

such things as major leaks in the roof, water seepage in the side walls, exposed electrical wires hanging from the ceiling, no hot water as well as a large ant and termite problem this summer. Ed stated that the State recommends that all department heads within the Town should have their own office and that the Town should not sink money into repairing these problems. Stephen stated that the present office building is very inadequate for the Town. He noted that there had been a Building Committee formed a couple of years ago looking at the Town's needs, but they are no longer in existence. Dan Bergamini asked if the projected amount is 1 million dollars. Elaina Bergamini said, perhaps this is where the Master Plan comes in? Bruce Frost noted that there is a Warrant Article requesting the Town to sell the present Town Hall and asked if those funds could be used to help pay for a new Town Office complex. Tim Condon asked what the needs are and how much larger a building is needed? Stephen stated "needs" and "wants" are 2 different things and the things that need to be addressed are the basic needs and safety concerns for each department. Tim Condon asked if this meant additional costs for heat, light, employees, etc. Stephen stated it may mean additional costs. **Motion to move the question by Rich Blair and seconded by Maureen O'Reilly. Yes 33 No 14 Motion Passed. Vote on Amendment: Yes 8 No 33**

Joe Brown presented an amendment to form a Study Committee. Moderator Campbell refused the Amendment saying it was not appropriate as it changed the subject matter. (Moderator Campbell returned the written amendment to Mr. Brown, therefore it is not available for the records.) **Motion to Limit Reconsideration on Articles 6 and 7 by Jennie Joyce. Seconded by David Rienzo. Yes 26 No 24 Limit Reconsideration Passed.** Point of Order by Tim Condon informed the Moderator that there was presently an amendment on the floor. Moderator Campbell responded that she had moved on.

Article #8. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of hiring a part time police officer. If Article #2 (the operating budget) passes this article will be null and void. Amendment (#1) presented by Peg Emslie which read, "To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of hiring a part time police officer." **Seconded by Bruce Frost.** Motion to discuss by David Rienzo. Ed Grinley noted that the crime rate is up in Grafton and it is in the best interest of the Town to approve this request. Stephen spoke in favor of this article, especially in light of the amended Police operating budget and noted that presenting it in a special warrant article it cannot be used for any other purpose. Steve Colburn stated that those present today should leave it to the voters, in whole, to decide. John Connell suggested the police force not pursue "victimless crimes" and not harass people, which would reduce the burden on the Police Department. Chief Poitras stated that he does not "harass" people. Tim Condon asked if crime is rising in Grafton. Chief Poitras said with the economy such as it is, burglary is up and also that drug crime is up. Karen Meyers stated that we should leave it to Chief Poitras' judgment how the Police Department and budget are run. Sharon Duffy reminded that this year there were 2 murders in Grafton which impacted the Police budget significantly. Dan Bergamini asked if this Article is passed would it mean that these funds would then transfer into the operating budget next year to ensure continuity. Stephen stated that would be the process. **Vote on Amendment: Yes 30 No 19 Amendment Passed.** Amendment (#2) presented by Maureen O'Reilly which read, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of hiring a part time police officer." (Adding the word "vote" to the Article.) **Seconded by Stephen Darrow. Vote on Amendment #2: Yes 22 No 15 Amendment #2 Passed.** Motion by Bonnie Haubrich to limit reconsideration of Article #8. **Seconded by Rich Blair. Yes: 26 No 20 Limit Reconsideration Passed.**

Article #9. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of twenty six thousand five hundred and fifteen dollars (\$26,515) to purchase a 2012 Ford F250 with plow. And to fund this appropriation by withdrawing twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) from the previously established Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund with six thousand five hundred and fifteen dollars (\$6,515) to be raised by taxation. **Motion to discuss by Stephen Darrow. Seconded by David Rienzo.** Stephen stated that this would be a new vehicle with most of the monies coming from the Capital Reserve Fund and would have an estimated \$.05/per thousand impact on taxes. This would replace the 1-ton truck. Greg Fellers commented that it seems the Highway Department asks for a new truck every year. He noted that he would like a list of all of the vehicles the Town has purchased over the past 5 years. Stephen noted that the Town has purchased two 6-wheelers over the past few years; one purchased by taxation and one purchased by FEMA funds and also a used roadside mower. Bob Constantine noted that although we may have received grant monies, it is still money from taxation. Stephen agreed that there is no such thing as free money, but it is at less cost for the taxpayers.

*Article #10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-six thousand nine hundred sixty four dollars (\$36,964) for the purchase of a new police vehicle and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing \$18,000 from the previously established Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, with the balance of \$18,964 to be raised by taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article/the Budget Committee recommends this article. Amendment presented by Maureen O'Reilly which read, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty six thousand nine hundred sixty four dollars (\$36,964) for the purchase of a new police vehicle. To fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of twenty four thousand dollars (\$24,000) from the already established Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund and twelve thousand nine hundred sixty four dollars (\$12,964) coming from taxation." Seconded by Ed Grinley. Stephen noted that one of the present police vehicles has been deemed to be unsafe. Police Chief Poitras stated that it would replace the older vehicle. He stated the amount of repairs needed to keep this vehicle on the road is substantial. Neal Alexander asked what the mileage is on the vehicle. Chief Poitras noted that there are 160,000 miles on it, but hard miles; on dirt roads. He noted that it is not just the mileage but also the idling hours which impact these vehicles. Dan Bergamini asked why a balance would be left in the Capital Reserve Fund. Ed noted that it would keep the account open. Shane Pessota asked why the Town needs 2 police vehicles. Chief Poitras stated that a vehicle is always necessary; whether used by a second officer or during times of maintenance, etc. He noted that police response, especially those resulting in arrests, could put a vehicle out of circulation for hours. **Vote on Amendment: Yes 31 No 18 Amendment Passed. Motion by Jennie Joyce to limit reconsideration and seconded by Ed Grinley on Articles #9 and #10. Yes 27 Limit Reconsideration Passed.***

Jeremy Olson approached the Moderator with another amendment for Article #10 and a request for a secret ballot. Moderator Campbell refused the amendment as the vote had passed and a motion to limit reconsideration had also been voted on and passed.

*Article #11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the restoration of the Town's historical records. Amendment presented by Jeremy Olson which read, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one dollars (\$1.00) for the restoration of the Town's Historical Records." Seconded by Tony Stelleck. Jeremy stated that tax money should not be used for this purpose. The Moderator asked Bonnie Haubrich, Town Clerk, to speak on the issue. Bonnie explained that she had asked the Board to include this Article as quite a few years ago the Town had started the project of restoring records back to the 1700s, but over the last 10 or 15 years no additional monies had been raised for the project. She informed the assembly that there are approximately 18 books which she had received an estimate from a restoration company that need restoration and the cost was approximately \$39,000. Shane Pessota asked if these records address the people who have lost their homes due to taxation. Tim Condon asked if the records might be digitized. Bonnie indicated that they could be (and would be with the grant money she received due to State requirement) but that the idea is to save the original books and information. Bonnie informed those present that the State of New Hampshire has a grant program, with portions of the Moose Plate, going to historic preservation. Bonnie applied for a grant last March and was awarded \$9,973 towards this project. Bonnie also wrote a grant for the Mascoma Bank, but was denied funding. She said she will continue researching outside funding to assist in this project. Susan Frost congratulated Bonnie for her work and efforts in writing and receiving this grant. Bruce Frost stated that leaving \$1.00 in the Article took away the public's right to vote whether they wanted to support it or not as with \$1.00 nothing could be done. Bob Constantine responded that if someone wants to donate they could donate and not use tax money to achieve it. **Motion to move the question by Rich Blair. Seconded by David Rienzo. Yes 31 No 6***

Point of Order by Neal Alexander. Why does the Moderator move the question while someone else is just being polite, not interrupting, expecting a chance to speak; and not given it.

