

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes April 8, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 by Chairman Harold Haddock Jr. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Present: Chairman Harold Haddock Jr.; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Tina Stearns; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Joey Holmes; F.R. Osgood; Todd Cartier; James Hunt; Simon Mayer; Edie Herrin; Art Herrin; Ken O'Keefe; Dan Moran; Tamara Moran; Joy M. Gobin; CB McKahan; Chief Walter Madore; Bob Gasser; Andrew Button

ADMINISTRATIVE

For Approval/Signature – **APPROVED**

- ✓ Building Permit Applications:
 1. M/L 220-020-000; 201 Walker Road – *Replace deck with screened porch*
 2. M/L 221-016-000; New Aldrich Road – *New home*
- ✓ 2009 Tax Lien on 2008 Tax Levy - \$95,235.29
- ✓ Timber Tax Levy:
 1. M/L 243-012-000
 2. M/L 227-024-000
- ✓ Excavation Tax Levy: M/L 226-018-000
- ✓ Notice of Intent to Cut:
 1. M/L 243-012-000; Stoney Brook Road
- ✓ Deputy Emergency Management Director Appointment
 - ❖ Ken Ryder
- ✓ Elderly Tax Exemption Application

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Haddock requested any changes to the regular meeting minutes of March 25, 2009. There being none, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 25, 2009 as written; second by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***
- ✓ Chairman Haddock requested any changes to the non-public meeting minutes of March 25, 2009. There being none, a motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the non-public meeting minutes of March 25, 2009 as written; second by Selectman Kimball. ***Unanimously approved.***

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APPEARANCES

- New Aldrich Road Paving Petition - Resident Bob Gasser: Mr. Gasser discussed the signed petition for paving the remainder of New Aldrich Road stating the road is heavily trafficked and in frequent disrepair, thus in need of constant maintenance. Mr. Gasser also stated that there is a threat to the residents' personal safety; that there isn't any opposition to paving it that he knows of and requested the Board of Selectmen consider paving the rest of the road.

A resident of 178 New Aldrich Road stated he is not opposed to paving the road but is concerned with the speed, especially at night and suggested adding speed bumps to control the speed.

Chief Madore informed he has received complaints in the past and addressed them by running directed patrols. Chief Madore stated he will continue to run the directed patrols.

Chairman Haddock stated the Board would take the petition into consideration.

- Burpee Hill Road Paving Petition - Resident Joy Gobin: Ms. Gobin discussed the signed petition for paving the remainder of Burpee Hill Road and stated traffic has increased over the last 5 years greatly diminishing the condition of the road. Ms. Gobin stated that she often has to park her car at the Park-n-Ride and have her husband pick her up in a truck.

Chairman Haddock stated the Board will consider paving Burpee Hill Road as well as talk to the Road Agent to come up with a revised schedule for the next few years.

Kimberly Sleeper stated she was opposed to having the road paved because:

- The expense of paving; it is a problem for a short period of time.
- Aesthetics; it is a beautiful road and would be aesthetically unpleasing if paved.
- Safety; the speed on the paved portion has increased greatly.
- The residents chose to live on a dirt road.

Ms. Sleeper requested the Board of Selectmen add speed bumps to the paved portion of the road to help control speed.

Burpee Hill Road resident Christina McKahan stated she is in favor of paving the road or looking at other options to improve the road conditions. Ms. McKahan stated she recently had extensive damage to her vehicle because of the road conditions.

Administrator Stearns explained the frost went much deeper this year than it has in the past causing the severe conditions; that other towns/cities have had to close some roads that they have never had issues with before. Stearns stated the Highway Department is doing the best they can; that there is increased traffic but it is also due to the harsh winter.

Resident Dan Moran stated he is concerned with the speed but more concerned with the safety of the road.

Ms. Sleeper requested Chief Madore run directed patrols of Burpee Hill Road as well.

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- Police Chief Walter Madore: Chief Madore requested use of the Recreation Park property at 119 Shedd Road for the field day portion of the Hunter Safety class which includes supervised shooting. There was much discussion regarding shooting in that area. The Board of Selectmen denied the request and suggested using the “old pit” on the town owned Miller Pond Road property.
- Resident F.R. Osgood: Mr. Osgood stated that he heard curbing and islands are scheduled to be installed in the parking lot at Grantham Village School and requested the Board of Selectmen have the Road Agent and Transfer Station Supervisor review the proposed engineering design [of the parking lot] to see if the Town will be able to plow it with the current equipment. Osgood also requested the Board have an answer for their next meeting on April 22, 2009.

Administrator Stearns stated that the Road Agent had been over to the school and some curbing had been installed.

Selectman Kimball stated that, after review of the plans, he advised the school the curbing would increase the costs of snow removal.

OLD BUSINESS

- Recreation Park Building Repairs: Selectman Kimball submitted the proposal from Andy Anderson and stated that the plumbing and electrical would be extra; approximately \$600.00. Selectman Kimball stated that Mr. Anderson will utilize sub-contractors that are from Grantham.

