

# Approved

## Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes January 10, 2018

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00PM on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 by Selectman Kimball. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Selectman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief John Parsons; EMD and Deputy Fire Chief David Beckley; Road Agent Jeff Hastings; Athletics Director Marsha Googins; Conrad Frey; Peter Guillette; Kevin Davis, Norwich Solar Technologies; Energy Committee Member Paula Bresnick; Elizabeth Strobridge, BMSD; Nicole Mason and others

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Administrator Melissa White.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 13, 2017 as written; seconded by Selectman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the regular and non-public minutes of December 20, 2017 as written; seconded by Selectman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Payroll Manifest #524
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #575 & 576
3. 2018 Street Numbering Agreement
4. 2018 Tax Map Maintenance Agreement
5. 2017 Supplemental Tax Warrant - \$5,441.37
6. Intent to Cut Timber – M/L 211-012
7. Veteran's Tax Credit – M/L 233-080
8. Veteran's Tax Credit – M/L 216-190
9. Upper Valley Humane Society Agreement
10. Building Permits:
  - a. M/L 225-261; 7 Fairway Drive – remodel
  - b. M/L 237-023-001; 758 Route 10 South – bathroom remodel
  - c. M/L 222-280; Clearwater Drive – solar arrays
  - d. M/L 222-281; 24 Clearwater Drive – solar arrays

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## 11. Correspondence:

- a. Sheridan Brown: A resignation letter was received from Sheridan Brown resigning from the Grantham Board of Selectmen effective immediately. Brown stated that his professional responsibilities have greatly increased over the past several months and it would be difficult for him to be fully informed, engaged and independent as a Board member going forward and it is, therefore, prudent for him to leave the Board at this time rather than staying through March. Brown also cited, in detail, his deep disappointment in learning that Gray Ledges has begun demolition on the historic brick house adjacent to its pool, as the Board declined to approve a demolition permit for this at its last meeting, and have already removed the chimney which served as a nesting or roosting site for at least a dozen chimney swifts, an insectivorous migratory bird, which are in significant decline. He recommended some actions for the Board to take in this matter and thanked Selectmen Jones and Kimball for their service to the Town and for the opportunity to work with them these past two and a half years. He said he will continue to help the town as he is able and asked them to please not hesitate to contact him whenever he may be of assistance.
- b. Sullivan County Commissioner's Office: A letter was received from the Sullivan County Commissioner's Office with information about the possibility of establishing a regional emergency services dispatching capability in Sullivan County. This could qualify for grants through the Department of Homeland Security and NH Department of Safety that could fund up to 100% of the equipment cost. The letter asked for each town's dispatching costs.
- c. Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission: The UVLSRPC January 2018 E-Bulletin was received.
- d. Wetlands Permit Application; M/L 226-035; Pleasant Drive; The Selectmen's copy of the Wetlands Permit Application for M/L 226-035, Pleasant Drive was received.
- e. Anonymous: Two anonymous complaint letters were received.
- f. NH Department of Revenue Administration: The Education Tax Warrant for Tax Year 2018 was received. In accordance with the provisions of RSA 76:8 II, Grantham is required to assess the sum of \$1,045,030.00 for the 2018 Education Tax.

Selectmen Kimball removed items 6 and 10.b. from the Consent Calendar.

A motion for adoption of the remaining items on the Consent Calendar was made by Selectman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Approved by majority vote.**

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## **APPOINTMENTS TO MEET WITH THE BOARD**

Elizabeth Strobridge, BMSD: Elizabeth Strobridge, Blue Mountain Snow Dusters, presented an update on the Sled Dog Race that is scheduled on February 18, 2018 at the Recreation Park. She informed that they have some sponsorships for prizes for the competitors and that the race trail has been laid out. She said she called the Police Department and was informed that they would require two officers to be on duty for the event and questioned why two were needed instead of one. Chief Parsons explained the reason for two officers is that one officer will need to be stationed at Route 10 and Cote Road specifically for traffic and the other officer will be at the event field. He said that if it's a bitterly cold day, they will have to flip-flop. He added that there is also a potential for another site at the end of Walker Road and should something happen, he would have an officer to send up there. Strobridge stated that is reasonable but she is concerned about the cost because they have not established how much the entry fees are going to be and two officers will be expensive. She questioned what the police requirements are for other events that take place at the Recreation Park, if summer versus winter is a factor and asked specifically about July 4<sup>th</sup>, Old Home Day. Town Administrator White explained that multiple Police Officers are present both directing traffic and in the park on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Strobridge continued that there have been a lot of volunteers who have signed up, they have a few entries and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have volunteered to have something at the end of Walker Road like hot chocolate, etc.

