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## Town of Grantham – Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes April 9, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, April 9, 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 Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr., Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Deputy Fire Chief David Beckley; Road Agent Jeff Hastings; F. Robert Osgood; C. Peter James; Robert MacNeil; Patty MacNeil; David P. Cahill; Rod Chandler and Paul Osgood

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

### **ADMINISTRATIVE – APPROVED**

- ✓ Payroll Manifest #418
- ✓ Accounts Payable Manifest #403
- ✓ 2013 Tax Lien Payment - \$100,564.68
- ✓ 2015 Full Property Revaluation Contract with Vision Government Solutions, Inc.
- ✓ Transfer to the Reclamation Fund:
  - General Fund: \$13,838.25
- ✓ Property Tax Abatements:
  - Approved:**
    - M/L 233-110-000; Dunbar Hill Road - \$440.32
    - M/L 222-239-000; 26 Deer Yard - \$520.14
    - M/L 222-053-000; 6 Birch Brae - \$495.74
    - M/L 215-054-000; 434 Road Round the Lake - \$1,729.18
    - M/L 222-108-000; 27 Slalom Drive - \$934.97
    - M/L 225-016-000; 23 Allens Drive - \$814.16
- ✓ Application for Elderly Exemption:
  - Denied:**
    - M/L 225-282-000; 61 Fairway Drive
- ✓ Application for Veteran's Tax Credit and Elderly Exemption:
  - Approved:**
    - M/L 216-201-000; 8 Butternut Road
- ✓ Application for Veteran's Tax Credit:
  - Approved:**
    - M/L 237-024-001; 730 Route 10 South
    - M/L 212-001-000; 303 Miller Pond Road
- ✓ Application for Current Use:
  - Approved:**
    - M/L 207-002-000; 1765 Route 10 North
- ✓ Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber:
  - M/L 226-018-000; Yankee Barn Road

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- ✓ Building Permits:
  - M/L 222-036-000; 8 Azure Brae – Porch, Deck & Remodel
  - M/L 225-247-000; 26 Fairway Drive – Replace Furnace & Finish Basement
  - M/L 226-021-000; 249 Route 10 North – Expansion & Remodel
  - M/L 214-071-000; 24 Wildwood Drive – New Construction
  - M/L 233-026-000; 120 Route 10 South - Remodel

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the regular and non-public meeting minutes of March 26, 2014 was deferred until the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## APPEARANCES

- David Cahill, Candidate for Sheriff of Sullivan County: David Cahill, candidate for Sheriff of Sullivan County, introduced himself to the Board of Selectmen. Cahill, who is currently the Chief of Police in Sunapee, passed out pamphlets, gave a brief history and asked if there were any questions.
- Robert MacNeil: Robert MacNeil, representing Yankee Barn Road Realty Trust, informed the Board of Selectmen that he has been in discussions with Jacqueline Guillette, Superintendent of SAU #75; Heather Cantagallo, Principal of Grantham Village School; Mike Whelton, Director of the Children's Center of the Upper Valley, who runs the after school program, and Marsha Googins, Athletics Director, regarding utilizing Grantham Indoor to help free up the gym at GVS. MacNeil stated he was then informed that the school buses will not go on a private road, which would mean this would not be possible unless the private portion of Yankee Barn Road is taken over by the town. MacNeil said he had two warrant articles, one each at town meetings in 2001 and 2004, about the town taking over Yankee Barn Road if it was improved to meet town specifications. MacNeil reported the road was partially completed and although he doesn't remember the specific details of what was approved, he had the understanding that if he fully completed the road to town specifications and the engineer did everything that was necessary, that the town was mandated to accept the road. Administrator White stated the 2004 Town Meeting minutes gave approval for 1,200 feet of the road.

MacNeil said if he has to bring the issue back to town meeting that would take too much time.

There was much discussion and town meeting minutes of 2002 and 2004 were briefly reviewed. Selectman Jones reiterated that the 2004 Town Meeting vote on accepting Yankee Barn Road as a Class V road was for only 1200 feet of the road. MacNeil asked what his options are because of the time constraints. Chairman Kimball responded that they will have to review all necessary documents and look into it.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

- Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.: Notice was received from Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr. informing of the resignation of Officer Dakota Titorenko effective April 13, 2014.
- Robert A. Schwartz: A letter was received from Robert A. Schwartz asking the Board of Selectmen if the town of Grantham will be agreeable to Willis Avenue becoming a town road and if so, what is required. Chairman Kimball stated that Schwartz would have to pay for the engineering to find out what is required to bring the road up to town specifications such as a turnaround for the highway department, right of way and road width, etc.; he could then submit a signed petition for inclusion as a warrant article at a future town meeting.

