

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes April 10, 2013

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, April 10, 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; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief Walter Madore; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Conservation Commission Chair Richard Hocker; Athletics Director Marsha Googins; Merle Schotanus; William Weber; Robert Fairweather and Brian Harding

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

ADMINISTRATIVE

APPROVED:

- ✓ Payroll Manifest #390
- ✓ Accounts Payable Manifest #365
- ✓ Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 226-010-000; 475 New Aldrich Road - Deck
 - b. M/L 225-008-000; 7 Allen's Drive – Generator
 - c. M/L 212-004-000; 351 Miller Pond Road – Add Wall & Bath in Basement
- ✓ Application for Veteran's Tax Credit:

APPROVED:

- a. M/L 225-223-000; 6 Pinehurst Drive

DENIED:

- b. M/L 222-285-000; 464 Burpee Hill Road

- ✓ Property Tax Abatements 2012:

APPROVED:

- a. M/L 225-199-000; 81 Greensward Drive
- b. M/L 234-007-000; 87 Longwood Drive
- c. M/L 225-031-000; 6 Allens Drive

DENIED:

- d. M/L 233-088-022; 37 Howe Hill Road
- e. M/L 233-026-000; 120 Route 10 South
- f. M/L 999-003-000; Distribution & Right-of-Way

- ✓ Gravel Tax Levy:

- a. M/L 226-018-000; 163 Yankee Barn Road - \$41.36

- ✓ Yield Tax Levy: M/L 226-018-000;

- a. 163 Yankee Barn Road - \$429.50

- ✓ Yield Tax Levy:

- a. M/L 222-001-002; 403 Burpee Hill Road - \$242.05

- ✓ Tax Lien Cost Refund (due to overpayment):

- a. M/L 242-008-000; 80 Doc's Drive - \$18.00

APPROVED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Approved by majority vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Raymond S. Burton: A memo was received from Executive Councilor Raymond Burton with an update on the Executive Council's work to be done regarding the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) 10 year Plan on air, rail, highway and public transportation.
- State of New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services and Communication: A letter was received from the State of New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services and Communications notifying towns of the Emergency Notification System (ENS) which is a reversal of the 9-1-1 concept that will be available in the near future. White informed a contact person(s) will have to be assigned. The ENS is a free service.
- New Hampshire Local Government Center HealthTrust: Notice was received from New Hampshire Local Government Center HealthTrust of return of surplus for dental insurance and that the town will be receiving a refund of \$1,781.97 in August 2013.
- New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank: We received notice from the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank outlining changes they are making to preserve and enhance their credit ratings in order to continue providing funds to communities in the future.
- Louise Stark: An email was received from Louise Stark regarding the condition of Miller Pond Road. White noted that the Highway Department addressed her concern prior to the receipt of the email.
- Town of Sutton: A letter was received from the Town of Sutton informing of a Zoning Board Public Hearing scheduled on April 17, 2013 at 7:00pm at the Pillsbury Memorial Town Hall regarding an appeal for a variance for a cell tower.

OLD BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge #107/113: A Pre-Bid Meeting was held April 9, 2013. White reported that many people attended the meeting and the deadline to receive proposals is April 24, 2013 at 4:00pm. White added that the proposals will be opened at the Selectmen's meeting that evening at 5:00pm and the top three candidates will be interviewed during the following two weeks so that a decision can be made at the Selectmen's meeting on May 8, 2013.

APPROVED

- Alcohol Use at the Recreation Park: There was a concern of alcohol use at the Recreation Park discussed at the Selectmen's Meeting of March 13, 2013. White reported that Town Counsel has advised not to allow the use of alcohol on town property. White stated that the Board of Selectmen could enact an ordinance to prohibit the use of alcohol on town property. Chairman Kimball suggested discussing this matter at a future meeting when Selectman Jones is in attendance.

Marsha Googins reported that a lot of residents have expressed interest in using the Recreation Park in addition to the adult summer softball league and she feels that a facility use form should be required with guidelines and rules set forth. White added that she and Googins had also discussed requiring a security deposit and possibly charging a fee for Recreation Park use. Googins stated that she would like to charge a fee for Park use because the field is maintained out of her operating budget and the costs will increase with more Recreation Park use by residents such as use of the Porta-potties that are at the Park.

- Geese Control: Marsha Googins reported that she contacted the United States Department of Agriculture out of Concord about the Geese problem at the Recreation Park. Googins was informed that there are two options, one being a roundup program for a fee and the other is using pyrotechnics. The first option requires a permit which is a three month process. Googins explained that the roundup program involves extermination of the geese and the meat is given to a state program. The pyrotechnics are used to create loud noise. There was discussion and the general consensus was not to exterminate the geese if that can be avoided. Googins said she will investigate the pyrotechnics option further and will return with more information. Chairman Kimball and Selectman Story noted that they would like Selectman Jones to offer her input.
- Sewer Petition: White reported that she sent a letter to Brian Harding requesting a list of Eastman Sewer Company customers and a map showing the location of the Eastman Sewer Company service lines. White received the requested information earlier in the day. White added that letters were received from Eastman Community Association's attorney, Albert J. Cirone, Jr., and Bill Weber, Village District of Eastman, requesting that the Town not move forward with the Sewer Petition. White forwarded the letters to Town Counsel and is awaiting a response.
- Conservation Commission Proposal to Establish a Grantham Open Space Protection Plan: Chairman Kimball stated the proposal is certainly of interest. He noted that on Appendix A, page 2, paragraph 2 of the proposal it is carefully stated that the gathering of information is a relatively slow process. Conservation Commission Chair Dick Hocker explained that it takes basically eight to ten months for the first part of the process. Hocker stated that the first step would be for the Selectmen to establish or authorize the open space committee (OSC) and then the Conservation Commission, with the help of the Planning Board, would provide some names for the at-large members for the Selectmen to review and appoint to the OSC. He said the Conservation Commission would have a member present and hopefully the Planning board would provide a member for this operation. Hocker reported that there are 700 acres currently for sale in the town of Grantham, some of which are already developed. Hocker said he has reviewed some of the parcels and explained that one of the reasons for establishing this committee is that it would report directly to the Board of Selectmen and so it would have a higher degree of authority in the eyes of the

