

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes March 13, 2013

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 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; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Athletics Director Marsha Googins and Margit McGowan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

APPROVED:

- ✓ Payroll Manifest #387 & #388
- ✓ Accounts Payable Manifest #359
- ✓ Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 226-033-000; 52 Rum Brook Lane - Construction of New Home
 - b. M/L 215-182-000; 12 Bright Slope Way - Deck
 - c. M/L 236-064-000; 2573 Stoney Brook Road - Decks
 - d. M/L 213-083-000; 7 Shore Road – Deck
 - e. M/L 215-055-000; 436 Road Round the Lake – Enclose Screen Porch
- ✓ Property Tax Abatements:
 - a. M/L 215-018-000; 5 Anderson Pond Road
- ✓ Property Tax Refunds (due to overpayment):
 - a. M/L 215-061-030; 30 Bay Tree Lane
 - b. M/L 222-269-009; 30 Barn Owl Overlook
- ✓ Lien Payment
- ✓ Cartographic Agreement

DENIED:

- ✓ Application for Veteran's Tax Credit:
 - a. M/L 225-223-000; 6 Pinehurst Drive

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Kimball asked if there were any changes to the regular meeting minutes of February 27th, 2013. A motion was made by Selectman Story to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 27, 2013 as written; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

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Chairman Kimball asked if there were any changes to the non-public meeting minutes of February 27, 2013. A motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the non-public meeting minutes of February 27, 2013 as written; seconded by Selectman Story. **Unanimously approved.**

APPEARANCES:

- Marsha Googins: Marsha Googins appeared on behalf of the Grantham Recreation Park Committee to express the committees' concerns on a couple of matters. The first being the excessive amount of goose droppings at the Recreation Park and the toxins associated with it. Googins reported that it has been an ongoing problem and the Committee will first check with the State to see if they have any recommendations. Googins asked what alternatives there might be if the State is unable to help. There was discussion about possible alternatives and the Board of Selectmen recommended exploring what help the State can offer as previously mentioned.

Googins stated that it has been brought to her attention that drinking during the adult summer softball league has been a problem in the past and that it's not just a few beers but tapping a keg. Googins explained that the adult softball league is held every Sunday during the summer. There was discussion about the use of alcohol on town property and that there is currently no ordinance in place. It was suggested as a possibility to require a contract that states no alcohol use for Recreation Park use by residents as the contract for Town Building use states. The Board of Selectmen will ask Town Administrator Melissa White to contact Town Counsel to discuss liability issues about alcohol use on town property and if the town should put an ordinance in place. The Board of Selectmen will also ask White to contact the Town's insurance carrier also.

Googins informed the Board of Selectmen that the Recreation Park Committee would like to form a Fund Raising Committee to raise money to complete the remaining items left for Recreation Park Development. The Board of Selectmen agree that is an excellent idea.

- Margit McGowan: Margit McGowan appeared before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the assessment of her property. McGowan stated that she wishes her assessment to be higher than it is because she is trying to sell her house. McGowan explained that she purchased her house for \$314,000 in 2008 and invested about \$67,000 on improvements over the last five years. She stated that she reached out to Town Assessor, Mike Ryan, who inspected the property at the end of December 2012/beginning of January 2013 and he revised the assessment to \$301,700 (from \$286,900). McGowan informed the Board of Selectmen that she does not believe the reassessment reflects the value of her house and wants to know if anything can be done to help her. Selectmen Jones asked McGowan what she wants to get for her house. McGowan answered that is a tough question but she would be happy if the house was assessed at \$330,000 and she would eat the other \$35,000. Selectman Jones also explained that town assessors have to use a State Manual with certain criteria to go by when doing town assessments and, therefore, town assessments differ from bank assessments and market value assessments. McGowan said she understood that. There was much discussion and the Board of Selectmen explained that they do not have the authority to change an assessment but that because her reassessment was done very recently she could hire her own independent assessor to assess her property and if there is a big discrepancy in

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the two assessments, then it could be discussed at a future Selectmen's meeting with both assessors present. Selectman Jones asked McGowan if she should not sell the property and stay there, does she really want the higher assessment because her real estate taxes will increase. McGowan said she did give that a lot of thought. McGowan thanked the Board of Selectmen.

CORRESPONDENCE

- New Hampshire Department of Transportation: A notice was received from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation showing an updated amount of State Highway Block Grant Aid available to Grantham in Fiscal Year 2013 in the amount \$56,189.66.

OLD BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge #107/113: A telephone conference call was held on March 6, 2013 with Town Administrator White, Bridge Engineer Erin Darrow and the Grantham Highway Department. Darrow will be receiving bids from Michie Corp and PSI (Precast Structures Inc.) for the pre-cast bridge. Darrow stated the wetlands permit will be submitted the week of March 11, 2013 but as of today, there is no update on the status of the wetlands permit.

NEW BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge #107/113 Grant Agreement: A Public Hearing on the Olde Farms Road Bridge #107/113 Grant Agreement was held on January 23, 2013. The Board of Selectmen recognized that the 75% FEMA cost share will be \$261,375.00 and the Town of Grantham will be responsible for 25% in the amount of \$87,125.00 in matching funds or in-kind services. The Town's Highway Department will perform as much in-kind services as possible toward the town's 25% match for the Grant. A motion to approve and accept the Hazard Mitigation Grant and to commit the Town of Grantham to \$87,125.00 in matching funds or in-kind services was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Story.
Unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Police Department – February Report:
 - Chief Madore attended an Eastman Board of Directors' Meeting where the topic of discussion was on removing the private designation on the major roads in Eastman to allow for traffic enforcement by the Grantham Police Department.
- Fire Department – February Report:
 - Responded to 13 calls consisting of 7 EMS and 6 Fire/Rescue.

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- February training was working with hose lines and fire attack, SCBA review.
 - In February, Chief Fountain attended the Mid-Western Hazardous Materials meeting.
 - Jack Tibbits, a member of the Fire Department, graduated the state Fire Fighter Level 1 training program which is 212 hours of training time.
- Trustees of Trust Funds Report as of March 7, 2013: Report as of March 7, 2013 was reviewed. The Board of Selectmen would like Town Administrator White to thank the Trustees for providing their report as a great readout.
- Town Administrator:
- White received an email from Missy Walla regarding a small shade garden that was planted in July 2011 next to the playground at the Recreation Park by the Girl Scouts. The Girl Scouts would like to replace a few small trees that did not survive the dry summer of 2012 at their own expense. Permission was granted for the Girl Scouts to replace the few small trees.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Story moved to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Kimball; **by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 5:44 pm.**

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 27, 2013** 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