

APPROVED

Town of Grantham – Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes March 26, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 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; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Conservation Committee members Richard Hocker and David Wood; Assessor Michael Ryan; and C. Peter James

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

ADMINISTRATIVE – APPROVED

- ✓ Notice of Intent to Excavate:
 - ✓ M/L 226-018-000; 163 Yankee Barn Road
- ✓ Gravel Tax Levy:
 - ✓ M/L 226-018-000; 163 Yankee Barn Road - \$88.20
- ✓ Government Contract/Kansas State Bank of Manhattan
 - ✓ Plow Truck Lease effective July 15, 2014 in the amount of \$148,000.00 as per Town Meeting approval March 11, 2014
- ✓ Property Tax Abatements:
 - ✓ M/L 225-021-000; 32 Allens Drive - \$601.39
 - ✓ M/L 233-083-000; 36 Maggies Lane - \$706.00
 - ✓ M/L 225-223-000; 6 Pinehurst Drive - \$1,116.60

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of March 19, 2014 as written was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by Majority Vote.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Kimball opened the public hearing on the proposed amendment to pole licensing procedures regarding taxing of Right-of-Way land encumbered by utility poles pursuant to RSA 72:23 I(b) at 5:02pm.

Town Administrator White informed that letters were sent to PSNH, Comcast and Fairpoint. There were no representatives currently present from any of the aforesaid companies. White explained that this is to amend the pole license so that the Town can begin to assess the taxable value of land in our right-of ways occupied by the utility poles. Selectman Story asked White if the town had not previously assessed them. Assessor Michael Ryan explained that the town has assessed them over the last few years for the use of the right-of-way. He said PSNH has always had an assessment, Fairpoint is relatively new to this and clarified that there are two parts; one is for the poles individually and the other is for the use of the right-of-way. Ryan said

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that it was suggested by the attorneys to be sure to have the new language in the licenses. For the record, White read the paragraph with the proposed language.

"In accordance with RSA 72:23, I(b) this license is granted to the licensee subject to the conditions that the licensee shall pay all properly assessed real and personal property taxes, and failure of the licensee to pay duly assessed personal and real property taxes when due shall be cause to terminate this license. In accordance with the requirement of RSA 72:23, I(b), the licensee shall be obligated to pay real and personal property taxes on structures or improvements added pursuant to this license."

C. Peter James asked what part of the right-of-way is taxed and what the basis is for valuing the land the poles are on. Assessor Michael Ryan answered that there are two distinct segments; 1) The poles and any conduits they have in town; and 2) not just the area under the poles but also the space between the poles. James asked how wide the land is that is taxed. Ryan replied the general rule is 15 feet. James then asked if the land is valued by a formula that the Department of Revenue Administration puts out such as the current use formula. Ryan said no, it's based on an understanding of the value of land within Grantham so Grantham sets the value based on other assessments in Grantham.

A motion to approve the proposed amendment to pole licensing procedures regarding taxing of Right-of-Way land encumbered by utility poles pursuant to RSA 72:23 I(b) was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Silas Nowlan: A letter was received from Silas Nowlan, a student at Grantham Village School that expressed his views about hunting being bad for our wilderness and encouraged us to go to the woods close to us, have fun and look at beautiful, awesome and cool animals and to have fun in the cold or hot fresh air.
- Moses Mellish: A letter was received from Moses Mellish, a student at Grantham Village School that spoke about the importance of not littering and taking care of our environment.
- State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration: Notice was received from the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration that the town's median ratio for tax year 2013 is 109.3%.
- Jessie W. Levine, Sullivan County Manager: Notice was received from Jessie W. Levine, Sullivan County Manager, that Sullivan County will hold a number of events in April to celebrate National County Government Month. The public is invited to participate in a list of events that are available on the County's website, www.sullivancountynh.gov.

