

**Town of Grafton  
Deliberative Session Minutes  
Saturday, February 12, 2011**

Present: Selectmen Stephen Darrow, David Rienzo, Jennie Joyce, Budget Committee members Edward Grinley, Scott Smith, Catherine Mulholland, Treasurer June Burrington, Supervisors Mary Warren, Marguerite Conley, Lloyd Danforth, Moderator Dorothy Campbell, and Town Clerk, Bonnie J. Haubrich as well as approximately 45 voters.

Moderator Campbell opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence honoring all residents in Grafton who had passed away this year. Moderator Campbell announced the rules for the day. She announced that the Recreation Committee would be selling refreshments throughout the day.

Moderator Campbell then asked if there were any non-registered voters present. She then asked for a motion to allow non-registered voters to speak on issues, should they wish. **Motion to allow non-registered voters to speak by Rosalie Babiarz, seconded by Peg Emslie. Vote: Yes 14 No 10 Motion Passed.**

Moderator Campbell read Article #1 and Article #2. **Motion to discuss Article #2 by Stephen Darrow, seconded by Jeremy Olson. Vote: Yes 40 No 0 Motion Passed.**

Ed Grinley, Chairman of the Budget Committee noted that the Budget Committee had met with most Department Heads (those wishing to meet) and that they based their decisions on what was best for the Town.

Peg Emslie stated that she had a concern about the operating budget for the Police Department as it included a \$20,000 appropriation for a part-time police officer. She further noted that the DRA (Department of Revenue Administration) suggests including a separate or an individual warrant article for these expenditures. She stated that the DRA suggests not voting on the same item twice as it is confusing and that the Warrant states "not including appropriations by special warrant articles". She stated that she was hoping that the operating budget would be discussed line by line and she would ask the body to remove the \$20,000. Ed said he had spoken with a representative from the DRA and that it could be presented both ways. He said that the Budget Committee had not done anything underhanded, nor were they trying to hide anything. Stephen Darrow stated that the Warrant had been sent to both the DRA and Town Counsel and neither disallowed it. Police Chief Poitras stated that he needs additional help and that they were trying to ensure that it happens. He further stated that the special warrant article did state that if the operating budget passed the special article would be null and void. Maureen O'Reilly stated that if the assembly did not go line-by-line the bottom line total could be adjusted. Jim Griffin stated that if the monies are in the operating budget there is no control how that money is spent, but if in a special warrant article the monies are protected. John Thompson asked where the monies would come from. Ed Grinley stated the monies would come from property taxes. Peg noted that she did not have an issue with the purpose; she was only trying to address a procedural issue. Merle Kenyon, former Police Chief, asked someone to explain the difference between a special warrant article and an individual warrant article. Brad Grange stated that in the past there had been monies put in the budget for paving and it had been spent on tires. Stephen said that no monies had ever been taken from a special warrant article for tires and the monies referenced were actually transferred within the operating budget. Stephen Darrow stated that special warrant articles are articles recommended by Selectboard and Budget Committee and that individual articles are monies going to Capital Reserve, etc.

Moderator Campbell asked for a motion to vote on the operating budget bottom line or if the assembly wished, a motion to go line-by-line. **Motion by Bob Constantine to vote on the budget line-by-line. Seconded by Jeremy Olson. Yes 38 No 15 Motion Passed.**

**Executive**

Brad Grange asked what the increase represented. Ed Grinley responded it was for the additional elections.

