

APPROVED

Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes March 11, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 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; Joey Holmes; Jim Palermo; Police Chief Walter Madore; Fire Chief Mike Benoit; Ken O'Keefe; Nick Giaccone; Erin Giaccone; School Board Members: Chair Laurie Hanks, Doug Caffrey, Jeff Walla, Leslie Brown, David Armstrong; SAU #75 Superintendent Margaret Sullivan

ADMINISTRATIVE

For Approval/Signature – **APPROVED**

- ✓ 2009 MS-2 – Report of Appropriations Actually Voted
- ✓ Municipal Work Zone Agreement - NHDOT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Haddock requested any changes to the regular meeting minutes of February 25, 2009. There being none, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 25, 2009 as written; second by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

APPEARANCES

- Grantham School Board: School Board Chair Laurie Hanks stated they still had questions regarding plowing and mowing at the school. Chairman Haddock stated that after Town Meeting he felt it was clear what would happen.

Chair Hanks stated her concern was that they had a letter that indicated it would cost \$20,000 to plow the school and at Town Meeting \$2,200 was added to the Highway budget to plow the school.

Selectman Jones explained the \$2,200 was what Road Agent Joe Newcomb had in his memo and was derived at from conversations he had with the school maintenance supervisor Jim Palermo. Selectman Jones continued that it was her understanding the Town would use the extra \$2,200 that was added to the Highway Department's budget

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at Town Meeting to continue plowing and mowing the school. Selectman Jones informed that an agreement had been made between Road Agent Joe Newcomb and GVS Maintenance Supervisor Jim Palermo for Road Agent Newcomb to mow the sloped areas around the fence and that Mr. Palermo would mow the flat areas.

Chairman Haddock stated it was his understanding from the outcome of Town Meeting that the Town would take care of all the mowing and plowing.

Mr. Palermo explained that he would use the Fire Department's mower to do the flat areas; that particular mower was not designed to do the sloped areas. Mr. Palermo also stated Road Agent Newcomb agreed to allow Mr. Palermo use of the Highway weed whacker, if needed.

School Board Chair Hanks said there are two parking lots and the back road around the school that will need to be plowed and the discussion so far had only been about Learning Drive and one parking lot. Chairman Haddock clarified that Learning Drive was never an issue. Chair Hanks confirmed she understood that and suggested the two boards meet in September/October to see how things have gone and make the decision then.

Selectman Jones asked if Transfer Station Supervisor Frank Chaisson had been using the loader to clear the back road. Chair Hanks answered that he had not been clearing the back road this year because it is part of the construction area. Chair Hanks stated she is concerned with the staff parking and the back road because it will be used next year.

Mr. Palermo stated that Mr. Chaisson has been taking care of the upper and lower parking lots.

Chairman Haddock asked for confirmation that the only area that Mr. Chaisson has not done this year is the back road around the building which is part of the construction area. Chair Hanks confirmed that was correct.

School Board member Jeff Walla informed the snow from the "back road" had to be "removed" not just "pushed" because it is wetland area. Selectman Jones asked if by "removed" he meant "trucked". Mr. Walla clarified that the snow would have to be physically removed from that area. Administrator Stearns stated that would mean added time and added equipment.

- Resident Ken O'Keefe: Mr. O'Keefe stated that at the last Recreation Park Committee meeting there was discussion to have the current members appointed to the committee by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. O'Keefe explained that appointing members would make things more formal and then the committee could report back to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. O'Keefe informed the committee is looking to have an art auction as a fund raiser and that a contract needed to be signed. Administrator Stearns stated she hadn't seen the contract. Mr. O'Keefe responded that a contract will be obtained once the committee knows what name to put on the contract.

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Administrator Stearns asked what up-front expenses there would be to the Town. Mr. O'Keefe answered none; that the committee would need to provide wine and cheese. Stearns informed O'Keefe that alcoholic beverages are not allowed in any Town building. O'Keefe stated if they couldn't find another location to have the auction they would not serve alcohol and confirmed there are no up-front costs to the Town. Administrator Stearns asked about tickets, brochures etc. and Mr. O'Keefe stated they would all be provided by Marlin Fine Auctions.

Administrator Stearns stated another concern was that there needed to be a committee of at least 15 people, fully committed to attending the art auction in addition to being responsible for bringing five couples. Mr. O'Keefe stated he had run this art auction before and never had 15 people on the committee.

Chairman Haddock asked when the auction would be held. Mr. O'Keefe answered July 3, 2009 and informed that they want to get it going prior to school getting out so the tickets could be sold through the school. Mr. O'Keefe stated before they could do that they needed to know what name to use on the contract.

Administrator Stearns questioned that the committee felt, during these economic times, people will come and spend money on art. Mr. O'Keefe said money would be made on selling tickets, advertisements, and on the art. Administrator Stearns asked how money would be made on the advertisements. Mr. O'Keefe answered that people would buy advertisements for the brochure and reiterated there were not any up-front costs to the Town; that the committee's goal is to raise \$10,000 from the art auction.

Administrator Stearns stated she felt the name to use should be Grantham Recreation Park Committee so that anyone contributing to the art auction would know that it is specifically for the Recreation Park. Administrator Stearns continued that whoever is appointed chair of the committee and after all the members are appointed then the contract could be signed. The Board of Selectmen agreed and requested Administrator Stearns to send letters of appointment to the current members.

In light of the results from Town Meeting that the residents of Miller Pond Road do not want their road paved, Mr. O'Keefe requested the Board of Selectmen consider paving Jericho Road. Chairman Haddock stated the Board would take it into consideration.

