

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes June 23, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:05pm on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 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 Becky Newton, Esq.; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Joey Holmes; F. Robert Osgood; Thomas LoPizzo, Local Government Center; Barbara Jones; Bin Lewis; Alden "Chick" Pillsbury

ADMINISTRATIVE - APPROVED

- ✓ Timber Tax Levy: M/L 221-048-000; Matt Gallien - \$274.92
- ✓ Building Permit Applications:
 - a) M/L 216-114-000; 1 Old Spring Drive – Septic installation

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Haddock asked if there were any changes to the regular and non-public meeting minutes of June 15, 2010. There being none, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve both minutes as written; second by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

APPEARANCES

- Thomas LoPizzo, Local Government Center (LGC) Member Relations Executive: Packets of information on LGC were given to the Board of Selectmen prior to the meeting. Mr. LoPizzo explained that LGC is a state municipal association; that the Town of Grantham has been a member of LGC for many years. Mr. LoPizzo stated that the City of Manchester (effective July 1, 2010) is only municipality in the state that isn't a member.

LoPizzo stated each member pays dues; approximately \$2,300 per year which cover the costs for advocacy before the State Legislature, legal services, educational programs. In addition to those programs, under the NH Municipal Association, a non-profit risk pools for insurance programs such as health, property & liability, worker's compensation, unemployment compensation etc. Approximately 316 municipal and school entities participate in their health program, 230 in their worker's compensation program, 330 in their property & liability program and 130 in their unemployment compensation program. Total contributions in those programs are approximately \$400 million per year. All programs are run by a 31 member board of directors made up of 12 municipal officials, 12 school officials, one county and six municipal and school employees.

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Chairman Haddock asked Mr. LoPizzo to make it clear that LGC is not part of the State government. LoPizzo confirmed that LGC is not part of the State government; that participation is completely voluntary.

Chairman Haddock asked if the Municipal Bond Bank was separate from LGC. LoPizzo said yes.

LoPizzo informed that Maura Carroll is now the Executive Director of LGC.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Closest Treasures Complaint: A complaint was received on behalf of several business owners and residents in town regarding the outside appearance of Closet Treasures Consignment Shop. They felt the lawn is being littered with their merchandise which causes an unsightly appearance for residents and visitors; that it looks like a yard sale happening each day.

Administrator Newton stated there has been some discussion recently regarding outside sales and whether Closet Treasures was approved for outside sales. Newton stated it appears they were not. Selectman Kimball stated that outside sales are limited to three per year.

The Board of Selectmen requested Administrator Newton contact the owner of Closet Treasures.

- Grantham Cable Access TV Channel: A request was received from Todd McIntire to see if the Board of Selectmen would consider selling advertisements on the Grantham Cable Access TV Channel to Grantham Business's that includes their name, phone number and hours of operation.

The Selectmen requested Administrator Newton review the Cable Franchise Agreement to see if that is permitted.

- Cemetery Complaint: A complaint was received from Connie Howard regarding the upkeep of Dunbar Hill Cemetery. Administrator Newton stated that several complaints have been received regarding the care of the cemeteries. Newton also stated work continues to hire a groundskeeper to help with this.

Chairman Haddock stated the cemeteries are usually cleaned by Memorial Day. Selectman Kimball confirmed they were this year. Joey Holmes stated that the grass was over a foot high in the East Grantham Cemetery (also known as Hilldale Cemetery) on Sunday, June 20, 2010.

Chairman Haddock requested Administrator Newton contact Sullivan County Department of Corrections to see if the inmates are available to help with the cemeteries.

- Department of Environmental Services (DES): A letter was received from DES Water Division, Wetlands Bureau requesting more information regarding the report filed by the Town of Grantham of possible dredging and filling of wetlands on the property owned by Raymond Sanville. Newton stated a topographical map and aerial photo has been provided to them.