Vote on Amendment to Article #11: Yes 23 No 29 Amendment Failed. Motion to limit reconsideration on Article #11 by David Rienzo. Seconded by Dan Bergamini. Yes 24 No 20 Limit Reconsideration Passed.

Article #12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,895 for the purpose of paying the Grafton Library staff in order for the Grafton Public Library to be open two hours daily, Monday through Thursday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, while the Public Schools are in session starting April of 2012. (By Petition) the Selectmen do not recommend this article/the Budget Committee does not recommend this article. Motion to discuss by David Rienzo. Seconded by Stephen Darrow. Stephen noted that this article was by petition.

Amendment presented by John Connell which read, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,895 for the purpose of paying the Grafton Library staff so that the Grafton Public Library may be open two hours daily, Monday through Thursday, 3:30pm to 5:30pm, while public schools are in session starting April 2012." John stated that he submitted this amendment to allow flexibility for the Library staff. Ed Grinley said the Budget Committee met with the Trustees of the Library for input regarding this petitioned warrant article and the Trustees had indicated that they supported the hours which were already in place. Jim Griffin informed the body that this Article was not submitted by the Trustees of the Library, and although did not stand behind it; they would fulfill the wishes of the voters as best they could, with the resources they have, if it passed. **Vote on Amendment: Yes 43 No 4 Amendment Passed. Motion to Limit Reconsideration by Dan Bergamini. Seconded by David Rienzo. Yes 26 No 13 Limit Reconsideration Passed.**

Article #13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand nine hundred and seventy-six dollars (\$8,976) for the restoration of the Town's historical records. To be funded by a grant from the State of New Hampshire and will have no impact on taxation. Amendment by Stephen Darrow which read, "To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand nine hundred seventy three dollars (\$9,973) for the restoration of the Town's historical records. To be funded by a grant from the State of New Hampshire and will have no impact on taxation." **Seconded by Bonnie Haubrich.** Neal Alexander asked the Moderator if the order of the Warrant Articles could be switched. Moderator Campbell stated they could not; nor could they be passed over, as indicated in the rules she read at the beginning of the session. Jay Boucher asked if it were true that the Selectmen have the responsibility of placing Articles on the Warrant. Stephen responded that it is the responsibility of the Selectboard to arrange the Warrant. He noted that traditionally the Board has put all money articles on the Warrant before non-money articles. Neal Alexander asked why the Board put Article #11 before Article #13 as he felt the voters would not read the information and just say no, which may cause #13 to fail. (#13 Article does not raise any monies from taxation; the Article is fully funded by a grant.) Stephen stated that the Board had actually even considered combining the 2 Articles, but were concerned if the voters said no, the Town would not be able to spend the grant money. Moderator Campbell stated that once on the Warrant, Articles cannot be switched. **Motion to move the question by Dan Bergamini. Seconded by Elaina Bergamini. Yes 26 No 0 Vote on Amendment: Yes 41 No 3 Amendment Passed. Motion by David Rienzo to Limit Reconsideration and seconded by Elaina Bergamini. Yes 27 No 9 Motion to Limit Reconsideration Passed.**

Article #14. Shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Grafton, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for persons 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$15,000; for a person 75 years of age to 80 years \$20,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$25,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$20,000 or if married, a combined net income of less than \$27,000 and owned net assets not in excess of \$40,000 (if single) or \$50,000 (if married), excluding the value of the person's residence. Stephen informed the body that the DRA had audited the Town records and due to the audit many of the people who had actually received this exemption in the past were now disqualified due to income guidelines. The Selectboard compared the criteria with like-size surrounding towns and felt the criteria needs to be adjusted. Rich Angell asked if the marriage criteria addressed state legally recognized marriages or would it encompass common law marriage also. Bill Walker stated that he felt this discriminated against all of those who did not qualify. Tim Condon agreed with Bill Walker. **Motion to move the question by Tim Condon and seconded by Jennie Joyce. Yes 32 No 3**

Article #15. Shall we modify the disability exemptions from property tax in the Town of Grafton, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: the person is eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act, must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$20,000 or if married, a combined net income of less than \$27,000 and owned net assets not in excess of \$40,000 (if single) or \$50,000 (if married), excluding the value of the person's residence.

