

# Approved

## Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes February 25, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:02pm on Wednesday, February 25, 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; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Emergency Management Director Dave Beckley; Athletics Director Marsha Googins; Susan Schweizer; and Lorie McClory

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

### **ADMINISTRATIVE – APPROVED**

- Payroll Manifest #444
- Accounts Payable Manifest #438
- Current Use Land Use Change Tax Collector's Warrant / Form A-5W
  - M/L 237-054-001; 391 Split Rock Road
- Land Use Change Tax / Form A-5
  - M/L 237-054-001; 391 Split Rock Road
- Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber / Form PA-7
  - M/L 221-029-000; New Aldrich Road
- Application for Veteran's Exemption:
  - M/L 222-142-015; 15 Pioneer Point

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Bond Hearing minutes of February 4, 2015 as written was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

A motion to approve the Budget Hearing minutes of February 4, 2015 as written was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

A motion to approve the Selectmen meeting minutes of February 4, 2015 as written was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Story. ***Unanimously approved.***

A motion to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of February 11, 2015 as written was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Story. ***Unanimously approved.***

# Approved

## CORRESPONDENCE:

- NH Department of Transportation: The Interim Bridge Inspection reports for four municipal owned bridges in Grantham were received from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.
- Town of Newport, NH: A letter was received on February 12, 2015, from Paul Brown, Town Manager from the Town of Newport, informing that their Board of Selectmen, in an effort to optimize the assets of the Newport Fire/EMS Department, have decided to limit the response area of the Department to Newport and the towns they have contracts with (Croydon, Goshen & Sunapee) and that they will no longer be providing backup for New London Ambulance Service (exception: eastern side of Sunapee), to be effective March 1, 2015.

Bruce King, President and CEO of New London Hospital sent a response dated February 17, 2015 and stated he was very concerned by the decision of the Newport Board of Selectmen to discontinue EMS mutual aid with communities in the area. The letter went onto explain that currently, New London Ambulance Service (NLAS) and the Newport Fire/EMS Department (NFD) are the primary services that respond to as many as 15 towns and that the mutual aid between NLAS and the NFD has served our area citizens well for many years.

It also stated that:

- Mutual aid benefits both NLAS and NFD and that in addition to mutual aid responses by the NFD, Newport has been on the receiving end of mutual aid and paramedic intercepts that ensure the highest level of patient care from lifesaving interventions to the comfort of pain management.
- Requested the Town of Newport Selectmen work with New London Hospital to see that both of their services remain available to Newport and surrounding communities in a safe and sustainable manner.
- NLAS has begun to increase the coverage hours of their service and have Paramedic level staffing on all shifts

Because the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline gives all parties involved little time to create a thoughtful plan that ensures patient safety in all of the effected towns, Mr. King requested the March 1<sup>st</sup> implementation date be postponed until a meeting could be coordinated to resolve the issues behind the decision of the Newport Board of Selectmen.

The letter was copied to each of Newport's Selectmen; Nick Mercuri, State of New Hampshire Bureau Chief of EMS; Towns of Grantham, Newbury, New London, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton; and key staff at New London Hospital.

Fire Chief Jay Fountain stated that he attended a Newport Board of Selectmen meeting held Tuesday, February 24, 2015 for the purpose of discussing this matter. Fountain said the Newport Board of Selectmen agreed to push back the implementation date to June 30, 2015 but made it very clear that they will not reconsider and will continue to move forward with this plan. Fountain reported that the Newport Selectmen told the people in attendance from the towns that will be affected to talk to their Selectmen. He

# Approved

said when the Newport Selectmen were asked if they contacted the Selectmen from the affected towns, their response was they did not.

Town Administrator Melissa White said she will contact Lebanon Fire Chief Christopoulos to see if Lebanon could provide backup for New London Ambulance Service.

