

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes August 10, 2016

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 by Chairman 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 Sheridan Brown; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Fast Squad Member Lori Avery; Kristina Burgard, Energy Committee; Bruce St. Peter; Jean Liepold; and C. Peter James

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

ADMINISTRATIVE - APPROVED

- Payroll Manifest #483
- Accounts Payable Manifest #507-510
- 2015 Revised Abatement Refund 90 New Aldrich Road - \$72.31
- Conservation Fund Reimbursement to General Fund - \$5,525.10
- General Fund Reimbursement to Reclamation Fund - \$9,569.50
- Master Plan Service Agreement Amendment
- Building Permits:
 - 101 Burpee Hill Road; M/L 216-039 – shed
 - 432 Road Round the Lake; M/L 215-053 – garage
 - 41 Walton Heath Drive; M/L 225-218 – shed
 - 58 Pintail Knob; M/L 222-159 – relocate electrical panel
 - 478 Old Farms Road; M/L 220-045 – ground mount solar array
 - 225 Burpee Hill Road; M/L 221-066 – porch
 - 77 Yankee Barn Road; M/L 233-028 – dormer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of July 27, 2016 as written and the non-public meeting minutes of August 2, 2016 as written was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Brown. **Unanimously approved.**

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APPEARANCES

- Kristina Burgard – Grantham Energy Committee: Kristina Burgard, Grantham Energy Committee, brought the following items to the Board's attention and queried whether they wished to pursue them:

1) "Button Up" Workshop in September

GEC is planning to hold a "Button Up" workshop at Town Hall, tentatively scheduled for 9/27/2016. GEC's current plan is to have:

- a) a speaker from NH's Renewable Energy/Button Up NH initiative;
- b) energy audit information & potential provider(s);
- c) other potential vendors, including indoor wood pellet boilers/furnaces.

Goals: a) Assist residents with finding out where energy is wasted in their homes; b) Provide information about resources for fixing home energy loss; c) provide resources for alternate heating sources; and e) present examples of the type of system that was intended to be covered by last year's proposed property tax assessment exemption for "wood heating energy systems."

The Board agreed that this is a very good idea.

2) Wood Pellet Furnace Exemption Warrant Article for 2017

Determine whether the Board would like Grantham Energy Committee to prepare and submit for the Board's consideration a more clear and precise warrant article for 2017 Town Meeting regarding property tax assessment exemption for "wood heating energy systems". Suggestion is to present more specific language, e.g., define the same as in the NH rebate, which reads "high efficiency bulk-fuel fed indoor wood-pellet central heating boilers and furnaces."

The Board agreed and suggested getting more information out to the public prior to Town Meeting. Burgard said they will work on drafting that for the Board's review and gathering more information for the public.

3) Update Building Permit for Renewable Energy Projects

Determine whether the Board is interested in having GEC work with Administrator White to modify the existing building permit application to make it easier to submit relevant information for renewable energy projects, e.g., solar.

The Board agreed.

4) Potential Solar Project at Fire Department

Determine whether the Board would like GEC to gather more detailed information and proposals regarding adding a roof-mount solar array to the Fire Department building, and if so, potential FY timing for such a project.

Note: Based on the Solar Assessment, the Fire Department and GVS buildings had the best roof alignments for significant power generation. GEC is following up separately with GVS Superintendent & Board regarding a potential solar project at GVS.

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Town Administrator White asked if the system would be capable of sending the electricity to another town building, like town hall. Burgard said that she believed the way it works is that it would power the Fire Department and any excess would go to the grid and the town would get some credit for that but they will do more research. Selectman Brown mentioned that the New Hampshire Municipal Association was successful this past legislative session in getting the net metering cap increased. There was some discussion about ground mounted arrays and Burgard said they could explore that more.

The Board thanked Burgard and the Energy Committee for their work on these projects.

- Bruce St. Peter & Jean Liepold: Bruce St. Peter stated that he and Jean were there to follow up after the August 10, 2016 Selectmen's meeting where they expressed concerns about their revised assessment changing the classification of their ceilings. He said he was supposed to meet with Town Administrator White regarding their assessment and that is the last thing he knows other than a conversation with her that she was checking with the NH Department of Revenue Administration over some legal issues concerning it. White explained that she has been trying to connect with NH DRA and Vision Government Solutions to get a better understanding of the assessment codes and there has been some delay in connecting with them. She stated that there are two separate issues, the 2015 abatement which was granted; and the changes that were made during the site visit on July 5, 2016. White said the cathedral ceiling issue can be addressed once the new Assessor is on board. She continued that the abatement issue involves Vision Government Solutions but believes that when the new town assessors are in place, they can address the ceiling classification issues as they deem appropriate.

Jean Liepold stated that she has been writing to State Senators, Representatives and the NH DRA to get some guidance as to assessment code definitions. She also called the New Hampshire Board of Assessors and was told that the State of New Hampshire does not have uniform definitions for assessment codes and that she should contact her representatives and senators to have them introduce a bill to establish uniform assessment code definitions. White stated that she has requested the Data Collection Manual from Vision Government Solutions but has not yet received it and she will continue to pursue a resolution to this when the new town assessors are on board.

