

# Approved

## Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes May 27, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 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 Ken Story; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Building Inspector Roger Woodworth; Athletics Director Marsha Googins; Donald Griffin, Steven W. Powell, MD and Rich Riley, of New London Hospital; and David Armstrong

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

### **ADMINISTRATIVE - APPROVED**

- Payroll Manifest #451
- Accounts Payable Manifest #452
- Form for Federal Surplus Property
- Tax Payment Agreement; M/L 233-020-004
- Deed Waivers for non-payment of the 2012 Tax Levy
  - M/L 221-062-000; 84 Nightingale Lane
  - M/L 226-013-000; 870 Dunbar Hill Road
  - M/L 233-020-004; 210 Pillsbury Road
  - M/L 237-022-001; 760 Route 10 South
  - M/L 222-267-000; 15 Barn Owl Overlook
  - M/L 226-019-000; 161 Yankee Barn Road
  - M/L 226-019-001; 161 Yankee Barn Road
  - M/L 232-007-000; 631 Dunbar Hill Road
- CAI Technologies; GIS Internet Services Maintenance Agreement 2015 - 2016
- Application for Current Use:
  - M/L 216-024-000; Miller Pond Road
- Building Permits:
  - M/L 227-020-001; Hay Stack Road – Barn/Shed
  - M/L 234-022-000; 19 Deer Run – Wood Shed
  - M/L 221-061-001; 358 Burpee Hill Road – Deck
  - M/L 215-082-000; 4 Winter Hill - Generator
  - M/L 221-014-000; 112 Rawson Ridge – Deck
  - M/L 222-191-000; 11 Turnbuckle Road – New Home
  - M/L 237-005 & 006-000; 401 Route 10 South – Renovation & Addition

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of May 13, 2015 as written was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Story. **Approved by majority vote.**

## APPEARANCES

- New London Hospital: Rich Riley, Donald Griffin and Steven Powell, MD, from New London Hospital, were present to answer questions about the ambulance service and explain how they came up with the new increased fee of \$25,668.00; a 61% increase over what we pay now.

Town Administrator White stated that she had been discussing the proposed increase with Riley and our concerns about it and advised him that the town has been in discussion with Lebanon Fire Chief Chris Christopoulos to see if they could provide us ambulance service.

White emphasized that the town has been happy with the New London Ambulance Service; that the concern is how to justify a rate increase of almost \$26,000.00 to the taxpayers when we can contract with Lebanon for approximately \$48,000.00 per year.

Riley pointed out that Lebanon charges a per run fee and New London charges a set annual fee. He reported that, to date, Grantham has had 72 runs which would equate to about 180 calls this year. He said the number of runs has increased this year that typically Grantham is around 50-60 for the same time period. He analyzed that 180 runs from Lebanon would cost \$58,500.00 and the New London fees would be \$60,341.00. He said he realizes that the number of calls is a moving target and they could decrease next year. White clarified that New London's cost would be approximately \$68,000.00. Riley continued that he appreciates the comments and positive feedback they have received and emphasized that they pride themselves on running a high quality paramedic level service and enjoy serving the residents of Grantham. He stated that there are a lot of community services that they do provide and will be adding additional services in the future such as the Mobile Integrated Health Program which is a community based paramedic program where paramedics will be going out and doing things such as pre-surgical screenings or follow-up after a patient is discharged sort of like the bridge between the hospital discharge and VNA or a skilled nursing facility and VNA. Dr. Powell added that the Mobile Integrated Health Program was allowed in the Affordable Care Act and allows the hospital to receive some compensation for sending a hospital based EMS provider to a patient's home for qualified services.

Dr. Powell stated he is a resident of Grantham and his parents live here too and have needed the ambulance service. He said his biggest concern is the response time; he said it took 15 minutes from New London to his door and Lebanon took approximately 27 minutes. He also expressed concern about Lebanon influencing people to go to DHMC.

Don Griffin stated that he and Riley met with New London Hospital CEO Bruce King prior to this meeting and that King reminded them that Grantham is an important part of their total operation and they would not want to lose any of the towns because that would put an undue burden on the rest of the towns they cover. King wanted Griffin to convey that there would be some room for negotiation in the proposed increase if that's what it would take to save the business and keep the towns currently being serviced.

