

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes February 26, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:02 pm on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 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; C. Peter James; and Kevin Davis

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 02/12/2020; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll Manifest #586
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #663/712
3. Capital Improvement Projects Committee Appointment: Ralph D. Beasley
4. Energy Committee Appointment: Andy Gelston
5. Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Alternate Representative Appointment: Lynn Kisselbach
6. CAI Technologies GIS Services Annual Maintenance Agreement
7. CAI Technologies Tax Map Maintenance Contract
8. CAI Technologies Street Numbering Contract
9. 2019 Tax Abatements:
 - a. M/L 220-027-000; Dunbar Hill Road - \$4.00
 - b. M/L 220-028-000; Dunbar Hill Road - \$64.00
 - c. M/L 220-031-000; Walker Road - \$4.00
10. Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 234-030-000; 31 Greensward Drive - Generator
11. Correspondence
 - a. United States Bankruptcy Court District of New Hampshire: An Order in United States Bankruptcy Court District of New Hampshire Case No. 19-11615-BAH was received.
 - b. Comcast: Notice was received from Comcast regarding changes to Xfinity TV service. Impacted customers were notified of the changes through a bill message.
 - c. Eversource Vegetation Management Letter of Support: An email was received from Connor Jennings, Community Relations Specialist for Eversource in Western New Hampshire, asking the town of Grantham, along with other communities, to state their support of the tree trimming and removal programs that they

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have put in place over the last few years in letters to their vegetation management department in Hooksett.

- d. State of New Hampshire Circuit Court; Administrative Judge David D. King: A Memorandum was received from David D. King, Administrative Judge of the State of New Hampshire Circuit Court, informing of some changes made to the case types that will be electronically filed starting February 12, 2020. One of the case types is "Other Civil" which contain matters that are often filed by city and town officials.

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

APPOINTMENTS TO MEET WITH THE BOARD

Kevin Davis: In January, a request to appoint Kevin Davis as an alternate member of the Energy Committee was received from Energy Committee Member, Jenna Chenevert. Davis lives in Grantham and works for Norwich Solar Technologies. The Board had some concerns and requested a meeting with Davis.

Davis introduced himself and explained that he works for Norwich Solar Technologies and lives in Grantham. He said that, recently, he took stock of where he is and where things are and decided that he would like to give back a little bit so he contacted Chenevert to find out if there was an opening on the Energy Committee.

Chairman Kimball told Davis that his expertise would certainly be beneficial and explained that they had concerns about a potential conflict of interest if there were to be a solar project proposed by the Committee. Davis said that he understands their concern and assured the Board that he would certainly recuse himself from any discussions regarding a solar project that the town wanted to do. He added, just to be clear, that his intent is not to try and serve on the Energy Committee so he can back door his company into a project. He said that if the town wants to do a project, he would be happy to step out from the Energy Committee capacity completely and talk for his company if the time arose. Chairman Kimball said that was their concern. Davis reiterated that he lives here and just wanted to give back and do something for the community but he would bow out if there were concerns about an appearance of a conflict of interest.

Selectman Garland told Davis that they wanted him to realize that there is the potential for at least the appearance of a conflict of interest and asked him if he is a principal of the company. Davis said that he is not one of the owners of the company, however, he is on the executive team as a Vice President there. He said that he doesn't want to exclude his company from trying to get involved if a project comes up and he also doesn't want to give the appearance of impropriety by being on the Energy Committee. He said he would leave it up to them if they are comfortable with him volunteering and recusing himself if that happens. The Selectmen felt comfortable with that.

A motion to appoint Kevin Davis as an Alternate Member of the Energy Committee was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

OLD BUSINESS

Partial Survey of the Class VI Portion of Miller Pond Road: No new information

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Miller Pond Road and Safety and Drainage Improvement Project: No new information.

Emergency Operations Plan Updates: No new information

Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates: No new information

NEW BUSINESS

Town Administrator: In the month of January, the office processed: six Building Permit Applications; one Planning Board Application; and 15 property transfers.

Gift of Land – Public Hearing Dates: The Planning Board and Conservation Commission have approved of the Town accepting the gift of land from Andrew and Andrea St. Peter, located at 36 Greensward Drive; M/L 234-098. Two public hearings must be held at least 10 days, but not more than 14 days apart. After reviewing calendars, the first public hearing will be held during the regular Selectmen's meeting on March 11, 2020 at 5:00 PM and the second public hearing will be held during the regular Selectmen's meeting on March 25, 2020 at 5:00 PM. A vote must be taken no sooner than seven days nor later than 14 days after the second hearing is held. The vote will be taken during the regular Selectmen's meeting on April 8, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

An updated meeting schedule as well as an updated Expense and Revenue Report was provided to the Selectmen.

White reported that the Grantham Conservation Commission was contacted by the Eastman Charitable Foundation (ECF) informing that they wanted to donate a tree to the town. ECF said that they need the Selectmen's permission and will plant it wherever the Selectmen wish. The Conservation Commission agreed to care for the tree.

A motion to accept the gift of a tree from the Eastman Charitable Foundation was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Garland. **Unanimously approved.**

White received an email from the Sullivan County Commissioners with an invitation to attend their next regular business meeting to discuss Community Power. The meeting is scheduled on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 3:00 PM at their offices in Newport. White, Chairman Kimball and Selectman Jones are available to attend. Selectman Garland was unsure but will let White know.

Holidays:

- Transfer Station Closed on Sunday, April 12, 2020 (Easter)

The Board discussed the 2020 Town Meeting Warrant in preparation for Town Meeting.

Chief John Parsons informed the Board that he wanted them to hear what he is about to say from him as opposed to any other source. He asked them if they had a chance to read the article in today's (February 26th) edition of the Valley News about the meeting in Croydon the previous night and remarked that one may interpret it that agencies other than New Hampshire State Police have taken it upon themselves to police the situation in Croydon. He said that he cannot speak for any other agency but the official stance of the Grantham Police Department is this: The day after the meeting, the Chair of the Croydon Select Board

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came to see him and specifically asked what the Grantham Police Department could do to help Croydon in terms of non-emergency calls. He was told, very clearly, that the Grantham Police Department will do absolutely nothing. We are not getting involved in anything non-emergency in Croydon. Chief Parsons said that he spoke with Lt. Kokoski, who is the Troop C Commander, and told him that if one of his troopers is in Croydon, on our side of the town, and needs help, we will go and help, just like we do with other local Departments in a mutual aid situation. He also told him that, if they are responding to an emergency towards our side of town, and the trooper has some travel time, that we will go and help in a Code 3 situation, somebody is dying, they need assistance, and we will stabilize the situation until State Police can get there which is the exact same thing that we are already doing when a motor vehicle crash comes in on I-89 and the troopers come up from Concord. We go up, we stand by, and we stabilize but then when the State Police get there, it's their incident to handle. He emphasized that this is what they have been doing anyway prior to the vote last week in Croydon whether it was State Police or Croydon Police; There have been times, mostly really bad motor vehicle crashes, when the Croydon Chief has been called in from his home and we are on duty; we would go out and set up traffic control, get things going and then assist once he got there. It's not anything Croydon police hasn't done to come in and help us when our officers have been tied up. That is the extent of the "area departments stepping up again" as was quoted in the article. He said he can't speak for Newport, Sunapee or any of the other local departments but that is, officially, what he told the Croydon Board of Selectmen and Lt. Kokoski from NH State Police. He added that both Hanover Dispatch and New London Dispatch have been advised of what the Grantham Police Department will and will not do because our primary responsibility is to the residents of Grantham. He wanted to make this clear in case residents come to the Selectmen with questions or concerns after reading that article. Chairman Kimball thanked Chief Parsons very much for bringing this to their attention. Town Administrator White told Chief Parsons that he might be asked to explain this at Town Meeting. Chief Parsons said he will explain it to whomever and however many times he needs to, that we are not getting involved in that other than an absolute, positive emergency, where we have been requested to do it (by the NH State Police) because that is how the mutual aid clause gets kicked in, we have to be requested. Resident C. Peter James said, at this point, there is no mutual aid for Croydon. Chief Parsons said correct, only for the State Police.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Garland moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; by majority vote, the Board adjourned at 5:36 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2020**, 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