

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes March 13, 2019

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 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 Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Fire Chief Justin Hastings; F. Robert Osgood; Pavel Zagadailov; C. Peter James and Sheridan Brown

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Selectman Garland nominated Selectman Kimball to be Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Jones nominated Selectman Garland to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. By unanimous vote made by Selectman Jones and seconded by Selectman Garland, Selectman Kimball will be Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and Selectman Garland will be Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

The Board confirmed the following designations of Selectmen ex-officio board and committee members:

Selectman Constance Jones:	Zoning Board of Adjustment
Selectman Warren Kimball:	Planning Board
Chairman Peter Garland:	Conservation Commission

The Rules of Procedure were reviewed; no changes made.

The upcoming meeting schedule was discussed and the regular Selectmen meetings will continue to be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:00pm unless a change is necessitated. If a business meeting is scheduled between regular meetings, the time will be determined at the time of scheduling the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Selectman Garland to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of February 27, 2019; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the work session and non-public minutes of March 6, 2019; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Unanimously approved.**

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CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll Manifest #556
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #622/663
3. Electronic Newsletter Policy
4. Appointment to Conservation Commission: John Eylander (alternate member)
5. Appointment of Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Penelope Palmer
6. 2018 Property Tax Refund Request - \$3,916.10
7. 2018 Tax Abatement:
 - a. M/L 222-263-000; 49 Hummingbird Hill - \$1,684.79
 - b. M/L 233-110-000; Dunbar Hill Road
8. Application for Veteran's Tax Credit:
 - a. M/L 235-027-014; 174 Woodland Heights
 - b. M/L 225-188-000; 96 Greensward Drive
9. Application for Elderly Exemption:
 - a. M/L 214-060-000; 13 Spring Valley Drive
10. Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 225-051-000; 31 Hummingbird Hill – Solar Array
 - b. M/L 225-266-000; 27 Fairway Drive – Vinyl Siding
 - c. M/L 220-020-000; 201 Walker Road – Bathroom Remodel; Second Story Garage Addition
 - d. M/L 234-009-000; 93 Longwood Road - Generator
11. Correspondence:
 - a. UVLSRPC E-Bulletin March 2019: The UVLSRPC E-Bulletin for March 2019 was reviewed.

Town Administrator Melissa White informed the Board that the Assessor recommended the Abatement Application in item number 7.b. be denied. A motion to deny the Abatement Application in item number 7.b. and remove it from the Consent Calendar was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Garland. **Unanimously approved.**

A motion to approve the Consent Calendar as amended was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Resident C. Peter James commented that the Fire Station looks very nice after the recent improvements and fresh paint and thought it would be nice to have some lettering on the building. Fire Chief Justin Hastings informed that he will be asking the association at their next meeting to donate the sign and that he will be taking "Volunteer" out of the name so it will say "Grantham Fire & EMS".

Resident F. Robert Osgood stated that he wanted to share a few thoughts after town meeting while they were still fresh in his mind and he did so. He stated that 10 years ago he predicted that the school portion of the taxes would double in about 10 years and there was a comment made about that very thing at town meeting. He proposed to the Board that they go back 10 years and look at how much money was raised in taxes for each separate entity, the Town and the School. He also said that he heard the teachers in Grantham were the second

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highest paid in the state and wondered if there was a resource that the Selectmen could look at to see where Grantham stands with teacher's salaries. Selectman Jones told him that is not for the Selectmen to do, that he would need to go to the School Department for that information and they directed him to Sydney Leggett, Superintendent of SAU 75. Osgood thanked the Selectmen for their time.

Sheridan Brown expressed a big *Thank You* to the Board, Melissa and Ann. He said he doesn't think the average citizen realizes what a difficult job Selectman is. He thanked the Board for their support of the Conservation Project, in particular, because of how many ins and outs there were to keep it from falling apart. He said that was in large part because the non-profit organizations saw the commitment and professionalism of the Town and that was encouraging to them to want to work with us. He remarked that on Sunday he happened to be at an outdoor expo in Milford, New Hampshire and ran into one of the land purchasing agents from NH Fish and Game. Brown mentioned that he lived in Grantham and told him what the Town was doing and the response was "Oh, yeah, I love Melissa, she's great". Brown reported that was not the only place that he hears that and it is always nice to get feedback from other towns and people that tell him Grantham is a great place, you guys don't have some of the problems we hear about in other towns that are kind of falling apart with people quitting and not wanting to deal with it because it's becoming a mess and he thanked the Selectmen for that. Brown recounted that he left the Board for time commitment reasons because they say to do it right, you need to be informed, engaged and independent and he thought the Selectmen do a good job of that. He said he is happy to help around the edges on some projects and specific things and thanked the Board for letting him be a part of the conservation project.

