

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes January 21, 2015

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 4:30pm on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 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; Town Administrator Melissa White; Grantham School Board Chair Bob McCarthy; Mark Thompson of Neil H. Daniels, Inc.; and Zebulon Jenks of Northwoods Excavating Inc.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

NEW BUSINESS

➤ PROPOSALS/BIDS: OLDE FARMS ROAD BRIDGE #107/113

The following Proposals/Bids for Olde Farms Road Bridge #107/113 were opened in the following order:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| ▪ Northeast Earth Mechanics, Inc. | \$296,620.00 |
| ▪ Northwood's Excavating Inc. | \$207,776.00 |
| ▪ Neil H. Daniels, Inc. | \$265,875.00 |

White stated she will meet with Bridge Engineer Erin Darrow and Road Agent Jeff Hastings to review the bids. The Selectmen said they will review the bids prior to the next Selectmen's meeting on January 28, 2015 and noted that although it will be discussed at that meeting, it has yet to be determined whether they will be ready to award the bid.

OLD BUSINESS

➤ Grantham Prouty Scholars Program: Selectman Story expressed three concerns to School Board Chair Bob McCarthy regarding the request for the Selectmen to endorse the Grantham Prouty Scholars Program:

- 1) Story said he understood Merle Schotanus' concerns about the fast approaching deadlines they are under but felt that there is still a lot that needs to be worked out and clarified about the proposed program. He said he wouldn't mind helping to advertise the program with the same means we use for other organizations but for the aforesaid reason, he felt a little nervous about the town officially signing on until they have that information.

Approved

- 2) Story questioned if the town formally endorsed this program, where it would stop because, consequently, everyone with a program could then come to the town and expect our endorsement because we endorsed the Prouty Scholars Program.
- 3) Story emphasized that his greatest concern is the time that would be committed by our staff.

Bob McCarthy said Town Administrator White raised the same questions and his sense was that this is a work in progress for a variety of reasons and added it's not necessarily for either the School Board or the Town to endorse but rather, be aware of it, understand what's happening, and to protect the personnel.

McCarthy stated he believed that initially there would be one planning meeting, probably no longer than an hour and a half, and then the criteria for the project would be set. He anticipated that the name Prouty Scholars would probably be changed to Scholar Athletes and would include not just science, technology, engineering and math but also humanities. He cautioned that when this program is announced it should be clear that the net is being cast very wide and it is not exclusionary. McCarthy assured the Board that as far as he was concerned, they (School Board) were not operating under a deadline.

McCarthy told Selectman Story that he made a good point about being careful of what is next for endorsement requests and that the cautionary note he expressed is very appropriate. He assured the Selectmen that the town resources will not be taxed at all and Athletics Director Marsha Googins and Activities Director Jamielynn Garland will have carte blanche to say "wait a minute, this is not what we signed up for".

Selectman Jones stated that Town Counsel advised against endorsing or having town staff coordinate this program, but we could support it. McCarthy asked Jones what the slippery slope was. Jones responded that we are being asked to use people who are paid by the town.

McCarthy said that their thought was because the Town's Athletics Director oversees the Athletics program they could just ask her to nominate or recommend a few kids who were beyond good athletes which would not be a formal participation on the committee or anything like that. He asked if that would help ease it up a little. White said it would for her, possibly with a signed understanding between the town and the School Board. Selectman Story agreed. Chairman Kimball stated their concern was that Googins would be asked to organize meetings and make sure that all the groups are where they are supposed to be, etc. and end up with a lot of responsibilities. Kimball said Athletics Director Googins was very good at her job but she is already committed to the maximum extent possible. McCarthy said he believed there should not be any drain on personnel for either institution. White expressed concern about the proposed timeframe for all of this because it falls at the end of basketball season and the start of baseball season and she will be coordinating basketball tournaments, signing kids up and organizing the teams for baseball, etc. McCarthy asked if the Selectmen felt this needs to be slowed down a bit and they agreed. Jones said we would really need to have a memorandum of understanding as to what would be expected of town personnel. She said what really bothered her the most about this is the sign up now, ask questions later, approach they have been presented with. She emphasized that she

Approved

thought the proposed program is a worthy cause and does have merit but she did not want to sign on to something unless she has all the information up front. McCarthy said he will frame this in such a way to support the legitimate caution the Board of Selectmen had about the whole variety of issues and how this is going to play out, such as what would be the possible liabilities for both entities, what will the nomination process be, how much time will it take and the specific criteria. McCarthy said "I think the School Board would probably feel the same way if I were to go to them tomorrow and say what do you think of this idea." They would have all the same questions. Selectman Jones added it would be better to leave out the word "endorse" and use the word "support". Selectman Story and Chairman Kimball echoed that and said they all support this project.

McCarthy asked White what the proper protocol was to go forward. White said a Memorandum of Understanding needs to be written to include signatories from the Town, the School and the Snow Dusters, as to what the role of the Athletics Department will be; strictly to select the athlete for the program but not be on the Steering Committee. Selectman Jones stressed that support of this program would be by way of making our facilities available for use but not coordinating the program and reiterated that the attorney is not comfortable with us requiring our employee to work for another organization. McCarthy reiterated that the School Board would have many of the same concerns.

NON-PUBLIC

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 4:57pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Ken Story; Selectman Constance Jones; and Town Administrator Melissa White

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 5:20pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Story moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; ***by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 5:20pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 28, 2014** at 5:00pm in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant