

# APPROVED

## Town of Grantham - Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes January 25, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 by Chairman Warren Kimball. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South.

Present: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Ken Story; Administrative Assistant Melissa White; Town Administrator Becky Newton; Fire Chief Jeremiah Fountain; Michael Whipple

### ADMINISTRATIVE

#### *For Approval/Signature - APPROVED*

- ✓ Property Tax Interest Abatement: M/L 237-024-000; 730 Route 10 South - \$713.49
- ✓ Property Tax Refunds (due to overpayment):
  - M/L 233-117-000; 35 Sturgis Circle - \$380.21
  - M/L 234-013-000; 2 Fairway Drive - \$8.72
  - M/L 215-078-000; 9 Winter Hill - \$463.31
  - M/L 211-055-000; Tall Timber Drive - \$237.39
  - M/L 207-023-000; Butternut Pond Road - \$72.13
  - M/L 215-092-000; 14 Trillium Lane - \$19.67
  - M/L 225-074-000; 16 Wedgewood Drive - \$2,295.70
  - M/L 211-062-000; Tall Timber Drive - \$544.26
  - M/L 212-027-000; 1482 Route 10 North - \$432.32
  - M/L 215-165-000; 27 Bright Slope Way - \$323.56
  - M/L 225-125-000; 19 Clearwater Drive - \$517.18
  - M/L 213-014-000; 1 Auburn Brae - \$74.05
  - M/L 225-109-000; 3 Bogie Place - \$12.10
  - M/L 225-208-000; 19 Walton Heath Drive - \$27.49
- ✓ Intent to Cut: M/L 212-016-000; Frye Lane
- ✓ Building Permits:
  - M/L 215-058-000; Eastman Lake - moldering privy
  - M/L 222-182-000; 1 Mourning Dove Way - generator

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ✓ Chairman Kimball asked if there were any changes to the regular meeting minutes of January 11, 2012. There being none, Selectman Story made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting as written; second by Selectman Jones.  
*Unanimously approved.*

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## APPEARANCE

- Michael Whipple: Mr. Whipple discussed his concern regarding the landscaping project for the entrance to Town Hall. Whipple felt that spending money on things that aren't a necessity should be avoided especially a Christmas tree when the town has one at the Fire Station.

Selectman Jones stated there are safety concerns with having the Christmas tree and annual tree lighting event at the Fire Station. Jones went on to say that tree is not the major part of the project and that the Town is hoping to get the tree donated.

Whipple asked how much was budgeted for the project. Newton said \$10,000.

Whipple stated he has asked the School Board to reduce their spending and requested the same of the Board of Selectmen.

Jones stated this project came about because the Board has received several complaints about the way the front entrance looks.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- Pathways of the River Valley: A letter was received from Pathways of the River Valley requesting the Board to consider appropriating \$1,259.00 for their organization for services provided to 28 citizens in Grantham. Newton said the request is late and that the budget has already been put together.

Chairman Kimball requested Newton contact Pathways and let them know when the budgeting schedule is.

- New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT): A letter was received from NH DOT informing of their biennial inspection of municipally owned bridges. Newton said she has requested Road Agent Newcomb to ensure the weight limits are posted correctly.
- AARP Foundation: A thank you was received on behalf of the AARP TaxAide training program for the use of Town Hall.
- Grantham Community Crisis Fund: A thank you was received from the Grantham Community Crisis Fund for use of the bowls, plates and flatware from the Town Hall kitchen for their Soup's On event. The fundraiser was a big success and a true community supper with over 100 people attending. \$900 was raised for the Crisis Fund.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Property Tax Interest Refund Request by Andrea Sodano: Newton stated she spoke to Ms. Sodano and informed her that she supported the Tax Collector because she tried to look up the account and couldn't find it. Newton said she did offer to refund half of the interest fees.

A motion was made by Selectman Story to reimburse Andrea Sodano \$24.97 of the interest she paid on her property taxes; second by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

- Status of Leavitt Hill Road: Newton informed she wrote Don Miner a letter reminding him that he agreed to have quarterly meetings and January would have been that month. Newton also copied Mr. Miner's attorney as well.

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Newton requested this item be removed from the agenda since Mr. Miner has not responded. Kimball requested this item be brought back on the agenda quarterly.

Newton said there is a recent Supreme Court case that says no one aside from the Court can decide the status of a road. Newton recommended the Town not take a position on the status of a road.

- 49 Hemlock Lane Clean-up Efforts: Chairman Kimball informed he has asked Norm Beaulieu if he is interested in removing the metal on this property and that he has asked Newton to contact owners of Tall Timber Association informing them that the Town maybe trucking material over the road.

Newton informed she received an inquiry from a Grantham resident about buying this parcel. Newton requested the resident write a letter to the Board of Selectmen.

- Ambulance Study: Newton informed that during the conference call on January 19, 2012, she was asked if Grantham would continue to have New London Ambulance provide ambulance service and that she told them Grantham has looked at another provider. Newton said they are looking for towns to sign five and eight year inter-municipal agreements.

Newton will be meeting with Fire Chief Fountain, FAST Squad Coordinator Stuart Gillespie to discuss all the concerns with switching.

- Back-up System for Town Archives Computer: Newton said the computer is being backed-up; that she would tackle this item after town meeting.
- Rumbrook Place Tree Cutting: Newton stated that Conservation Chair Richard Hocker had drafted a letter to Sara Carr explaining the rules of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act and recommendations of the types of shrubs that can be planted as a buffer for Skinner Brook.

The Selectmen requested Newton have Conservation Chair Hocker send the letter as written.

- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) – ETAP Program: Newton stated the report is due in January.
- Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA): No update.
- Recreation Park Development: Newton stated she has not received the revised Army Corp of Engineers permit yet; that she will continue to follow up on it.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Newton informed she received notice from FEMA that the approved total for the damage in Grantham from Tropical Storm Irene was \$52,322.03; the town received 75% which is \$39,241.52.
- 2011 Town Report: Newton discussed her concerns with creating the town report in the smaller, 6" x 9" size; that some of the required reports are illegible. Newton stated that she has contacted our printing company RC Brayshaw and they believe it is due to our low-resolution scanner and suggested she bring it to them (RC Brayshaw) and they can shrink it

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on their high resolution scanner. Newton requested permission to print the town report in the bigger, 8 ½ x 11 size if the pages were still illegible.

Chairman Kimball said he could read it and felt the issue was with our scanner/printer.

Selectman Story said he would like to see how it will look when using RC Brayshaw's equipment.

Chairman Kimball requested the Board be notified when the proof is ready so they can review it.

- Russell McAllister; 29 Cote Road: Newton provided the Board with a Notice of Violation that was prepared by Town Counsel. Kimball felt the fine of \$275 per day for non-compliance was too high and could be problematic. Newton said the letter is a reminder of what can be done.

The Board directed Newton to have Town Counsel send the letter as written.

- Town Hall Landscaping Bids:
  - Joseph D. Poulin, Andover, NH: Landscaping - \$6,225; Christmas Tree - \$575
  - Gilson's Property Management, Grantham, NH: Landscaping - \$8,445; Christmas Tree - \$675
  - John Sullivan Landscape Architect, North Sutton, NH: Landscaping - \$10,000
  - DB Landscaping, Sunapee, NH: Landscaping - \$17,627; Christmas Tree - \$1,260

The Board of Selectmen will review the designs submitted and make a decision at a future meeting.

- New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) Reporting: The changes to the reporting of NHRS wages were discussed. The Board decided to continue to give employees the option, when the holiday falls on their regular day off, to either be paid for it or float the day to be used later.

## DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Town Administrator:
  - The management letter from auditors Plodzik & Sanderson was discussed. Newton will write a letter to them indicating how their (Plodzik & Sanderson) concerns will be addressed.
  - The FAST Squad defibrillator needs to be replaced. Chief Fountain explained the one they have now is over ten years old and not upgradeable.  
  
Newton said a new defibrillator will cost approximately \$35,000 and is researching options for replacement which includes leasing, using some of the funds in the Holbrook account or adding the purchase to the Town Warrant.

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## NON PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-E, a motion was made by Selectman Story, second by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:20 p.m. to discuss a matter of impending litigation. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball, Selectman Constance Jones, Selectman Ken Story, Town Administrator Becky Newton and Administrative Assistant Melissa White.

*Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:45pm.*

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Story moved to adjourn, second by Selectman Jones; *by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:46pm.*

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 immediately following the budget hearing at 5pm in the Grantham Town Building; Lower Level at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Melissa M. White*

*Melissa M. White  
Administrative Assistant*