

TOWN OF GRANVILLE

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

OCTOBER 16, 2017

Call to Order: 6:06 PM

Moderator Roger Stauss called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. After reviewing rules of procedure for the meeting, Roger read Article 1. Judy Wood made the motion to bring the Article to the floor and was seconded by Mary Falcon. All were in favor with none opposed.

**Article 1: Shall the Town of Granville vote to renew the five year exemption from property tax for the Moss Glen Grange.** Mark Belisle gave a brief history of the Grange. Ownership of the building was transferred to Moss Glen Grange from the Granville Ladies Club. The Moss Glen Grange is an agricultural based non-profit civic service organization. The town may vote to waive property tax for five years at a time. Judy Wood made the motion to accept Article 1 as written. Motion was seconded by Mary Falcon. All were in favor with none opposed.

**Article 1 Passed.**

**Article 2: Shall the Town of Granville enter into a long term lease agreement with the United States Postal Service for use of the “Old Town Clerk Office” at 4801 VT Route 100.** Judy Wood made the motion to bring Article 2 to the floor and was seconded by Mary Falcon. All were in favor with none opposed. The Moderator reminded the voters of rules of procedure and the focus of discussion is on Article 2. Selectboard Chair Bruce Hyde gave the recent history with USPS search for a Post Office site. Last March the town voted no to relocate a Post Office next to the Town Hall. USPS restarted their public search for another site and the Selectboard offered the old Town Clerk Office as a possible site. The USPS has shown an interest in leasing the building for a five or 10 year term. The USPS would pay for any work done for updating the building. ***Rent to the town would be \$500 per month for first five years and \$600 per month for next five years.***

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Entering into a lease with the USPS will not have any effect on access into the Elmwood Cemetery extension. Mike Eramo asked if the town would have any influence on keeping the original appearance of the building. Bruce stated the town will have a lease agreement. The USPS knows there is no septic or water. They have designs to accommodate their employees with facilities and are not required to provide public bathrooms. Shawn Dougherty expressed his concern that parking for the Post Office will restrict visitors to the cemetery from parking. Nancy Needham works for USPS and stated parking is not restricted by USPS. Nancy also noted that if Granville had their own Post Office, any mail that couldn't be delivered by rural route would be held locally in Granville and not in an out of town Post Office. Mark Hammond – A Post Office doesn't belong next to a cemetery. Kate Stauss - The town has lost services over the years and it would be good to have one returned. Having a Post Office in town would be more convenient. Mike Eramo-If we vote down the article we won't have a Post Office. Judy Wood- No one objected to building or having a Town Clerk Office next to a cemetery. There never was a problem with it in the past. Malcolm Appleton- Would like to be involved with the planning of upgrades such as the doors, windows and choice of exterior color. Gene Hammond – The town at one time talked about a war memorial at the site but was dropped and questioned why it was dropped. Norm Arseneault- When the town was deciding what projects to designate as Alternate Projects the town residents were given a survey with a list of proposed Alternate Projects. The war memorial was on that list and the town residents rated the war memorial as being the least favorable. This is why the idea didn't move forward. Judy Wood made the motion to close discussion. Motion was seconded by Preston Bagley. All were in favor with none opposed. Preston called for a vote by paper ballot which was seconded. All were in favor with none opposed. 41 Ballots were cast. 7 No and 34 Yes.

**Article 2 Passed.**

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**Article 3: To transact any other business.**

Mike Cunningham asked about the lawsuit and when was the last time the town was sued. Bruce reported that the Town has had to hire an Attorney and the Plaintiff are representing themselves. There is a court date scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>. So far the town has paid about \$3,000 in Attorney fees. Bruce said he was hoping for a quick settlement. Roger Stauss said when he was a Selectman the town was sued some time ago by Harvey's over a contract with the Town.

**Article 4: Adjourn said meeting.**

Mary Falcon made the motion to Adjourn. Motion was seconded by Judy Wood. All were in favor with none opposed. **Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kathy Werner

Town Clerk/Treasurer

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Roger Stauss/Moderator

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Nancy Demers/Justice of the Peace