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White expressed concern that the town budget is set through the end of June, 2016 and asked how the increase would be paid if the town chooses to stay with them. Griffin said this issue was also discussed with King who stated the hospital would be willing to carry this on the probability that when it came time for the next budget vote, the town would accept the fact that they were provided that service and they would fund it accordingly. He said he understands the Selectmen can't offer a promise on what the town would vote.

Riley added that New London Ambulance Service has one ambulance 24 hours a day served by two crews in 12 hour shifts and a second ambulance with current hours of 9:00AM to 9:00PM seven days a week. He said the second ambulance has typically been termed the transfer ambulance and does transfers about 20% of the time but is available for 911 calls 80% of the time. He will be making more changes with the hours and is planning to add a third ambulance. He noted that the hours on the second ambulance were changed in December so they were already positioning for an increase in service prior to Newport giving notice that they would no longer be providing backup for New London Ambulance Service.

White asked Riley what their annual call volume is for all of the towns combined. Riley responded approximately 1500. He said the number of runs that were actually billed to the towns in 2014 were 831; 106 of those were for Grantham.

Selectman Jones asked if the other towns involved were staying with them. Riley replied that most of the towns are in a quandary much like Grantham. He said the Selectmen are on board but are concerned about bringing it to a vote; that it's going to bring attention to an issue that really would not be an issue if this was just a normal adjustment based on increase in volume and other factors. He said his general feeling is that all the towns support it but are a little apprehensive given the time of year and the immediate commitment speaking for their citizens without a vote.

Resident Roger Woodworth asked if all the towns are facing the same percentage increase as Grantham. Griffin replied the numbers are based on the individual town's contribution to the total right now which is based on the number of runs; for example, New London's increase was 44.5 % of the total runs of the area so they are going to absorb 44.5 % of the additional cost. Grantham is a little less than 13 % of the total runs so Grantham would be asked to absorb that much of the additional cost of adding a third ambulance. Griffin reiterated that if the Selectmen supported in good faith what they were proposing, Bruce King said they were willing to take the risk and cover that at cost and put themselves at the mercy of the population when it came time for the next budget cycle.

White asked what the town would be looking at for a final number. Griffin said the town would have to work with Riley to get to a more comfortable number. He said they were slightly above what the probable number would be for cost from Lebanon and they would be prepared to beat that by a little bit so that the Selectmen could say in good faith to the voters that they were able to find a match that was acceptable. White said she will work with Riley and present at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

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## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- West Central Behavioral Health: A letter was received from West Central Behavioral Health thanking the Town for its support.
- David Armstrong: A letter was received from David Armstrong, who manages the Grantham/New London Adult Softball League. Armstrong thanked the Town for allowing the League the use of the field but expressed concern that the new fee schedule for Recreation Park use will bankrupt the League. He outlined several reasons that he believes it is advantageous to Grantham to have the League play here such as league players spending money at local businesses. Armstrong also referenced the Town's current Mission Statement for Grantham Athletics; to provide recreation activities and services that contribute to the physical, emotional and social wellbeing of Grantham citizens and youth . . . to provide opportunities for the residents of Grantham to participate in organized kinetic activities and sports. He stated contrary to the Mission Statement, there are currently no adult athletic programs offered. Town Administrator White stated that our Athletics Department is part time and doesn't have the staff to manage adult leagues. Athletics Director Marsha Googins stated that it has always been encouraged that if people want to form it, they could have access to the field and gym and pointed out that there is an adult basketball group, which meets every Sunday during the winter, and an adult soccer group which was formed and managed by local residents.

David Armstrong arrived at the meeting after the above discussion and Chairman Kimball explained to him that they are willing to work out a long term fee schedule with him instead of applying the daily fee schedule but need more time to think about it.

White reminded that the fees paid for Recreation Park use go to the Recreation Revolving Fund that is dedicated to the Recreation Park maintenance and development.

Armstrong asked if he should attend the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. White said yes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Olde Farms Road Bridge: White stated the electrical lines have been moved and she is waiting for Fairpoint to notify her of when they will be moving their lines.
- Ambulance Backup: After discussion with Rich Riley, Don Griffin and Steven Powell, MD, of New London Hospital under "Appearance", White told the Board she will get more information about the actual number of runs for Grantham and put together some figures for them.
- Miller Pond Road Bridge: White said she is working on the RFP for the design and engineering of the Miller Pond Road Bridge and will meet with Road Agent Jeff Hastings to finalize it.

