

2008  
TOWN MEETING

Town of Greenfield  
State of New Hampshire

**TOWN MEETING**

**11 MARCH 2008**

Deputy Moderator Peter Hopkins opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Supervisor of the Checklist Linda Dodge read the checklist with 1023 names. The moderator proceeded with Article 1 of the Town Warrant by opening the polls.

**Article 1:** To choose all necessary town officers for the year ensuing.

The polls were closed at 7:00 PM by Moderator Thomas Mullins. Results were tabulated and reported, and the meeting was to reconvene on Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 9:00 am.

Town Meeting reconvened on Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 9:00 am as scheduled. Moderator Thomas Mullins opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that this was believed to be the first time that Greenfield had ever held its town meeting on a Saturday, and then read the results of the Town elections.

**CONVAL SCHOOL DISTRICT RESULTS: (Greenfield only)**

Warrant Article #1:	YES = 100	NO = 117	Failed
Warrant Article #2	YES = 124	NO = 95	Passed
Warrant Article #3	YES = 123	NO = 92	Passed
Warrant Article #4	YES = 130	NO = 86	Passed
Warrant Article #5	YES = 85	NO = 121	Failed
Warrant Article #6	YES = 76	NO = 140	Failed
Warrant Article #7	YES = 71	NO = 147	Failed
Warrant Article #8	YES = 119	NO = 99	Passed
Warrant Article #9	YES = 175	NO = 40	Passed

Tom Welden, ConVal School Board member addressed the body regarding the results, stating that Greenfield was the only town in the district to vote down the budget.

**OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS:**

**Selectman for Three Years:** Jarvis Adams IV was unopposed, received 179 votes, and therefore is elected for the ensuing three years.

**Town Moderator for Two Years:** Thomas Mullins was unopposed, received 206 votes, and therefore is elected for the ensuing two years.

**Town Treasurer for One Year:** Katherine Heck was unopposed, received 200 votes, and therefore is elected for the ensuing year.

**Fire Chief for One Year:** James Plourde was unopposed, received 205 votes, and therefore is elected for the ensuing year.

**Library Trustee for Three Years:** Eric Leonardi received 16 write-in votes, and therefore is elected for the ensuing three years.

**Supervisor of the Checklist for Six Years:** Ellen Sanford received 57 write-in votes, and therefore is elected for the ensuing six years.

**Budget Advisory Committee for Three Years:** John Erdman was unopposed, received 171 votes, and therefore is elected for the ensuing three years for one seat. No others were elected, and therefore one open seat remains.

**Budget Advisory Committee for One Year:** no one was elected for this position and therefore remains open.

**Planning Board for Three Years:** Dario Carrara received 71 write-in votes, James Fletcher received 55 write-in votes, therefore Dario Carrara and James Fletcher are elected for the ensuing three years.

**Planning Board for One Year:** no one was elected for this position and therefore remains open.

**Trustee of Trust Funds for Three Years:** Gilbert Bliss received 29 write-in votes, and therefore is elected for the ensuing three years.

**Trustee of Trust Funds for Two Years:** Margaret Charig-Bliss was unopposed, received 173 votes, and therefore is elected for the ensuing two years.

A review of the house rules followed:

1. There will be no smoking in the hall.
2. Unless otherwise stated before the meeting starts, we will follow the articles as printed in the warrant.
3. The Moderator will read all articles; everyone has a right to hear what we are voting on.
4. Anyone wishing to speak to an article will wait to be recognized, stand and state his/her name.
5. Every article should have a fair hearing, therefore motion to pass over an article will not be accepted.
6. Any person wishing to speak to an article a second time must wait until all those who wish to speak have had a chance to speak.
7. Anyone proposing an amendment to an article must submit the amendment in writing.
8. Once we have voted on an article we will not reconsider.
9. The meeting is being recorded.
10. Please keep your comments directed to the article and address the chair, not

back and forth among individuals.

11. And last, if the Moderator has made a ruling that the assembly disagrees with they may overturn his ruling with a majority vote.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the rules as read.

Motion was made "to amend the rules to take the articles out of order and keep the numbers the same as in the warrant".

There was a rebuttal, stating a preference to keep the order in tact

Moderator called for a vote. **Voice vote: Motion Failed.**

Back to original motion: **Voice vote: Motion Passes.** The rules were accepted as written.

**Article 1(a):** To hear the reports of agents, standing committees, or other officers heretofore, and chosen and to pass any vote relative thereto.

Peter Hopkins stated that he appreciated the new design of the Town Report (it is much larger this year), but he would like to know why listing the delinquent tax properties was discontinued. It was suggested by the Board of Selectmen that this could be done in the future if people so desired.

