

TOWN OF GRANVILLE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
March 5, 2024

After an introduction and explanation of Roberts Rules and Points of Order, the meeting was then called to order at 6:01 pm.

1. To elect all Town Officers as required by law. Motion was made by Kate Stauss to move the article and the motion was seconded by Janet Brown. All were in favor.

a. To elect a Moderator for the year ensuing. Kate Stauss nominated Kelli Eckroth and Victoria Crowne seconded. Dan Sargeant moved to close nominations and Kenneth Bagley seconded. The moderator called for a voice vote to elect Kelli Eckroth as moderator. All were in favor with none opposed. **Kelli Eckroth elected as Moderator.**

b. To elect a Selectperson for a 3 year term ending 2027. Roger Stauss nominated Michael Eramo and Nancy Demers seconded. Roger moved to close nominations and was seconded all. The moderator called for a voice vote to elect Michael Eramo as Selectperson. All were in favor with none opposed. **Michael Eramo elected as Selectperson.**

c. To elect a Second Auditor for a 3 year term ending 2027. Roger Stauss nominated Robin Haggerman and Janet Brown seconded. All were in favor to elect **Robin Haggerman as Second Auditor.**

d. To elect a First Constable for a 2 year term ending 2026. Juli Reiderer nominated Mark Belisle and Roger Stauss seconded. Juli moved to close nominations and Janet Brown seconded. All were in favor to elect **Mark Belisle as First Constable.**

e. To elect a Second Constable for a 1 year term ending 2025. Roger Stauss nominated Jeff Lumbra and Juli Reiderer seconded. All were in favor to elect **Jeff Lumbra as Second Constable.**

f. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for a 1 year term ending 2025. Janet Brown nominated Nancy Needham and Victoria Crowne seconded. Dan Mulcher moved to close nominations and Dan Sargeant seconded. All were in favor of electing **Nancy Needham as Delinquent Tax Collector.**

e. To elect a Second Cemetery Commissioner for a 3 year term ending 2027. Dan Mulcher nominated Mark Belisle and Roger Stauss seconded. All were in favor of electing **Mark Belisle as Second Cemetery Commissioner.**

Senator Ruth Hardy spoke of the happenings at the State House.

2. To hear the Selectboard Report. Motion was made by Roger Stauss to move the article and the motion was seconded by Roger Stauss. Bruce reviewed the report then went on to thanked everyone for coming and thanked Rachel Grigorian for her years of service to the Town. A brief discussion ensued regarding the hole that just developed on Maston Hill and it was marked with orange cones. Bruce also reviewed the Road Commissioners Report mentioning the paving project this summer. Richard Poole mentioned the success with the roads and how fixing the bad spots work. Kate Stauss thanked Rachel for her service to a round of applause.

3. Shall the Town of Granville vote to accept the budget of \$405,886.00 to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same? Roger Stauss made the motion to move the article. Motion was seconded by Dan Sargeant. Kate Stauss asked about the insert and if it was an amendment to the Profit & Loss Report printed in the Report. Kelli explained that the Profit & Loss Report that was printed in the Town Report reflected trial Adjusting Journal Entries and that the Auditors did not find anything wrong and the insert reflects the true accounting of the Town's books. William Bentley of East Granville inquired about the reason for having an outside audit performed. Bruce Hyde explained it was due to the former Treasurer leaving and periodically the Town can request to have one performed. William proceeded to indicate that there were a couple of mathematical errors in the Proposed Budget totaling roughly \$120.00 but not enough to require changes. Bruce indicated that the Proposed Budget is our best guess at what the Town will spend in a given year and we also use any carry over to offset property taxes and

any highway surplus by State Statue must be spent on highways and go into the Highway Capital Investment Fund. Kristi Fuller inquired about the Corner School Resource Center of Granville VT's appropriation request for \$1,000.00 when the Town was already granting them a property tax exemption for non-profit status. Kate Stauss indicated that on page 44 it gives an explanation. Marilyn Dougherty asked why it was put into the Budget as a Line Item rather than a Warning Article. Bruce indicated that it just made sense to include it with the other non-profit Appropriation requests the Town receives. Marilyn also asked if the CSRC had heat for which Kate replied with a heat pump which is very expensive to operate that is why we are only open from May through October. We do offer free WiFi service the information is on the front door. Diane Eramo inquired about the increase in the Winter Road Maintenance and if it was written in a contract. Bruce Hyde indicated that yes it is written into a contract with a new contractor that we received bids from and he is doing an excellent job.

James Parrish announced that voting would terminate in 12 minutes.

Shawn Dougherty inquired about the Gravel Line Item for \$50,000.00 and was wondering what the Town was doing about the money/material owed by The Bowl Mill. Ken indicated that having a local gravel source is a benefit economically and environmentally and Bruce agreed. Kristi indicated that The Bowl Mill was working on and needing to have a Stormwater Permit issued by the Agency of Natural Resources to move forward. Roger Stauss and Victoria Crowne moved the question. **All were in favor; Article 3 passed.**

Kelli indicated that there would be a short recess to close down the Presidential Primary polls and that there were refreshments in the kitchen area. Restart of the meeting 7:17 p.m.

4. Shall the Town of Granville vote to authorize the Treasurer to apply any surplus remaining in the Highway Budget's current fiscal year into the Highway Capital Investment Fund? Motion was made by Christian Jaquith to move the article and the motion was seconded by Roger Stauss. William Bentley inquired if the surplus and/or deficit was a regular occurrence. Bruce Hyde explained yes depending on the year the Town does have surplus funds to put into the Capital Investment Fund to be used only for Highway work. Roger made the motion to authorize and Nancy Demers seconded. **All were in favor; Article 4 passed.**

5. Shall the Town of Granville vote to increase the Highway Capital Investment Fund in the amount of \$6,000 for the purpose of repaving town roads? Roger Stauss moved the question and Melissa Kosmaczewski seconded. Kate Stauss inquired about the \$36,000.00 and what they were planning on doing with it. Bruce Hyde indicated that it would be used for the Paving project we have planned for this year along with using the Highway Surplus Funds and \$90,000.00 in ARPA funds which needs to be committed by December 31, 2024. Juli Reiderer asked if the Highway Surplus Funds were just for highways or if it could be used for other items? Bruce indicated that due to not putting gravel down on the roads for several years the Town has a highway surplus each year and that it must be used for highways. Kate asked if the ARPA funds were for the Selectboard to decided what to spend it on or if others could make suggestions. Rachel Grigorian indicated that the Selectboard had been discussing this topic since last summer and using it on ADA work to the Town Hall. Bruce acknowledged that it has been on the Agenda each month for discussion and input is welcome. Nancy Demers moved to call the question and Roger seconded. **All were in favor; Article 5 passed.**

- 6. Shall the Town of Granville vote to increase the Municipal Building Investment Fund in the amount of \$5,000 for the purpose of repainting the municipal complex?** Dan Mulcher moved the question and Roger Stauss seconded. After a brief discussion; Roger called the question and Christian seconded. **All were in favor; Article 6 passed.**
- 7. Shall the Town of Granville vote to exempt the Corner School Resource Center from property taxes for five fiscal years beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2029?** Kate Stauss moved the question and Dan Mulcher seconded. Kate Stauss called the question and Dan Mulcher seconded. **All were in favor; Article 7 passed.**
- 8. 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 15, November 14, February 13 and May 15?** Dan Mulcher moved to call the question and was seconded by Roger Stauss. **All were in favor; Article 8 passed.**
- 9. 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?** Dan Mulcher made the motion to call the question and was seconded by Melissa Kosmaczewski. **All were in favor; Article 9 passed.**
- 10. To transact any other business to come before the meeting.** Kate Stauss mentioned that she was glad to see new and younger faces in Town and asked if we should change the time of day to hold Town Meeting. Robin Haggerman suggested having it earlier and offering rides to older folks and perhaps offer food with a half hour to 45 minute break. Christian indicated that if it were changed to a Saturday that would not work for some people due to work schedules and earlier would not allow some to attend due to work as well.

Kelli presented Roger Stauss with a surprise Birthday gift of balloons celebrating his 72nd Birthday.


Mark reminded everyone of the Rabies Clinic at the Hancock Fire Station on March 27th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Mike suggested perhaps allowing young people to vote at Town Meeting.

11. To adjourn said meeting. Dan Mulcher made the motion to adjourn and Christian Jaquith seconded. **Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.**



Bruce Hyde/Selectboard Chairman



Kelli Eckroth / Moderator