

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Public Hearing and Meeting Minutes October 28, 2016

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 8:00am on Friday, October 28, 2016 by Chairman Warren 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; Grantham Energy Committee Members Jenna Chenevert & Paula Bresnick; Don McCormick of Norwich Technologies; David Beckley; C. Peter James; Chief Walter Madore Sr. and others

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of October 5, 2016 as written was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Brown. **Unanimously approved.**

A motion to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of October 12, 2016 as written was made by Selectman Brown; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll Manifest #490
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #522
3. Yield Tax Warrant: 218-001-000 - \$4,332.78
4. Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 234-008-000; 89 Longwood Drive – Repair Deck; Enclose Stairs
5. Appointment of Ballot Inspectors:
 - a. Democrats:
 - Deborah Cheever
 - Rita Friedman
 - Judy McCarthy
 - b. Republicans:
 - Don Noordsy
 - Mary Niles
 - Gerald Korey
6. Cynthia Holden-Plummer
7. New Hampshire Interlocal Trust
8. Sullivan County Commissioners

Approved

A motion to move for adoption of the Consent Calendar was made by Selectman Brown; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

PUBLIC HEARING - TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL GRANT MONIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,453.00 FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA), HAZARD MITIGATION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR COST OVERRUNS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OLDE FARMS ROAD CULVERT UPGRADE, ALSO KNOWN AS OLDE FARMS ROAD BRIDGE #107/113.

Chairman Kimball opened the Public Hearing to accept additional grant monies in the amount of \$23,453.00 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Hazard Mitigation Grants Program for cost overruns associated with the Olde Farms Road Culvert Upgrade, also known as Olde Farms Road Bridge #107/113 at 8:05am. Chairman Kimball explained that the cost overruns were associated with the concrete arch portion of the project and then asked if there were any comments.

Resident C. Peter James asked what the cost of the project was. Administrator White said \$348,500.00.

Mr. James asked if the final plans had been received. Kimball said no.

Mr. James asked where the Town stood with Right Angle Engineering. Kimball stated the Town is trying to obtain a final set of as-built plans to see if they coincide with plans used during construction of the bridge.

Mr. James asked if the as-built plans would be at an additional cost to the Town. Kimball said yes. Selectman Brown explained that it would have been an additional cost anyway because it was not part of the contract we had for the bridge construction. Brown stated that we were presented with another contract at the end of the project to complete the closeout work; that it was the Town's decision to complete a portion of that closeout work ourselves because we already had certification from Right Angle Engineering that the project was substantially complete. Brown said the Town also decided to contract with a different engineer to prepare the final plan set so they can be compared to the plans used during construction to see if there were any errors in design or construction.

The public hearing was kept open for the duration of the meeting.

At 10:21am, on a motion by Selectman Brown and seconded by Selectman Jones, the Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen, by a unanimous vote, accepted the terms of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as presented in the amount of \$23,453.00 for the cost over runs associated with the Olde Farms Road culvert replacement project. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of the over runs were \$31,271.00, in which the Town will be responsible for a 25% match (\$7,818.00).

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD

- Grantham Energy Committee: Grantham Energy Committee Members, Jenna Chenevert and Paula Bresnick, recapped that the Energy Committee held a residential solar event a few months ago which was well received and resulted in many homes installing solar energy and the Committee is now looking at town property. Bresnick contacted Don

Approved

McCormick of Norwich Technologies who subsequently toured the town buildings and properties. Bresnick introduced McCormick to the Board.

McCormick explained that Norwich Technologies has offices and research laboratories in White River Junction, Vermont and a manufacturing plant in Lebanon, New Hampshire. He said they take a unique approach to the assembly and installation of solar arrays allowing their customers to enjoy assured quality and low onsite installation time. He explained that much of the panel assembly and prep is done in their workshops so there is considerably less onsite disruption.

