

# APPROVED

## Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes September 10, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 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; Grantham Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Kris Traegde; Abby Clark; and C. Peter James

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

### **ADMINISTRATIVE - APPROVED**

1. Payroll Manifest #430
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #422
3. Ronald Hastings Memorial Scholarship Fund Reimbursement to the General Fund; \$200.00
4. NH Department of Revenue Administration; MS-5 Financial Report of Town Budget
5. Building Permits:
  - M/L 227-003-007; 1054 Dunbar Hill Road – Wood Stove
  - M/L 233-023-000; 50 Pillsbury Road – Carport & Porch Roof
  - M/L 222-203-000; 21 Highwood Way – Pergola
  - M/L 233-050-000; 67 Longwood Drive – Addition and Garage
  - M/L 225-228-000; 89 Greensward Drive – Garage & Generator
  - M/L 222-216-000; 40 Road Round the Lake – Garage Expansion & Wood Pellet Boiler

### **PUBLIC HEARING – LAND ACQUISITION; M/L 221-001-000; ROUTE 10 NORTH**

Chairman Kimball opened the Public Hearing on the land acquisition; M/L 221-001-000; Route 10 North at 5:02pm.

Town Administrator White explained that Carolyn Cummings contacted the town to inquire if the town would be interested in purchasing a parcel of land that her father owned on Route 10 North and is currently part of his Estate. The land is approximately six and one half acres located in Brookside Park. White advised that the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board endorsed this land purchase and the Conservation Commission made an offer of \$12,000.00. White informed the Conservation Commission has toured the property and believes

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it can be improved for many recreational purposes including hiking trails. The Conservation Commission feels that the town could have its own sugar maple patch in the next 25 years on this parcel of land.

Selectman Story, who is also the President of the Grantham Historical Society, informed that from a historical perspective that this property includes the entrance to what used to be one of the two fairgrounds that existed in Grantham and that there was a road with a bridge to access the fairgrounds. The road and bridge have long since been discontinued but the bridge abutments are still there. He concluded that it's a very historic part of Grantham.

There being no further discussion, a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Selectman Story at 6:15pm; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 27, 2014 as written was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

## **APPEARANCES**

Kris Traegde and Abby Clark: Kris Traegde and Abby Clark, who live at 1001 Miller Pond Road, appeared before the Selectmen to inquire what their options are to repair their driveway because the overweight permit application for Miller Pond Road Bridge was denied. Chairman Kimball said the need to exceed the weight limit of the bridge was denied but one option would be to see if they can find a way to get the necessary material over the bridge without exceeding the posted weight limit. Brian Hastings informed it would not be cost effective to bring smaller loads over the bridge because all of his trucks exceed the weight limit and he would have to rent a smaller truck and make more trips over the bridge. Chairman Kimball expressed he understands that but emphasized the Selectmen can't risk having more damage done to the bridge and potentially losing it because it is the only way in and out of Miller Pond Road.

Hastings questioned how soon the Miller Pond Road Bridge will be replaced. White explained that in order to move forward with grant applications, the town will need to have 25% of the estimated cost of the bridge in the bank which roughly equates to \$125,000.00. Subsequently, an engineer must be hired to design plans to be submitted with grant applications. White said she fully anticipates a very comprehensive discussion on this matter during budget preparation for the next town meeting.

Clark asked the Board if they ever approve permits to exceed the weight limit of the bridge. White responded that they approved one overweight permit for a septic system due to that being a public safety hazard. Clark asked how they determine what to approve because they can't drive up their driveway for six weeks out of the year and asked what would happen if they needed an ambulance. Chairman Kimball stated that when they purchased their home on Miller Pond Road, the bridge was restricted to 15 tons. Clark also advised they cannot secure any services when their driveway is impassable during that six week period including propane for heat. She explained that their driveway, which is approximately 250 feet long, is in far worse condition than Miller Pond Road in the spring and is simply impassable. She continued

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that they have to walk their driveway and no vehicles of any kind can access the driveway. The Board of Selectmen realized that this is a public safety hazard due to the length of the driveway which prevents them from securing services such as propane.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Casella: A letter was received from Casella informing that the current rate of \$86.02 per ton will be increased to \$87.55 per ton retroactive to July 1, 2014.
- Bradford Board of Selectmen: A letter was received from the Bradford Board of Selectmen asking the Town of Grantham to help support a long-term employee of their Police Department, Steve Valiquet, who is fighting Pancreatic Cancer. Steve is the son of Bradford Police Chief Jim Valiquet. Activities will be taking place in Bradford on Saturday, September 13, 2014 in Shattuck Park starting at Noon followed by a pig roast, dancing at the Community Center and fireworks.

Police Chief Madore added that he received that letter and a subsequent letter notifying of a comedy show that will be held on October 3, 2014 at the Kearsarge Regional High School to benefit Steve Valiquet and the New Hampshire Police, Fire and EMS Foundation which helps Police, Fire and EMS personnel when there is an illness or tragedy in a family.

