

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes June 10, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 4:59 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 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; Transfer Station Supervisor Frank Chaisson; Jerry Bieszczad; Christina Bieszczad; Leslie Brown; Joey Holmes; Justin Bitler; Keith Filiault; John Parsons; F. Robert Osgood; Phil Schaefer; Simon Mayer; and other members of the public

ADMINISTRATIVE

For Approval/Signature – **APPROVED**

- ✓ Building Permit Applications:
 1. M/L 210-010-000; 1140 Miller Pond Road; *Garage*
 2. M/L 237-052-001; Sugarwood Lane; *New Home*
 3. M/L 236-015-000; 109 Lumber Lane; *Garage*
 4. M/L 243-012-000; 2221 Stoney Brook Road; *Roof over barn door*
- ✓ 2009 Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs
- ✓ Tax Lien Deed; M/L 232-001-000
- ✓ Notice of Intent to Cut:
 1. M/L 211-070-000; Miller Pond Road
 2. M/L 217-006-000; 150 Walker Road

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Haddock requested any changes to the regular meeting minutes of May 27, 2009. There being none, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 27, 2009 as written; second by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

APPEARANCES

- Grantham Village School Building Committee Chair Leslie Brown: GVS Building Committee Chair Leslie Brown informed that the School Board would like to donate their modular classroom building to the Town for use at the Recreation Park. Ms. Brown referenced the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of May 13, 2009, noting the options regarding the Recreation Park Building; that the School didn't want to sell something the Town already owns if it could be used at the Recreation Park later.

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Ms. Brown provided the Board of Selectmen the construction specifications and stated the structure is a doublewide modular building (28' x 68'), has two classrooms that are approximately 800 square feet each, and a handicap accessible bathroom.

Selectman Jones stated she wasn't sure there was money in the budget to move and set-up the building and felt it should be discussed with the Recreation Park Committee.

Ms. Brown requested a decision of the Town's interest in the offer to the School Board by Monday, July 6, 2009.

- Resident and T-Ball Coach Jerry Bieszczad: Mr. Bieszczad discussed his concern with the condition of the current ball field at Grantham Village School (GVS) stating they are dangerous due to the rocks, ruts, and soft spots.

Mr. Bieszczad stated he is dismayed at the lack of progress for the new ball fields at the Recreation Park on Shedd Road and requested an update on the progress of the ball fields and asked how the coaches can help.

Selectman Kimball responded that the Recreation Park Committee had initially tried to work with the soccer field but has become problematic due to the permitting requirements; that the focus had recently been changed to the ball field that is closer to the building.

Selectman Kimball explained that a soil scientist has to test the soil to make sure wetlands are not being impacted.

Mr. Bieszczad asked when the ball fields could be in place. Selectman Kimball felt that it would be a year or more before the "big" soccer fields would be in place; that the area used last year for soccer is still available.

Justin Bitler asked if the field used last year for soccer could be scraped down and re-seeded in time for soccer this fall without permitting. Selectman Kimball reiterated that a soil scientist would have to test the fields before anything is done.

Mr. Bitler asked what the process and timing would be for the soil testing. Kimball responded that he is waiting for the soil scientist to call him back.

There was general discussion regarding fundraising; Selectman Kimball stated the Recreation Committee had hoped for more donations from private donors and foundations but felt the economy had slowed those donations.

Mr. Bitler asked when the next meeting of the Grantham Recreation Park Committee/Athletic Fields would be. Selectman Kimball will schedule a meeting for the Grantham Recreation Park Committee/Athletic Fields in the near future.

There was discussion regarding the notification of the meetings. Administrative Assistant White stated the notices are posted on the cable TV channel, at the Post Office, on the Town's website and through the Town's email list serve.

Mr. Bitler felt there are a lot of people in town willing to make a donation to the athletic fields if the money is used for the fields now; that if 100 families donated \$500, the \$50,000 would go a long way for some temporary resolve. Bitler went on to say that the town and committee should put something forward on a smaller level to have a soccer field in by the fall and a plan to have a baseball field that is usable in the spring.

Selectman Jones stated committee members are working on smaller fundraising

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projects. Jones felt that the committee should "get going" so something could be in place by the fall.

Christine Bieszczad asked if the donations received would go to the ball fields or the playground. Selectman Kimball explained that donors can designate specifically where the money is to be used; that if the funding is received without a specific purpose it will be split equally between the ball fields and the playground. Selectman Kimball stated the Buy-A-Brick fundraiser is specifically for the playground.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from Charles McCarthy: Mr. McCarthy submitted his resignation as a member of the Grantham Capital Improvement Project Committee.
- Comcast: Notification was received from Comcast that effective June 30, 2009, the Golf Channel on channel 121 will no longer be part of their grandfathered Digital Basic service. Call 1-800-COMCAST with questions.
- West Central Behavior Health: West Central Behavioral Health will hold their 7th Annual Paddlepower fundraising event to help prevent suicide. The event will take place Saturday, August 22nd through Sunday, August 23rd. Paddling starts at the Connecticut River in Orford, NH to Wilder, VT.
- Dunbar Free Library: The Dunbar Free Library requested permission to close off the parking lot next to the church for about an hour on a Wednesday morning in July so the story time children could do "sidewalk chalking". The Board of Selectmen approved the request.

OLD BUSINESS

- Road Agent's Estimate For Plowing GVS: No additional information was obtained. Selectman Jones stated that at the 2009 Town Meeting, Article 6 was amended and approved by majority hand count to increase the budget of the Highway Department by \$2,200 for the continuation of plowing and mowing Grantham Village School (GVS) for one year.

Selectman Jones explained that in previous correspondence the Road Agent had agreed to do the mowing and plowing at GVS; that as the parking lot is completed he would make a determination as to the need of more equipment, manpower, etc. If the Highway Department is unable to do the plowing the school will have to take it over.

Jones referenced RSA 194 and stated that the School District is a distinct governmental entity and legally separate from a municipality. Jones continued, "They govern their own affairs through their own governing body, the School Board, which is responsible for the management of the district. The revenue necessary to operate the school district is collected as part of the property tax, a local portion and a state portion, and such amounts appear separately on the property tax bill. Although the municipality acts as billing and collecting agents for the school district, it is the school district, acting through its voters at a school district meeting that raises and appropriates money for school district purposes, not the municipality, Town Meeting, City Council, etc."

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Jones felt the Board of Selectmen had done their part regarding the plowing issue; that the plowing issue is under control and it wasn't necessary to spend more time obtaining quotes or discussing it.

Resident F. Robert Osgood stated he had submitted the request for the cost of plowing and was happy with the Board of Selectmen's answer. Mr. Osgood thanked the Selectmen for their consideration.

Resident Phil Schaefer stated he had requested comparative estimates be obtained for the plowing with and without the islands that the school was proposing to install. Mr. Schaefer felt the purpose of the estimates was to give the School Board the ongoing extra costs for having the islands installed; that the School Board has "blindfolds" on to the cost of plowing because they are not responsible for it.

Mr. Schaefer stated the Board of Selectmen had previously promised to obtain another quote without the islands, so the School Board could consider not only the cost of installing the islands, but also future costs of the islands and felt the Selectmen had not fulfilled their promise.

Selectman Jones disagreed and stated the School Board makes the decision as to whether or not the islands are installed; that they [the School Board] know the islands will cause problems with plowing. Jones continued that during a meeting with the School Board back in September 2008, she had strongly suggested they obtain quotes for plowing; that it is their responsibility and the money and plan for the school has been raised and approved.

Mr. Osgood felt the School Board was responsible for the installation of the islands, not the Board of Selectmen.

- Recreation Park Building Water Damage Repairs: Selectman Kimball informed the work has not started. The estimated start date is the week of June 15th.

Mr. Bieszczad asked if the Cub Scouts could store some items at the Recreation Park Building. Selectman Kimball said yes, except in the garage.

Resident Simon Mayer asked why the status of the Recreation Park Building was deferred until Town Meeting 2010. Chairman Haddock answered that the options are going to be studied over the next several months.

- Town Hall Parking: The Board of Selectmen will follow-up with Road Agent Newcomb.
- Columbarium: Selectman Jones stated Pat Short had contacted her and requested an update. Selectman Kimball stated that Andy Anderson is waiting for a quote from a Texas company.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Police Department – May Report
 - 112 calls for service and 107 traffic stops; a 48% increase from May 2008.
 - Chief Madore, Corporal Harriman, Officer Merrill, and Officer Schwartz attended a class on Border Patrol Updates.
 - Chief Madore received a thank you from Rob Goold, Supervisor of New London

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- Ambulance for assistance on a call.
- Officer Merrill will be leaving on June 13th for his annual 2-week National Guard training.
- The local Daisy Girl Scout troop visited the Police Department for a tour and talk on safety.
- The Department received the NH Highway Safety Grant for Corridor Enforcement Patrols.
- Sergeant Parsons completed the instructor course for Expandable Police Baton.
- Chief Madore attended a seminar on Managing Police Liability.

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 5:41 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Present were: Chairman Harold Haddock, Selectman Constance Jones, Selectman Warren Kimball, Administrative Assistant Melissa White, and Transfer Station Supervisor Frank Chaisson.

A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to grant the vacation carry-over requests to Cindy Towle and Frank Chaisson; Second by Selectman Jones. Unanimously approved.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Kimball moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Jones; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 24, 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*