Selectman Jones suggested Schwartz contact the people whose driveways are off the road to see if they would be willing to pitch in for the cost of maintenance. Paul Osgood said he believes Schwartz has already spoken to them without any success. Osgood added that Schwartz' deed to the building the post office is occupying includes a right of way over the land that is the road known as Willis Avenue and that right of way states that the owner of the property the post office is occupying is responsible for maintaining the right of way (Willis Avenue). Osgood continued that Schwartz does not own the land the road is on, he just has the right of way and that Carlisse Clough actually owns the land that the right of way is on.

- Sharron A. King, Sullivan County Register of Deeds: A letter was received from Sharron A. King, Sullivan County Register of Deeds, announcing her retirement at the end of this term.
- Chaunee L. Baker, Sullivan County Deputy Register of Deeds: A letter was received from Chaunee L. Baker, Sullivan County Deputy Register of Deeds, announcing her candidacy for Sullivan County Register of Deeds.
- The Sullivan County Board of Commissioners: An invitation was received from The Sullivan County Board of Commissioners to the Ribbon Cutting and Dedication of the Biomass Plant to be held on Monday, April 21, 2014 at 4:30 PM in Unity, New Hampshire.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Al Smith Road and Hastings Hill Road Name Change and Renumbering: The Board will make a decision at the next Board of Selectmen meeting when Selectman Ken Story will be present.
- Olde Farms Road Bridge: No new information.
- New Pickup for Fire Department: At the Board of Selectmen meeting on March 26, 2014, Fire Chief Jay Fountain presented a request to the Board to purchase a full size 4 wheel drive diesel pickup truck for the purpose of improving response to all residents on private roads, bridges and driveways that are inaccessible by the current apparatus. Selectman Jones asked Fountain to explain his reasons for this request so everyone present would

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understand. Fountain explained that he met with a concerned homeowner about a year ago who lived across a private bridge on a private road. The homeowner was trying to sell his house and the buyer's insurance company wanted to know the fire department's plans for emergency response to the house. Fountain explained that the fire apparatus is too large to cross private bridges due to their size and that particular bridge is one of the bridges in town not certified to hold large apparatus. Fountain continued that after responding to a call over that particular bridge the fire engine almost fell through the bridge on the way back. This prompted discussion among the fire department officers as to what other options are available to better their response to emergencies on all those private roads, private bridges and some driveways that are inaccessible. After discussing different options, they decided the best one was to purchase a full size 4 wheel drive diesel pickup with crew cab that could hold four firefighters with gear. They could put the equipment in the back, attach a section of hose to the pumpers and get to the places that are inaccessible with the large apparatus.

Bob Osgood asked the price. Fountain said the full size crew-cab is big enough to hold four firefighters with gear, a six and one half foot bed, diesel, 4 wheel drive, with hard cover so that if they take it to meetings and trainings all the equipment will be locked up and spray in bed liner to prevent scratches is \$36,060.00. Bob Osgood asked where the money is going to come from. Fountain replied that the monies to pay for the lighting, radio and graphics would come out of the operating budget and the money for the truck would come out of the capital reserve fund. Bob Osgood asked if the money in the capital reserve fund is to be used at the discretion of the Fire Department. Town Administrator White explained that the Board of Selectmen are agents to expend from the Capital Reserve Fund. Bob Osgood expressed concern about this expenditure not going to town meeting for approval. C. Peter James stated he is not against this but he is also concerned that the town is buying major pieces of equipment without going to town meeting for approval and the voters don't have any input. He cited the grader and the police cruiser.

Selectman Jones said she agrees in principle but explained that the voters at town meeting voted to make the Selectmen agents to expend from capital reserves that are for a very specific purpose such as vehicles and equipment; that the Selectmen are not spending the money irresponsibly. She added as an example, if the grader went kaput and we had to wait until town meeting before replacing it, there would be a lot of upset residents who live on roads that need grading. Road Agent Jeff Hastings explained that when the grader was no longer useable and needed to be replaced, they were not going to buy a new grader which costs about \$250,000; that they were looking for a used one. When a used one was found at a very reasonable price, the Selectmen had the power to say yes because they were not going to find another deal like that and waiting for town meeting would not have been practical. Bob Osgood commented that the Fire Department is purchasing a new vehicle, not replacing one. Fountain replied no, they are actually replacing two vehicles.