**Elections/Town Clerk**

Stephen noted that the increase was due to additional elections. Brian Fellers asked to present an amendment to the Planning Board operating budget. Moderator Campbell denied the request and noted that it would be

appropriate when the Planning Board operating budget was being discussed. Ivy Walker asked why there was an increase in both the Executive and Elections/Town Clerk budgets for elections. Ed Grinley explained that the increase for the Executive budget was due to increased spending by the Selectmen in 2011. Stephen noted that the Selectmen had only overspent the Executive budget by \$297. Ed explained the increase was due to the increase cost of postage. Jennie stated that David Rienzo, while Selectman, has chosen not to take his stipend, but that it should stay in the budget because he or the next person in office may take it. Dan Bergamini asked why the 2 handouts expenditures did not match. Stephen noted that the handouts (by the Budget Committee) did not address expenditures. Stephen asked the Moderator for a break to allow him to make copies for the assembly. Bob Constantine asked if the figures were budgeted or actual expenditures, example did the Library actually spent \$4250 or did that include monies taken from their budget to fund other departments? Stephen stated that they were actual expenditures and if monies were transferred to other departments it showed in that department's expenditures. Enja Fitzgerald asked where the Selectmen's salaries come from. Ed stated that comes from Executive. Enja stated that they are paid too much and in the town where her son lives in Vermont the Selectmen are paid \$400/year.

### Financial Administration

Stephen stated that there had been a decrease of \$8,000. In 2011 there was a shortfall at the beginning of the year due to the election of a new Police Chief and the need to keep Merle on during the transition. The Board had decided not to utilize the Certified Public Account, as planned, to utilize that money to cover the transition. Pam Curran asked if any books had been audited by the CPA. Stephen stated there had been no audits. Pam asked for a correction. Stephen corrected his statement and stated that the Trustee of the Trust Funds books had been audited at a cost of approximately \$2500 but the other scheduled audits had been postponed.

### Reappraisal of Property

Stephen informed the assembly that the cost has gone down as the Board had entered into a 5-year agreement and the monies had been front loaded as the majority of the work had to be done within the first couple of years and much of that work has been completed. Neal Alexander asked who the company is. Stephen stated that Avitar is the assessing company.

### Legal

Ed stated that the Selectmen had noted that there may be some additional legal issues this year and that they had asked for the \$12,000 as it is hard to predict what will happen and what advice will be needed. Dan Bergamini asked if the someone could give a one-sentence explanation as to what is covered under each account heading. Enja Fitzgerald asked why the Town spends so much on legal expenses and why aren't the Selectmen resolving more of the problems. Jeremy Olson asked what the \$10,000 was spent on last year. Stephen explained that not only do they expend on legal action (court cases) but they depend on legal counsel to direct them and lend advice. He noted that the Town had 1 court case this year and it had been resolved. John Connell asked who that case was with. Stephen said it was a boundary dispute with the Smiths on Kinsman Road, but that it had been resolved. Pam Curran asked why the increase? **Jeremy Olson presented an amendment which read, "To amend the Legal Expenses line item of Article #2 to \$10,000. Seconded by Tony Stelleck.** Brad Grange asked the Board to explain that an article can be amended up or down. Stephen affirmed that the Legislative Body has that authority. The Selectmen requests a budget, with the Department Heads, with the best estimate what it will cost to provide services to the Town. The Selectmen have an obligation to find the funds within the operating budget to accomplish this. Pam Curran asked if the Contingency Funds aren't used for this. Stephen stated that those funds can help to offset any shortages. **Vote: Yes 32 No 19 Amendment Passed.**

### FICA and Medicare

Stephen noted that there had been a substantial savings last year due to less employees on the payroll. Greg Fellers asked if a part-time police officer would be included. Stephen stated that he assumed they would be included.

### Planning Board

Ed stated that the Planning Board had requested \$50 but had spent \$170 last year and since no representative from the Board came in to meet with the Budget Committee; that there were 2 openings for the Planning Board this year; and with new laws and the fact the Master Plan has not been updated since 1987 they may need additional funds. **Brian Fellers presented an amendment which read as follows, "To amend the Planning Board line item of Warrant Article #2 from \$750. to the Planning Board's requested budget of \$50.00". Seconded by**

