

# APPROVED

## Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes February 23, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 by Chairman Harold Haddock Jr. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Lower Level at 300 Route 10 South.

Present: Chairman Harold Haddock Jr.; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Becky Newton; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; EMD F. Robert Osgood; Alden "Chick" Pillsbury; Michael Whipple; Town Moderator Victoria Smith; Department of Revenue Administration Monitor Gregory Heyn; Cross Country Appraisal Group Executive Jeff Earls and others

### ADMINISTRATIVE

#### *For Approval/Signature - APPROVED*

- ✓ Property Tax Refunds – *due to overpayment*:
  - 1) M/L 232-001-001; 21 Wintercroft Circle - \$1,081.92
  - 2) M/L 215-148-000; 8 Sugar Hill Road - \$25.13
  - 3) M/L 225-049-000; 27 Hummingbird Hill - \$317.44
  - 4) M/L 227-029-001; 966 Dunbar Hill Road - \$22.33
  - 5) M/L 225-319-000; 29 Clearwater Drive - \$189.56
  - 6) M/L 222-210-000; 18 Highwood Way - \$25.23
  - 7) M/L 225-053-034; 34 Niblick Lane - \$232.93
  - 8) M/L 232-001-023; 24 Barrister Path - \$5.65
  - 9) M/L 215-192-000; 13 Morning Hollow Lane - \$498.58
  - 10) M/L 236-026-001; Stocker Pond Road - \$54.69
  - 11) M/L 216-198-000; 14 Butternut Pond Road - \$27.94
  - 12) M/L 212-041-000; 52 Butternut Pond Road - \$38.56
  - 13) M/L 216-166-000; 12 Old Spring Drive - \$508.40
  - 14) M/L 215-131-000; 49 Bright Slope Way - \$41.42
  - 15) M/L 225-162-000; 4 Bogie Place - \$138.67
  - 16) M/L 233-078-000; 317 Route 10 South - \$1,348.52
  - 17) M/L 213-014-000; 1 Auburn Brae - \$76.25
  - 18) M/L 221-039-000; 126 Top of the World Road - \$5.83
  - 19) M/L 238-020-000; Brookside Drive - \$297.26
- ✓ Building Permits:
  - a) M/L 225-027-000; 20 Allen's Drive – garage
  - b) M/L 221-014-000; 112 Rawson Ridge – remodel

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Haddock asked if there were any changes to the regular and public budget hearing meeting minutes of February 9, 2011. There being none, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the regular meeting minutes as written; second by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously Approved.*

## APPEARANCES

- Alden "Chick" Pillsbury: Mr. Pillsbury discussed the assessed value of his property and stated he felt it is assessed to high. Pillsbury felt his assessment should be lowered to the value the Board of Land and Tax Appeals (BTLA) determined in 2008.

Selectman Jones reminded Pillsbury that the decision by the BTLA was ordered only until the town went through the next assessing update.

- Cross Country Appraisal Group (CCAG) & Gregory Heyn, Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) Monitor: Administrator Newton stated that the Board of Selectmen asked to meet with CCAG & DRA to discuss the extra features in the assessing software. Newton stated that there are a lot of manual overrides in the CAMA system and that it became known after the update had been accepted by DRA that the overrides was not turned off as it should have been.

Newton stated that the software didn't calculate the value of some out buildings and extra features and that she can't determine what the total dollar value in assessments is. Newton stated that DRA Monitor Gregory Heyn was notified last week and that he was going to check with the Director.

Mr. Heyn asked if the overrides had been in place since the revaluation in 2005. Jeff Earls from CCAG said that it is suspected to be from the last revaluation.

Heyn felt that not all the discovery had been done on the error and said that he doesn't know what the financial impact is; that the DRA hasn't finished the equalization ratio study yet.

Heyn said he doesn't have any reason to believe there is a problem; that in his review there have been a lot of good things happening. Heyn said he has reviewed the sales activity for the 2010 tax year and building permits and found all of the data to be very clean including out buildings. Heyn added that he reviewed more properties than he usually does.

There was general discussion on how to fix the problem of the override on the outbuildings and extra features. Chairman Haddock felt that due to the complex, technical nature of the issue that CCAG and Administrator Newton meet to come up with a solution.

- Town Moderator Victoria Smith: Moderator Smith briefly discussed the Warrant Articles for the 2011 Town Meeting and which Selectman would speak to the articles.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- Police Chief Walter Madore: A memo was received from Chief Madore informing that Courtland Smith was sworn in as a Police Officer on February 14, 2011.

