

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes November 22, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Monday, November 22, 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, Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Joey Holmes; Simon Mayer

ADMINISTRATIVE - APPROVED

- ✓ Building Permits:
 - a) M/L 212-118-000 – 26 High Pond Road; shed
 - b) M/L 216-125-000 – 25 Old Spring Drive; shed
 - c) M/L 218-001-000 – Croydon Turnpike; log cabin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Haddock asked if there were any changes to the regular and non-public meeting minutes of November 10, 2010. Administrative Assistant stated that in the regular meeting minutes, on page three under New Business, the Credit Card Cardholder Agreement wasn't for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office to accept credit cards. White explained that the agreement was for Town employees that are issued a town credit card. There being no further changes, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the regular meeting minutes as amended and the non-public meeting minutes as written; second by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously Approved.*

APPEARANCES

- Resident Simon Mayer: Mr. Mayer thanked the Board of Selectmen and everyone involved for the great job with the tree cutting around Sawyer Brook. Mayer also thanked the Board for making progress on the sale of the Wien House.

Mayer discussed his concern with the performance of Cross Country Appraisal Group. Mayer felt the company is not assessing his property accurately; that they are just shifting costs by decreasing the building value and increasing the land value.

Selectman Jones asked if they [Cross Country Appraisal Group] had sent the Neighborhood Analysis report. Administrator Newton stated that they actually owe the Town two reports and have breached their contract. Newton stated that final payment is being withheld.

Chairman Haddock stated he felt their representative, Chris Murdough, was lax in her explanation of the reason for the valuation change.

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Newton stated she has been in contact with Greg Hyne from NH Department of Revenue Administration, who is monitoring their work and he has indicated that other towns are experiencing problems with them [Cross Country Appraisal Group] as well.

Haddock asked when the two reports are due. Newton stated the Neighborhood Analysis should have been received by now; the USPAP report is due by January 2011. The Board of Selectmen asked Newton to give Cross Country Appraisal Group two weeks to produce the Neighborhood Analysis Report.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District: A memo was received from Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District notifying all former Sullivan County Regional Refuse Disposal District Towns that the Notification Agreement between the "NH District" and VT District" has expired.
- Town of Sutton: Two letters were received from the Town of Sutton informing of the following:
 - Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting on November 17, 2010 for a special exception request from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for antennas and an equipment shelter.
 - Planning Board Meeting on November 23, 2010, for a site plan review request from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless.
- Motor Vehicle Refund Request: A letter was received from Deborah Margolis-Cheever requesting the municipal fees in the amount of \$78.00 she paid to register her vehicle be refunded because her car would not pass inspection as it needed approximately \$2000 worth of work.

A memo from Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Eigenbrode stated that she does not support the request as it would set a precedent for all other residents who have vehicles that have not passed inspection.

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to deny the refund request of \$78.00 by Deborah Margolis-Cheever; second by Selectman Kimball. ***Unanimously approved.***

Administrator Newton will send a letter to Margolis-Cheever informing her of the Board's decision.

OLD BUSINESS

- Fall/Winter Newsletter: White informed the newsletter will be mailed the week of November 29, 2010.
- Broadband Internet Access: No update.
- GHS #7 Boiler Repairs: Newton asked Selectman Kimball if Aggressive Heating had done the boiler repairs. Kimball said no. Administrative Assistant White stated that she looked at the boiler and the repairs had not been completed nor has she received a bill.
Selectman Kimball requested Newton contact Aggressive Heating directly.
- Sale of the Wien House: Selectman Kimball informed he still anticipates the closing to be in early December.

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- Recreation Park Engineering: Newton informed the contact has been sent to Town Counsel for review; that the wetlands will be flagged.
- Criminal Background Check for Hawkers and Peddlers: No update.
- Conservation Commission - Shack on the Smith Lot: Newton stated she still needs to send a follow-up letter.

NEW BUSINESS

- Payday change: Newton explained that there is a need to change the payday from Thursday's to Friday's. Chairman Haddock stated the Selectmen were in favor of this as long it doesn't pose a problem for employees.

White suggested an implementation date of the first payroll in January 2011 and stated she would include notices in every paycheck from now until then. The Selectmen approved the request.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Town Clerk/Tax Collector Report:

- 2nd issue Property Tax bills were mailed on November 19, 2010.
- The contract for credit card use has been sent to Town Counsel for review.
- Request to increase the town portion of the dog license fee from \$4.00 to \$5.00.

Chairman Haddock asked what would happen to the license fee for someone who is over 65 years old and the first dog is \$2.00. Selectman Jones stated she would follow-up with Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Eigenbrode regarding this.

A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the town portion of the dog license fee be increased from \$4.00 to \$5.00; second by Selectman Jones.

Unanimously approved.

- Town Administrator:

- Tax bills are out and due December 20, 2010.
- Zoning Ordinance Changes notice was published in the Valley News on Saturday, November 20, 2010.
- Several Property Tax Abatement Application requests have been received. Selectman Kimball asked if Cross Country Appraisal Group would do a site visit for the abatements submitted. Chairman Haddock stated the Town can request they do a site visit. Kimball stated that he would like to be present with Cross Country Appraisal Group when they do site visit for Property Tax Abatement requests. Jones stated that she would like to as well; when Kimball couldn't make it.

The Selectmen felt this was one way to spot check their work.

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NON PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-A & C, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball, second by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:26 p.m. to discuss a personnel and welfare matter. Present were: Chairman Harold Haddock, Selectman Kimball, Selectman Constance Jones, Town Administrator Becky Newton 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 5:46 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Kimball moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Jones; ***by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 5:46pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, December 8, 2010** at 5:00PM in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa M. White

*Melissa M. White
Administrative Assistant*