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Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes August 22, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:02pm on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 by Chairman Warren Kimball. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Ken Story; Selectman Constance Jones; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief Walter Madore; Deputy Fire Chief David Beckley; Richard Anderson; Richard Eastman of Berlin, NH; Gregg Stark; Louise Stark; Don Miner; Karyn Miner; Erin Darrow

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Administrative Assistant, Ann Jasper.

ADMINISTRATIVE

For Approval/Signature – APPROVED

- ✓ Payroll Manifest #370
- ✓ Accounts Payable Manifest #334 & 335
- ✓ Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 221-0009-000; Rawson Ridge – new home
 - b. M/L 220-029-000; 437 Walker Road - deck

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Kimball asked if there were any changes to the regular and non-public meeting minutes of August 8, 2012 and August 13, 2012. A motion was made by Selectman Story to approve the August 8, 2012 and August 13, 2012 regular and non-public meeting minutes as written; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

OLD BUSINESS

- Miller Pond Road Bridge: Erin Darrow of Right Angle Engineering, PLLC gave an overview of the engineering evaluation that is being performed for the Miller Pond Road Bridge.

She stated the Miller Pond Road Bridge is rated at 15 tons and based on information provided by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation it has an operational rating of an HS 18.9 which means that it is capable of withstanding the weight of an 18.9 ton vehicle with a semi-trailer with 80% of that weight. She explained that 18.9 tons includes a large number of vehicles that would be expected to serve the residents on Miller Pond

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Road and she provided detail in her Memorandum to the Town of Grantham as to what types of vehicles it may include.

Darrow noted that the latest bridge report, dated January 10, 2012, is still using a traffic count from 1987 and she is in the process of obtaining more recent data with the help of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. This traffic count will include a heavy traffic percentage and conduct spot studies. This will be at no cost to the town. Darrow expects the first one will be conducted within the next two weeks and over the course of the year.

Darrow reported that the town can examine different means of allowing heavier vehicles over the bridge and the specific loading capacity of the bridge and suggested that if there are going to be trucks greater than 15 tons going over the bridge, the town might need to take a look at the axle weight on a case by case basis. She explained that the town can implement measures including having trucks slow down. She explained that if the speed of the trucks is decreased it can increase the capacity of the load over the bridge. Darrow explained that the faster a truck goes over the bridge, the worse it is for the bridge. Darrow stated that the New Hampshire Department of Transportation is willing to work with the town and look at everything on a case by case basis to make a determination to permit specific vehicles. She stated that if there are vehicles with high loads using the bridge at a high frequency, it will have a different impact than a vehicle with a high load using the bridge infrequently. She added that it might be worth notifying people who live on the road as a reminder but noted that the bridge is clearly posted for 15 tons.

Darrow stated that another factor of consideration is using a temporary bridge which would be placed over the existing bridge. She mentioned that she was provided information for a temporary bridge from ADM Welding and has contacted them but has not had a response yet. She added that the New Hampshire Department of Transportation also offers Bailey Bridges for rent and there is a possibility that there would be no charge for the first year. She explained that a potential problem with the temporary bridge over the existing bridge is there are some constraints with the roadway geometry. She explained that there is a very sharp horizontal turn on the westerly side of the bridge and there are also three driveways in the immediate vicinity of the bridge. She added that another problem would be that there would be one way traffic only and there would need to be some sort of traffic control. She has scheduled a field survey at the bridge for August 23, 2012. She noted that she understands that time is of the essence and that she is trying to get this done as promptly as possible.

Selectman Story asked Darrow if the town were to build a brand new bridge on a road like that what the standard weight capacity would be. Darrow responded the standard is HS 25, which is 25 tons and that should be able to withstand the weight of all the vehicles previously mentioned. She added that the town would have the option to choose a higher weight capacity. Darrow stated that she is researching what the options are for bridge replacement because this bridge is not really operable for current day to day loading capacities and noted that there is also a crack in the bridge.

Selectman Story asked Darrow what the significance is of the bridge being red-listed by the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation. She replied that it means that it has been identified as having some structural deficiencies that need to be addressed.

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She requested some information about the logging trucks, the actual spacing and the anticipated loads and stated that it can be looked at on a case by case basis just like the field trucks. Richard Eastman stated he would provide that information.

Darrow asked if there were any questions and Richard Eastman stated that a representative of ADM Welding told him that if a 38 foot temporary bridge is placed over a 32 foot bridge, for every foot that is extended over the 32 feet, the rating of the bridge goes up by as much as 10 tons. Darrow agreed. Selectman Jones reminded Eastman that there is still a problem with access concerning the geometry of the road and the three driveways in the immediate vicinity of the bridge. Darrow added that consideration also has to be given to the entire road, not just the bridge and explained that is why she is having the surveyors do a very detailed evaluation of the bridge and a detailed survey of the road approaches in both directions to see if the geometry of a temporary bridge would work which would be a one way bridge in which the speed would have to be limited to 10 miles per hour.

- Town Hall Insulation Project: Chairman Kimball stated that he has met with several insulation companies about the project and we have received two quotes so far.
- Recreation Park Development: Chairman Kimball reported that the Recreation Park Development project is moving along on schedule. He also noted that the recent heavy rains have not caused any problems with run-off or silt.

The Grantham Recreation Park Development Committee met on August 21, 2012 and made two recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The first recommendation is to replace the sand that has previously been used with the purchase of a field mix from Fausto Products in Henniker for the baseball field infield. Fausto Products has a clay mixture that has reduced dusting and clumping. The sand alone can cause a problem when someone goes to slide which can result in injuries. The cost is \$29.50 a ton with an estimated cost of \$5,000.00 for covering the full infield. Rick Anderson explained that Hastings Construction has \$3,000.00 set aside for the sand and if the field mix is approved, there will be an increase of \$2,000.00.

The second recommendation is for removal of brush and small trees from the edge of the field on the Playground side of field. A quote was obtained from Hastings Construction in the amount of \$2,500.00.

Rick Anderson added that in addition to the above two recommendations he obtained a quote from Springfield Fence for fencing for the Back Stop in the amount of \$5,650.00.

An invoice dated August 19, 2012 was received from Hastings Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$54,208.00.

A motion to approve the expenditures of \$2,000.00 for field mix from Fausto Products for the baseball field infield; \$2,500.00 for the removal of brush and small trees from the edge of the field on the Playground side of field by Hastings Construction, Inc.; and \$5,650.00 for fencing for the Back Stop by Springfield Fence and to withdraw \$10,150.00 from the Athletic Field Capital Reserve Fund was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

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Rick Anderson had questions about the check list that the Grantham Recreation Committee has to sign. Selectman Jones explained that one of the permits requires that there be a regular check list that is checked every week. Jones will provide Anderson with a copy of the permit.

A motion to approve the invoice from Hastings Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$54,208.00 and withdraw said amount from the Athletic Field Capital Reserve Fund was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- Louise Stark stated that she came to the meeting for an update on road improvements for Miller Pond Road and was not aware of the issue with the Miller Pond Road Bridge, so a lot of her questions have already been answered. Chairman Kimball explained that Road Agent Newcomb was planning to start work on Miller Pond Road when the bridge issue arose and his work was delayed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration: The Education Tax Warrant for Tax Year 2013 was received from the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration with a chart for sums due from each municipality.
- Sullivan County Nutrition Services: An invitation was received from Sullivan County Nutrition Services/Newport Senior Center, Inc. to attend a "Tailgate Party" being held from 11:30 AM to 8:00 PM on September 15, 2012 to celebrate the 40th Birthday of the Older American's Act of 1972.
- State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation: Notice was received that the New Hampshire Department of Transportation has determined that four state maintained street lights in Grantham will be discontinued to save the state money. According to the map, they are located at the on and off ramps for I-89.
- State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services: A copy of a letter to John and Karen Eylander from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services was received notifying them that they are in receipt of their "Notification of Forest Management or Timber Harvest Activities Having Minimum Wetlands Impact" form and they can start work provided they follow the conditions listed in the letter.
- Sullivan County State Delegation: Notice was received from The Sullivan County State Delegation of a public hearing on September 6, 2012 at 6:00 PM to consider a supplemental appropriation of \$477,009.00 which would be used to establish a Sullivan County Capital Reserve Fund.
- Coalition Communities: An email was received from the Coalition Communities with suggested questions to ask candidates for Governor and the Legislature on education funding.

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- Town of Hanover Planning Board: Notice was received from the Town of Hanover Planning Board of a public hearing on September 4, 2012 at 7:30 PM in Hanover regarding replacement of a cell phone tower with additional equipment.
- Town of Hanover Zoning Board: Notice was received from the Town of Hanover Zoning Board of a public hearing on August 30, 2012 at 7:00 PM regarding replacement of a cell phone tower with additional equipment.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Highway Department: Miller Pond Road Improvement Options; Road Agent Newcomb is recommending placing fabric and crushed gravel on the 900' of road immediately following the first 900' of road that has been completed. This would connect with the 600' of road that has also been completed and create a 2400' long beginning stretch of Miller Pond Road with both road fabric and gravel. In June, the last 2500' of Miller Pond Road was graveled.
- Trustees of the Trust Funds/Capital Reserve Activity Report: Report as of 08/08/2012

NON PUBLIC – SESSION I

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-a and section II-b, a motion was made by Selectman Jones, seconded by Selectman Story to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:25 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball, Selectman Constance Jones, Selectman Ken Story and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:27 pm.

NON PUBLIC – SESSION II

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-b, a motion was made by Selectman Jones, seconded by Selectman Story to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:28 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball, Selectman Constance Jones, Selectman Ken Story and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:29 pm.

NON PUBLIC – SESSION III

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-a, a motion was made by Selectman Jones, seconded by Selectman Story to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball, Selectman Constance Jones and Selectman Ken Story.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:35 pm.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Story moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; **by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:36pm.**

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 12, 2012** at 5pm in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant