

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes January 27, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 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 Sheridan Brown; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Road Agent Jeff Hastings; F. Robert Osgood; and Simon Mayer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

ADMINISTRATIVE - APPROVED

- Payroll Manifest #470
- Accounts Payable Manifest #487
- 2015 Property Tax Abatements:
 - M/L 222-281-000; Road Round the Lake - \$1.32
 - M/L 234-112-000; 90 Longwood Drive - \$2.20
 - M/L 216-008-000; 19 Rowland Road - \$1.84
 - M/L 215-010-043; 643 Marmot Lane - \$0.38
 - M/L 216-198-000; 14 Butternut Road - \$0.94
 - M/L 234-034-000; 43 Greensward Drive - \$3.32
 - M/L 215-131-000; 49 Bright Slope Way - \$0.27
 - M/L 215-010-000; 654 Marten Road - \$1.09
 - M/L 233-104-000; Dunbar Hill Road - \$3.68
 - M/L 215-123-000; 8 Loon Drive - \$0.02
 - M/L 215-009-000; 803 Covered Bridge Lane - \$2.12
- Building Permits:
 - M/L 214-079-000; 4 Wildwood Drive – Kitchen Remodel
 - M/L 235-027-009; 96 Woodland Heights – Finish Basement

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the regular meeting and budget work session minutes of December 16, 2015 as written was made by Chairman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

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Chairman Kimball asked if there were any corrections to the regular meeting minutes of January 13, 2016. Selectman Brown said under "Old Business", third paragraph, where White stated "Erin Darrow was informed that the town is happy with the guardrails and Darrow will move forward . . .", he is uncomfortable with that language because we are only happy with where they are placed as long as they meet NH DOT specifications which has not been finalized and he would like that to be clear. The last sentence on page two, replace the word "clarified" with the word "emphasized". A revised draft will be submitted.

A motion to approve the non-public meeting minutes of January 13, 2016 as written was made by Selectman Brown; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

OLD BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge: No new information.
- Miller Pond Road Bridge: White informed that a quote was received from Neil H. Daniels, Inc. in the amount of \$288,150.00 which included the option of applying membrane and pavement over the bridge. Said option added a cost of \$22,575.00 to the project.

Road Agent Jeff Hastings said he spoke with highway personnel of the towns of Hanover, Claremont and Keene. All three towns have a bridge with an exposed concrete deck. Hastings was informed that Hanover will be paving over its exposed deck this summer, that they would not leave it exposed; Claremont would like to pave its exposed deck but is unable to due to financial reasons; and Keene just paved over its exposed deck on a bridge that was completed one or two years ago. Hastings said he thinks the exposed concrete deck is good but the membrane and paving option is better.

Hastings explained that, with an exposed concrete deck, when it comes time to resurface Miller Pond Road he would have to have the paving company come in and grind the pavement away from that bridge because the pavement will be level with the bridge deck. White asked Hastings when Miller Pond Road will need to be resurfaced again. Hastings replied not for another eight to ten years.

Selectman Jones asked Hastings if he felt that the membrane and pavement would be the best option. Hastings said he has never dealt with the exposed concrete deck on a bridge and explained that the pro with that is that you can visually see if something is happening with the bridge and with the membrane and pavement, if something is happening, you cannot see that process taking place. On the other hand, he said the way the membrane is applied; it protects the bridge. Selectman Brown asked which option cleared better in the winter. Hastings said the people he spoke with really couldn't give him an answer except to say that the finish is rough but then pointed out that going over the bridge with a plow would quickly smooth that down. Hastings said there would be extra maintenance with an exposed concrete deck, it will have to be washed in the spring and fall and there has to be a coating applied each year at a cost of approximately \$500.00.

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The Board unanimously agreed that the membrane and paving would be the best option.

A motion to accept the proposal from Neil H. Daniels, Inc., that included the membrane and pavement, in the amount of \$288,150.00 contingent upon negotiating a formal contract and to authorize Town Administrator Melissa White to sign the contract was made by Selectman Brown; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

- Zoning Violation at 172 Cote Road: No update.
- Mitchell Automotive: White stated that she never received a response to her letter from Mr. Mitchell and subsequently sent him a certified letter with no response to date. Fire Chief Fountain informed that they had an issue recently where the ambulance could not get through because of the cars blocking the way so it is now a safety issue too. He emphasized that if the ambulance couldn't get through there, there is no way a fire truck would get through there. Selectman Jones and White will go talk to Mr. Mitchell.

NEW BUSINESS

- Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan; M/L 213-008, 009, 010, 011-000; 37 Anderson Pond Road: A motion to approve the Shoreline Protection Cutting Plan at 37 Anderson Pond Road as recommended by the Grantham Conservation Commission was made by Chairman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**
- Kennel License Refund Request: A motion to refund \$15.00 to James E. Tracy for overpayment of a kennel license was made by Selectman Brown; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Town Administrator:
 - The filing period for town offices ends January 29, 2016.
 - February 2, 2016 is the last day for 25 or more registered voters to submit a petition for inclusion on the 2016 warrant.
 - The Town Offices and Transfer Station will be closed on February 15, 2016 in observance of President's Day.
 - Upcoming Meetings:
 - The Zoning Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 7:00pm.
 - The Open Space Committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 8:30am.

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- The Planning Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 7:00pm.
- The Energy Committee meeting is scheduled on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 5:00pm.
- The Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 1:00pm.

OTHER

- Chairman Kimball mentioned that the evaluation of the Police Department by Municipal Resources Inc. is in process.
- Resident F. Robert Osgood asked if another police officer had resigned. Chief Madore replied yes, Officer Soucy's last day is Friday, January 29, 2016.
- Resident Simon Mayer discussed his concerns with the 2015 revaluation. He said he felt the assessments were unrealistic especially with the land values and didn't see the fairness in the way it was done from one property to the other. He presented a spreadsheet comparing some old values to new values and requested a response in writing to his concerns. Mayer said he didn't think the company did its job and told the Board that it is their responsibility to make sure the tax payers are treated fairly. Selectman Jones explained that the assessing companies are monitored by the State of New Hampshire and the town is assigned a person from the State who comes and monitors the process to be sure the company is going by all the rules and regulations that the State sets forth. Selectman Brown added that the State has very specific methodologies that they use so there is not a lot of subjectivity in the process but individual residents can come forward and challenge their final valuation if they are unhappy. Brown asked Mayer if what he is essentially asking them to do is to challenge the process for the entire town which is a costly process and very strictly overseen by the State which put in place strict methodologies when no one else has had an issue with it. Mayer replied yes. White said she will ask the town assessor to respond to Mr. Mayer's concerns.
- Selectman Jones said she spoke with the NH Department of Transportation about having a motor vehicle noise ordinance that included Jake brakes and was informed that the State would not support it because they believe it would create a safety issue and if the town put up signs, they would take them down. She was also told that the enforcement would be almost impossible because the officer would have to be right at the scene when it happened and who is to say when it's necessary to use the brakes, that it's up to the driver of the vehicle and it also would be a huge liability to the town if an accident occurs and the driver says he did what the town wanted.

Jones said she also called some lumber companies and asked about the hours they allow loggers to drop off logs and the ones that are located in very remote areas with no one around said they allow loggers to drop off the logs 24 hours a day if they don't have to be scaled. She also spoke to two lumber companies that are located in more urban areas and was told that they prefer to have the logs dropped off between the

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hours of 7:00am – 4:30pm and one said the trucks needed to be there by 3:30 because they close at 4:30. The saw mill hours in Grantham are 6:00am – 6:00pm so they are open more than the other mills that are in more urban areas and have neighbors.

- The 2016-2017 draft warrant was discussed.

NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-c, a motion was made by Chairman Kimball, seconded by Selectman Brown to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:47pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Sheridan Brown; Town Administrator Melissa White; and Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper.

Following proper vote, the Board returned from Non-Public session at 6:03 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Brown; ***by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:44 pm.***

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 10, 2016** 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