Article #16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand two hundred and forty dollars (\$2,240) to establish a fitting memorial to our former Librarian, Myrtle Cooper, and for other library purposes and programs. This article will be funded solely by donations already received and held by the

Library Trustees for this purpose, not by general taxation, and will be administered by the Library Trustees. This article to be non-lapsing for five years according to RSA 32:7, VI. The Selectmen recommend this article / the Budget Committee recommends this article. Motion to discuss by Stephen Darrow. Seconded by Jim Griffin. Jim Griffin informed the assembly that these are basically monies donated by the family members or requests in lieu of flowers, at the time of Myrtle Cooper's death and that it was a substantial amount of money. Richard Angell asked what/who defines "fitting". Jim stated that the Library Trustees would be entrusted to make those decisions. Elaina Bergamini encouraged the public to attend the Library Meetings. Sharon Duffy said that they had agreed that it would be something that was of importance to Myrtle. Greg Fellers asked if the Article should read, "and other purposes" should there be money left after the "memorial" is purchased. Jim stated that the memorial would be appropriate to the donations. He said that if there were funds left over they had discussed something like a granite bench.

Article #17. Shall we permit the public library to retain all money it receives from its income-generating equipment to be used for general repairs and upgrading and for the purchase of books, supplies and income-generating equipment? Amendment presented by Neal Alexander and seconded by Jeremy Olson which read, "Further, that such money cannot be repurposed to non-library budget items." RSA 40:13 IV:a was cited, which protects the Article. The Moderator refused the Amendment. Neal Alexander withdrew the Amendment and Jeremy Olson agreed to withdraw his second.

Motion to Limit Reconsideration Articles #14 - #17 by Dan Bergamini and seconded by Mary Warren. Yes 29 No 7 Limit Reconsideration Passed.

Article #18. To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Library Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2004. Motion to discuss Article #18 by Stephen Darrow and seconded by David Rienzo. Tim Condon asked who presently acts as agents. Stephen stated that the legislative body does and that whenever monies are needed for any repairs etc (like the point repairs on the outside of the building) it requires waiting until Town Meeting to get approval. Jeremy Olson asked why the Library Trustees aren't the agents. Stephen explained the rationale and stated that the Board would always work with the Trustees. The Library Trustees agreed that it would be optimal to utilize monies they already have and not have to request additional funds. Elaina Bergamini stated that it would have been beneficial this year when the chimney was leaking for the Selectmen to have access to the funds. Cindy Public asked why the repairs weren't taken from the General Government Building account. Stephen stated that with Hurricane Irene the Board was hesitant to expend funds, not knowing how much was going to be needed as well as the uncertainty of recouping any funds from FEMA.