Further questions that came up regarding delinquent taxes were: how much is owed, who owes it, and what is being done about it. The Tax Collector (Kathy Valliere) was not available for this Town Meeting as she was attending the meeting in her home town, but Selectman Kullgren said that it is being addressed by the tax collector. Currently approximately \$285,000.00 is owed to the town in delinquent taxes.

There was further discussion about the interest involved, the time limits of pursuing collection, and the laws involved in collection.

Motion to accept the reports: **Voice Vote: Article Passed.**

**Article 2:** To see if the Town of Greenfield agrees to adopt New Hampshire RSA 72:61-72 which exempts the assessed value of solar energy systems, wind powered energy systems and central wood heating energy systems from property tax assessments. (Submitted by petition)

Motion was made to amend the article as follows: "To see if the Town of Greenfield agrees to adopt New Hampshire RSA 72:61-72 which exempts the *full* assessed value of solar energy systems, wind powered energy systems and central wood heating energy systems from property tax assessments."

There was lengthy discussion regarding energy conservation, definitions of systems that qualify, and the dollar amounts that this would translate to. Some people stated that they were for anything that helps the environment, and others said that everyone needs heat and you shouldn't be penalized for how you achieve it.

Moderator called for a vote on the amendment. **Voice Vote: Amendment Passes.**

There was still further discussion regarding the impact on the tax rate, incentives not to use fossil fuels, Federal Government tax breaks, and comparison to the Current Use tax rate.

With no further discussion, moderator called for a vote. **Voice Vote: Amended Article Passes.**

**Article 3:** To see if the Municipality will vote to authorize the Selectmen to discontinue the position of Elected Town Treasurer, and to further authorize the Selectmen to appoint a fully qualified person to fill the position.

The question was raised, "when would this be in effect?" The answer was, "next year". With no further discussion, the moderator called for a vote.

**Voice vote: Article passes.**

**Article 4:** To see if the Municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand, Four Hundred Twelve Dollars (\$629,412.00)** to support the operation and maintenance of town property. Allocation as follows: (Majority vote required)

Ambulance	\$24,251
Building Inspector/Code Enf.	8,000
Cemeteries	13,325
Conservation	4,135
Debt Service	7,035
Elections/Registration	34,021
Executive	122,017
Financial Administration	61,031
General Government Buildings	39,580
Health Agencies	4,584
Insurance	28,461
Interest of Bonds	44,173
Interest on TAN	9,000
Legal Expenses	20,000
Other General Government	43,725
Patriotic Purposes	800
Payroll Expenses	35,354
Planning Board	6,755
Principal of Bonds	95,000
Regional Association Dues	3,165
Street Lighting	5,200
Welfare Administration	15,500
Zoning Board of Adjustment	<u>4,300</u>
	\$629,412

Motion was made and seconded. The Budget Committee supports this Article. Selectman Aaron Kullgren discussed briefly how this year's figures compare with last year. Dollar amounts for ambulance services were up due to uncollected money. Welfare amounts have been lowered since some residents who were assisted previously are no longer living in Greenfield. Election costs are up considerably since there are four scheduled elections this year as opposed to only one last year. The bonding issue was addressed. Treasurer Katherine Heck stated that we will be borrowing the same amount as last year, and that currently our town credit rating is poor, and the rate is higher as a result.

With no further discussion the moderator called for a vote. **Voice vote: Article Passes.**

**Article 5:** To see if the Municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)**, in accordance with RSA Chapter 35, to create and place said amount in a Town Office Building Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of designing, purchasing and installing energy equipment and renovations and to further name the Board of Selectmen as the agents to expend these funds. (Majority vote required) –*Selectmen support this article.*

There was much discussion regarding the efficiency of the town office building, including the possibility of replacing the windows with the fact that the building is historic. There was some concern about having the Board of Selectmen make the decisions about changes to the building, but the Board stated that they would have a public hearing before taking any action.

An amendment was made to add the following line to the Article: "Only after a duly noted public hearing and a majority vote of the legislative body."

There was more discussion about the Energy Committee's report, which they are still working on.

Moderator called for a vote. **Voice Vote: Amendment Fails.**

Returning to the original Article, there was more discussion about the costs involved of replacing the boiler, insulation, and what kind of savings the town would see with a more efficient system. One estimate for replacing the boiler is about \$24,000, but this would be open to bid.

**Voice Vote: Original Article Passes.**

**Article 6:** To see if the Municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)**, in accordance with RSA Chapter 35, to create a Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. (Submitted by petition). *Selectmen do not support this article.*

An amendment was made by the Budget Committee as follows: "To see if the Municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)** in accordance with RSA Chapter 35, to create a Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund, and to further name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend the funds."

There was some concern over the amount that should be raised for this purpose, some suggesting that it be more, others stating that it was getting a fund started that mattered. There was also some concern about putting all of the "control" in the hands of the Selectmen.