Referring to some of Osgood's points, Brown stated that maybe it would be good to include kind of a basic civics primer for residents because he continues to be amazed at people who come to the Selectmen and don't understand which parts of government do what; that the federal government tells the states what to do and the states tell the towns what the towns can do and within the towns, the state has divided up authority between the school district and the town government and then within that you have all of your individual boards that all rely heavily on volunteers. He thought it would be helpful to both encourage people to be in those board roles and also to know where to direct their questions or their ire, because the Selectmen can't create new authority that they don't have. Brown offered to help put some sort of explanation together that will direct people where to go to get different information. Selectman Garland added that he was amazed at town meeting about the number of people that came up to him and said they thought they were voting on the school budget too and he had to explain that the school has its own meeting for voting on the school budget and it was a week prior to town meeting.

Lastly, Brown suggested putting a link to New Hampshire Municipal Association's legislative updates on the Town's website so people can see what the State government is doing to municipalities because they often have good summaries of cost shifting that is happening to municipalities of what the State has forced towns to pay.

Fire Chief Justin Hastings informed that they have hired some new people for the Fire Department and EMS and one of them has professionally written grants and has a lot of FDA and medical writing grant experience. White mentioned that the town of Cornish recently

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received a large grant for SCBA's and asked Hastings to reach out to them to find out more information.

Hastings also informed that he has been working with the State and is going to start implementing some quarterly State training. He said Grantham gets two free trainings a year and they are going to be partnering with Croydon and Springfield so they can come to our two free trainings and we can go to their free trainings. Hastings said his goal is to run a whole Firefighter 1 class over the next three years through modules. As it is now, people are traveling all over the place for these classes now. His goal will be for anyone that doesn't have this training to work through these modules and bring most everybody up to that level within three years.

Selectman Jones said she had a lot of comments at Town Meeting about changing the time of Town Meeting to start later at 6:00pm or 6:30pm to give people a chance to get home from work and maybe have dinner, etc. Selectman Jones said she agreed that it should start later. White suggested discussing this further in the fall when they start working on the budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Treasurer Investment Policy: The Selectmen reviewed the updated Town Treasurer Investment Policy. A motion to accept the Town Treasurer Investment Policy was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

Lebanon Ambulance –February Report: 15 calls for service; 7 were transported.

Trustees of the Trust Funds – February Report

Town Administrator – February Report: February was busy preparing for the Budget Hearing and Town Meeting. Town Report was finalized and sent to the printers.

On February 27, 2019, Facility Maintenance Manager, Greg Stender, delivered five grocery carts of food to the Newport Food Pantry.

Road Agent Hastings picked up the Plow Truck from Reed's on March 10, 2019. It turns out that the intercooler let go which resulted in all the fluids going into the motor. Reed's had to tear it apart to get all the coolants out. Diagnostic reports have been requested to determine if this issue is related to the fire in 2017.

Mud Season: Mud season is upon us and all town maintained roads were posted on Monday, March 11th. With all the rain we had in October and then the quick winter freeze in November, Hastings is preparing for a difficult mud season this year.

The Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday, April 21, 2019 for Easter.

The February Expense and Revenue Report was provided to the Selectmen.

White provided the Board with an updated Board/Committee meeting schedule.

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The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2019 in observance of Memorial Day.

NON-PUBLIC:

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-c, a motion was made by Selectman Garland and seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:20 pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper.

Roll Call vote to enter non-public session:	Chairman Warren Kimball;	Yes
	Selectman Constance Jones;	Yes
	Selectman Peter Garland	Yes

A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 6:25 pm was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Garland. ***Unanimously approved.***

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Garland moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:27 pm.

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on **Wednesday, March 27, 2019** at 5:00 pm in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant