

TOWN OF GRANVILLE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2026

After an introduction and explanation of Roberts' Rules and Points of Order, the meeting was then called to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. To elect a Moderator for a 1 year term ending in 2027. Kate Stauss nominated Kelli Eckroth and Roger Stauss seconded. Kate Stauss moved to close nominations and Janet Brown 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.**

2. To hear the Selectmen's Report. Motion was made by Danial Sargeant to move the article and the motion was seconded by Roger Stauss. Kelli reviewed the report highlighting projects at the Municipal Complex and went on to thank everyone for their hard work during the past year and Marilyn for all of her work on keeping the website updated. Mike spoke of the ADA upgrades to the Town Hall and Church allowing access to the second floor. Ken indicated that the Town does have drawings if anyone wanted to view them and the Town has been utilizing road grants to maintain the roads with 2 projects lined up for this summer. Kate inquired about the tax rate issue in paragraph 4. Kelli indicated that the Town will be working to reduce spending in certain areas, like public safety (GVFD and Constable), roads and sand. Mike indicated that just last year the Town put down at least 5 years of gravel in specific areas and the GVFD has saved money themselves. Dan Multcher introduced himself and just wanted to make sure that everyone treated each other with due respect. Mary Falcon indicated that both North Hollow (Puddle Dock) and Maston Hill Roads have been wonderful to drive on since the gravel was put down. Kelli indicated that we have a new plowing contractor and after a few hiccups ECS is doing a fine job. Kevin Bagley moved to call the question and Janet Brown seconded. **All were in favor; Article 2 passed.**

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Granville vote to eliminate the Office of Auditors, 17 V.S.A. § 2651b? Motion was made by Kate Stauss to move the article and the motion was seconded by Roger Stauss. Roger indicated that he has served as an Auditor for 7 years and appointed this past year with Bruce being newly elected and Rachel Grigorian being appointed this past year and went on to explain why they decided to have the Article put into the Warning. Juli Reiderer asked if there was already a Line Item in the Budget for the costs or if the Budget would have to be adjusted? Kelli indicated that the Budget was already set up for the elimination of the office. Roger did say that if the Town wanted to go back to electing Auditors that we could do that. Kelli explained that an outside auditor would perform the audit and make recommendations but they could not direct how a Town Treasurer performs their duties. Mary Falcon asked why the Town went back to having its own Auditors and Mike explained that we were not satisfied with the outcome of the audit. Kristi Fuller also explained that when we elected a new Town Treasurer the Town was required to hire an outside auditor to make sure the new Town Treasurer was coming in with a clean slate. Roger Stauss moved to call the question and Diane Eramo seconded. **29 were in favor and 1 opposed; Article 3 passed.**

4. 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 Kristi Fuller. **All were in favor.**

a. To elect a Selectperson for a 3 year term ending 2029. Bruce Hyde nominated Robert Readie and Roger Stauss seconded. Danielle Cutting nominated Kevin Bagley and Anthony Brown seconded. Kate Stauss moved to close nominations and Juli Reiderer seconded. **Robert Readie 26 votes and Kevin Bagley 10 votes; Robert Readie elected as Selectperson.**

b. To elect a Selectperson for a 2 year term ending 2028. Bruce Hyde nominated Jared Rouleau and Robert Readie seconded. Dan Multcher nominated Kevin Bagley and Anthony Brown seconded. Kelli Eckroth nominated Cheryl L. Sargeant and Marilyn Dougherty seconded. Mark Belisle moved to close nominations and Kate Stauss seconded. **Jared Rouleau 24 votes; Kevin Bagley 7 votes and Cheryl L. Sargeant 6 votes; Jared Rouleau elected as Selectperson.**

c. To elect a First Constable for a 2 year term ending 2028. Danielle Cutting nominated Mark Belisle and Kevin Bagley seconded. Bruce Hyde nominated Roger Stauss and Shawn Dougherty seconded; Roger respectfully declined. Dan Multcher pointed out that the budget has money in it for the Constable and he is a great point of contact for the Town and Vermont State Police (VSP). Rachel Grigorian also pointed out that there was money in the budget and wondered if we could use it for VSP. Mark Belisle indicated that he has been the Town's Constable for 30 years and has always been available for calls either from VSP and/or residents. Shawn Dougherty asked how many hours he puts in per week. Mark indicated that it varies but that by the end of the fiscal year he makes sure he has put in the required hours. Marilyn Dougherty asked where he patrols; Mark indicated that he roams throughout Town and not just sitting along VT Route 100. Kate Stauss indicated that she was shocked to hear he carried a taser and wondered if he had used it. Mark indicated that he has been trained the last 10 years and has carried it here in Town for the last 7 to 8 years and would rather use it than his gun. Kevin Bagley made the motion to cease discussion and Kate Stauss seconded. **All were in favor to elect Mark Belisle as First Constable.**

d. To elect a Second Constable for a 1 year term ending 2027. Mark Belisle nominated Jeffrey Lumbr and Kevin Bagley seconded. Bruce Hyde nominated Jennifer Stickney and Anthony Brown seconded. **Jeffrey Lumbr received 10 votes and Jennifer Stickney received 13 votes; Jennifer Stickney was elected as Second Constable.**

e. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for a 1 year term ending 2027. Kate Stauss nominated Nancy Needham and Janet Brown seconded. Kate Stauss moved to close nominations and Janet Brown seconded. **All were in favor of electing Nancy Needham as Delinquent Tax Collector.**

h. To elect a Second Cemetery Commissioner for a 3 year term ending 2029. Kate Stauss nominated Veronica Parrish and Roger Stauss seconded. Kate Stauss moved to close nominations and Nancy Demers seconded. **All were in favor of electing Veronica Parrish as Second Cemetery Commissioner.**

5. Shall the Town of Granville vote to accept the budget of \$478,948.00 to meet expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same? Kate Stauss made the motion to move the article motion was seconded by Veronica Parrish. Dan Multcher suggested that the Town use another trucking company with bigger trucks to haul sand/gravel to save money. Ken Beattie indicated that without the Bowl Mill and local pits materials have to be hauled a long distance so overall it would not necessarily save money. Kelli Eckroth indicated that we only received a few bids for the project and Mike Eramo indicated that one of the truckers, Stephanie did an excellent job and hauled most of the sand. Danielle Cutting found an error in the budget; Auditor Training still had an amount in the line item which Kelli Eckroth indicated would be removed bring the total Proposed Budget to \$478,648.00. Kate Stauss asked about the Constable's Workmen's Compensation Insurance; Cheryl L. Sargeant indicated it was roughly \$2,000.00 per year due to his carrying a pistol. Nancy Demers asked why the Town was paying for the Constable Automobile Insurance; Mark Belisle indicated it was for a portion of his Commercial Automobile Insurance because it was used for his Constable position. Kristi Fuller indicated that VT Route 100 is a drug trafficking and speeder meca and the Constable needs protection when he is out there serving the Town and to argue over these things seems ridiculous to me. Bruce Hyde would like to see traffic ticket revenue tracked and to have it offset the expenses. Roger Stauss called the question and Mike Eramo seconded. **All in favor to approve the revised budget of \$478,648.00; Article 5 passed.**

6. Shall the Town of Granville vote to instruct the Selectboard to employ a certified public accountant or public accountant licensed in this State, to perform an annual financial audit of all funds of the Town? Roger Stauss moved to open the question and Bruce Hyde seconded. Kate Stauss moved the question and Janet Brown seconded. **All were in favor; Article 6 passed.**

7. Shall the Town of Granville vote to authorize the Treasurer to apply any surplus remaining from the Highway Budget's current fiscal year into the Highway Capital Investment Fund? Kate Stauss moved to open the question and Juli Reiderer seconded. Kate Stauss moved the question and Roger Stauss seconded. **All were in favor; Article 7 passed.**

8. Shall the voters of the Town of Granville vote to return management of our town fire department, financially and operationally, including opening the election or appointment of the Fire Chief, by the Town of Granville? Kelli Eckroth explained the process if this were approved by the voters which raised several questions. Kate Stauss asked who would be administering the Grant that was awarded for the renovations to the fire house? Kelli Eckroth and Michael Eramo both indicated that the Selectboard would. Roger Stauss commended the Granville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. for its response and actions during a recent incident that he witnessed. The training and cool headedness of all that responded just showed they took their jobs seriously and were well trained. On another note as Auditor he explained that he felt the department should be allowed to vote its own officers. Kelli Eckroth explained that she felt the Town should break its agreement with the GVFD and move forward with changes to GVFD and financial records. Auditors and Selectboard had issues with record keeping and communication. Robert Readie indicated that the new Selectboard will appoint a liaison and that the Article should be tabled until the animosity between the 2 entities can be broken. Bruce indicated that this was supposed to be an Advisory Article. Danial Sargeant explained that the Town has been without a representative on the board for 2 years, lack of communication between the 2 entities and understanding of what is expected for record keeping from the Auditors and need a plan to move forward together. Mike Eramo indicated that there are many good ideas here and Kelli indicated that this discussion is a seed to open up discussions so the Town will have a stronger voice. Mike went on to say that this is not what this Article says. Janet Brown indicated that people don't realize this could cost more to live here and what you are saying to the volunteers you could lose the protection. **Robert Readie made the motion to table the Article until such time as the Town and GVFD can discuss Janet Brown seconded. Article 8; TABLED until such time as the Selectboard schedules a meeting.**

9. 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? Kate Stauss moved the question and Diane Eramo seconded. Jared Rouleau asked if the Town has received bids yet and how much money we were talking about. Cheryl L. Sargeant and Bruce Hyde explained that we do have a good amount saved but with this money and what we will put away this fiscal year it will get us closer to what we need for the Grant match. Dan Multcher called the question and Kate Stauss seconded. **All were in favor; Article 9 passed.**

10. 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 14, November 13, February 12 and May 14? Kate Stauss called the question and Juli Reiderer seconded. **All were in favor; Article 10 passed.**

11. 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? Kate Stauss called the question and Nancy Demers seconded. **All were in favor; Article 11 passed.**

12. To transact any other business to come before the meeting. Kate Stauss mentioned that we needed to recognize Ken Beattie for his years of service as Selectboard member, Road Foreman and Road Commissioner. Roger Stauss mentioned that we needed to recognize Kelli Eckroth for her year of service as Selectboard Chair, her 2 years as Auditor and Green Up Day Coordinator. Mike Eramo also mentioned his appreciation for Kelli bringing the computerization of meetings. **A round of applause and thank yous for Ken and Kelli!**

Mark reminded everyone of the Rabies Clinic at the Hancock Fire Station on March 25th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

11. To adjourn said meeting. Mark Belisle made the motion to adjourn, and Kelli Eckroth seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.



Nancy Demers / Justice of the Peace



Kelli Eckroth / Moderator