OLD BUSINESS

- Al Smith Road and Hastings Hill Road Name Change and Renumbering: Chairman Kimball and Selectman Story stated they would like Selectman Jones to be included in this decision. The decision is postponed until the full Board of Selectmen meet again on April 23, 2014.

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- Olde Farms Road Bridge: No update to report.

NEW BUSINESS

- Hog Reeves Appointment: A motion to appoint Jessica Hastings and Dexter Kancer as Hog Reeves of Grantham was made by Chairman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Story. **Approved by Majority Vote.**
- Fence Viewer Appointment: A motion to appoint William E. Hutchins and Megan (Wilkie) Hutchins as Fence Viewer was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Chairman Kimball.
- Conservation Commission Appointments: A motion to appoint Sheridan Brown and Susan Buchanan as members of the Conservation Commission was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by Majority Vote.**
- Zoning Board of Adjustment Appointments: A motion to appoint Margery Bostrom, Myron Cummings and Richard Mansfield as members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by Majority Vote.**

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Fire Department – February Report:
 - Responded to 5 calls consisting of 2 EMS and 3 Fire/Rescue.
 - February training was working with the decontamination trailer and SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) review.
 - Fire Chief Jay Fountain and Firefighters Gill and Tibbits attended the Mid-Western Hazardous Materials meeting where Chief Christopoulos put on training for the virtual natural gas pipe line that towns along I-89 will be seeing. Chief Fountain explained that it is not an actual pipeline but shipping through tractor trailers.
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector Report dated 3/21/2014:
 - A copy of the 2014 Town Meeting Minutes have been provided to the Board of Selectmen and a copy is on file in the Town Clerk records. A copy was sent to the Department of Revenue Administration on 3/19/2014.
 - The 2014 Tax Lien for unpaid 2013 property tax will happen on 4/04/2014 at 12:00pm.
 - In April, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cindy Towle will attend the NHTCA Spring Workshop in Concord and both Towle and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Friedman will attend training at the Department of Safety in Concord. In June there is a Dartmouth/Lake Sunapee Region Spring Workshop. The office will be closed during attendance at these workshops.

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- There will be no evening hours in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office during several upcoming vacations. Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Friedman has posted the notice of closings in the Kearsarge Shopper, TV, Post Office and the town's online calendar at www.granthamnh.net
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Municipal Records Retention Committee: Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Friedman established a Municipal Records Retention Committee consisting of five members. Friedman is in the process of scheduling the first meeting.
- Town Administrator
 - PSNH is doing some trimming around the poles on Route 114 in an effort to reduce power outages and are looking for permission to trim on a town owned lot; M/L 236-004-000. Road Agent Jeff Hastings went out to view the property and did not have a problem with it. Chairman Kimball and Selectman Story approved the tree trimming.
 - Upcoming Meetings:
 - The Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting scheduled on March 27, 2014 has been cancelled.
 - The Open Space Committee meets Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 8:30am.
 - The Planning Board meets Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 7:00pm.
 - The Trustees of the Trust Funds meet Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 1:00pm.

OTHER

Fire Chief Fountain presented a request to the Board of Selectmen to purchase a full size 4WD truck. He explained that he had a conversation with a homeowner who had concerns because he lives on a private road accessed by a private bridge that is not rated to hold large emergency apparatus such as the two fire engines and the tanker. After that conversation, Chief Fountain started to research different ways the fire department could improve response to all residents on private roads, bridges and driveways that are inaccessible by the current apparatus. After much research and discussion with fellow fire department officers about different options, they settled on the idea of outfitting a full size pickup truck that could be used for more than just a specific type of emergency response. Chief Fountain submitted a request to purchase a full size 4WD pickup truck to be outfitted with a radio, emergency lighting and graphics.

NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-e, a motion was made by Selectman Story, seconded by Chairman Kimball to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:32pm to discuss a legal matter. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Ken Story; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Conservation Commission members Richard Hocker and David Wood.

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Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 5:47 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Story moved to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Kimball; **by majority vote, the Board adjourned at 5:48 pm.**

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 9, 2014** 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