

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes March 27, 2019

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 27, 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; Police Chief John Parsons; Fire Chief Justin Hastings; Assistant Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Pavel Zagadailov; Denis Carrier; Ken Ryder; George Foley; and Phil Langsdorf

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of March 13, 2019; seconded by Selectman Garland. **Unanimously approved.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll Manifest #557
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #623/664
3. 2019 MS-232
4. 2019 Motor Vehicle Registration Refund Request - \$137.00
5. Letter of Intent to The Conservation Fund informing of Town Meeting outcome
6. Application for Veteran's Tax Credit:
 - a. M/L 221-027-000; 178 New Aldrich Road
7. Application for Elderly Exemption:
 - a. M/L 233-094-002; 28 Splitrock Road
8. Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 222-156-008; 50 Black Duck Spur – Kitchen & Bath Remodel
 - b. M/L 213-017-000; 51 Anderson Pond Road – Bedroom & Garage Remodel
 - c. M/L 234-130-000; 486 Howe Hill Road - Demolition
9. Correspondence:
 - a. Eversource Energy News Release: A News Release was received from Eversource Energy informing of their request for approval to continue investing in electric system reliability and resiliency and they have also notified regulators of their upcoming request for distribution rate review – first in 10 years.
 - b. Kennebec Lumber Company: A letter was received from Denis Carrier, President of Kennebec Lumber Company, acknowledging receipt of a letter from the Selectmen regarding complaints of it's sawmill operation. The letter stated that they were not aware of the restrictions placed on the mill by the

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Grantham Planning Board on March 1, 2018 regarding the hours of operation. Carrier said they reviewed the violations thoroughly and have taken steps to prevent this from happening moving forward. The letter also stated that they took immediate action to remove the sign and correct steps will be taken with the Grantham Planning Board before any future changes are made.

- c. NH Department of Transportation: The 2018 Report of State and Municipal Red List Bridges was received from the NH Department of Transportation. This information shows that during the 2018 inspection cycle, the number of State Red List bridges decreased from 133 to 129 and the Municipal Red List decreased from 252 to 241.

Town Administrator White requested that item number 5 be removed from the Consent Calendar because more information is needed before finalizing the letter.

A motion to approve the Consent Calendar after the removal of item number 5 was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

APPOINTMENTS TO MEET WITH THE BOARD

Denis Carrier, President of Kennebec Lumber Company, introduced himself. He asked if the Town received his letter. White answered yes. He said he would like to get to know the Town and the Selectmen and hopes that the Selectmen will get to know him. As stated in his letter, he acknowledged that he was 100% naïve that there were any town ordinances and restrictions placed on the mill by the Planning Board; he owns manufacturing facilities in 13 different towns and none of them have town ordinances. He believed that they have rectified the problems since they found out about the restrictions. White informed Carrier that she did receive two complaints about some finished lumber being loaded on Sunday, March 24th, and that there was activity on March 13th between 6:00 and 7:30 PM which was a few days after they had spoken. She asked him if that last one, on March 13th, was related to this time of year and he replied yes, that would have been logs coming out of the woods on frost. He said if he understands and read the restrictions correctly, they are allowed to go until 10:00 PM. Chairman Kimball said he believes that is the case but it is something they would consider some sort of emergency which this sounds like it was but they do require a letter informing of that. Carrier said he has no idea what the finished lumber removal on March 24th was all about but he will be looking at his cameras and emphasized that there is not supposed to be any lumber moving on weekends. Carrier said they will do the best they can to conform to the ordinances and restrictions.

Carrier said he would also like to talk about the future of that site. He informed that they have some fairly grand plans in their long term vision for that site and the plans are to invest about ten million dollars over a five year plan and he needs to know that he is going to be okay there. He stated that he already has millions of dollars invested in purchasing the site and they want to upgrade it to better position themselves in the future to visually be more appealing and more efficient with the benefit of providing a safer work environment for their employees, and longer, sustainable jobs with benefits. He noted that there is quite a bit of history with that site that he didn't know about. He thought the lawyers would have dug that up in their due diligence but they didn't. White responded, in speaking to his long range plans, that one of the biggest complaints with the previous owner was the noise and suggested to Carrier that when he gets to the point of going to the Planning Board for expansion, anything that he

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would be able to do to reduce the noise for the abutters would be appreciated and better received for the neighborhood there because the previous owner expanded the mill to what it is now creating the extra noise.

White relayed a message to Carrier from resident C. Peter James who was unable to attend this meeting. James felt strongly that mills can be a good benefit to a town, good for the town's economy and employing people. Carrier appreciated that.