Paul Osgood asked if the capital reserve was specifically for something like this. White explained that every capital reserve fund is for a specific purpose. Paul Osgood then questioned what the problem was, that Fountain was not asking for million(s) of dollars, that it's \$36,000 and sounds like it is necessary. He agreed that it would have probably been easier to go to town meeting. Selectman Jones reiterated that when she first saw this request, she questioned why this didn't go to town meeting but that for \$36,000.00,

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Fountain has plenty in the capital reserve fund and she can certainly defend it. She added that she hopes all of her department heads, in the future, will think of these things before town meeting but fortunately Fountain is in the position that we have the money for this and we can do it. Selectman Jones advised that she thinks this should be approved.

A motion to approve the purchase of the 2015 Ford F250 in the amount of \$36,060.10 and to withdraw that amount from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund was made by Chairman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Approved by Majority Vote.**

## DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ➤ Police Department – March Report:

- Officer Schwartz completed the firearms instructor re-certification on March 6, 2014.
- Judy DiPadova, Department Secretary, attended training on UCR Reporting at Primex with the New Hampshire Chiefs of Police Secretaries Association on March 14, 2014.
- Chief Walter Madore and Sergeant John Parsons attended the Law Enforcement Breakfast sponsored by the Mascoma Savings Bank. The Guest Speaker was a special agent from Boston regarding bank robberies.

### ➤ Fire Department – March Report:

- Responded to 10 calls consisting of 3 EMS and 7 Fire/Rescue.
- Firefighter Ian Gill played for Team Fire in the Battle of the Badges game to benefit CHAD. He was the highest fundraiser for Team Fire and the second highest fundraiser total with \$6,727.00 raised for CHAD.
- Fire Chief Jay Fountain attended the Upper Valley Mutual Aid, Kearsarge Mutual Aid and the Mid-Western Hazardous Materials meetings in March.
- Training consisted of working with hose lines, pump operations and fire extinguishers.

### ➤ Transfer Station – February Report:

Solid Waste – 6 runs; 61.56 tons

Construction Demolition Debris – 2 runs; 9.15 tons

Glass – 1 load; 7.31 tons; Expense \$168.13

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Fibers – Mixed Loose – (Paper) – 2 loads; 6.91 tons

Revenue: \$241.85

Expense: \$550.00

Comingle – w/o glass – (Plastic) – 2 loads; 4.72 tons

Revenue: \$0.00

Expense: \$118.00

Electronics – 1 load; 3.11 tons; Revenue: \$88.66

Expense: \$1,000.01

Total tonnage of Material taken away: 92.76

Tickets collected at Transfer Station: \$590.00

Total Revenue from recycling: \$ 330.51

Total Expense from recycling: \$1,836.14

Net Expense from recycling: \$1,505.63

The Hazardous Household Waste Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 9, 2014 from 9:00am – 12:00pm at Grantham Town Hall.

- Trustees of the Trust Funds – Report as of April 2, 2014: Trustees of the Trust Funds Report as of April 2, 2014 was reviewed.
- Town Administrator
  - An email was received from Louise Stark who lives at 473 Miller Pond Road expressing concern about the condition of the road. Road Agent Hastings monitors the conditions of the roads in town on a daily basis. Hastings stated he added five loads of stone to Miller Pond Road that morning, April 9, 2014, and he will continue to monitor the road.
  - White expressed a special thank you to Lorie McClory for writing the weekly news for Grantham and welcomed Patricia Beasley who will be taking over for Lorie.
  - The Board of Selectmen will attend the next School Board meeting on May 6, 2014 at 6:30pm.
  - Upcoming Meetings:
    - The Conservation Commission meets on Monday, April 21, 2014 at 7:00pm
    - The Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting scheduled on April 24, 2014 has been cancelled.

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## OTHER

Chairman Kimball requested that use of the Recreation Park be postponed until the park dries out.

White said Sergeant Parsons informed her that the geese are making their way back to the park so it will be time to start the geese control again in the near future.

## NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-a, a motion was made by Chairman Kimball, seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:24pm to discuss a personnel matter. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.

***Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 7:10 pm.***

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Kimball; ***by majority vote, the Board adjourned at 7:10 pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 23, 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