McCormick stated that they did some design and analysis for each of the town buildings/properties including the option of adding a carport with a car charging station to try and determine what the engineering and design aspects would look like and also what the value would be from cost to benefit and passed out copies of his presentation. He said he would be happy to talk in detail about the environmental and financial benefits of solar energy but thought the "Why Now?" was an important part to consider:

Why Now?

- Full NH net metering cap space is available first come-first served for a limited time (2016?) only. Future distributed generation rate structures are uncertain but likely to be less than "penny for penny".
- NH State Rebate for solar (currently \$0.65/W-DC) has been decreasing over time, will likely continue to decrease or, in fact, may disappear altogether.
- The cost of solar has decreased rapidly over the last few years but the decrease is leveling off.
- The combination of the above three factors make this a perfect opportunity to invest in solar.

McCormick also presented the following:

Financing/Ownership Options

- Grantham Site and Ownership (You buy)
 - Solar array is located on Town Building property;
 - System is owned and financed by the Town of Grantham;
 - System is maintained initially through warranty, then by Town of Grantham or by O & M Contract.
- Grantham Site and Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) (no cost to you)
 - Solar array is located on Town Building property;
 - System is owned and financed by Norwich Technologies' Financial Partner, Grantham buys power generated by system on a long-term contract;
 - System is maintained by third party owner, typically by Norwich Technologies under contract.

Approved

Warranty, Operation & Maintenance

- Norwich Technologies provides warranty maintenance for the first five years and the component manufacturers provide their own additional warranties (inverters 12 years, panels 25 years).
- In the case of a PPA, the Project Investor is responsible for O & M for the entire PPA contract term.
 - Typically, Norwich Technologies provides all ongoing O & M services for the Project Investor.

Power Purchase Agreement Details

- Norwich Technologies has financial partners (Project Investors) who purchase, own, operate, and maintain the entire solar system. Norwich Technologies designs, permits, constructs, installs, commissions, and maintains the complete solar system.
 - The Project Investor sells power generated by the solar array to you (The power offtaker or customer). The agreement covering price and term is called a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).
 - The preferred term for a PPA is 25 years, with power sold at a discount from the customer's current rate and locked in for the term with a 2% annual rate increase (below the historic Utility rate increases).
 - Through New Hampshire Net Metering rules, the customer's utility bill is credited by the kWh amount of solar power the system produces. The developer then sends a separate bill to the customer for the power produced – at the discounted rate.
 - The PPA contains options to purchase the system at specific dates in the future for the fair market value at that time.

Selectman Brown asked McCormick about the 30 to 50 year generation/life span he mentioned and if there is a decline of what the array generates toward the end. McCormick replied that the degradation is less than one half percent per year and noted that they are under warranty for 25 years but that they don't yet know what will happen 50 years from now with the newer panels but the degradation has become less and less.

Selectman Brown asked if there was a provision in the Power Purchase Agreement method of financing for decommissioning. McCormick said there was and they would have to restore the site to its original condition.

Resident C. Peter James commented that he did not think offering a free car charging station was a good idea because people who own electric cars are not paying their fair share of gasoline tax which helps maintain the roads and he did not think it was fair to offer something free like that to a select few.

McCormick said he would obtain more information for the Board. Chairman Kimball requested the Energy Committee continue to be involved with this project and work with McCormick to obtain more information.

Approved

McCormick mentioned that big changes will be coming in March which they will probably find out in January so it would be best if a decision could be made before the end of this year.

- John Simonds, Sullivan County Sheriff: Sullivan County Sheriff, John Simonds, introduced himself and explained that he likes to go around the county and introduce himself to the different Boards of Selectmen in the different communities and tell a little bit about what he has done in the last 21 months since being elected Sheriff. He stated that he has been a police officer for 26 years, 10 of those years as a leader; Swat Team Member, Prosecutor, Detective and Corporal and was the Chief Deputy under Sheriff Prozzo before he retired.

