

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes April 22, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 4:58 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 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; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Joey Holmes; F.R. Osgood; Todd Cartier; James Hunt; Ken O'Keefe; Phil Schaefer; Missy Walla; Activities Director Laurie Field; Sullivan County Commissioner Jeffrey Barrette, Clerk Ethel Jarvis and Administrator Greg Chanis

Absent: Town Administrator Tina Stearns

ADMINISTRATIVE

For Approval/Signature – **APPROVED**

- ✓ Building Permit Applications:
 1. M/L 222-050-000; 14 Birch Brae; *Porch*
 2. M/L 207-009-000; 121 Hastings Hill; *Porch*
 3. M/L 215-076-000; 7 Sylvan Walk; *Remodel basement*
 4. M/L 216-022-000; 143 Miller Pond Road; *Porch*
 5. M/L 234-028-000; 27 Greensward Drive; *Addition*
 6. M/L 233-099-000; 191 Dunbar Hill Road; *Garage*
- ✓ Current Use Application:
 1. M/L 221-048-000; 800 Route 10 North
- ✓ 2008 Property Tax Abatements:
 1. M/L 222-204-000; 23 Highwood Way; *Granted*
 2. M/L 225-195-000; 80 Greensward Drive; *Granted*
 3. M/L 225-194-000; 82 Greensward Drive; *Granted*
 4. M/L 222-148-005; 9 Pleasant View; *Denied*
 5. M/L 222-203-000; 21 Highwood Way; *Denied*
 6. M/L 207-016-000; 276 Hastings Hill; *Denied*
 7. M/L 216-178-000; 25 Butternut Road; *Denied*
 8. M/L 215-061-053; 53 College Overlook; *Denied*

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Haddock requested any changes to the regular meeting minutes of April 8, 2009. There being none, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 8, 2009 as written; second by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously approved.*
- ✓ Chairman Haddock requested any changes to the non-public meeting minutes of April 8, 2009. There being none, a motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the non-public meeting minutes of April 8, 2009 as written; second by Selectman Kimball. *Unanimously approved.*

APPEARANCES

- Resident Ken O'Keefe: Mr. O'Keefe requested the Board of Selectmen consider closing the Transfer Station on Easter Sunday; making it a paid holiday. Chairman Haddock stated the board would take it into consideration.
- Sullivan County Commissioners: Commissioner Jeffrey Barrette discussed the deficit the county was faced with and explained they have decreased the deficit significantly stated the county tax increase will be less than 3%.

Selectman Jones asked where the revenue would come from. Mr. Barrette answered the census has increased at the nursing home; currently the census is approximately 144 residents and the budget was for 137.

Selectman Jones asked about the proposed firing range in the Town of Unity. Ethel Jarvis explained it will have to be approved by the Planning Board; that it looked like it could happen soon. Ms. Jarvis stated the firing range would be private, for law enforcement only. Mr. Barrette stated the potential location is a well secured area and should not have an effect on the abutters.

Selectman Jones asked if the plans to renovate the jail will continue. Mr. Barrette stated a construction manager and architectural firm has been hired and explained that they are acting as their own agent on the project and will be the prime holder on all the contracts with construction.

Mr. Barrette explained a sprinkler system will be installed in the existing jail as well as come security updates. Mr. Barrette stated the community corrections center will be attached to the jail gaining operational efficiency and saving some money in construction costs.

County Administrator Greg Chanis discussed the timeline and stated the drawings should be complete for the upgrades to the existing jail the week of April 27 and go out to bid in a couple of weeks; that the anticipated start date for the new structure will be June 2009 with a target completion date of June 2010.

Chairman Haddock asked what the average enrollment of the jail was. Mr. Barrette answered that there is approximately 120 – 130 people under supervision with roughly 98 in-house. Mr. Barrette stated that in the last three years the population increased by about 10% each year.

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Chairman Haddock asked what the capacity with the new addition would be. Mr. Barrette explained that the original jail was built to hold 46 people; that the addition of the Transitional Housing Units (inmates on work-release) attached to the nursing home added another 14 beds. Mr. Chanis said the new addition will add a minimum of 68 beds that are minimum security.

Ms. Jarvis stated the female population has increased to approximately 16 – 18. Mr. Barrette explained the same services are not offered to both genders based on the situation of the building; that the new plan addresses it.

Ms. Jarvis stated the material removed during construction will be used as a berm at the firing range.

Chairman Haddock asked about Genesis Healthcare no longer running the nursing home. Mr. Barrette explained that Genesis was hired as consultants to manage the nursing home facility for a management fee and the salary of the administrator but there was no management continuity; that in a three year period they had gone through five or six administrators. Mr. Barrette discussed in detail the billing issue they had with Genesis and the transitional plan that took place.

Resident Phil Schaefer asked how many beds the nursing home had and if they were all filled would the county be revenue neutral. Mr. Barrette answered that the nursing home is licensed for 156 beds and explained that the revenue sources consist of private, Medicare and Medicaid.

Mr. Barrette encouraged anyone with questions to call the Commissioner's office and stated he plans to visit all towns in the County about every 12 months. Chairman Haddock stated it would be helpful to towns at budget time to help explain the County tax rate. Mr. Barrette stated the county tax rate is full of dips and valleys over the last 20 years and that it is his goal to make it more predictable.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Listen Community Services: A thank you was received from Listen Community Services for the recent donation to their food pantry program. Last year, their pantry served over 1,350 Upper Valley households, including seniors and the disabled who live on "fixed" incomes, providing over \$60,000 worth of groceries.
- The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation: A grant of \$5,000 was received for the new Recreation Park. A matching pledge of \$10,000 will be given in the year 2010 if at least half of the funds needed for this project are raised.
- Mascoma Valley Health Initiative: The Board of Selectmen were invited to participate in the Regional Public Health Capacity Governance Assessment process on April 30, 2009 from 12 to 4pm, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Auditorium D.

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- Earth Day Compost Bin Sale: An email was received from the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) stating 60 organizations in four states participated in the Annual Compost Bin Sale and a total of 1,820 compost bins were sold. Each bin diverts approximately 500 pounds of organic matter from household waste per year, diverting it from collection, the landfill or incinerator. Thank you to Martha Menard for her coordination efforts - Grantham sold 39 compost bins, 9 rain barrels and 31 kitchen pails!

OLD BUSINESS

- Selectmen's Report Regarding Plowing at Grantham Village School (GVS): Selectman Jones informed that Road Agent Joe Newcomb will meet with GVS Maintenance Supervisor Jim Palermo to review the new parking plans and report back to the Board with recommendations.

Mr. Schaefer felt it would be informative for the School Board to have a comparison for snow removal with the obstructions (curbing, islands, etc.) and without the obstructions. Selectman Kimball stated there isn't a way to create a cost difference. Mr. Schaefer stated estimates could be obtained from others for time and equipment with the curbing and islands installed.

- Recreation Park Building Water Damage Repairs:

*A motion was made by Selectman Jones to accept the bid from Andy Anderson to repair the water damage at the Recreation Park Building; second by Selectman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.***

Selectman Kimball will coordinate the work with Mr. Anderson.

- Grantham Recreation Park Committee: Selectman Jones stated she agreed with splitting the committee into two as outlined in the Selectmen's minutes of April 8, 2009. Todd Cartier asked who would chair the committee. Chairman Haddock stated the Board of Selectmen will appoint a chairman. Missy Walla asked if each committee would meet separately and report to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Jones responded yes, that the two sub-committees would meet independently and then the whole committee would get together.

Mr. Cartier asked if Town Administrator Tina Stearns would still be involved. Chairman Haddock stated she had offered to be involved and the Selectmen decided she should not be involved. Selectman Kimball will continue as Chair.

Ken O'Keefe asked if the Board of Selectmen would make all the decisions. Chairman Haddock responded yes, the major decisions. Selectman Jones confirmed the Board of Selectmen approve expenditures for the Town; that fund raising ideas should be brought to the Board.

Resident F.R. Osgood stated he felt the cost to maintain the building will be significant and suggested selling the house with a couple of acres of land and use the money from the sale for the ball fields.

Chairman Haddock felt a building is needed and that not much money would be made by sub-dividing and selling the house due to it being adjacent to a ball field.

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Mr. O'Keefe suggested talking to a realtor to see what it is worth.

Mr. Schaefer suggested obtaining an estimate for a building that specifically meets the needs of the Activities and Recreation Departments.

Selectman Jones felt that because there is so much controversy with the building that it would be a good idea to see what it would be worth.

Mr. Cartier felt the ball field would not detract from selling the house; that other towns have ball fields in residential areas.

Selectman Jones stated that after a safety inspection conducted by the NH Department of Labor on April 20, 2009, the Recreation building can only be used for storage until exit signs, emergency lights, boiler inspection and railings added to the stairway (that go to the lower level) are installed.

*A motion was made by Selectman Jones to only use the Recreation Park Building located at 119 Shedd Road, Grantham, NH for storage until it is compliant with all NH Department of Labor safety rules; second by Selectman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.***

Resident Joey Holmes felt selling the house was the best option.

Mr. Cartier asked how many quotes were obtained for the water damage at the Recreation Building. Selectman Jones stated one quote was obtained and explained that an estimate had to be sent in to the insurance company. Chairman Haddock stated that town money was not involved.

Jamie Hunt stated he would like to send out query letters to four other foundations and asked who should be listed as the chairperson of the Recreation Park Committee. Chairman Haddock suggested using Selectman Kimball.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

➤ Activities Report:

- The Rabies Clinic was held on April 4th.
- Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 11th.
- Mother's Day breakfast will be held on May 10th from 8am – 10am at Grantham Town Hall. Adults - \$8.00; Children 6 – 11 \$4.00; Children 5 and under FREE.
- Town Wide Yard Sale will be May 30th from 9am – 3pm. For more information contact Laurie Field at 863-9143 or email at field83@comcast.net.

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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 6:04 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Present were: Chairman Harold Haddock, Selectman Constance Jones, Selectman Warren Kimball, and Administrative Assistant Melissa White.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, second by Chairman Haddock; *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:26 p.m.*

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 13, 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*