CORRESPONDENCE

- West Central Behavioral Health: A thank you was received from West Central Behavioral Health for the town meeting appropriation of \$3,500.00.

OLD BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge: Town Administrator White met with Engineer Peter Blakeman and they are in the process of going over some details.
- Miller Pond Road Bridge: Neil H. Daniels, Inc. is now working on the other side of the bridge and they are on schedule.

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Fire Chief Fountain stated that if there was a call beyond the bridge that the department has concerns about maneuvering the fire apparatus around the barriers when returning from the call and asked when they would be removed. Fountain and White will go to the site and speak to the supervisor.

- Mitchell Automotive: No new information. Police Chief Madore stated that he spoke with the Manager of the Circle K and informed her that the stop sign going onto Yankee Barn Road needed to be replaced.
- NHMA – Floor Proposals: Tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Investment Policy Review: The Town Treasurer Investment Policy is reviewed annually. Selectman Brown informed that he has not had a chance to review it and asked if it could be tabled until the next meeting. Chairman Kimball and Selectman Jones agreed.
- Shoreline Cutting Application South Shore II Condominium Association: A motion to approve the Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan at South Shore II Condominium Association as recommended by the Grantham Conservation Commission was made by Chairman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**
- Signs: Town Administrator White stated that she has received numerous concerns about the multitude of signs along Route 10 and Interstate 89 advertising Grace's Café along with some other off premise signs in town advertising businesses. A couple residents in attendance also expressed their concerns. Chairman Kimball explained that, as far as Interstate 89 is concerned, the town has no jurisdiction even though it runs through Grantham. Chief Madore reported that he has also received calls about the signs and said the best thing to do regarding the Interstate 89 signs is to call the NH DOT because they are the best entity to deal with it and if enforcement action is needed, they can enforce it through the State Police.

There were suggestions to hire a Code Enforcement Officer. Selectman Brown stated that, although that is a good idea, there needs to be a system in place and that would only be one part of it and explained the specifics. He informed that they have been looking very diligently at what procedures need to be in place to be able to do enforcement and do it right. Brown emphasized that we need to be helping people to comply with our ordinances, not just rack up violations. Finally, he noted that sometimes you have to take a deep breath and see if the problem resolves itself because you can invest a lot of resources in something that is going to solve itself.

The Board asked White to reach out to the owners of Grace's café and the other businesses who have similar signs out and have a conversation about them.

- Town Treasurer: A resignation was received from Town Treasurer, Chris Morris, effective September 14, 2016. He stated that he is very sad to be leaving and working with the professional, caring and thoroughly wonderful people in Grantham Town has been the highlight of his years here. Morris highly recommended one of his Deputy Treasurers, Anne Neu, as his replacement. The Board agreed to have Anne Neu replace him.

Approved

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- EMS – July Report: There were a total of thirteen (13) calls for service in July. There were six (6) transports consisting of five (5) ALS calls and one (1) BLS call. Three were not transported and four were cancelled.
- Trustees of the Trust Funds – July Report: The Trustees of the Trust Funds July Report was reviewed.
- Town Administrator:
 - The Return of Surplus in the amount of \$7,212.73 was received from New Hampshire Interlocal Trust.
 - A check in the amount of \$1,000.00 was received from Primex. This is the deductible they recovered for the damage caused to one of the cruisers on August 4, 2011.
 - The Annual Audit will take place during the week of August 22, 2016.
 - Music in the Meadow is in full swing on Tuesdays through August.
 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is on August 20, 2016 from 9:00am – 12:00pm here at Town Hall. The entrance will be from Dunbar Hill Road.
 - The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Dedication for Brookside Park will be held on August 27, 2016.
 - \$2,500.00 has been collected thus far from the sale of blueberries.
 - Upcoming Meetings:
 - The Grantham Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled on Monday, August 15, 2016 at 7:00pm.
 - The Zoning Board meeting scheduled on Thursday, August 25, 2016 has been cancelled;
 - The 250th Celebration Committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 7:00pm in lower lever Town Hall.
 - The Planning Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 7:00pm.

OTHER

Selectman Brown reported that he has made some progress on engine breaks. Councilor Kenney put him in touch with the Commissioner at the Department of Transportation who wrote back with the same explanation as we received before, however, they did crack the door open a little bit pointing to Gorham and sent a picture of some signage they had where it was a voluntary thing that said something like; on the way into town, please be respectful and use

Approved

engine breaks only in an emergency. He said that the lines of communication are open and there is at least one option proposed to us that they would work with us on. He is formulating a response.

NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(b), a motion was made by Selectman Jones, and seconded by Chairman Kimball to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:09pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Sheridan Brown; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper

*A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 6:15pm was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.***

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(e), a motion was made by Selectman Jones, and seconded by Selectman Brown to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:15pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Sheridan Brown; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper

*A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 6:30pm was made by Chairman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.***

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Kimball moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; **by Unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:30 pm.**

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 24, 2016** 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