

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes December 14, 2016

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, December 14, 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; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief Walter A. Madore, Sr.; Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Grantham Energy Committee Members: Kristina Burgard; Jenna Chenevert; and Paula Bresnick

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Kimball asked if everyone had a chance to review the regular and non-public meeting minutes of December 7, 2016. Selectman Brown requested the following change to Session II of the non-public meeting minutes as follows: In the third paragraph which is one sentence only, change the word "was" to "were". Said minutes will be amended.

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes and Session I of the non-public meeting minutes of December 7, 2016 as written and Session II of the non-public meeting minutes of December 7, 2016 as amended was made by Selectman Brown; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Sign Permit Application:
 - a. M/L 233-003-000; 20 Route 114
2. Solar Energy Systems Exemption:
 - b. M/L 234-020-000; 15 Greensward Drive
3. Building Permits:
 - c. M/L 215-067-000; 4 Turner Brae – Remodel & Garage
 - M/L 216-064-000; 6 Oak Lane – Finish Basement

A motion to move for adoption of the Consent Calendar was made by Selectman Brown; seconded by Chairman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**

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APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD

- Kristina Burgard, Grantham Energy Committee: Kristina Burgard, Grantham Energy Committee, discussed the following matters:

1) Update regarding Woodheating Energy System Exemption Warrant Article for 2017: Burgard presented new wording for the 2017 Proposed Warrant Article regarding Woodheating Energy System Exemption. She believed that perhaps the 2016 Warrant Article 7 did not pass due to confusion on what is and is not considered a woodheating energy system. She explained that the NH DRA requires certain wording in the Warrant Article and the following changes were made to the 2016 Warrant Article 7 wording:

- 1) All occurrences of "Woodheating energy system" singular and removed spaces/hyphens from "wood-heating" as defined term in RSAs doesn't contain a space or hyphen;
- 2) Insert a parenthetical cross-referencing the RSA definition of a woodheating energy system. This isn't necessary as the opening language inherently incorporates the definition, but it may help the average person understand that the phrase "woodheating energy system" is not completely open-ended.

Burgard explained the definition of a woodheating energy system as defined in RSA 72:69 as follows:

A "woodheating energy system" means a wood burning appliance designed to operate as a central heating system to heat the interior of a building. The appliance may burn wood solely or burn wood in combination with another fuel.

A central heating system shall include a central appliance to distribute heat by a series of pipes, ducts or similar distribution system throughout a single building or group of buildings.

A wood burning appliance shall **not include**:

A fireplace, meaning a hearth, fire chamber or similarly prepared place with a chimney intended to be usable in an open configuration whether or not it may also be closed and operated closed; or

A wood stove meaning a wood burning appliance designed for space heating purposes which does not operate as a central heating system or as a sole source of heat.

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Burgard clarified that it excludes fireplaces including fire chambers which are external devices. They are outside furnaces and are not technically a central heating system. According to NH DRA the definition of a wood energy heating system is really intended to be an automatically functioning central furnace/boiler type system that heats throughout a building through a series of connected pipes or ducts and it functions automatically and has an automatic feed type system.

Burgard explained that the Energy Committee's approach is to present a Warrant Article again and help educate people on what the definition of a woodheating energy system is, what it does include and what it does not include.

- 2) Alternative Home Heating Systems (including Woodheating Energy Systems) Workshop: Burgard stated the Energy Committee will be holding a Alternative Home Heating Systems (including Woodheating Energy Systems) Workshop at the end of January to help educate the townspeople about woodheating energy systems.

Burgard added that she thought it would be valuable to also talk about the specifics of the rebate, which has more specific language than the RSA, because, logically, if someone is looking to take advantage of the rebate they are going to want to put in a system that complies with the rebate requirements. She said the Energy Committee will also be prepared to discuss all of this at the Budget Hearing and Town Meeting when the Board goes over the Warrant Articles.

- 3) Next Steps regarding Solar Proposal for Town Hall: Burgard recapped that Norwich Technologies presented their latest proposal to the Board in November which had a couple alternatives: 1) a "car port" along the fire pond in parking lot and ground mount arrays in the grass area on the other side of the fire pond; and 2) multiple ground mount arrays along the drive to Dunbar Hill on the right with option of either the carport or another row of arrays along the drive.

Burgard went over some of the financial pros and cons of Norwich Technologies two proposals of PPA (Purchase Power Agreement) v. Town – owned. The PPA approach is zero dollars out of pocket and the current proposal is a five percent savings over what you would pay through Eversource or the other vendors; there is some thought that we could get a better percentage rate based on how large the system is and what they would be getting for it. She emphasized that there is a savings to go with the PPA; there is no outlay of cash but there are some very important provisions in the PPA Agreement that need to be worked out such as maintenance, what happens in the event of the insolvency of the company and are there buyout provisions where the

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town has the opportunity to buy out at certain points of time. Those would definitely factor into the acceptability of doing a PPA. She pointed out other balancing considerations are the site where the arrays would be placed which might potentially require up to one-quarter of an acre cut of woods closer to the road and that is where the Historical Society's Memorial Garden, Bench and Grist Mill Wheel are so if the arrays are located there, an alternative setting would have to be found.

Burgard added that another factor to consider is what will happen under the new Presidential Administration. She said as soon as a PPA is executed, it goes into the queue and it is all set but she felt as the environment changes, the opportunities to do a PPA are likely going to decrease so the opportunity is now.

Selectman Brown asked if Norwich Technologies addressed any potential risks of changing policy with the new elected legislature. The answer was no. Selectman Brown wondered what the risk is of getting into a PPA and having the landscape change and asked if that is addressed in the contract. Burgard replied that is one thing the Board would want to address. She said the company gets the rebate and thought on the federal front, the rebates will stand for at least their current period but the State could potentially not be funded at all.

Selectman Brown asked what Norwich Technologies was looking at as a proposed date. Jenna Chenevert said their workload is tremendous right now but they could start it by the summer if we could lock into it now.

Burgard said she thought the town would have to put together an RFP to get an official proposal including more details of PPA provisions. She said she will reach out to Norwich Technologies to ask for a copy of a standard contract to see what provisions are in it.

OLD BUSINESS

- Olde Farms Road Bridge: No new information.

NEW BUSINESS

- EMS – November Report:
 - There were a total of six (6) calls for service in November. There were three (3) transports consisting of three (3) ALS calls and zero (0) BLS calls. Two (2) were not transported and one was cancelled.

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➤ Fire Department – November Report:

- Responded to 13 calls consisting of 6 EMS, Grantham EMS responded to 4 of them, and 7 Fire/Rescue.
- Grantham hosted both the Upper Valley and Kearsarge Mutual Aid meetings. At the Upper Valley meeting there was discussion about how departments that cover areas with hiking trails handle incidents and the differences in responses from state to state. At the Kearsarge meeting there was discussion on the new drugs that EMS and law enforcement are encountering in the southern area of the state that are working their way north into our response areas. The Hazardous Materials Team meeting was held in Meriden where the major discussion was on budgeting and funding the team when the technicians are activated and how their trainings and medical screenings are paid.
- Grantham Fire Department was awarded funds from the 2017 Volunteer Fire Assistance Funds Grant at the end of October. This is a 50/50 match grant from the State of NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forest and Lands. The Department plans to purchase 25 new forestry fire fighting shirts and helmets with this grant.
- Two members of the Department were accepted to the upcoming Level 1 Class in New London from January – May, 2017.

➤ Police Department – November Report:

- The Thanksgiving Holiday weekend was without incident in Grantham.
- The Department was awarded a grant for E-Ticketing Equipment in the amount of \$2,300.00.

➤ Transfer Station – October Report:

Solid Waste – 8 runs; 83.79 tons
Construction Demolition Debris – 7 runs; 31.07 tons
Glass – 1 load; 7.31 tons; Expense: \$219.30
Electronics – 1 load; 3.11 tons; Expense: \$968.30
Brush – 1 run; 4.66 tons
Cardboard – 1 load; 21.7 tons; Revenue: \$2,332.80
Light Iron – 2 loads; 8.7679 tons; Revenue: \$596.22
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

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Total tonnage of material taken away: 170.9879 tons
Tickets collected at Transfer Station: \$1,480.00

Total Revenue from recycling: \$3,028.28
Total Expense from recycling: \$2,202.60
Net Revenue from recycling: \$ 825.68

Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott renewed his license with the NH Department of Environmental Services in October and has achieved Senior Principal Operator Level which is the highest level of licenses.

- Trustees of the Trust Funds – Report as of November 30, 2016: The Trustees of the Trust funds Report as of November 30, 2016 was reviewed
- Town Administrator Report:
 - Selectman Brown got the new TV equipment up and running.
 - The Town Offices will be closed on Friday, December 23 through Monday, December 26, 2016 for the Christmas holiday and reopen on Tuesday, December 27, 2016 at 8:00am.
 - The Transfer Station will be closed at 2:00pm on Saturday, December 24, 2016 and Sunday, December 25, 2016 for the Christmas holiday and have extended hours until 4:00pm on Monday, December 26, 2016.
 - Upcoming Meetings:
 - The Recreation Park Committee meeting scheduled on December 15, 2016 has been cancelled.
 - The Grantham Conservation Committee meeting is scheduled on Monday, December 19, 2016 at 7:00pm.
 - The Board of Selectmen Work meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 8:00am.
 - The Zoning Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 7:00pm.
 - The Board of Selectmen Regular meeting scheduled on December 28, 2016 has been cancelled.
 - The Planning Board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 7:00pm.
- Kristina Burgard: Kristina Burgard reported that Jane Deane Clark will become the new President of the Garden Club. She also informed that the Garden Club is happy to help in whatever way they can with the information channel such as creating small how to videos or educate on what the Cooperative Extension does, etc.