**Rosalie Babiarz.** Brian stated that he felt confident that \$50 would cover the needs of the Planning Board. He stated that they save a great deal with their own members taking minutes and that they expatiate their processes. Brad Grange asked Stephen, as ex-officio, if he agreed with this amendment. Stephen responded in the affirmative. Bob Constantine stated that he commends David Rienzo for not taking his Selectmen's stipend and to Brian Fellers for holding down the costs for the Planning Board. Pam Curran asked if the Master Plan would be addressed this year and what the cost is to update it. Jeremy Olson noted that he would be willing to volunteer time to work on the Master Plan and in his opinion, the Selectmen are the only people who say the Town needs the Master Plan. Stephen stated that as the ex-officio he has brought it up for discussion at numerous meetings and has encouraged the Planning Board to work on it. Neal Alexander stated that he was not sure why a town of 900 needs a Master Plan. Stephen stated that we are a town of approximately 1200 and that we do need it. He noted that the Master Plan does not need to tell people what to do with their property but needs to address property we all own together – roads, fire house, equipment, etc. David Rienzo said, this is not a discussion as to whether planning is necessary, the law states that the primary statutory responsibility for a Planning Board is to update the Master Plan. If the Town abolishes the Planning Board then planning is not mandated and there is no need for a Master Plan. Robert Hull noted that there had been a Warrant Article a few years ago asking voters to update the Master Plan and the voters had rejected it. **Motion to move the question by Dan Bergamini. Yes 43 No 4 Vote on amendment: Yes 32 No 16 Amendment Passed.**

### General Government Buildings

Pam Curran questioned why such a decrease. Ed Grinley responded that the price of fuel is down, anticipated repairs are down as well as a large amount of money, last year, had been designated for computer upgrades/purchases, which are not needed again this year. Brad Grange noted that the Board had spent \$5800 last year, so the budget was overspent. Stephen explained that some of the money from that account went to fund the Police Department needs. Ed stated that the Budget Committee had met with the Selectboard and they had agreed on the figure. Neal Alexander asked if this included all buildings in Town. Stephen noted that it did. Susan Frost stated that it was apparent that some of these were 1-time costs, therefore the budget request was reduced. **Motion to move the question by June Burrington. Seconded by Steve Colburn. Yes: 41 No 2 Motion Passed.**

Tom Ploszaj asked the Moderator if all hands were considered in the last vote as people had been moving around. Moderator Campbell noted that she felt all hands had been counted.

### Cemeteries

Ed Grinley explained that the funds coming from the Trustee of the Trust Funds appear in the full amount requested within the operating budget, due to the law, but when listing funds on the MS5 it is deducted from what is raised by taxation. David Rienzo affirmed that monies received from Trust funds have to be expended before any operating budget funds. Much discussion ensued. Tom thanked the Budget Committee for their efforts but due to illnesses, weather, etc the Cemetery Trustees were unable to meet with the Budget Committee. He stated that some of the donations that the Trustee of the Trust Funds hold are directed by the donor for specific items, therefore may not be used to offset the operating budget. Jim Griffin, Library Trustee, affirmed with David and Ed that specific accounts must be presented as gross budget amounts (amounts raised both by private funding and monies raised by taxation.) **Amendment by Tom Ploszaj which read, "To amend the Cemetery Budget line item of the Grafton budget from 7,845. to the Cemetery Trustee requested budget of \$6,200. Seconded by Jeremy Olson.** Stephen cautioned amendments as the Cemetery Trustees will only be allowed to expend what they request. Bruce Frost stated that he had no problem with the legality, but was confused if the monies are there that the article reads to "raise and appropriate". Peg Emslie informed the assembly that raise does not necessarily mean from taxation; it merely means to find a source of funding. Dotty Ernst said that the handouts don't agree; one deducts the "other funds" and the other does not. Peg Emslie stated that she had attended a gross budgeting workshop and that not all funds are treated the same. Some are held by the Treasurer and some by the Trustees. Tom Ploszaj stated that the funds presented are incorrect because the Budget Committee did not get information from the Cemetery Trustees when they were looking at the budget. Ed Grinley stated that the Budget Committee had contacted the Trustee of the Trust Funds to get the figures. **Motion to move the question by David Rienzo. Seconded by Peg Emslie. Yes: 30 No: 3. Moderator Campbell re-read the amendment for the Cemetery Operating Budget. Vote: Yes 38 No 17. Amendment Passed.**