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- Master Plan Committee Survey: White summarized that Master Plan Committee Member, Mary Hutchins, attended the Board of Selectmen meeting on May 13, 2015 and asked for the Board's input on the questions that the Committee will be putting on the survey questionnaire. She said she will provide a copy of the last survey questionnaire for the Board to review.
- Building Permit; M/L 234-017-000; 9 Par Brae: Building Inspector Roger Woodworth briefly recapped from the previous Board of Selectmen meeting of May 13, 2015 that a house is being built at 9 Par Brae by building contractor, David Ducharme, who significantly altered his building permit by increasing the breezeway to 20' x 16' with absolutely no support under it. Woodworth spoke with Ducharme on May 6, 2015 and notified him of two requirements: 1) That he will need to get a stamped drawing from either an engineer or an architect that is licensed in the State of New Hampshire that shows exactly what he will need for support under the breezeway that will meet the code; and 2) because he altered the design significantly, he will need to re-submit his application to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for the Energy Code.

Woodworth informed the Board that on May 26, 2015, he asked Ducharme the status of his compliance with the two requirements and was told that he hasn't done anything. Woodworth said he gave Ducharme a deadline of May 29, 2015 to get the requested documents to the Selectmen's Office.

Woodworth advised the Board that according to the Residential Building Code, he has the authority to issue a stop work order and has one prepared that states what the requirements were that Ducharme has to meet and what he would have to do to have the stop work order released.

Selectman Story asked Woodworth if work has been proceeding on this house since the Board denied Ducharme's Building Permit at the Board of Selectmen meeting on May 13, 2015. Woodworth confirmed that it has but explained to the Board that in his and Ducharme's initial conversation on May 6, 2015, he didn't tell Ducharme to stop work on the house but just to meet the two requirements. He continued that now it has been two weeks since the Board denied his Building Permit and it is apparent that he has made no effort to do so.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan; M/L 222-147-151;153-160; 162-163; East Lake Association, Pleasant Drive, Eastman: A motion to approve the Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan, East Lake Association, Pleasant Drive, Eastman, as recommended by the Grantham Conservation Commission was made by Selectman Story; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***
- Municipal Revaluation CRF Withdrawal Request: White reported that the town has paid \$46,128.56 to date this fiscal year for the revaluation project.

A motion to withdraw \$46,128.56 from the Municipal Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Story. ***Unanimously approved.***

# Approved

- 29 Cote Road: Building Inspector Roger Woodworth reported that the owner of 29 Cote Road, who owns a construction business, is working on a renovation project inside the home and is displaying his business sign at the edge of his property on Route 10. Woodworth said he had informed the owner that he cannot display his business sign without proper approval from the Planning Board and that the sign must be removed. He said that he drove by the following day and the sign was still there. White will follow up with a letter to the owner.

## DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Town Administrator
  - The Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, June 8, 2015 for training.
  - White met with Eversource and two members of the Grantham Energy Committee to evaluate the lighting at Town Hall and discuss options for improvement. Eversource will be at the next Energy Committee Meeting and will work toward evaluating the project priorities and will then present them to the Selectmen probably in the late fall.
  - Attorney Matt Serge will be leaving Upton & Hatfield and joining Drummond Woodsum Law Firm in Manchester.
  - Upcoming Meetings:
    - The Energy Committee meeting is Monday, June 1, 2015 at 5:00pm.
    - The Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting is Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 1:00pm.
    - The joint meeting of the School Board and the Selectmen is Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 6:00pm at the School.
    - The Open Space Committee meeting is Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 8:30am.
    - The Planning Board meeting is Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 7:00pm.
    - The Conservation Committee meeting is Monday, June 15, 2015 at 7:00pm.

## NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II- a, a motion was made by Selectman Story, seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:22pm. Present were: Selectman Ken Story; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; and Athletics Director Marsha Googins.

***Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:43 pm.***

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Story moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; ***by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:45 pm.***

## Approved

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 10, 2015** at 5:00pm in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper  
Administrative Assistant