APPROVED

people of the town. Hocker continued the second reason is for focus and he stated that the Conservation Commission has tried to establish funding for its conservation activities with very little success and because of the focus of this committee and the level of responsibility, it takes the focus away from all the things that have been negative relative to the Conservation Commission and places it on the town and its future. Hocker added that regarding the census, he believes the town has been granted a reprieve in the last six to eight years that will not last much longer for a variety of reasons. He explained that the history over time has been immigration that has fed the development of the town. He specified that in looking at the demographics over the last three years, in 2010 Grantham's population was slightly less than about 2971 and has not increased much in the last two years. Hocker remarked that he doesn't believe the town will be as fortunate going forward in the next ten to fifteen years. He pointed out that Hanover is too expensive for most young families and Lebanon is going forward with a number of significant developments which has absorbed some of the movement that Grantham would have seen. He said he does not believe Lebanon has much more capability to expand. Selectman Story applauded the idea of the inventory and believes getting that in place will give the town a baseline to develop a plan that can be incorporated into the Master Plan which will provide some guidelines for the areas that are most desirable to preserve. Hocker noted that Merle Schotanus is the author of the proposal. Chairman Kimball stated that Selectman Jones had some questions she wanted to address and asked if he and Schotanus would be available to attend the next Selectmen's meeting on April 24th when Selectman Jones will be present. Hocker stated they would.

NEW BUSINESS

- Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan: M/L 213-133-000; 19 Loon Drive: A motion to approve the Shoreline Protection cutting Plan at 19 Loon Drive as recommended by the Grantham Conservation Commission was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**
- Library Trustee Appointment: A motion to appoint Sara Lang as Library Trustee was made by Chairman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Story. **Approved by majority vote.**
- Grantham Conservation Commission Appointment: A motion to appoint Susan Buchanan to the Grantham Conservation Commission was made by Selectmen Story; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Athletic Director:
 - Googins informed that the Grantham/New London Adult Softball League has a new Recreation Director, Scott Blewitt. Googins explained that previously, the Town of New London Recreation Department would accept their fees and use that to pay their bills but the Town of New London and the League have severed their affiliation and now the League is looking for a place to funnel its money and would like to approach the town of Grantham to take in their fees and pay their bills. White, Chairman Kimball and Selectman Story all expressed serious concerns and said the town of Grantham will not do that.

APPROVED

➤ Police Department – March Report:

- The Police Department Report for March was reviewed.
- Police Chief Madore reported that Dakota Titorenko-Geary and Ryan Gamble were offered and signed contracts in March to fill the two vacant officer's positions and started work on April 1. A swearing in ceremony was held on April 1. White commented that the swearing in ceremony was very nice and well attended by family and friends.
- Chief Madore has ordered the replacement SUV.

➤ Fire Department – March Report:

- Responded to 26 calls consisting of 18 EMS and 8 Fire/Rescue.
- Firefighter Jack Tibbits graduated Firefighter Level I on March 15th at the New Hampshire Fire Academy.
- In March, Fire Chief Fountain attended the Kearsarge Mutual Aid meeting and hosted the Mid-Western Hazardous Materials meeting.
- March Training was working with hose lines and fire attack and fire behavior.
- In April the Grantham Fire Department will be hosting a vehicle extrication class.

➤ Trustees of the Trust Funds – As of March 31, 2013: Report as of March 31, 2013 was reviewed.

➤ Town Administrator:

- White met with Sergeant John Parsons regarding his vacation time. White reported that due to staffing issues at the Police Department, Sergeant Parsons is not able to use all of his vacation time by the end of the fiscal year and has requested to carry over the remaining 13 days. A motion to grant Sergeant Parsons request to carry over 13 days of vacation time was made by Selectmen Story; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**
- White received an email from Bob Lewis, Trustee of the Trust Funds, informing her that there are Certificates of Deposit for three Cemetery Funds maturing on April 30, 2013. White reported that Lewis recommends renewing the three CD's if there are no immediate plans to use the money. Chairman Kimball and Selectman Story told White to instruct Lewis to renew the CD's.
- Notice was received from the State of New Hampshire Department of Safety that the Town of Grantham is being awarded a XTS 3000 radio to be used by the Emergency Management Director. White noted the value of the radio is \$3,030.00. A motion to accept the award of an XTS 3000 Radio to be used by the Emergency

APPROVED

Management Director was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**

- Notice was received from New Hampshire Interlocal Trust that our final health insurance rate for Fiscal Year 2014 will be received on April 30, 2013.
- Meeting Schedule:
 - The Zoning Board meeting for April has been cancelled;
 - The Conservation Commission meets Monday, April 15, 2013 at 7:00pm;
 - The Planning Board meeting is Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 7:00pm;
 - The Trustees of the Trust Funds meet Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 1:00.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Story moved to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Kimball; **by majority vote, the Board adjourned at 5:50 pm.**

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 24, 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