- Resident Nick Giaccone: Mr. Giaccone asked if the money approved at Town Meeting for paving could be used to pave Miller Pond Road. Administrator Stearns stated there were about 10 residents of Miller Pond Road at Town Meeting that were opposed to having it paved. Chairman Haddock explained that back in 2004 a petition was signed by about 40 Miller Pond Road residents opposed to paving the road.

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Mr. Giaccone asked if the money was earmarked to pave Miller Pond Road. Administrator Stearns answered that the money was to pave Miller Pond Road but due to so many residents opposed, that it was taken off the list of roads to be paved. Chairman Haddock stated that other roads would be added.

There was a brief discussion about the present condition of the road and the process of obtaining a petition to have the road paved. Administrator Stearns stated that Road Agent Newcomb will do what he can to deal with the muddy situation of the road. To bring a petitioned warrant article requires that at least 25 signatures of registered voters in favor of having it paved, preferably Miller Pond Road residents.

Administrator Stearns stated it would be her recommendation that the next time anything is proposed to be done to Miller Pond Road; that it be brought as a separate warrant article.

Selectman Jones felt that monies appropriated for paving in the highway budget need to be used for paving and if Miller Pond Road is not to be paved then those monies should be used for paving another road on the list. The Road Agent will continue with his "regular summer maintenance" of that road. Selectman Jones proposed having Engineer Peter Blakeman assess Miller Pond Road to determine the cost and exactly what needs to be done. The amount to fix Miller Pond Road could be listed as a separate warrant article at Town Meeting.

Administrator Stearns stated Road Agent Newcomb plans to fix the base of Miller Pond Road.

Miller Pond Road resident Erin Giaccone stated she felt the road is unsafe; that a fire truck mostly likely could not pass it. Fire Chief Mike Benoit confirmed that sometimes the road is not passable with fire trucks.

Mr. Giaccone asked if residents objected to the paving of Miller Pond Road because they feared it would increase the value of their property; thus increasing their taxes. Chairman Haddock replied that it was to do with traffic flow and speeding. Selectman Jones stated another concern with paving the road was the "run-off"; that it would destroy the trout in Skinner Brook.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ Election of Officers:

A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to appoint Harold Haddock Jr. as Chairman; second by Selectman Jones. Approved by majority vote.

➤ Department overseer for the ensuing year:

Administrative

Public Safety

Highway/Transfer Station/Recreation Park Committee

Constance Jones

Harold Haddock

Warren Kimball

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- Employee evaluations: The Board of Selectmen will meet on March 25, 2009 at 2:30pm to complete employee evaluations.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Building Supervisor: A memo was received from F. Robert Osgood that stated he was called on March 8, 2009 at 12:30pm from Fire Chief Mike Benoit informing that the "Jockey Pump" in the pump house was not working. Supervisor Osgood checked it out and felt it was something an electrician should take care of. Selectman Kimball was called and he determined it could have been a possible electrical surge that tripped a switch. Chief Benoit was notified the "Jockey Pump" was working again and the monthly check could be preformed. Chief Benoit stated he now has a crew established to perform the monthly check.
- Fire Department – March Report: Chief Benoit informed that:
 - The last few months had been "very quiet".
 - The department is moving forward with developing Standard Operating Procedures.
 - The new fire truck should be in-service shortly.
 - Antifreeze will be added to the "Old Pumper Truck" (to help prevent freezing problems that may occur) before it goes to the Recreation Park Building.
 - Training/Meeting Dates:
 - March 3rd – Department & Officer Meeting
 - March 7th – Training for Engine 1
 - March 14th – Training – Tour of expansion at GVS
 - March 19th – FAST Meeting & Training
 - March 26th – Training – Venting
 - April 7th – Department Meeting with annual elections followed by Officer Meeting
- Police Department – February Report:
 - 99 calls for service; 77 traffic stops
 - Sergeant Parsons graduated from the Command Training Series; a reimbursement of \$1,000 was received from the State of NH, Police Standards and Training.
 - Corporal Harriman and Officer Schwartz attended training at NH Police Standards and Training on February 27th.
 - A thank-you was received from Beth Vettori of the Rockridge Retirement Community in Northampton, MA. An Alzheimer's resident of Rockridge found his way to Grantham after leaving his residence for a gallon of milk. The department was successful in reuniting him with his family. Administrator Stearns stated that she has received many compliments about Chief Madore; including that he is one of the friendliest Chiefs.

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- Chief Madore and Retired Chief Lary attended the NH Chiefs meeting on February 10th. A major discussion at the meeting was the legislation expanding legalized gambling in NH. The Chiefs are still opposed to this legislation.
 - Notice was received from Sergeant Parsons regarding the graffiti on the bridge on Route 114. NH DOT was contacted and informed they will not remove the graffiti because it does not meet their criteria of "vulgar" and advised that if the Town, individual or group within the Town wished to take care of it that was an option. Chairman Haddock stated the Board would take it into consideration.
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector: A follow-up memo was received from TC/TC Eigenbrode stating:
- The unpaid balance on February 27, 2008 was \$148,286.
 - The unpaid balance on February 27, 2009 is \$165,680.
 - The unpaid balance amounts to less than 2% unpaid for each year.

OTHER

Administrator Stearns informed that Primex requested approval of their estimate to repair the damage over the garage at the Recreation Park Building and asked if an estimate had been obtained. Selectman Kimball will check with Andy Anderson.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Kimball moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Jones; ***the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:46 p.m.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 25, 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*