Chief Madore informed that he has someone interested in working part-time that is already certified.

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- EMD F. Robert Osgood: A memo was received from EMD Osgood informing the Board of the power outage on February 14, 2011.

Osgood also provided the Board with a copy of a letter from Rick Cricenti, Director of Emergency Services Unit (a division of NH Department of Health & Human Services) that commended Osgood and the Town for its readiness for emergencies stating in part "I was amazed at how much you have accomplished and how much planning and preparation you have done, both yourself and the town as a whole."

- Gregory Heyn, NH Department of Revenue Administration Monitor: A letter was received from Mr. Heyn informing that he has completed the sales review and that none of the properties reviewed received a failing grade.
- Kenneth Obey: A letter was received from property owner Kenneth Obey asking what the status of Butternut Pond Road is and whether or not he can build or add utilities to the property.

Newton asked if Butternut Pond Road is a Class VI road and if someone is restricting access to it, does the Board want to take action against that person.

The Selectmen requested Newton obtain a copy of the plan and then talk to Town Counsel.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Juniper Hills Subdivision & Croydon Access: Newton stated she received a response from the construction company indicating they are removing the existing road.
- Online Access of Assessing Data: No update.
- Recreation Park Engineering: Newton informed the Recreation Committee will be meeting tonight at 7pm and that there will be a public forum Thursday March 3, 2011 to discuss the plans.

Newton stated that TF Moran revised their numbers and the new estimate is approximately \$350,000 for most everything.

- Conservation Commission - Shack on the Smith Lot: Newton stated the letter has been mailed to the property owner with a deadline of July 31, 2011 to remove the structure or a cease and desist would be issued.

## NEW BUSINESS

- TF Moran Invoice of \$5,647.28: Newton explained that at the last meeting the Board had approved payment of the TF Moran invoice for \$5,647.28 but she neglected to ask for a motion to withdraw the funds from the Recreation Park Project Fund.

A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to withdraw the amount of \$5,647.28 from the Recreation Park Project Fund; second by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

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- Trustees of the Trust Funds – Voucher for Payment: A motion was made by Selectman Jones to authorize withdrawal of \$12.00 from the J. Madison & Alice M. Howe Family Trust Fund to the Town of Grantham for a wreath; second by Selectman Kimball. *Unanimously approved.*
- Invoice from Cote & Reney Lumber: A motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve payment of the invoice from Cote & Reney Lumber in the amount of \$349.08 out of funds from the Timken Foundation grant money; second by Selectman Kimball. *Unanimously approved.*

## DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Activities “Our Town” – Winter Report: (for complete details of all “Our Town” events go to [www.granthamnh.net/activities](http://www.granthamnh.net/activities))
  - February 21<sup>st</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Community Walking Program; GVS gymnasium 7:30 – 8:10am Monday – Friday every day that school is in session.
  - March 1<sup>st</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patty’s Family Quest
  - March 4<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Seuss’s Birthday Party (read across America celebration)
  - April (date TBD) – Rabies Clinic; \$10 per critter
  - April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Easter Egg Hunt 10am
  - May 8<sup>th</sup> – Mother’s Day Breakfast
  - May 14<sup>th</sup> – Mother/Son fishing with NH Fish & Game (free event)
  - May 14<sup>th</sup> – Father/Daughter dance 6pm – 8pm (reservations required) \$10/couple
  - May 21<sup>st</sup> – Town wide yard sale 9am – 3pm
  - July 4<sup>th</sup> – Old Home Day
  - Tuesday’s in August – Music in the Meadow & Craft in the Park
- Highway – December/January Report: The December/January report was reviewed.
- Trustees of the Trust Funds – January Report: The January report was reviewed.
- Town Administrator:
  - Town Administrators are invited to a meeting in New London with Congressman Bass on Thursday, February 24, 2011.
  - Newton brought the Board up to date on the Governor’s proposed budget.

## OTHER

Selectman Kimball informed that an experimental piece of metal has been placed on the roof to enhance the drip edge. If the metal works, the Town will obtain quotes for the metal to be placed around the entire building including painting of the trim.

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## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Kimball moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Jones; ***by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:37pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, March 9, 2011** at 5:00PM in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Melissa M. White*

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*Administrative Assistant*