### Insurance

Stephen noted that the Town has already received the 2012 insurance bills so this figure is actual. Bruce Frost asked why it went up so much. Stephen explained that they had under estimated last year. He noted that this covers health, vehicle insurance, worker's compensation, fire insurance, etc. John Connell asked who determines the amount of coverage and could the cost be cut if we took less coverage. Stephen stated that the Board determines the coverage and that in recent past years the Board had looked at these costs closely and that some coverage had been changed to be consistent through all of the employees. Neal Alexander asked who is covered under the Town insurance. Stephen noted that all full-time employees have the option to participate and if they wish their family members to participate it is out of pocket cost to the employee.

### Advertising and Regional Dues

Stephen explained that all association dues are covered in this account such as Tax Collector Association, Town Clerk Association, Welfare Association, etc. Tim Condon asked what was spent last year. Stephen said he was not sure, but approximately \$1050 was spent in 2010. He also noted that any type of required advertising comes from this account. (Public Hearings, etc.) Neal Alexander and Brad Grange asked if the Selectmen were inflating the budget if they have used less in the past. Stephen reminded Neal and Brad that the voters vote on the Budget Committee's budget, not the Selectmen's and that we are here today to discuss that budget and that the Selectmen do the best they can estimating the costs to run the Town. John Connell asked if this is legitimate and why different groups have different requests. Moderator Campbell stated that people should attend the Budget Committee meetings if they have questions or concerns.

### Contingency

Stephen explained that contingency funds are used for unexpected expenditures/repairs, etc that arise during the year.

### Police

**Amendment by Peg Emslie which read, "To reduce by \$20,000 from \$116,293 to \$96,293". Seconded by Elaina Bergamini.** Peg stated again, that this expenditure is presented to the voters twice in this Warrant. Police Chief Poitras stated that he is not asking for the funds twice, that the intent is to let everyone know of the need. Peg stated that with the changes of gross budgeting she feared that all the work the Budget Committee did may be lost if the operating budget is not passed by the voters. Point of Order by Jeremy Olson: he had also presented an amendment to Moderator Campbell. Moderator Campbell began reading the amendment from Mr. Olson. Town Clerk Haubrich reminded Moderator Campbell that the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment had not been acted on yet, therefore Mr. Olson's amendment could not be presented yet. **Vote on amendment #1 presented by Peg Emslie: Yes 32 No 21. Amendment Passed.**

**Amendment #2 by Jeremy Olson which read, "Whereas the town voters have affirmed a warrant article to reduce the annual town budget by 10% for 3 successive years in recent history the Police Department increase of 125.1% is fiscally irresponsible and not in line with what the town voters have indicated. Motion to amend \$96293 to \$87864." Seconded by Tony Stelleck.** Jeremy also presented a request for a secret ballot signed by 5 voters present. (Bob Constantine, Joseph Connell, Shane Pessoto, Bob Hull and John Babiarz). Stephen stated that although he understood the article passed a few years ago, by the voters, to decrease spending by 10%, it was determined by the DRA to be advisory only. Much discussion ensued, including questions to Police Chief Poitras regarding the impact this would have on his services. He stated that it would mean less coverage, less patrolling, less maintenance on the vehicles, inability to purchase bullet proof vests, inability to purchase ammunition, etc. Chief Poitras indicated that it would pay for additional hours when he is not available. Bruce Frost cautioned level funding from last year as it was not reasonable with inflation. David Rienzo noted that since last year's election they had met with Chief Poitras often to look at the Police budget and how to cover the shortage and still protect the Town. He noted that the Town had just squeezed by. Chief Poitras said he was requesting bare bones in the budget he presented. Dotty Ernst cautioned the assembly of the liability risks if we do not provide the necessary protection and equipment for a department head to do their job. Former Chief Kenyon stated that most of the crimes in Grafton are burglary and domestic violence based. Gen Smith said she was grateful for Chief Poitras' presence during Hurricane Irene. **Motion to move the question by Bob Constantine. Seconded by Dotty Ernst. Yes: 48 No 1. Motion Passed. Secret ballot vote on Amendment #2 to the Police Operating Budget: Yes 25 No 33 Vote Failed.**