- Comcast: Notice was received from Comcast that the franchise fee payment to Grantham for revenues collected in the calendar year 2014 is \$13,410.81.
- NH Department of Environmental Services Waste Management Division: The 2013, 2014 Biennial Groundwater Summary Report for Grantham Municipal Landfill was received from the New Hampshire Division of Environmental Services.
- Diane Shagoury: A letter was received from Diane Shagoury. She stated that in 1997 she purchased property from the Town of Grantham and that the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department have a Conservation Easement on the property that contains a condition in Tract I stating the land may never be conveyed to any organization or institution or anyone else whereby it would become tax exempt property of any kind or nature. She stated that New Hampshire Fish and Game are interested in the property and requested that the Board of Selectmen release this restriction. The Board of Selectmen felt that they do not have the authority to remove the restriction from the deed.
- The Coalition Communities: Notice was received from The Coalition Communities that House Bill 680, which would reinstate donor and receiver towns for education funding, is on the docket for the House Ways and Means Committee. The Coalition testified against the bill at the hearing on February 20, 2015 and urged towns to contact members of the House Ways and Means Committee urging them to kill this bill before March 4, 2015. Selectman Jones suggested contacting our local State Representative also.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Olde Farms Road Bridge: No new information.
- Upper Valley Hawks; Pop Warner Football/Cheerleading Organization: The request received from the Upper Valley Hawks; Pop Warner Football/Cheerleading Organization to use Grantham Recreation fields for football practice was discussed at the January 28, 2015 Board of Selectmen meeting. That discussion ended with Athletics Director Marsha Googins being asked to provide a Field Use Application and Fee Schedule to present to the Selectmen.

Googins stated that she has been researching fees charged by area towns for recreation field use so the Recreation Park Committee could come up with some ideas for a fee schedule. She said the rates that other towns charged vary from hourly fees to daily fees to a donation and the Committee wasn't sure what to set for a fee because they wanted to be careful not to overcharge while keeping in mind the costs of maintaining the field. White suggested charging a daily rate of \$25.00 per day for youth

# Approved

and \$50.00 per day for adults like the Adult Softball League. The Selectmen and Googins agreed to start with those rates and re-evaluate at a later time.

Selectman Jones added the town needs to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Upper Valley Hawks; Pop Warner Football/Cheerleading Organization making it very clear which fields they are to use. Googins stated that the Field Use Application stipulates which space(s) are to be used. White said she could print out an aerial view of the recreation park showing the different fields. Googins said the Field Use Application was previously approved by the Selectmen and all they need to do is add the fees. White suggested having the fee schedule as an addendum to the application so when the fees change, it will be easier than changing the whole form.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Master Plan Committee Appointments: A motion to appoint Mary Hutchins and Robert MacNeil to the Master Plan Committee was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

## **DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Town Administrator
  - The Annual Town Meeting and Election of Town Officers will be on March 10, 2015. Polls are open from 10:00am to 7:00pm. The Deliberative Session will begin at 5:00pm.
  - The Town Clerk/Tax Collectors office will be open 8:00am–3:00pm on March 10, 2015.
  - White met with Assessor Mike Ryan and representatives from Vision Government Solutions to discuss the status of the revaluation. White reported Vision Government Solutions is in the process of finalizing field inspections; they have inspected approximately 60% of the homes and will be sending out call back letters sometime in April. Informal hearings will be conducted in July.
  - Heath and Field Plumbing and Heating will install heat in the Sally Port and the front storage area.
  - Upcoming Meetings:
    - The Open Space Committee meeting is Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 8:30am.
    - The Planning Board meeting is Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 7:00pm.
    - The Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 1:00pm.
    - The Conservation Commission meeting is Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7:00pm.

# Approved

## OTHER

- In preparation of Town Meeting, Town Moderator Susan Schweizer and Assistant Town Moderator Lorie McClory discussed the 2015 Town Meeting Warrant with the Selectmen.
- Chairman Kimball wished to express the Board's appreciation to Road Agent Jeff Hastings and Brian Hastings for their good work during this difficult winter we are experiencing.
- Selectman Story advised that at some point he would like to add Grantham's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration, which will be celebrated in 2017, to future meetings for discussion.

## NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II- a & e, a motion was made by Selectman Story, seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:58pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Ken Story; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper.

***Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:18 pm.***

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Story moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; ***by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:27 pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2015** 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