

TOWN OF GRANVILLE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2020

After an introduction followed by a meet and greet with Senator Chris Bray and Representatives Philip Jay Hooper and Peter Reed, the meeting was then called to order at 6:20 pm.

1. To elect a Moderator for the year ensuing. Dan Sargeant nominated Roger and Gene Hammond seconded. Travis Turnbull moved to close nominations and the motion was seconded. The moderator called for a voice vote to elect Roger Stauss as moderator. All were in favor with none opposed. **Roger Stauss elected as Moderator.**

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Granville vote to reinstate the Office of Auditors? Motion was made to move the article and motion was seconded. Kenny Bagley asked why the office of auditor was being reinstated and Kate Stauss asked why the office was eliminated to begin with. Dan Sargeant asked the Treasurer for her opinion on the matter. Former Town Auditor Robin Hagerman recommended essential training should be a requirement. Selectboard statements included that this will lower the tax payer's expense by going back to electing town officials. The Town Treasurer opinioned the difference between electing a lay person vs an accounting firm and explained there are benefits to hiring certified public accountants that specialize in their experience with municipal accounting. Victoria Crowne moved to call the question and was seconded by Melissa Kosmaczewski. All were in favor with none opposed. The Moderator called for a voice vote on Article 2. Majority was in favor with some opposed. **Article 2 Passed.**

3. To elect all Town Officers as required by law. Motion was made by Mark Belisle to move the article and the motion was seconded by Nancy Demers. All were in favor.

a. To elect a First Auditor for a 1 year term ending 2021. Bruce Hyde nominated Roger Stauss. Jim Dague moved to close nominations and was seconded by Dennis Demers. All were in favor to elect **Roger Stauss as First Auditor.**

b. To elect a Second Auditor for a 2 year term ending 2022. Bruce Hyde nominated Cheryl Sargeant. Jim Dague moved to close nominations and was seconded by Kate Stauss. Jim Dague moved to close nominations and was seconded by Kate Stauss. All were in favor to elect **Cheryl Sargeant as Second Auditor.**

c. To elect a Third Auditor for a 3 year term ending 2023. Bruce Hyde nominated Nancy Beattie. Kate Stauss moved to cease nominations and motion was seconded. All were in favor to elect **Nancy Beattie as Third Auditor.**

d. To elect a Selectperson for a 3 year term ending 2023. Richard Poole nominated Steve Twitchell. Jim Dague moved to close nominations and the motion was seconded by Cheryl Sargeant. **All were in favor, with one ballot cast for Steve Twitchell as Selectperson.**

e. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for a 1 year term ending 2021. Cheryl Sargeant nominated Nancy Needham. Juli Reiderer moved to close nominations and was seconded by Victoria Crowne. **All were in favor of electing Nancy Needham as Delinquent Tax Collector.**

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f. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a 3 year term ending 2023. Marilyn Dougherty nominated Scott Sargeant. Dan Sargeant moved to close nominations and motion was seconded by Victoria Crowne. **All were in favor of electing Scott Sargeant as Cemetery Commissioner.**

g. To elect a Constable for a 2 year term ending 2022. Jim Parrish nominated Mark Belisle. Melissa K moved to close nominations and was seconded by Juli Reiderer. **All were in favor of electing Mark Belisle as Constable.**

h. To elect a Second Constable for a 1 year term. Victoria Crowne nominated Brett Stickney. Dan Sargeant moved to close nominations and was seconded by Kate Stauss. **All were in favor of electing Brett Stickney as Second Constable.**

4. To hear the Selectmen's report and act upon the same. Chairman Bruce Hyde gave the highlights of the Selectmen's report. Discussion followed. Jim Lormand asked if the town receives payments from ECFIBER to run lines through town.. The poles are owned by Green Mountain Power and not the town and cannot collect fees. ECFIBER connectivity is now available to all town residents. Mike Eramo asked if there are any funds budgeted for maintaining legal trails and class 4 roads for recreational use. Class 4 road maintenance is limited by statute, to runoff control. There is currently no funding budgeted for maintaining the town's legal trails. Jim Dague suggested interested people organize and submit a proposal for funding for next year's budget.

5. Shall the Town of Granville vote to accept the budget of \$397,995 to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same? A motion as made to move the article. Motion was seconded by Cheryl Sargent. Bruce Hyde reviewed notable changes to the proposed Town budget. Jim Dague went over the Highway budget. Jim made the motion to amend by increasing line item no. 52100 from \$11,000 to \$20,000. In response to a question from the floor, FEMA Town Coordinator Norm Arsenault explained the reason for the increase came from change orders on the West Hill Road Project. The line item is the Town's share of the project and this is the final project of DR FEMA #4330. The town will have no debt after this project is complete. Juli Reiderer moved to amend the line item. Motion was seconded with all in favor to increase line item no. 52100 to \$20,000. More

discussion followed. Mark Belisle made a motion in increase the line item for grounds mowing by \$350. Discussion followed with a debate to keep cost down using volunteers or hire someone to mow the Granville Commons. Kate Stauss moved to call the question to amend and was seconded by Christian Jaquith. All were in favor with one opposed to amend line item no. 6040 to \$3,390. Victoria Crowne asked for clarification in the budget for Constables supplies. Victoria Crowne moved to call the question to accept the budget as amended. Motion was seconded. **All were in favor of Article 5 as amended with a budget of \$407,345.**

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6. Shall the Town of Granville raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 10,000 to increase the Municipal Capital Investment Fund and to utilize this account for upcoming repairs of the Steeple? Mark Belisle made the motion to move the article and was seconded. Jim Dague explained the need for the increase in order to build a fund for needed repairs to maintain the town's buildings. There was a discussion over necessary repairs to the Town Hall steeple and other maintenance projects that will need to be addressed in the near future. Mike Eramo made the motion to call the question and was seconded by Juli Reiderer. All were in favor. **Article 6 passed.**

7. Shall the Town of Granville raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to increase the Highway Capital Investment Account Town Share of Structures Grant and to utilize this account for the Town's share of the Replacement of the Town Line large culvert? Melissa Kosmaczewski made the motion to move the article and Rachael seconded. Jim Dague explained the article. Mike Reiderer moved to call the question and was seconded by Melissa. All were in favor. **Article 7 passed.**

8. Shall the Town of Granville vote to increase the Fire Station Capital Investment Account in the amount of \$20,000? Nancy Demers made the motion to move the article and was seconded by Robin Hagerman. Fire Chief Dan Sargeant explained the amount would be used on the Fire Department building and expressed their desire for installing a septic and well to provide for health and prevention of personal hazards for their volunteers returning from fire events. Discussion followed around the topic of planning and why \$20,000? Robin Hagerman made the motion the amend the article to \$5,000. Motion was seconded by Kate Stauss. All were in favor.

Jim Dague moved to call the question as amended and was seconded by Mike Reiderer. **All were in favor of Article 8 as amended for \$5,000.**

9. Shall the Town of Granville vote to increase the Capital Account for the purpose of covering expenses for Fire Protection in East Granville in the amount of \$500.00? Kate Stauss made the motion to move the article and was seconded. Norm Arsenault questioned how much is in this account currently. The Selectmen were unable to answer. Jim Parrish made the motion to call the question and was seconded by Mike Reiderer. All were in favor. **Article 9 passed.**

10. Shall the Town of Granville appropriate the sum of \$500 to the Corner School Resource Center of Granville, VT in support of its renovation of the Corner School building? Kate Stauss motioned to move the article and was seconded by Mike Eramo. Kate gave a history of the progress the CSRC and they have received a grant. Victoria made the motion to call the question and was seconded by Robin Hagerman. All were in favor. **Article 10 passed.**

11. Shall the Town of Granville vote to apply any surplus from the Highway Budget's current fiscal year into the Highway Capital Investment Fund? Victoria Crowne made the motion to move the article and was seconded by Juli Reiderer. Victoria moved to call the question and was seconded by Juli. All were in favor. **Article 1 passed.**

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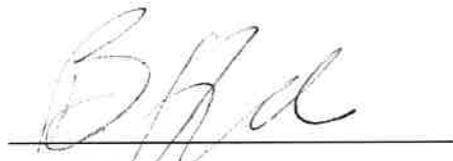
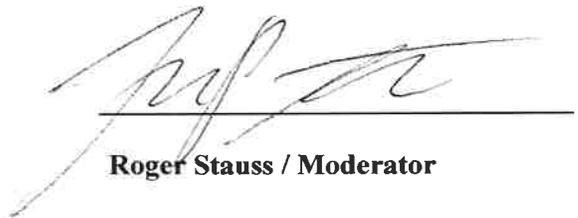
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12. Shall the Town of Granville vote to authorize property taxes to be paid to the Treasurer as provided by law, in four (4) equal installments, with due dates being; August 17, November 17, February 17 and May 17? Juli Reiderer made the motion to move the article and was seconded by Christian Jaquith. Jim Dague moved to call the question and was seconded by Travis Turnbull. All were in favor. **Article 12 passed.**

13. Shall the Town of Granville vote that overdue taxes will bear interest at a rate of one percent (1%) per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one-half percent (1 1/2%) per month or fraction thereof from the due date of such tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5136? Mark Belisle made the motion to move the article and was seconded by Nancy Demers. Kate Stauss moved to call the question and was seconded by Melissa Kowmaczewski. All were in favor. **Article 13 passed.**

14. To transact any other business to come before said meeting. Christian Jaquith and Juli Reiderer asked for more detailed financial reports including adding the various fund balances in the Capital Investments to next year's Town Report. Mark announced the next Rabies Clinic will be held on March 18th at the Hancock Fire Department from 5 pm – 7 pm. Granville and other Town Clerks will be there to take dog registrations.

15. To adjourn said meeting. Christian Jaquith made the motion to adjourn and was seconded. **Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

**Bruce Hyde/Selectboard Chairman****Roger Stauss / Moderator**