**Motion to limit reconsideration on all Operating Line items through the Police Department Operating Budget. Seconded by David Rienzo. Vote: Yes 34 No 18 Limit Reconsideration Passed.**

**Ambulance**

Stephen noted that the Ambulance operating budget is down from last year. Dotty Ernst, Ambulance Captain corrected Stephen as the Operating Budget is down, but with the monies from the Revolving Account, the total budget is not actually down. Dotty explained that training costs had significantly increased due to additional requirements from the State.

**Fire Department**

John Babiarz, Fire Chief, stated that his request is down a little this year also. He noted that the Department did some long range planning and purchased some equipment/supplies ahead.

**Emergency Management**

Stephen stated that historically there has not been any monies used from this account, but that the \$100 holds the account open. John Babiarz noted that he is the Director of Emergency Management and that the \$100 was meant to be a stipend, but he refuses the money but has used it in the past when the Town updated its Emergency Management Plan and booklets needed to be printed.

**Forest Fire Warden**

Bob Constantine asked if this is an appointed position and who appoints that person. Stephen stated that it is an appointed position and that the Selectmen appoint. Bob asked if that meant that the Fire Warden serves at the pleasure of the Selectmen. Stephen affirmed that to be true. Merle Kenyon corrected Stephen to say that the Fire Warden is actually appointed and serves under the pleasure of the State Fire Service.

**Motion by Bonnie Haubrich to limit reconsideration Ambulance through Forest Fire Warden. Seconded by June Burrington. Yes: 34 No 2 Limit Reconsideration Passed.**

**Highways and Streets**

Jeremy Olson asked if someone could inform the assembly what these costs cover. Stephen noted that they cover maintaining winter roads, plowing, grading, maintaining summer roads, mowing, calcium chloride, vehicle maintenance, labor, fuel, and some limited paving/patching. Enja Fitzgerald stated that if it covered grading and chloride her side of Town did not benefit from any of it. Jeremy Olson asked what the increase covers. David noted that it mostly represented an increase in fuel costs and the fact that the Highway Block Grant has been reduced. Peg Emslie noted that like some other budgets the Highway Department total from taxation is much less as the State Highway Block Grant is included in the operating budget. Bob Constantine asked if next winter is mild, like this one, would the unused funds revert back to the General Fund. Stephen stated that they would. Enja Fitzgerald stated that she comes to Selectmen's meeting all of the time to complain about the condition of the roads in her part of Town, but the Selectmen and Road Agent do not do anything to resolve the problem. She said they are repeatedly told that their road will be fixed, but it never happens. Moderator Campbell informed Enja that this was not the forum to address those issues; only to approve or disapprove of the operating budget. Lori Dacier asked, if one could not bring their concern here today, where/when could they? Moderator Campbell replied, "Go to the Selectmen's meetings". Brad Grange asked if the Town has the total for next year's Highway Block Grant. Ed Grinley responded, \$132862.19, \$20,000 less than last year.

**Street Lights**

Stephen stated that the request was lower, as the Town had some street lights shut off. Moderator Campbell stated that she was removing her Moderator hat and said, "Do I have to be reminded?" **Motion by Bonnie Haubrich to limit reconsideration Highway and Streets through Street Lights. Seconded by David Rienzo. Yes: 33 No 5 Limit Reconsideration Passed.**

**Solid Waste**

Stephen stated that the request was similar to last year's request. Brad Grange asked the Budget Committee to explain the \$20,000 between their recommendation and the recommendation from the Selectmen. Stephen noted that it had been a management decision to pass on the request to the Budget Committee, as presented by the Recycling Center manager. Jennie Joyce responded that in fact, her daughter the Manager, had been under a lot of stress lately and when putting the budget together had made a mathematical error.

