

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes January 14, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 by Chairman Harold Haddock Jr. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Present: Chairman Harold Haddock Jr.; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Tina Stearns; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Emergency Management Director F.R. Osgood; Activities Director Laurie Field; Fire Chief Mike Benoit; Simon Mayer; Joey Holmes; Karen Foster

ADMINISTRATIVE

For Approval/Signature – **APPROVED**

- ✓ 2008 Property Tax Refunds (*due to overpayment*):
 1. M/L 222-048-000; 2 Azure Brae – \$18.00
 2. M/L 215-119-000; 37 Granite Way - \$10.00
 3. M/L 216-199-000; 12 Butternut Road - \$29.25
 4. M/L 215-010-003; 655 Marten Road - \$2,037.96
 5. M/L 215-079-000; 11 Winter Hill - \$3,781.93
 6. M/L 232-001-024; 22 Barrister Path - \$2,600.06
 7. M/L 225-182-000; 4 Bunker Drive - \$3,274.06
 8. M/L 225-263-000; 11 Fairway Drive - \$197.22
 9. M/L 222-120-000; 22 Slalom Drive - \$2,551.23
 10. M/L 215-061-013; 13 Bay Tree Lane - \$3,684.03
- ✓ Building Permit Applications:
 1. M/L 215-192-000; 13 Morning Hollow Lane; *Basement window replacement & partial finish*
- ✓ 2009 Contract for General Assessing Services
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding to the Grantham School Board regarding snow removal.
- ✓ Veteran's Tax Credit Application – **APPROVED**:
 1. 213-088-000; 27 Shore Road; Craig McArt
- ✓ Veteran's Tax Credit Application – **DENIED**:
 1. 242-023-000; 24 Bouldervale Road; James Billings

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Haddock requested any changes to the regular meeting minutes of December 23, 2008. There being none, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 23, 2008 as written; second by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously approved.*

APPEARANCES

- F.R. Osgood, Emergency Management Director: EMD Osgood discussed the eight (8) recommendations to the Emergency Operations Plan made by Jane Hubbard. Details of the recommendations are in the November 12, 2008 Board of Selectmen minutes.

EMD Osgood suggested appointing Ken Ryder, General Manager of Eastman Community Association as the Deputy EMD for Grantham. The Selectmen agreed Mr. Ryder would be a good choice for the position.

EMD Osgood stated he felt there are a large percentage of residents that don't understand how much planning has been done, and continues to be done, to take care of the residents in Grantham in the event of a major disaster.

- Simon Mayer: Mr. Mayer discussed his concerns with the increase in property taxes and urged the Board of Selectmen to bring down the spending. Mr. Mayer stated he felt that certain department budgets were "over loaded" while others such as the Highway Department, Fire Department, and FAST Squad weren't funded enough.

Mr. Mayer asked about the size of the police department. The Selectmen responded that there is one Police Chief, four (4) full-time police officers, and two (2) part-time police officers and that there is usually one officer per shift, sometimes two. Mr. Mayer asked how many police cruisers there were. The Selectmen answered four (4). Mr. Mayer stated he felt the police department was too large for the size of the town and had too many police cruisers; that with only one or two officers on duty at a time, three police cruisers are enough.

Chairman Haddock explained that items such as police cruisers etc. are listed as warrant articles so the residents can vote on them at Town Meeting. Mr. Mayer stated he didn't agree with voting on warrant articles at Town Meeting because very few people come to vote.

Chairman Haddock stated the Board would keep Mr. Mayer's concerns in mind as they prepared the budget. Chairman Haddock reminded Mr. Mayer to attend Town Meeting and vote. Selectman Jones suggested attending the public budget hearing on February 12, 2009 at 6pm in the Grantham Town Building, Lower Level Meeting Hall.

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OLD BUSINESS

- **Town Building Repairs:** Building Supervisor F.R. Osgood reported that all of the building repairs have been completed.

Supervisor Osgood informed that the exterior doors in Town Hall need replacing. Chairman Haddock requested Supervisor Osgood obtain quotes for replacing them.

NEW BUSINESS

- The 2008 Tax Year assessment ratio is 104.4. Administrator Stearns has requested a quote from the Assessors for a statistical update.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Activities – December Report:
 - The Grantham 4-H Club (the Lucky Charms) meets every other Tuesday at the Recreation Park Building on Shedd Road. 18 children between the ages of 7 and 14 have joined.
 - Ice skating was open to the public on December 24th. Activities Director Laurie Field stated that it was time consuming to remove the snow and re-surface the ice rink. Selectman Kimball suggested using a water pump from the Fire Department so the water from the pond could be used. Fire Chief Benoit will coordinate with Director Field. There was discussion regarding use of a snow blower (to help with snow removal). Administrator Stearns will check with the Highway Department and put a request out on the list serve.
 - The Ice Fishing Program is full and will be held on January 24th from 9:30 – 4:30pm.
 - Breakfast with Santa was held on December 13th. Attendance was low due to the ice storm.
 - The New Years Eve dance party was attended by about 85 people.
- Highway Department – November/December Report:
 - Graded and raked Miller Pond, Walker, Olde Farms and Jericho Roads.
 - The public sand shed was built.
 - Cleared roads of damaged trees from the ice storm.
 - Much of December was spent plowing, sanding, and general equipment maintenance.
- Police Department – December Report:
 - Chief Madore attended a two-day class for Business and Strategic Planning at the NH Police Standards & Training in Concord.

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- Chief Madore and his wife attended the annual NH Chief's Winter Conference in Bartlett, NH. Retired Chief Russell Lary was the Auctioneer for the event.
- Corporal Harriman has returned to full time duty.
- Chief Madore fell at home during the ice storm and is restricted to "office duty" only.

➤ Town Administrator:

- Budget Hearing is scheduled for February 12, 2009 at 6pm in the Grantham Town Building, Lower Level Meeting Hall.
- Town Meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2009 at 5pm in the Grantham Town Building, Lower Level Meeting Hall.

➤ Trustee of the Trust Funds:

- A letter was received from Kristina Burgard, Trustee of Trust Funds, informing that at the March 14, 2006 Town Meeting, Article 24 was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by voice vote but no requests from the Board of Selectmen had been submitted to the Trustees of Trust Funds to close the Radio Console Capital Reserve Fund account.

*Pursuant to Article 24 of the March 14, 2006 Town Meeting a motion was made by Selectman Jones to discontinue the Radio Console Capital Reserve Fund, close the Radio Console Capital Reserve Fund and transfer the balance of \$649.90 plus any accumulated interest as of the date of withdrawal to the Town's general fund; second by Selectman Kimball.
Unanimously approved.*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Kimball moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Jones; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melissa M. White
Administrative Assistant*