Article #19. To see if the Town will vote to rescind the action taken in 1982 Town Meeting to elect Planning Board members and instead have the Planning Board members appointed by the Selectmen, designating one Selectman or administrative official of the Town as an ex-officio member and appointing 4 other persons who are residents of the town as appropriate. Pursuant to RSA 673:2,II(c), this article shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Town Meeting and the Selectmen shall forthwith appoint members in accordance with RSA 675:5; however, the Planning Board shall continue in existence and the elected members in office may continue to serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Motion to discuss by David Rienzo. Seconded by Tim Condon. Amendment by Brian Fellers and seconded by Jeremy Olson which read as follows, "To see if the Town will vote to rescind the action taken in the 1982 Town Meeting to elect Planning Board members, and instead have the Planning Board members appointed by the Selectmen, who believe that the residents of the Town are ignorant and incapable of electing members of the Planning Board, and who therefore shall designate one (1) Selectman or administrative official of the Town as an ex-officio member and appoint four (4) other individuals who are residents of the Town as appropriate. Pursuant to RSA 673:2, II (c), this article shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the town Meeting and the selectmen shall forthwith appoint members in accordance with RSA 675:5; however, the Planning Board shall continue in existence and the elected members in office may continue to serve until their successors are appointed and qualified." David spoke on the rationale for Article #19. He stated that the Board, over time, had noted that the Planning Board has not been carrying out their statutory obligations. He noted that the lack of updating the Master Plan has already been discussed. He further stated that there are other obligations that the Planning Board has besides just addressing subdivisions and how a role in monitoring and protecting how the Town is developed as well as an obligation to assist in controlling the costs for development which will produce minimal impact on the Town. David further stated that if the Town wishes to abolish the Planning Board then the

Master Plan and development plans would just go away and the subdivision regulations would no longer have to be enforced. A few years ago there was a Warrant Article to abolish the Planning Board, which failed, which indicated that the voters did want a Planning Board, but at present the current Planning Board is not fulfilling its obligations. Tim Condon stated that the Article seemed to concentrate a great amount of power to the Selectmen. He asked if Stephen Darrow had voted in favor of this Article. David responded that he and Jennie Joyce voted in favor of the Article and Stephen opposed it. Jeremy Olson stated that he attends every meeting and encountered no problems. John Connell retorted that he found this Article offensive. Karen Meyers stated that there is so much hostility from the Planning Board that no one wants to run for office and work with the group that is presently on the Planning Board. Bob Constantine said that the property owners should be able to make their own decisions. Ed Grinley noted that there is only a small group here today and that the voters should make the ultimate decision on March 13th instead of having the 40 people present here today making the decision. Bob Hull asked the Selectboard if they had ever communicated their concerns to the Planning Board. David responded that they had on a number of occasions discussed their concerns and Stephen, the ex-officio, was to communicate them to the Planning Board. Elaine Bergamini stated that she is interested in the Town having a Master Plan, but would not be willing to engage in communication with the present Planning Board due to their hostility towards people. Susan Frost noted that there had been good discussion here today, but the voters should be allowed to make the decision. Richard Angell stated that the Planning Board has been accused of being hostile, but he has never heard anyone who has received services from the Planning Board complaining. David reiterated that the Selectmen feel that the Planning Board do not appear to be carrying out their duties; voters voted for a functional Planning Board; the present Board focuses on what it can't do, instead of what it can do. He noted that his personal opinion is that the Planning Board has usurped the democratic process by not doing what the Town voted them to do. Lloyd Danforth urged the Selectmen to go to the State officials if the Planning Board is breaking the law. David stated that the duty resides with the Selectmen; there is no regulatory board or person at the State level. Tom Ploszaj asked the Selectmen to withdraw Article #19. Moderator Campbell stated that the Selectmen cannot withdraw Articles, once on the Warrant. **Vote: Yes 22 No 26 Amendment Failed. Amendment (#1) by Joseph Brown which read, "To see if the Town will affirm the action taken in the 1982 Town Meeting and support the continued existence of an elected Planning Board." Seconded by Bill Walker.** Dan Bergamini protested, saying it was not germane to the original Article. Moderator Campbell refused to accept the Amendment, saying it would change the intent of the Article completely. Joe Brown argued that it was simply asking the Town's people if they want to keep it as it is. Moderator Campbell stated that it would not give the voters a choice; therefore she rejected it. Neal Alexander stated that the subject matter would not be changed with this Amendment, simply how the members are chosen. John Connell argued that it should be up to the legislative body to decide, not the Moderator. Moderator Campbell stated that it was her decision to make. Jeremy Olson stated that the Amendment would be appropriate as the intent of a Planning Board is still there. Moderator Campbell disagreed; saying that it would change the option for the members to be appointed. **Motion to move the question by Rich Blair. Seconded by Dan Bergamini. Yes 29 No 0. Motion Passed. Motion to Limit Reconsideration by David Rienzo, seconded by Bonnie Haubrich. Yes 24 No 18 Limit Reconsideration Passed. Amendment presented by Shane Pessoto, seconded by John Connell which read, "The Board of Selectmen shall be appointed by the Planning Board."** Moderator Campbell refused this Amendment.