### Health and Welfare

Health Agencies: Stephen stated that all of the Health Agencies are covered in the account. (Senior Citizens, Visiting Nurse Association, Mascoma Health Initiatives, and West Central Services.)

Health Officer: No monies requested. The present Health Officer requests no funds for her services.

Public Assistance: Moderator Campbell asked Maureen O'Reilly, Welfare Director, if she wished to speak to the budget. Maureen declined. Stephen stated that these costs are down significantly. The Public Assistance Officer sends those requesting assistance to as many outside services as possible. Jeremy Olson asked how many people receive assistance from the Town. Stephen responded that all public assistance is confidential, but it does show case #s in the Town Report, eliminating any identifiers. Jeremy asked if the State can dictate an amount available to a recipient. Stephen responded that they do not. **Motion to limit reconsideration on Solid Waste, Health Agencies, Health Officer and Public Assistance by Jennie Joyce. Seconded by David Rienzo. Yes: 32 No 6 Limit Reconsideration Passed.**

### Culture and Recreation

Parks & Recreation: No discussion.

Library: Ed Grinley again pointed out that the Library operating budget has the Trustee of the Library funds within its total. Jim Griffin, Library Trustee, stated that the State requires a Librarian present, if opened, and that person must receive wages (at least minimum wage) while on duty. Dotty Ernst asked what the increase of \$2200 covered. Jim explained that the Library was grossly underfunded last year and they had to take quite a bit of money from the Trustee funds to cover expenses. Dotty asked if Library volunteers are used to cover hours the Library is open and if not, why. Dan Bergamini asked that the Moderator discourage the audience from having conversations between each other and address the Moderator. Sharon Duffy responded that she usually covers in these situations but either we pay the Librarian or the substitute, they have to be paid. **Motion to move the question by June Burrington. Seconded by Elaina Bergamini. Yes: 41 No 1 Motion Passed. Motion to limit reconsideration by Jennie Joyce. Seconded by Dan Bergamini. Yes: 30 No 2 Limit Reconsideration Passed.**

Patriotic Purposes: Stephen noted that cemetery flags for Veterans are purchased from this account.

### Debt Service

Tax Anticipation Note: **Amendment by Jennie Joyce which read, "To amend the line item for TAN from \$9,000 to \$12,000."** Seconded by David Rienzo. June Burrington, Treasurer, informed the assembly in order to do both bridges this year it was necessary to borrow earlier. The State reimburses 80% of all costs but they are slow in responding to the payment requests. Jeremy Olson asked what the rate of interest is. June replied that it is 2 ¾% presently. **Vote on amendment: Yes 25 No 27 Amendment Failed. Motion to limit consideration by Bonnie Haubrich. Seconded by David Rienzo. Yes: 39 No: 3 Limit Reconsideration Passed.**

Bonnie Haubrich asked the Moderator to declare a 30 minute break. The Moderator stated that she prefer to do a few more Warrant Articles before breaking. Quite a few people expressed the desire to break. Moderator Campbell started to ask for a show of hands of those wishing to break, but due to the movement in the room she declared a break @ 12:30pm to reconvene @ 1:00pm.

**Article #3. To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 72:37 (tax exemption for the blind). If approved, those meeting the appropriate criteria will receive a \$15,000 exemption on their property assessment. This Article appears at the direction of the Department of Revenue Administration. Motion to discuss by Stephen. Seconded by Jennie Joyce.** Bob Constantine asked if a person qualifying then won the lottery would they still be eligible. Stephen stated that a person must meet the criteria, which includes an income level. Greg Fellers asked why the next 2 articles have various amounts and aren't consistent. Neal Alexander stated that this article is against the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Jeremy Olson asked what the criteria is to qualify. Stephen said that he was not sure.

**Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of paving town roads. Motion to discuss by Stephen Darrow and seconded by Jennie Joyce.** Greg Fellers asked why the legislative body has to go through this every year as the voters have asked the Selectmen to ensure the wording is "re-pave" because it is not to pave new roads, but to repair existing roads. Stephen agreed that this issue has come up previously. Stephen informed the assembly, although the law prohibits the Board putting estimated tax impact on the Warrant this request would cost the taxpayer approximately \$.23/per thousand, if approved. **Amendment by Jon Bender and seconded by Jeremy Olson to read, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the purposes of paving Town roads.** Ed Grinley stated that if the taxpayers don't put the money into the roads now, it will cost them 5 times as much down the road. Stephen said that although he appreciated the amendment to reduce taxes for the property owners in Town, if these roads aren't repaired soon the Town will lose them. Stephen noted that \$30,000 does not do much in terms of footage when repairing the asphalt. Brad Grange asked which road will be repaired. Stephen said he was not sure. Ed Grinley stated that the Road Agent wanted to finish the project on Riddle Hill he started this past year. Bill Walker noted that paving problems are caused from poor construction of the roadbed. Stephen agreed but said that the cost to redo road beds would be astronomical. He stated that when roads in Town are repaired the culverts are repaired. Tim Condon asked if paved roads can be converted to dirt roads. Stephen said they can be and that the Town has actually done that in the past. Tim Condon asked which was cheaper, dirt or asphalt. Stephen replied that dirt is more costly to upkeep. Asphalt life expectancy is 30 years. Dirt has to be maintained several times (grading and chloride) during the summer months. **Vote on amendment: Yes 24 No 26 Amendment failed.**

**Article #5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand (\$30,000) to be placed into the previously established Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article/the Budget Committee recommends this article.** Stephen noted that this is in essence, a savings account towards a purchase down the road. John Babiarz stated that the former Fire Chief, Chris Williams, had put together a ten-year plan and the next truck is slated to be replaced in 2014, at a cost of somewhere between \$180,000 and \$200,000 for a bare-bone truck. He stated that most towns do not hold on to their vehicles as long as Grafton does. Carol Colburn asked how much is in the Capital Reserve at present. Ed Grinley responded that there is about \$13,000. **Motion to limit reconsideration by Bonnie. Seconded by Rich Blair. Yes 29 No 19. Limit Reconsideration Passed.**

Jeremy Olson asked that the Moderator go back to Article #4 as he did not think that everyone's hands had been counted. Moderator Campbell said she could not go back to a previous Article.

**Article #6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed into the previously established Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article/the Budget Committee recommends this article.** Stephen explained the estimated tax impact on this Article would be \$.16/per thousand. He informed the assembly that the Town replaced 2 bridges this year and another bridge was damaged by Hurricane Irene, which needs to be replaced.

Peg asked to speak with the Moderator and approached the podium. Town Clerk Haubrich stated that it was inappropriate and that any conversation should be done in the public and heard by the public. Moderator Campbell noted that Peg questioned if there were non-registered voters present and voting. Campbell asked if there were any present. No one responded in the affirmative.

**Article #7. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1A for the purpose constructing a new town office building and to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed into this fund and to appoint the Board of Selectmen to act as agents to expend. The Selectmen recommend this article/the Budget Committee recommends this article. Amendment presented by Bonnie Haubrich which read, "To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1A for the purpose constructing a new town office building and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed into this fund and to appoint the Board of Selectmen to act as agents to expend. Seconded by Ed Grinley.** Bonnie informed the assembly that at \$10,000 a year it would be 100 years before there would be enough funds to address the Town's needs, therefore she was hoping to increase it to \$25,000. Bonnie stated that the Town Clerk's Office, as well as all of the Town Offices, is in need of major repairs and safety issues need to be addressed. She further noted that last year the Selectmen had solicited information for the Joint Loss Commission regarding safety issues and Bonnie had responded with