

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes December 8, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, December 8, 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; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Francis Mutney; Barbara Mutney; Marsha Googins; John Parsons; Police Chief Walter Madore Sr., Joey Holmes; Deputy Fire Chief David Beckley; EMD F. Robert Osgood; Elaine Pillsbury

ADMINISTRATIVE - APPROVED

- ✓ Veteran's Tax Credit – Sarah Johnson, M/L 238-014
- ✓ Appointment to Grantham Conservation Commission (Alternate) – Kristina Burgard
- ✓ Property Tax Abatements:
 - a) M/L 227-003-000; 921 Dunbar Hill Road – computer error
 - b) M/L 233-017-000; Pillsbury Road – refund \$17.32 due to overpayment
 - c) M/L 216-104-000; Draper Mill Road – refund \$136.48 due to overpayment
 - d) M/L 216-086-000; Bobbin Hill – refund \$96.76 due to overpayment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Haddock asked if there were any changes to the regular and non-public meeting minutes of November 22, 2010. There being none, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes as written; second by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously Approved.*

APPEARANCES

- Chapin Senior Center Executive Director Nancy Freeze: Ms. Freeze explained that the Chapin Senior Center serves nine towns that include Andover, Danbury, Grantham, Newbury, New London, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton and Wilmot. They service people over 50 years old and have over 2,800 members but no fees are charged. Freeze explained that 30% of the funding comes from towns while 70% is from private donations. One thing that differentiates Chapin Senior Center from other centers is that they have a transportation program that takes members to doctor's appointments, medical treatments and grocery shopping etc. Freeze stated that over the last 10 years the center has driven 10,000 miles for residents of Grantham.

Chairman Haddock asked how many people are served a year. Freeze outlined the following:

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- 2006 – 218 people were provided service
- 2007 - 81 people were provided service
- 2008 – 233 people were provided service
- 2009 – 220 people were provided service

Ms. Freeze stated that a lot of town's cut community services funding and asked what she could do to help prevent that from happening again in 2011. Selectman Jones suggested she send a request letter to the Board of Selectmen along with the services that are provided.

Freeze asked if she should attend Town Meeting. Jones responded that Freeze could attend the public budget hearing on February 2, 2011 at 6pm in the lower level Town Hall. Administrator Newton further suggested that Freeze contact Grantham residents that utilize the services to speak at Town Meeting.

- Francis Mutney: Mr. Mutney discussed his concern with the statistical update and stated he is still unhappy with the value of his land because it is wet and swampy.

Chairman Haddock advised Mr. Mutney he could file a request for a property tax abatement.

Administrator Newton stated the Assessor's will be at Town Hall on December 13, 2010 and again on January 18, 2011. Residents will have to contact Cross Country Appraisal Group directly at 603-415-0130. Telephone appointments for those out-of-state property owners can also be made.

- EMD F. Robert Osgood: EMD Osgood informed that the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) had been updated and briefly discussed the changes that included listing the Fire Department as an alternate Emergency Operation Center. This will also allow the Fire Department to obtain grant money.

The Board of Selectmen approved and signed the updated EOP.

Osgood informed that the Town of Croydon requested a copy of Grantham's Hazard Mitigation plan. Osgood explained that they are working to write theirs and want to use ours as a guideline. The Selectmen requested the Town of Croydon be put in contact with Jane Hubbard, Hubbard Consulting, as she is the one who helped Grantham write their plan.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Town of Sutton: A letter was received from the Town of Sutton informing of a public hearing to be held on December 15, 2010 at 7:30pm concerning a request by Florida Tower Partners for an amendment to the application of a special exception.
- Town of Newport: A letter was received from the Town of Newport informing that as of January 1, 2011 the Newport Ambulance Service will no longer respond to back-up calls in towns that they do not have existing service agreements with.

Newton informed that area Town Administrators met with the CEO of New London Hospital and discussed discontinuing the ambulance service through the hospital. There will be a study conducted with New London Hospital agreeing to pay half the cost and asked area towns to make a contribution toward the study with Grantham paying \$1,500. Newton felt there was money in the current budget to participate. Chairman Haddock felt Grantham should participate to protect residents.

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A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to spend up to \$1,500 to participate in the New London ambulance study; second by Selectman Jones. Unanimously approved.

The Board of Selectmen requested Newton contact the Town of Newport to find out if an agreement could be made (for back-up service) and what the fee would be.

OLD BUSINESS

- Statistical Update/Neighborhood Analysis Report: Newton stated she is still waiting for the Assessor's to provide this report.
- Broadband Internet Access: No update.
- GHS #7 Boiler Repairs: Newton stated she hasn't had time to get to this item. Administrative Assistant White stated that it appears Aggressive Heating is no longer in business. Newton asked Selectman Kimball if he could make contact with Aggressive Heating. Kimball said yes.
- Sale of the Wien House: Selectman Kimball informed the information has been sent to the lawyers and anticipates the closing to be held soon.
- Recreation Park Engineering: Newton stated that TF Moran will be meeting with the Recreation Park Committee on December 14, 2010. They have delineated the wetlands so they will be able to explain the limits of development. Selectman Kimball asked if this meeting should be posted so the public could attend. Newton said she will get an email out on the list serv tomorrow.
- Criminal Background Check for Hawkers and Peddlers: No progress.
- Conservation Commission - Shack on the Smith Lot: No progress.

NEW BUSINESS

- Online Assessing Link on Town's Website: Resident Ed Chuh discussed his concerns with the detailed amount of assessing data on the town's website. Mr. Chuh felt having the sketch of the homes was a public safety issue and that a limit should be instituted on who can access the information.