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OLD BUSINESS

- Sale of the Wien House: Newton stated she had been working on the abatement applications; that she will continue to work the sale of the Wien house in the coming weeks.
- Trustees of the Trust Funds Vacancy: Newton informed that Deborah Mitchell has expressed interest; that her information has been passed along to Trustees Robert Lewis and Jessica Smith.
- Archives Boiler Repair: No update.
- Reney Memorial Forest – Parking: No progress.
- Sawyer Brook Trees: Newton informed that Simon Mayer provided her with an email from Douglas King dated April 26, 2010, that their department was going to help the Town with the issue but there was a split among town officials as to what to do and are awaiting a consensus before further help is offered.

Administrator Newton felt it would be best to wait until after July 4, 2010 to cut the trees.

NEW BUSINESS

- CMA Engineers: An agreement was received from CMA Engineers to provide Professional Engineering Services from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for the Grantham Landfill closure. Newton explained that it is the standard agreement signed every year with the fees estimated at \$7,500 which was the same as last year.

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to allow Administrator Newton sign the agreement on behalf of the Board of Selectmen; second by Selectman Kimball.

Unanimously approved.

- 2009 Abatement Requests: Administrator Newton informed a listing of all the abatements and reductions were provided to the Board of Selectmen (see list below).

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to grant the abatement requests as submitted by Cross Country Appraisal Group; second by Selectman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.**

Selectman Jones requested a meeting with Cross Country Appraisal Group to discuss possible trends in the property valuations. Jones also requested the Town's Department of Revenue Administration Representative review the 2009 abatements.

Newton informed that last year the estimated overlay amount was approximately \$17,000 and the actual amount was approximately \$21,000.

Barbara Jones asked what the term "overlay" meant. Newton explained that it is the amount that can be carried over or set aside from the unreserved fund balance to cover abatements from prior years.

Ms. Jones asked if each year is evaluated separately, meaning that someone can't apply for abatements for previous years. Newton said yes. Ms. Jones asked if the current year would be adjusted. Newton said yes, that it is taken off the second issue tax bill.

Newton informed that property owners have thirty days to appeal the decision; that she has heard from some owners that appeals may be forthcoming.

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- Business Road-side Signs: Newton informed that the Planning Board, at their June 3, 2010 meeting made a motion to have the Board of Selectmen send letters to business's regarding the rules and regulations of "sandwich board" signs. The Board of Selectmen requested Newton send letters to those business's not in compliance.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Town Administrator:
 - A letter was received from Carroll Concrete informing they have approved the donation of three to four cubic yards of concrete per dugout for the ball fields at the Recreation Park. Administrator Newton thanked Selectman Kimball for contacting Carroll Concrete.
 - Sergeant John Parsons sent a thank-you to Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation for their donation of \$5,427 for the Automated External Defibrillators (AED's).
 - One Thousand dollars was received from Trumbull-Nelson Construction Company for fencing and/or a backstop at the Recreation Park.

OTHER

- Resident Joey Holmes requested the town parking lot across from the Library be painted so users would park in the right direction.
- Resident Barbara Jones stated she was very happy to receive the phone call from Administrator Newton regarding her abatement. Ms. Jones thanked the Board of Selectmen for granting her abatement request.

NON PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-A, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball, second by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:41 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Present were: Chairman Harold Haddock, Selectman Constance Jones, Selectman Warren Kimball, Town Administrator Becky Newton, Alden Pillsbury and Administrative Assistant Melissa White.

No votes or decisions were made while in Non-Public session.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:38 pm.

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Public discussion continued at 6:38pm:

- There was discussion regarding purchases for the Recreation Park. Chairman Haddock requested that all purchases and requests from the Recreation Park Committee be brought to the Board of Selectmen via Selectman Kimball. Selectman Jones and Kimball agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Kimball moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Jones; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:40pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, July 14, 2010** at 5:00PM in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melissa M. White
Administrative Assistant*