- NH Department of Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management: A letter was received from the NH Department of Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management notifying that the towns' grant application for the update to the Local Emergency Operations Plan was approved in the amount of \$2,500.00. Emergency Management Director David Beckley will be working on the update once the official award packet is received.
- HealthTrust: Notice was received from HealthTrust that they recovered \$17.1 million from the Bureau of Securities and Regulation proceeding. Grantham will receive \$790.46.
- CASA of NH: A letter was received from CASA of NH (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) requesting that the town include them in the 2015 budget. The letter provided the following statistic: CASA volunteers served 17 children last year in the Newport Family Division, which is the Court that serves the towns of Grantham, Croydon, Goshen, Lempster, Newbury, Newport, New London, Springfield, Sunapee, Washington and Wilmot.
- Shannon Fox: An email was received from Shannon Hastings Fox regarding the road name change of Al Smith and Hastings Hill Road; proposing to change it back to the original road names. Chairman Kimball instructed White to send her a letter stating the Board of Selectmen anxiously awaited her input and even delayed the vote for over two months but it was never received.

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## OLD BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge: White informed she will be meeting with Bridge Engineer Erin Darrow, Road Agent Jeff Hastings and the engineer from Michie Corporation next week to review the revised bridge plans.
- Yankee Barn Road (Private Portion): No update.
- Stocker Brook Realty, LLC, 631 Route 114; M/L 236-010-000: White is waiting to hear from Town Counsel.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Welfare Guidelines revised September 10, 2014: A motion to approve the Welfare Guidelines as amended was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Story. **Unanimously approved.**

## DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Fire Department – August Report:
  - Responded to 10 calls consisting of 4 EMS and 6 Fire/Rescue
  - Fire Chief Jay Fountain attended both the NH Association of Fire Chiefs meeting held at the Common Man in Claremont and the Mid-Western Hazardous Materials meeting in Sutton.
  - Training in August was on hose line advancement and car fires. In September the Fire Department is hoping to have Cory Patten from Patten's Auto and Recovery talk about what is expected from both sides in order to make a recovery as smooth as possible.
  - The Fire Department received the new pick-up/utility vehicle in August. It will be outfitted to respond to areas that the larger engines can't access. It will also be used by department members to attend meetings and trainings so they do not have to take their personal vehicles.
  - On October 11, 2014 the Fire Department will be hosting their annual open house which will be combined with the town health fair.
  - In August the Fire Department Association was challenged to do the ALS ice bucket challenge. They accepted and on August 21, 2014 at 9:00am, the fire personnel dove into a tank of water and ice. They raised \$210.00 for ALS and challenged the Grantham Police Department, Springfield Fire Department and Grantham Selectmen and front office.

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## ➤ Police Department – August Report:

- Officer Ryan Gamble completed training at the NHPST titled “Conducting Physical Fitness Testing” on August 5, 2014. Completion of this course allows Officer Gamble to administer the ongoing three-year testing regimen required for officers hired after January 1, 2001 to maintain police or corrections certifications.
- Sergeant John Parsons attended training at the Smith & Wesson Academy, Armorers School Program on August 14, 2014 regarding care and maintenance of M&P Pistol.
- Department Secretary Judy DiPadova attended NHCOPSA training on August 15, 2014 regarding “The Right to Know Law as it Applies to Law Enforcement”. The presenter was Allenstown Town Administrator, Shaun Mulholland, who is also the retired Allenstown Police Chief.
- The Police Department received training by Capt. Massad Ayoob on August 18, 2014 regarding Wounded Officer Return Fire Techniques.
- Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr. received a thank you note from a resident for the Police Department efforts in attempting to return luggage found on Route 10 North.
- Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr., received kind words of appreciation from a resident regarding Officer Gamble's response to an issue at their home over Labor Day weekend. The couple stated that Officer Gamble was a very attentive, pleasant and personable young officer and appreciated his assistance.

## ➤ Town Administrator

- The Town of New London has completed the review of their Dispatching Center. The New London Board of Selectmen will most likely announce the next step in the process next week.
- Notice was received from the New Hampshire Retirement System informing of the employer contribution rate changes effective July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017. Group I will increase to 11.17%; Group II will increase to 26.38%.
- The Town Clerk/Tax Collectors Office will be closed September 17 – 19, 2014 for training.
- Upcoming Meetings:
  - The Conservation Commission meeting is Monday, September 15, 2014 at 7:00pm.
  - The Municipal Records Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 3:45 pm.
  - The Zoning Board meeting is Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 7:00pm.

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- The CIP Committee meeting is Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 10:00am with the Conservation Commission and Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 1:00pm with the remaining departments.

## **OTHER**

Chairman Kimball informed C. Peter James that not much progress has been made with his request pertaining to signs in Grantham. James informed that he read the Zoning Ordinance as it applies to signs and that there are several signs in town that he believes are in violation of the ordinance. He reiterated his opinion from earlier discussions that there are too many signs in town which detract from the beauty of the town. There was further discussion regarding different types of signs such as political and real estate signs and the governance of such.

## **NON-PUBLIC**

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II- a and e, a motion was made by Selectman Story, seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:20pm. 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 6:23 pm.***

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Selectman Story moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; ***by majority vote, the Board adjourned at 6:23 pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 24, 2014** at 5pm in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper  
Administrative Assistant