**Voice Vote: Amendment Fails.**

The Budget Committee offered a second amendment, deleting the last line, to read as follows: "To see if the Municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)** in accordance with RSA Chapter 35, to create a Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund.

**Voice Vote: Amendment Passes.**

**Voice Vote: Amended Article Passes.**

**Article 7:** To see if the Municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **Three Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$352,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a 2009 – Five man enclosed cab Fire Truck, fully equipped, meeting NFPA Standards; **\$334,400.00 (95%)** to be derived from a Federally Funded Grant, **\$17,600.00 (5%)** to be derived from taxation. This is contingent upon receipt of the grant, without the grant funding there will be no expenditure. (Majority vote required)

An amendment was made to change the last line of the article to say that "without grant funding the money appropriated would be put into the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund", But the amendment was then withdrawn.

**Voice Vote: Article Passes.**

**Article 8:** To see if the Municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **Ninety Eight Thousand, Four Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$98,470.00)** to support the Fire Department. Allocation as follows: (Majority vote required)

Building Repairs/Maint.	\$3,500
Chiefs Wages	1,800
Computer Support/Maint.	1,000
Custodial Services	3,068
Dues & Subscriptions	1,450
Electricity	4,250
Emergency Management	1,500
Equipment	5,270
Equipment Replacement	11,275
Expense Reimbursements	6,000
Fire Alarm System	550
Fire Prevention	700
Forest Fire Equipment	550
Gasoline & Diesel Fuel	3,500

General Supplies	750
Heating Fuel	4,500
Insurance – General Liability	1,000
Insurance – Vehicle	2,900
Medical Supplies	2,650
Mutual Aid	13,149
Postage	200
Radio Repairs/Maint.	1,600
Retirement	40
Telephone	2,200
Training Services	3,050
Uniform Allowance	1,500
Vehicle Repairs/Maint.	3,500
W.A. 06 – Rescue Vehicle	<u>17,018</u>
	\$98,470

Chief Plourde addressed the budget. He stated that the Forest Fire line item was unintentionally omitted.

Motion was made “to add a line item of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** for Forest Fires”.

**Voice Vote: Amendment Passes.**

Chief Plourde also offered an amendment “to amend the Mutual Aid line item to say Mutual Aid Dispatching”.

**Voice Vote: Amendment Passes.**

No other discussion took place. **Voice Vote: Amended Article Passes.**

**Article 9:** To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **Five Hundred Thirty Three Thousand, Four Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars (\$533,438.00)** to support the Highway Department. Allocation as follows: (Majority vote required)

Advertising	\$ 575
Building Repairs/Maint.	3,000
Calcium Chloride – Summer	5,000
Computer Support/Maint.	1,000
Drainage Material	9,000
Drug/Alcohol Testing	550
Dues & Subscriptions	100
Education/Conventions	1,500
Electricity	2,750
Equipment Rental	8,000
Fire Alarm System	450
F/T Wages	102,494
Gasoline & Diesel Fuel	30,000

General Supplies	525
Gravel/Processing	20,000
Heating Fuel	6,000
Hydraulic Jackhammer	1,000
Insurance – Dental	3,703
Insurance – Disability	1,960
Insurance – Health	50,345
Insurance - Life	150
Insurance – Vehicle	2,700
Mileage	50
O/T Wages	15,375
Protective Clothing	1,000
Public Works – P/T Wages	1,836
Retirement	14,700
Road Reconstruction	70,000
Salt & Sand	18,500
Sealing & Tarring	28,080
Small Tools	1,450
Street Signs	1,000
Supervisor Salary	50,320
Telephone	1,250
Vehicle Repairs/Maintenance	27,000
WA #2 – '07 Dump Truck	20,044
WA #14-Front End Loader	31,031
Welding Supplies	1,000
	<u>1,000</u>
	\$533,438

Road Agent Wyatt “Duffy” Fox stated that due to the number of storms we have had this winter the money for fuel, plowing, sand and salt have already been largely spent.

The Budget Committee supports this Article.

An amendment was made “to increase the line item for Gasoline & Diesel Fuel by **Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)** and the Sand and Salt line item by **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.)**

**Voice vote: Amendment Passes. Voice vote: Amended Article Passes.**

**Article 10:** To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **Seventy Three Thousand, Three Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$73,325.00)** to support the Stephenson Memorial Library. Allocation as follows: (Majority Vote required).

Advertising	50
Books & Periodicals	6,000
Building Repairs/Maint.	3,000
Computer Equipment	124
Computer Software	250
Computer Support/Maint.	500

Dues & Professional Exp.	240
Education/Conventions	225
Electricity	2,705
Fire/Security System	2,500
General Supplies & Postage	2,500
Heating Fuel	5,000
Mileage	200
Office Equipment	500
P/T Wages	41,831
Programs/Entertainment	400
Roof Repairs	5,000
Sewer Fees	600
Telephone	<u>1,700</u>
	\$73,325

The budget was discussed briefly. A line item was added this year to repair the slate roof.

The Budget Committee supports this Article.

**Voice vote: Article Passes**

**Article 11:** To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **Forty-Five Thousand, Six Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$45,688.00)** to support the Parks & Recreation Department. Allocation as follows: (Majority Vote required).

Advertising	250
Building Repair/Maint.	350
Computer Software	30
Computer Support/Maint.	350
Contract Services	2,553
Dues	100
Electricity	1,000
Fire Alarm System	330
Garden Supplies	1,000
General Supplies	400
Grounds Maint.	1,170
Groundskeeper	6,100
Heat (Propane)	800
Lifeguard Wages	6,514
Mileage	350
Other Wages	3,235
Supervisor Wages	19,856
Telephone	<u>1,300</u>
	\$45,688

Molly Anfuso discussed some of the activities that she is working on, as well as beach issues, such as life guards and rafts.

**Voice vote: Article Passes.**

**Article 12:** To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **One Hundred Eighty Four Thousand, One Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars (\$184,169.00)** to support the Police Department. Allocation as follows: (Majority Vote required).

Chiefs Salary	55,604
Computer	200
Computer Support	2,000
Equipment	1,000
F/T Wages	40,092
Gasoline	6,000
General Supplies	1,500
Insurance – Dental	750
Insurance – Disability	1,060
Insurance – General Liability	5,500
Insurance – Health	11,425
Insurance- Life	75
Insurance – Vehicle	684
Mutual Aid	9,742
O/T Wages	2,000
P/T Wages	16,500
Personal Equipment	4,000
Postage	200
Radio Repair/Maint	200
Retirement	11,567
Telephone	3,000
Training Service	1,500
Vehicle Repair/Maint.	3,500
W.A. #7 – '05 Cruiser	<u>6,070</u>
	\$184,169

The Budget Committee supports this Article.

**Voice vote: Article Passes.**

**Article 13:** To see if the Municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of **One Hundred Seven Thousand, Six Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars (\$107,647.00)** to support the Recycling Center. Allocation as follows: (Majority Vote required.)

Advertising	100
Baling Supplies	800
Building Repairs/Maint.	1,000
Contract Services	39,000
Dues & Subscriptions	250
Education/Convention	150
Electricity	1,000
Equipment Maintenance	1,000

Forklift Propane	300
Gasoline	300
General Supplies	1,000
Hazardous Waste	500
Heating Fuel	500
Insurance – Dental	593
Insurance – Disability	654
Insurance – General Liab.	120
Insurance – Health	9,850
Insurance - Life	35
Loading Dock	1,400
Mileage	150
P/T Wages	11,320
Refrigerant Removal	400
Retirement	2,045
Supervisor Wages	30,680
Telephone	500
Tire Removal	500
Used Oil Collection Grant	2,500
Vehicle Repairs/Maint.	1,000
	<u>1,000</u>
	\$107,647

The Budget Committee supports this Article.

Selectman Jarvis Adams stated that there is a new crew at the center, and that the budget is down. He also “challenged” the community to increase the recycling from 18% to 50%

The amount assigned for Monadnock Disposal was in question. Selectman Kullgren stated that as the recycling increases the need for disposal decreases. Also, the revenues at the center last quarter were better than the last three or four years.

**Voice vote: Article Passes.**

**Article 14:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

#1: The question was raised “could we have legal counsel at town meetings?” The Board of Selectmen said that this could be done, it was just a matter of trying to keep legal costs down.

#2: John Halper of the Planning Board spoke to the town office building future plans.

#3: Fire Chief Jim Plourde said that next year will be the 100 th anniversary of the Fire Department and they will be planning a celebration.

#4: Gil Bliss asked for a consensus of the Friday night meetings vs. Saturday mornings. Most people seem to prefer Saturdays.

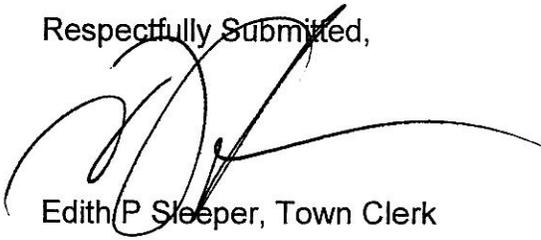
#5: Roger Lessard of the Energy Committee invited people to participate in the energy meetings and study.

#6: MaryAnn Grant, Library Trustee, said that they are working on providing transportation to and from the library for those in need. This is a new project in the works, and if anyone could offer their services it would be appreciated.

#7: It was noted that the GIVers provided the snacks during the Town Meeting this year, which was appreciated.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Edith P. Sleeper', written over the text 'Respectfully Submitted,'.

Edith P. Sleeper, Town Clerk