Chairman Haddock requested Administrator Newton contact Town Counsel and NH Department of Revenue Administration and report back on how much information has to be released.

Mr. Chuh stated that other towns such as Newport require a login and password and other states have legislation that restricts certain information.

Chairman Haddock stated that all property files are public information. Newton said the voter checklist is as well.

Phil Schaefer stated he understands Mr. Chuh's concerns especially with the layout of the homes but felt the information is available through other sources on the internet.

Mr. Chuh asked if the link to the assessing data could be moved to another area of the website instead of on the home page.

Chairman Haddock reiterated that it would be looked into with the town's attorney and NH Department of Revenue Administration.

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DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

➤ Activities Report:

- Breakfast with Santa was well attended. Over 275 people were fed in just over an hour.
- Town Christmas Tree was lit on November 28th.
- Decorate a Gingerbread Man will be held on December 22, 2010 at 10am at the church hall. This will be in conjunction with Dunbar Free Library's story time.
- Ice skating on the pond will start in January.
- January marks the start of securing vendors for Old Home Day and Music in the Meadow. Activities Director Laurie Field asked where these events could be held since the park and school would be under construction. Selectman Kimball said that if there is construction at the park it would only be a portion of it.

➤ Athletics Report:

- Strong participation continues for baseball and softball.
- Field hockey was cancelled this year due to the weather. There is a lot of interest so the program will be offered next year.
- Soccer went well with several teams K-6 being formed.
- Basketball and Cheerleading has strong participation with games starting on December 11, 2010.

➤ Police Department – November Report:

- 89 calls for service; 55 traffic stops which is in line with 2009 numbers.
- Department radios were re-programmed under the Homeland Security Interoperability Grant. This statewide effort ensures that all emergency responders have the appropriate frequencies in the event of statewide emergencies.
- Department personnel attended harassment training.
- The tile and carpets were cleaned on November 27th.

➤ Transfer Station – October Report:

- Solid Waste - 8 runs with a total tonnage of 73.99 tons
- Construction Demolition Debris - 7 Runs 23.05 tons
- Glass - 1 load 7.31 tons Expense \$146.20
- Metal - Light Iron - 1 run 3.42 tons revenue \$632.63
- Electronic waste - 1 pull 2.22 tons expense \$577.50
- Aluminum - 1 pick up 1522lbs revenue \$761.00
- OCC Cardboard - 1 pick up 22.1 tons revenue \$2762.50
- Tires - 1 Run 2.75 tons expense \$316.25
- Fibers - Mixed Loose - (Paper) - 3 Loads 16.89 tons

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Revenue \$1039.65

Expense \$675

- Comingle - w/oglass - (Plastic) 3 loads 3.07 tons

Revenue \$0.00

Expense \$92.10

- Total Tonnage of Material taken away 154.80 tons + 1522 lbs of Aluminum.
- Tickets collected at Transfer Station \$1,250
- Total Revenue from recycling \$5,195.78
- Total Expenses from recycling \$1,807.05
- Net Revenue from recycling \$3388.73

➤ Town Administrator:

- Renewal contracts from Primex for Worker's Compensation from January 1, 2011 through 2016 were reviewed.

Resolution: To enter into Primex Workers Compensation 7.5% multi-year discount program. *Resolved, to hereby accept the offer of the NH Public Risk Management Exchange, Primex, to enter into its' Workers Compensation 7.5% multi-year discount program as of the date of the adoption of this resolution and to be contractually bound to all of the terms and conditions of Primex Risk Management Pool membership during the term of the Workers Compensation 7.5% multi-year discount program. Coverage provided by Primex in each year of membership shall be as then set forth in the coverage documents of Primex.*

A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to accept the resolution of Primex Workers Compensation 7.5% multi-year discount program; second by Selectman Jones. Unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to authorize Administrator Newton to also sign the agreement; second by Selectman Kimball. Unanimously approved.

- Newton informed that Alden Pillsbury brought to her attention that the Board of Land and Tax Appeals (BTLA) had reduced his land value in 2008 and during the statistical update in 2010 it had increased. Newton explained that Mr. Pillsbury felt it should be lowered back to what BTLA said it was.

The Selectmen suggested Mr. Pillsbury come in to meet with the Assessors and Newton.

- Planning Board met regarding the changes to the Zoning Ordinance. Selectman Kimball informed the changes were approved and will be on the Town Warrant. Administrator Newton stated she will publish the public hearing.
- Administrator Newton informed she would be out on a short medical leave from December 14th – 19th.

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OTHER

Elaine Pillsbury discussed her concern on the increase of her land value. Ms. Pillsbury stated she met with the Assessor's during the informal hearings and was assured that adjustments would be made and that a letter would be sent two weeks after that showing the adjustment. Pillsbury stated she never got that letter.

Ms. Pillsbury asked if she could meet with the Assessor's again as she feels her land value is still too high. Selectman Jones stated that she could meet with the Assessor's on December 13th or January 18, 2011.

NON PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-C, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball, second by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:04 p.m. to discuss a matter that would adversely affect the reputation of a person. Present were: Chairman Harold Haddock, Selectman Kimball, Selectman Constance Jones, Town Administrator Becky Newton and Administrative Assistant Melissa White, Police Chief Walter Madore, Sergeant John Parsons.

Chief Madore & Sergeant Parsons left at 6:33 and Recreation Director Marsha Googins entered at 6:35pm.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Kimball moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Jones; *by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 7:02pm.*

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on **Monday, December 20, 2010** at 5:00PM in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa M. White

*Melissa M. White
Administrative Assistant*