article to the floor which was seconded by Mike Eramo. First Constable Mark Belisle explained the need to upgrade equipment needed to do his job. Mark moved to amend the amount to \$2,500. Motion was seconded by Ruth Cunningham. All in favor none opposed. **Article 12 passed as Amended to \$2,500.**

13. Shall the Town of Granville vote to accept the budget of \$ 290,859.00 to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same? Michel Brown moved to bring the article to the floor. Motion was seconded by Ruth Cunningham. Diane Eramo moved to amend municipal budget item 6040 Building & Grounds Mowing to include \$250.00 for mowing property acquired by the town through the FEMA Buy-Out .Motion was seconded by Nancy Demers All in favor none opposed. Kevin Bagley moved to amend the highway budget item for sanding to \$34,000. No vote taken. Vivian Valtri Burgess moved to amend the highway budget item for sanding to \$30,000. Motion was seconded by Melissa Mitchell. Kate Stauss moved to vote on the amendment which was seconded. None in favor all opposed. Mary Falcon moved to amend the highway budget item for sanding to \$25,000. Motion was seconded by Kate Stauss. All in favor none opposed. Victoria Crowne moved to rename municipal line item budget for Listers salary to be called Assesors budget. Motion was seconded by Kate Stauss. All in favor none opposed. Kate Stauss moved to remove municipal budget item for Lister training to zero. Motion was seconded by Victoria Crowne. All in favor with none opposed. Ruth Cunningham moved to call the question with amendments. All in favor with none opposed. Ruth Cunningham moved to approve the article as amended to \$299,774. Motion was seconded by Julie Reiderer. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 13 passed as amended to \$299,774.**

14. Shall the Town of Granville vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow for current expenses in anticipation of taxes to be paid and grants received? Kate Stauss made a motion to move the article, which was seconded by Ruth Cunningham. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 14 passed.**

15. Shall the Town of Granville vote to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year? Kate Stauss made a motion to move the article , which was seconded by Ruth Cunningham. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 15 passed.**

16. Shall the Town of Granville vote to apply any surplus from the Highway Budget's current fiscal year into the Highway Capital Investment Fund? Vivian Valtri Burgess made a motion to move the article , which was seconded by Michele Brown. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 16 passed.**

17. Shall the Town of Granville vote to authorize all property taxes to be paid to the Treasurer as provided by law, in three (3) equal installments, with due dates being September 15, January 15 and May 15. Michele Brown made a motion to move the article, which was seconded by Christian Jacquith. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 17 passed.**

18. Shall the Town of Granville authorize to levy an interest charge on all late installment payments of One percent (1%) per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one-half percent (1.5%) per month or fraction thereof, either from the due date of the last installment or from the due date of each installment, as provided for in 32 V.S.A. 4873. Kate Stauss made a motion to

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move the article, which was seconded by Nancy Demers. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 18 passed**

19. To transact any other business to come before said meeting. Michele Brown moved to call the question, which was seconded by Eileen Dague. Eileen Dague suggested the annual meeting be moved to a weekend. The annual meetings tend to run late into the evening, with voters leaving before the close of the meeting. Kate Stauss suggested more people would attend the meetings if the date was moved to the weekend and during the afternoon. Holding Town Meeting on a week day evening prevents some people from attending. Norm Arsenault thanked former Select Person Victoria Crowne for her three years of service to the town. Those in attendance showed their appreciation with a round of applause. Kate Stauss made a motion to move the article, which was seconded by Nancy Demers. All in favor with none opposed. **Article 19 passed.**

20. To adjourn said meeting. Kate Stauss move to close the meeting, which was seconded by Nancy Demers. All in favor with none opposed. **Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kathy Werner

Town Clerk/Treasurer

Cheryl Sargeant/Selectboard Chair

Roger Stauss/Moderator