Administrator Stearns stated Mr. Anderson’s proposal was within Primex’s estimate.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Grantham Recreation Park Committee (GRPC): Administrator Stearns informed that she and Selectman Jones attended the GRPC meeting on March 31st at the request of a few members due to communication issues among the committee. Following the meeting five potential members have withdrawn their names from the committee.

Administrator Stearns stated she received a suggestion from Missy Walla that would split the committee into two; one for Recreation Committee – Athletic Fields and the other Recreation Committee – Playground/Recreation Building. Stearns explained the Athletic Fields committee would have members that all had the same goal; that all want the ball fields and can go after the larger grants. The Playground/Recreation Building committee would focus on playground equipment and what the building will be utilized for and do the “smaller” fund raising i.e. local bake sales.

Administrator Stearns stated that both committees would meet independently and bring their ideas to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

Selectman Kimball confirmed that the GRPC is going in two different directions and that Missy Walla’s suggestion was a logical solution.

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Administrator Stearns requested input from the GRPC members that were present. Todd Cartier stated he was in favor of the two committees.

Jamie Hunt stated he felt having the two committees would be a mistake; that the playground and fields are intertwined and the view of the community is still one big project.

Mr. Hunt stated the first fund-raising project was going to be for the playground equipment which costs \$40,000; that a grant had been submitted to the Byrne Foundation and requested waiting until notice had been received [from the Byrne Foundation].

Mr. Hunt explained that it is a big project and takes a lot of time. Mr. Cartier agreed, stating that other committee members don't want to accept that the project will not be completed overnight.

Mr. Hunt stated that he had Jeanne West attend a meeting and walked them through the fundraising and that timelines and plans have been put forward to the committee.

Selectman Jones asked if Ms. West's fund raising was geared to a town the size of Grantham. Selectman Jones stated that she felt most towns have smaller fund raisers like bake sales, suppers, etc. but also have a big fund raiser; the big fund raiser doesn't compete with the small ones.

Mr. Hunt answered that the smaller fund raisers are generally for ongoing operating expenses not capital costs.

Mr. Hunt reiterated that he felt the committee should be kept together; that if it meant him stepping down, he would do that.

Administrator Stearns stated that Mr. Hunt's background is beneficial; that the ones that withdrew their names felt the committee was going in two different directions.

Ms. Sleeper felt that, as a taxpayer and parent, the town really needs ball fields; that the focus should not be on a playground because the town already has a playground at Grantham Village School.

There was much discussion on how to continue fund raising efforts. Simon Mayer felt the house should be sold with a couple of acres and the money used to build the ball fields and playground.

Chairman Haddock requested the Board of Selectmen consider the options with the house and continue discussion at the next meeting.

➤ Police Department – March Report:

- 113 calls for service and 118 traffic stops; a 30% increase from March 2008
- On March 17th Chief Madore attended, with Retired Chief Lary, the NH Chiefs meeting at the Boys and Girls Club in Salem, NH. After the meeting, they attended the annual Jack Ganley luncheon in honor of past Police Chief Jack Ganley of Salem. Awards for community service were presented in his name.
- A Lock Down drill was held at Grantham Village School on March 25th. The drill was a success!

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- Congratulations to Officer Merrill on the birth of his son Everett.

➤ Town Administrator:

- Administrator Stearns informed that the new Transfer Station pass is available for part-time residents. Stearns explained the passes will hang from the rear view mirror and have the property owners' name, address, date of issue, and initials of the employee issuing it.
- Discussions have been ongoing with Advanced Transit to get public transportation to the DHMC (Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center) area. Administrator Stearns stated she is looking to see if the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for local government, available from the US Department of Energy, could be utilized.

Estimates from Advanced Transit for this service are in the \$120,000 range. Stearns explained that the runs would consist of two in the morning and two in the afternoon just to DHMC; that she is looking to see if DHMC would fund a portion of this as well.

- The Grantham Area Chamber of Commerce is doing a fund raiser to plant trees around the Park & Ride. Chief Madore expressed his concern for safety with large trees. Administrator Stearns explained the trees will be small, not too tall and sparsely planted.

Chief Madore stated he has received calls regarding vehicles with "For Sale" signs in them at the Park & Ride; that his department does follow-up on these calls. Chief Madore explained the vehicles are allowed to be there as long as they are legally registered and inspected.

NON PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91:A:3, II on a motion by Selectman Kimball, second by Selectman Jones, after proper 3-0 vote, the Board entered into Non-Public session at 6:08 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Present were: Chairman Harold Haddock, Selectman Constance Jones, Selectman Warren Kimball, Town Administrator Tina Stearns, and Administrative Assistant Melissa White.

A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to seal the minutes of the non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, III, second by Selectman Jones, after proper vote 3-0, the Board unanimously agreed to seal the non-public minutes of this meeting.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:26 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Kimball; *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:27 p.m.*

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melissa M. White
Administrative Assistant*