Article #20. To see if the Town will vote certain provisions to allow an exemption of taxes on Woodheating Energy Systems as defined in RSA 72:69 of the State of New Hampshire as of the date of any assessments affected by these provisions. These certain provision are:

a. That any expenditure for a Woodheating Energy Systems so defined, or any separate valuation thereof, shall be excluded from taxation, such that the amount of exemption shall not exceed the additional assessed value to the property for such systems.

b. That application for an exemption shall be governed by the provisions of RSA 72:33, 72:34 and 72:34-a.

c. That this statute shall remain in effect until rescinded. These provisions are proposed in accordance with RSA 72:27-a, and RSA 72:70 of the State of New Hampshire. (By Petition) Motion to discuss by Stephen Darrow and seconded by David Rienzo. John Babiarz noted that he was one of the petitioners and the following Articles are to encourage green energy. Gen Smith asked when they would take effect. Stephen said he was unsure, but probably as of April 1st.

Article #21. To see if the Town will vote certain provisions to allow an exemption of taxes on Wind-Powered Energy Systems as defined in RSA 72:65 of the State of New Hampshire as of the date of any assessments affected by these provisions. These certain provisions are:

- a. That any expenditure for a Wind-Powered Energy Systems so defined, or any separate valuation thereof, shall be excluded from taxation, such that the amount of exemption shall not exceed the additional assessed value to the property for such systems.
- b. That application for an exemption shall be governed by the provisions of RSA 72:33, 72:34 and 72:34-a.
- c. That this statute shall remain in effect until rescinded. These provisions are proposed in accordance with RSA 72:27-a, and RSA 72:66 of the State of New Hampshire. (By Petition)

Article #22. To see if the Town will vote certain provisions to allow exemption of taxes on Solar Energy Systems as defined in RSA 72:61 of the State of New Hampshire as of the date of any assessments affected by these provisions. These certain provisions are:

- a. That any expenditure for a Solar Energy Systems so defined, or any separate valuation thereof, shall be excluded from taxation, such that the amount of exemption shall not exceed the additional assessed value to the property for such systems.
- b. That application for an exemption shall be governed by the provisions of RSA 72:33, 72:34, and 72:43-a.
- c. That this statute shall remain in effect until rescinded. These provisions are proposed in accordance with RSA 72:27-a, and RSA 72:62 of the State of New Hampshire. (By Petition)

Motion to Limit Reconsideration by Joseph Brown. Seconded by Elaina Bergamini. Yes 38 No 1 Limit Reconsideration Passed.

Article #23. To see if the Town of Grafton will vote to sell the town owned building and accompanying land known as "Town Hall" located on Turnpike Road, the sale of which will be by public auction which shall occur within six months of passage of this article. (By Petition) Motion to discuss by Stephen Darrow and seconded by David Rienzo. Bob Hull offered an Amendment to correct a spelling error, "action to auction". Bonnie noted that an Amendment was not necessary as the Secretary can correct spelling errors. Bob Hull spoke in favor of selling the Town Hall citing it is not economical to keep it. Sharon Duffy asked if the Board would require a minimum bid, if auctioned off. Joseph Brown asked if it has an assessed value. Stephen stated that it was somewhere between \$80,000 and \$90,000 but it would be dependent on the right climate to sell it. Stephen warned that there is quite an attachment to the Town Hall by some of the townspeople and is used for various activities, which would be displaced. He stated that the Town should have a plan in place before moving forward with the sale of this building. Jon Bender asked what would happen to the funds. Stephen noted that the funds would be put in the General Fund. John Connell suggested that it would be best for a group of townspeople to purchase it and then let it out for the community functions. Steve Colburn, spoke on behalf of Louise Gallup, Town Hall Superintendent, and informed the assembly that the building is used for many functions, including weddings, funerals, birthdays, and holiday celebrations. Jeremy Olson asked if alcohol is allowed in the building for weddings, etc. Steve Colburn stated that the Town had adopted an ordinance against alcohol on Town property about 10 years ago. **Amendment presented by Bruce Frost and seconded by David Rienzo which read, "To see if the Town of Grafton will vote to sell the town-owned building and accompanying land known as the "Town Hall" located on Turnpike Road, the sale of which will be at fair market value as determined by a State approval assessing body. The proceeds will be placed in the General fund."** Bruce noted the Amendment would remove having the building and lot auctioned to ensure a fair market value. Much discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of an auction versus a sale and the emotions of the townspeople in regards to selling it. **Vote on Amendment: Yes 20 No 24 Vote Failed.**

Article #24. To see if the Town of Grafton will vote to instruct the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee to REDUCE the annual town budget by ten percent for the next 3 years. (By Petition) Motion to discuss by Stephen Darrow and seconded by Elaina Bergamini. Bob Hull noted that this Warrant Article passed a few years ago and that the Selectmen have not followed the wish of the voters. Stephen agreed that the Article did pass, but upon Town Counsel and DRA directive it was an advisory point and not binding by law.

Article #25. To see if the Town will vote to direct the governing body of the Town of Grafton to appoint a Capital Improvement Program committee to prepare and amend a recommended program of municipal capital improvement projects projected over a period of at least six years. The sole purpose and effect of the Capital Improvements Program shall be to aid the Selectmen and Budget Committee in their consideration of the annual budget. (By Petition) Motion to discuss by Stephen Darrow and seconded by David Rienzo. Amendment presented by Brian Fellers and seconded by Jeremy Olson which read, "To see if the Town will vote to direct the governing body of the Town of Grafton to appoint a Capital Improvement Program committee to prepare and amend a recommended program of municipal capital improvement projects

projected over a period of at least six (6) years. The purpose and effect of the Capital Improvement Program shall be to aid the Selectmen and Budget Committee in consideration of the annual budget, and to pave the way toward implementing a zoning ordinance in the Town of Grafton." Neal Alexander asked why a town of 1200 people need a capital improvement plan. Bonnie Haubrich stated that a number of years ago, when she was Selectman, she had done quite a bit of research regarding Capital Improvement Plans as well as visited other towns that use this plan, and unless the law has changed, it is the Planning Board who puts forth a Capital Improvement Plan with the support of the Selectmen. Tim Condon asked if it gives the Selectboard the authority to increase their authority. Jeremy Olson asked who put forth the petition. Maureen O'Reilly said that she was the author of the petition because she was bothered when going to vote and always being asked to support large purchases each year, that could be better planned for. Bob Constantine thanked Bonnie for the information she presented but cautioned, if the Planning Board is removed, it could be enacted by Selectboard. Peg Emslie noted that she was hearing a Capital Improvement Plan is connected to zoning, which is not the case; it is a plan for the future. Sharon Duffy stated that she works in the Town of Canaan and they have adopted a Capital Improvement Plan which shows good planning and growth. She encouraged everyone to look at their plan on the Canaan Town website. Elaina Bergamini stated that she has no problem with how the Department Heads manage their budgets but it alleviates a small town from having to come up with a large amount of money, when not planned for. **Vote on Amendment: Yes 18 No 23 Amendment Failed.**

Moderator Campbell thanked everyone for coming and encouraged everyone to vote on March 13th. **Motion to adjourn by Mary Warren. Seconded by David Rienzo. Meeting Adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted:



Bonnie J. Haubrich
Town Clerk