Carrier informed that the mill's headquarters were started in 1999 in a small town called Solon, Maine. They started with 16 employees and are well over 200 now. He said they built that mill right in the middle of town, across from the school house and beside a bunch of houses. When they went before the Planning Board at that time, the Board asked that they get some sound studies done and try to keep it below a certain range of decibels. He said they did everything they could in the building process to alleviate that type of noise pollution that people, understandably, don't like. He didn't know if anyone would want to drive that far, but he invited the Selectmen and Planning Board and any town officials interested to go visit the Solon mill so he could show them what they are about, what they do and how they do it so they could all feel comfortable with each other. White thought that was a very good idea. Carrier informed that it is about a four hour drive and he would love to schedule the visit at the Selectmen's convenience and share some of the thoughts and visions that they have for this site. He emphasized that this is a very important site. This year was a very big growing year for them as they purchased four facilities in New Hampshire all in July and August. Of all the facilities that they bought, they like the Grantham one, in particular, because of its proximity to the white wood timber. They want this mill to be the first of their investments to grow and transform into what they want and then they will move from there to the other sites that they purchased and again, before they pull that trigger, they should all be on the same page and make sure that the Town is okay with it and will not be spending money only to get shut down in a few years. He asked for them to please let him know if there are any problems that he can alleviate. White reiterated that the noise has been the biggest issue that the Town receives from the abutters. She told him that when Cote & Reney owned the mill, they had a cable to keep trucks from going in and out during off hours. Carrier referenced when they started in Solon, everything is 100% enclosed, knowing that noise was going to be an issue for everybody. Everything is inside and all of the conveyers going in and out are filled with concrete so they don't echo and it deadens the sound. They also installed sound deadening walls. He said that when a lot of people visit their Solon facility, they ask why the saw mill isn't running today – well it is, it's just a lot quieter than a typical saw mill. That being said, they do make noise, it's not like they are dead silent. He said there are things they can do to alleviate noise but there is nothing they can do to eliminate it. Chairman Kimball went over some history of the previous two saw mills and Carrier noted that deliveries will probably be the biggest obstacle to overcome. Chairman Kimball agreed. Carrier said that will be a challenge but he does have some ideas and they will do the best they can. Carrier thanked the Board for their time.

NEW BUSINESS

Athletics Department – Winter 2019 Report: Basketball Season has wrapped up for the year, but it was a success all around with over 90 players participating from Pre-K through 6th grade forming six teams.

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Coaches, referees and uniforms were received well in advance of the season start. Scheduling of the basketball court at GVS this year was still tricky, but court time proved manageable, providing the players a chance to improve on their skills and prepare for game play.

Grantham hosted two round robin tournaments for the 5/6 grade girls and the 5/6 grade boys in January. This mid-season tournament was a chance for players to show what they know. The dual tournament was a great success. A Concession was offered bringing in revenue of approximately \$250.00.

Athletics Director Marsha Googins sent out a survey mid-season to 51 basketball parents - 23 out of the 51 invitees replied with the majority of responses being positive and satisfied with their child's basketball season. A new feature of the survey allows Googins to isolate the responses so that she can address any concerns directly. The basketball season ended in early February with only the 3/4 grade boys team continuing on by participating in the Karp's Klasic Tournament at the CCBA in Lebanon. Winning their first game, the team was done after the second game but proved to be tough competitors and worked well as a team.

Googins will give a more substantial report later in the Spring for baseball but wished to share that registrations (despite the snow interference) were very substantial this year forming a Majors, 2 Minors, 2 Rookie and 2 T-ball teams consisting of over 106 players. All coaches are in place and beginning practices are this week in the GVS gym. A new batting cage was installed in the gym for the older teams to use. Googins is hopeful that the teams will be practicing outside just after April vacation. Googins held a coaches meeting for baseball at the GVS cafeteria on Monday, March 18, 2019, with full attendance, sharing season expectations, League updates and field/gym use as well as information about the concession stand. She anticipates a well prepared season with the hopes that players will be outside soon to practice.

Googins has also incorporated a coach's ethics form that she will have coaches sign, acknowledging their understanding of their role as a coach and representative of Grantham Athletics.

Police Department – February Report: Sergeant Cunningham and Chief Parsons attended training for Safer Environments via Collaborative, Unified Response to Emergencies (SAFER) at Valley Regional Hospital-NH State Campus Police on February 1, 2019.

The Department participated in the Below 100 Training instructed by Sr. Patrolman Gamble on February 13, 2019. Below 100's mission is "To influence law enforcement culture by providing innovative training and awareness, through presentations, social media and webinars on identifying the leading causes and current trends in preventable line of duty deaths and injuries".

Chief Parsons attended the NH Doorways Project at Lebanon Hub, DHMC on February 26, 2019.

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The Town has received payment from the State for the EMS/Warm Zone Grant match in the amount \$6,000.00. The Department anticipates fully completing all of the requirements associated with this grant award by the end of March.

The Department submitted the final report and request for reimbursement for the MDT Grant match in the amount of \$3,805.00.

The Department is still working with Hanover dispatch to be able to once again provide the department's monthly statistics.

Chief Parsons informed that in collaboration with Town Administrator White, he is in the process of upgrading the security cameras for internal security for the public and employees and external security, particularly in our parking lot which is getting used more and more frequently for court ordered child custody exchanges and domestic violence related swaps, some of which they know about and some they don't. He came up with a replacement plan that will cover what we need now and will probably take us into any expansions that we will need in the foreseeable future. To pay for this upgrade, he had a meeting with a representative from New Hampshire Homeland Security and we can apply for another EMP Grant. Selectman Garland asked Chief Parsons if this is something that he will do. Chief Parsons said that Tasco Security will be doing the work since they already know the system, a lot of it will be replacing the existing cameras, the DVR setup and the monitoring board that they already have and installing new cameras both inside and outside of the building.

Transfer Station – February Report:

Solid Waste – 6 runs; 59.47 tons

Construction Demolition Debris – 5 runs; 20.5 tons

Aluminum – 1 load; .91 tons; Revenue \$450.05

Batteries – 1 load; .15 tons; Revenue \$50.83

Light Iron – 1 load; 5.4554 tons; Revenue \$545.54

Fibers – Mixed Loose – (Paper) – 2 loads; 7.94 tons

Revenue: \$ 00.00

Expense: \$1,376.38

Comingle – w/o glass (Plastic) – 2 loads; 2.64 tons

Revenue: \$ 00.00

Expense: \$248.16

Total tonnage of material taken away: 96.1554 tons

Tickets collected at Transfer Station: \$1,255.00

Total Revenue from recycling: \$1,046.87

Total Expenses from recycling: \$1,624.54

Net Expense from recycling: \$ 577.67

Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott noted that on January's report, the net revenue was a net expense. He used a previous month's report and forgot to change net revenue to net expense and apologized.

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Town Administrator: White received notice that the 25th Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2019 in Concord. White will attend. She forwarded the notice to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board members. White informed that the Clerk of each Board will also be attending. Selectman Jones asked if anyone from the Zoning or Planning Boards plan to go. White said she has not heard yet. Selectman Jones would like them to know that the Selectmen think it is important that they attend. Chairman Kimball said he will be happy to relay that message.

The New Hampshire Governor's Finance Officers' Association is offering a Government Accounting Certificate Program which White has enrolled in. The Program consists of 12 full day sessions starting on April 23, 2019 and ends in November. She will be out of the office for full days for those sessions.

Primex is conducting a fire risk assessment of all of its members' highway facilities in the State due to an increase number of fires, specifically, at highway garages. They did that assessment here on Tuesday, March 26th and did not have any specific concerns but they will have a few standard recommendations, one being the purchase of a fire proof cabinet where flammables can be stored. Road Agent Jeff Hastings has started doing some research to figure out what might work best for him. The other recommendation that will be standard to all of their members is the installation of a fire suppression system. Primex realizes that it is expensive but it is a significant life safety and property conservation devise should an incident occur. They expect to have their final review and expectations report to White in a week or so.

A resignation letter was received from part time receptionist, Jeanne West, effective April 5, 2019 due to her move to Hawaii. Selectman Jones emphasized the importance of replacing Jeanne soon.

A resignation letter was received from Activities Director, Jamielynn Garland, effective June 30, 2019.

White said she will start advertising for both positions.

The Zoning Board meeting scheduled for March 28, 2019 has been cancelled.

White informed that she added the link to NHMA's Legislative updates page to the "helpful links" section of the Town's website.

Selectman Jones asked how the Planning Board and Conservation Commission are set for alternates. White said the Conservation Commission is all set, they have two alternates but the Planning Board does not have any alternates.

NON-PUBLIC:

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-e, a motion was made by Selectman Garland and seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:35 pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Ken Ryder, General Manager of Eastman Community Association; George Foley; and Phil Langsdorf

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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 6:38 pm was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Garland. **Unanimously approved.**

A motion to seal the minutes of this non-public session was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Garland; by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:39 pm.

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on **Wednesday, April 10, 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