Simonds informed that the opioid crisis across the country has struck Sullivan County hard, that there have been six deaths in Sullivan County due to opioid overdoses and he just learned from the County Attorney that the number has increased but he doesn't yet have the exact number. In response, Simonds said he brought Narcan, the antidote to opioid overdoses, to all the uniformed deputies in the Sheriff's Office who all now carry it. He said he thought it was important to do that because they are in the smaller towns that don't have a Fire Department with an immediate response time or an EMT that can be there within moments and they monitor the radio frequencies in all the communities and if they hear a medical call where there is an unresponsive person and there is something that one of his deputies can do to save someone's life, that was very important to him.

Secondly, Simonds stated that one of the things they have to try to work on is slowing down the flow of drugs coming into our communities. He said Grantham has been affected by this as well as many other towns in the county and one thing he learned after he was elected is that a lot of the drugs are coming up our interstates, i.e. I-89 and I-91. He felt it was important to stay in communication with Vermont State Police. He organized a Drug Intelligence Network and either met with or spoke on the phone with every police chief on both sides of the river from Langdon to Lebanon and from Hartford to Bellow Falls. He had a meeting with over 42 police officers from over 20 police departments. They decided to communicate with each other and discussed the best way to do that. He said the group meets regularly and every community in Sullivan County is invited to the meetings. Just about everybody sends an investigator to the meetings and they share intelligence about how drugs are being packaged, transported, and who is transporting because the dealers don't care anything about town or state lines.

Simonds said he is the Chair of the Sullivan County Chief's Association; he sets up the meetings and he and the Chiefs discuss the issues going on in the county. He noted that he is proud to be supported by Police Chief Madore. He is also a member of the Attorney General's Drug Task Force Executive Board and has a member of his department who is the Team Leader for the Drug Task Force for this area.

Simonds stated that a lot of people don't know what the Sheriff's office does. He said they transport all the prisoners from jail to court; they do all the extraditions if anyone is wanted in Sullivan County and they have left the state and they serve all civil paperwork.

Simonds remarked that over the time he has been Sheriff, he has tried to work hard to make sure his office makes an impact on the county.

Approved

Chairman Kimball commended Sheriff Simonds for all his work with the Drug Intelligence Network and the Drug Task Force. Police Chief Madore pointed out that out of the four Drug Task Force teams in the State working under the auspices of the Attorney General's Office, the Southwest Team, which the Sheriff is involved in and covers this area, has been the most productive and their numbers have exceeded those of the other teams.

Selectman Brown asked Sheriff Simonds if he sees other opportunities for better synergy with municipalities, areas where he would like to put some extra effort or ways that the Board can help the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Simonds said that is one of the nice things about working with the Police Chiefs that he has an opportunity to communicate with everybody. He said he has a very good working relationship with Police Chief Madore and Sergeant Parsons and would like that to continue as time goes on.

- School Board: Town Administrator White informed that the School Board could not attend this meeting to discuss scheduling issues with the gym as only two of the five members were available. When White inquired about the Board of Selectmen attending the School Board's next meeting, she was told by Superintendent Guillette that the meeting is jam-packed with budget and policy issues and it would not be a good time to meet.

Selectman Jones stated that she was looking through the old Town Reports and confirmed that the basketball program has been going on for 33 years during which time the average amount of participants were between 65 and 75 children and pointed out that for the first 30 of those 33 years, there has not been a problem with scheduling at the gym; it has only been a problem these past three years.

Selectman Brown said there are two things that can be done: 1) Communicate directly with the Chair of the School Board to see about getting on the Agenda; and 2) in the next Grantham News and on the Community Access Channel, reach out to people participating in those programs to provide us with feedback on how they think the current athletics programs are working and go from there.

OLD BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge: No new information.
- Miller Pond Road Bridge: White reported that the final plan set has been received from Daniels Construction and the NH DOT has completed the bridge inspection and forwarded the report.

NEW BUSINESS

- EMS – September Report: There were a total of sixteen (16) calls for service in September. There were eight (8) transports consisting of six (6) ALS calls and two (2) BLS calls. Four were not transported and four were cancelled.
- Transfer Station – September Report:
Solid Waste – 9 runs; 93.4 tons
Construction Demolition Debris – 8 runs; 39.38 tons

Approved

Glass – 1 load; 7.31 tons; Expense \$219.30
Brush – 2 runs; 6.28 tons
Aluminum – 1 load; .84 tons; Revenue \$556.80
Light Iron – 1 load; 4.4911 tons; Revenue \$336.83
Freon – 132 units (refrig, dehumidifier, a/c); Expense \$1,188.00
Tin Cans – 1 run; 1.6607 tons; Revenue \$141.16
Tires – 2 loads; 924 tires; \$1,585.40 out of reclamation fund
Fibers – Mixed Loose – (Paper) – 2 loads; 7.94 tons
Revenue: \$ 99.26
Expense: \$850.00

Comingle – w/o Glass – (Plastic) – 2 loads; 2.64 tons
Revenue: \$ 0.00
Expense: \$165.00

Total Tonnage of Material taken away; 163.1018 tons
Tickets collected at Transfer Station; \$1,735.00

Total Revenue from recycling: \$1,134.15
Total Expense from recycling: \$2,422.30
Net Expense from recycling: \$1,288.15

➤ Town Administrator Report:

- The Supervisors of the Checklist will hold a public session on 10/29/2016 from 11:00-11:30am for additions to the checklist.
- Halloween: The town wide Trick-or-Treat will be Monday, October 31, 2016 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm.
- White stopped by the Grantham Fire Department Open House and Health and Safety Fair & Flu Shot Clinic on October 15, 2016. Less than 25 flu shots were given.
- NH DRA set the preliminary tax rate for the town's portion at \$4.86 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. White explained that the Board would need to decide whether or not to use monies from fund balance to reduce the town's rate. Selectman Brown suggested using \$250,000 of fund balance which would still leave some monies to put toward capital reserve funds. He said that there have been no recent meeting of the Capital Improvements Committee and there will certainly be some things that will need funding. He explained that as the Board goes through the budget process, he would like for them to have a robust discussion of what the priorities are for the budget year and not knowing that at this time, he would like to hold the rate down.

The Board agreed to use \$250,000 from fund balance which will put the town's portion of the tax rate at \$4.73 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

- Ways to recognize our valued volunteers were discussed.
- Installation of the Cable Access TV equipment will be next week.

Approved

- Developing a formal pay scale was discussed.
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - The Zoning Board meeting scheduled on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 7:00pm has been CANCELLED.
 - The Selectmen Meeting (working) is scheduled on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 8:00am.
 - The Planning Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 3, 2016 at 7:00pm.
 - The Energy Committee meeting scheduled on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 5:00pm has been CANCELLED.
 - The Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 1:00pm.
 - The Selectmen meeting (regular) is scheduled on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 5:00pm.
 - The Selectmen meeting (working) is scheduled on Wednesday, November 15, 2016 at 8:00am.
 - The Zoning Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7:00pm.
 - The Selectmen meeting (Regular) is scheduled on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 5:00pm.
 - The Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 7:00pm.

NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(e), a motion was made by Selectman Brown, and seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 9:45am. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Sheridan Brown; Selectman Constance Jones; and Town Administrator Melissa White.

Roll Call vote to enter non-public session:	Chairman Warren Kimball;	Yes
	Selectman Constance Jones;	Yes
	Selectman Sheridan Brown;	Yes

*A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 9:53am was made by Selectmen Brown; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.***

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(a) and RSA 91-A:3, II(b), a motion was made by Selectman Jones, and seconded by Selectman Brown to enter into a Non-Public session at 9:53am. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Sheridan Brown; Selectman Constance Jones; and Town Administrator Melissa White.

Approved

Roll Call vote to enter non-public session:	Chairman Warren Kimball;	Yes
	Selectman Constance Jones;	Yes
	Selectman Sheridan Brown;	Yes

*A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 10:00am was made by Selectmen Brown; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.***

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Brown; **by Unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 10:48 am.**

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 9, 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