

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes January 27, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:03pm on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 by Chairman Harold Haddock Jr. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Present: Chairman Harold Haddock Jr.; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Becky Newton, Esq.; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Grantham Conservation Chair Richard Hocker; Robert Lewis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Haddock requested any changes to the regular meeting minutes of January 13, 2010. There being none, Selectman Kimball made a motion to accept the January 13, 2010 minutes as written; second by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously approved.*
- ✓ Non-Public meeting minutes of January 13, 2010. A motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the non-public meeting minutes of January 13, 2010 as written; second by Selectman Kimball. *Unanimously approved.*

APPEARANCES

➤ Conservation Commission Chair Richard Hocker:

- **Budget:** Mr. Hocker discussed the budget for the Conservation Commission. Also discussed was the request [from the Conservation Commission] to add a warrant article to raise and appropriate \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) for the Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund. A motion was made by Selectman Jones to add a warrant article for the Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars); second by Selectman Kimball. *Unanimously approved.*

- **Frog Pond Easement:** Mr. Hocker stated that when Eastman Community Association (ECA) built the tennis courts, they (ECA) impacted jurisdictional wetlands; that the State of NH is requiring ECA to conserve land.

Hocker explained that Frog Pond is an 11.9 acre parcel of land that borders Springfield, NH, basically wetlands and has little or no timber value.

There was discussion regarding the exception in the easement(see Selectmen minutes of January 13, 2010) and alternative sites in town to dump the fill.

Administrator Newton informed that Town Counsel reviewed the easement for Frog Pond and advised that because it encumbered real property that it should be brought to Town Meeting for a vote.

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Selectman Kimball said he was concerned that the easement indicates the property is to be open to the public but the only access is from Springfield, NH.

The Board of Selectmen decided to table the Frog Pond Easement but will continue to look for a site for the fill and requested Mr. Hocker talk to the Road Agent as well.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Lakes & Streams Committee at Eastman: A raffle permit request was received from Jackie Underhill Co-Chair of the Lakes & Streams Committee at Eastman to hold their annual Ice Out Contest on Eastman Lake in 2010. A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the raffle permit; second by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***
- Town of Hanover: Notification was received from the Town of Hanover Zoning Board of Adjustment informing that T-Mobile Northeast, LLC is requesting a special exception to install wireless communications in a church steeple.
- Eastman Charitable Foundation: A letter was received from the Eastman Charitable Foundation informing that their Board of Trustees has partially approved the grant application from the Grantham Recreation Park Committee; that \$2,500 will be mailed shortly.

OLD BUSINESS

- Statistical Update: Interviews were conducted of the four Assessing firms that submitted bids:
 - Vision Appraisal - \$59,000
 - Brett Purvis & Associates - \$34,650
 - Cross Country Appraisal - \$65,000
 - Commerford, Neider, Perkins - \$97,100

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to accept the proposal from Cross Country Appraisal for \$65,000; second by Selectman Kimball. ***Unanimously approved.***

NEW BUSINESS

- Trustee of the Trust Funds - Appointment: A motion was made by Selectman Jones to appoint Robert Lewis as Trustee of the Trust Funds; second by Selectman Kimball. ***Unanimously approved.***
- Property Tax Abatement Request : Administrator Newton informed that the Property Tax Abatement for 71 Burpee Hill Road; M/L 216-038-001 was received.
- Blakeman Engineering Invoice: Administrator Newton informed that the invoice from Blakeman Engineering for professional services (estimates to pave New Aldrich and Burpee Hill Roads) is \$1,161.00 and asked what account the bill should be paid out of. The Board of Selectmen felt the bill should be paid out of the legal budget.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

➤ Town Administrator:

- Estimates for Household Hazardous Waste Day were received from Clean Harbors Environmental Services for approximately \$7,000 and Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) for approximately \$3,500. Administrator Newton informed UVLSRPC could not hold the Household Hazardous Waste Day until September; that typically it is held in June due to more part-time residents being here.

Selectman Jones stated that the \$3,500 is not a fixed price, that it depends on how many people participate in the program; that Clean Harbors is a fixed price.

The Board of Selectmen approved the contract with Clean Harbors Environmental Services.

OTHER

- Selectman Jones stated that it was brought to her attention that a policy was needed regarding the use town equipment for personal use; that Primex (the Town's insurance company) urged the Board of Selectmen to adopt such a policy.

*A motion was made by Selectman Jones to prohibit the use of Town equipment (large and small) by employees for personal use; second by Selectman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.***

- The first draft of the budget was discussed; corrections made:

- Add \$10,000 as a warrant article for the Land Preservation Capital Reserve Fund.
- Add \$10,000 to the Dunbar Free Library Capital Reserve Fund.
- Add \$2,000 to the Mowers Capital Reserve Fund.
- Add \$10,000 to the Athletics Field Capital Reserve Fund.
- Add \$15,000 to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund.
- Add \$10,000 to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund.
- Reduce the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund to zero for 2010.
- Reduce the Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund to zero for 2010.
- Add \$1,000 to the Town Office Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.
- Reduce Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund to \$10,000. Selectman Kimball informed the roof on Town Hall may need fixing; that the rain is running onto the side of the building. Kimball felt \$15,000 was more appropriate. Selectman Haddock and Jones agreed.
- Add \$15,000 to the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund.
- Open a new Capital Reserve Fund for Bridges and add \$33,000.
- A new request was received from the Mascoma Valley Health Initiative for \$1,625. The Board of Selectmen agreed to budget \$750.

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➤ Town Warrant:

- Administrator Newton informed that new items for the Town Warrant are the paving petitions for New Aldrich and Burpee Hill Roads. Newton explained that the petitions were written incorrectly; that they did not raise and appropriate funds so they are not legally binding.

The Selectmen felt the petitioners should be contacted and asked to submit a new petition with the correct language.

- There was general discussion regarding the wording of the warrant article for renting the Wien House.

➤ Lightec Energy Audit: Administrator Newton asked how to proceed with Lightec and the energy audit. Chairman Haddock stated that Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) was to be contacted to find out if there were any other competing companies. Newton confirmed that she has names of two other companies that provide the same services.

The Board of Selectmen decided to table the energy audit; no money will be included in the 2010/2011 budget to complete the energy audit.

Selectman Kimball felt PSNH should be contacted to inquire about the program that would keep the electric bills at the present rate; as a way to pay for the upgrades without upfront costs.

NON PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91:A:3, II on a motion by Selectman Jones, second by Selectman Kimball, after proper vote 3-0, the Board entered into Non-Public session at 6:24pm to discuss a personnel issue. Present were: Chairman Harold Haddock, Selectman Constance Jones, Selectman Warren Kimball, Town Administrator Becky Newton, Esq., and Administrative Assistant Melissa White.

- A personnel matter was discussed.

No votes or decisions were made while in Non-Public session.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:40 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Kimball moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Jones; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:36pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, February 10, 2010** at 5:00 p.m. in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melissa M. White
Administrative Assistant*