White asked Strobridge how many mushers are expected. Strobridge replied that two are signed up but typically they wait until the race is closer to monitor weather conditions. She added that entries for other Sled Dog Races this winter have been really good.

Strobridge gave the Board a map of the race trails.

Road Agent Jeff Hastings, who will be plowing the park for the event, asked Strobridge if they were flexible with the parking arrangements because the weather might require some changes. She said they were and they discussed different scenarios based on weather conditions. He also asked about their plans for parking vehicles on Walker Road. She anticipated most spectators will stay at the park.

She asked if it would be beneficial for the BMSD to groom some trails for cross country skiing in the recreation fields for future use and commented that they could then have the starting line go around the field so there was more for the spectators to see. Selectman Kimball said this had been brought up before and they agreed.

EMD and Deputy Fire Chief Dave Beckley said he is not familiar with these events and possible risks of injury to mushers and had concerns about EMS or the Fire Department having to get to someone if there is an injury. She said they will have snowmobiles stationed at most of the intersections of the trails and there is really good cell service on the trails. She added that most mushers wear helmets although it is not a requirement. Beckley said he will follow up with her before the event. She also informed that the local Veterinarian will be available if there is an animal emergency.

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Kevin Davis, Norwich Solar Technologies: Kevin Davis, Norwich Solar Technologies, presented a solar proposal that would benefit the Town of Grantham, Grantham Village School and the Dunbar Free Library and was designed with input from the Energy Committee. It had also been discussed separately with the Superintendent of the Grantham Village School District. The new Superintendent put out a survey that included the solar proposal and 72% of respondents were in favor of the proposal.

Davis explained that the proposal would build one large array at the school that would also benefit the town instead of building a little bit here and there and have it scattered all about. They are proposing to use the land behind the School and behind the Fire Department and

would require approximately two acres. He said the School and the Fire Department would be what is called "behind the meter" because they would be so close to the array and when it is producing power it will be fed directly into the meter at those two facilities so the electric company would not need to deliver any power there. He explained that the other buildings wouldn't be directly connected to the array, that they would still be connected to Eversource so they would still receive power from Eversource and pay Eversource but there would be enough power produced by that array to offset the requirements of those buildings and any excess power would be net metered which would be reflected as a credit on the bills from Eversource.

He stated this would be financed through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and there would be a third party equity funder that would buy it and own the array so there is no cost to the town or the school to enter into an agreement like this. The third party funder puts up all the money to build it, they own it, operate it and bear all the maintenance for it. In return, the town and the school then buy the power that the array produces. They are proposing a 9.5 cent per kilowatt hour as a rate and that rate would escalate 2% annually for 25 years. There would be an option at year 7 and 15 in which the town could buy the array.

Someone asked what the maintenance requirement would be. Davis said that typically they go out twice per year to do a visual inspection to make sure everything is running as it should be and they also do landscaping and brush hogging around it to make sure that no brush or trees are growing up that would shade the array.

Beckley asked what kind of training they require for example; Fire Department and local maintenance. Davis said they do not require any training for either and that they bear the cost of maintenance.

Paula Bresnick asked if there would be a fence around the array considering how close it would be to the school. Davis said there could be but it would depend on how far back in the woods they locate it and the final design would dictate that.

Selectman Jones mentioned that it is wet at the proposed location and asked Davis if they would obtain the wetlands permits. Davis replied they would obtain all necessary permits. Chief Parsons asked Davis if he was aware that the School completed a whole labyrinth of

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nature trails and handmade bridges all through those woods this fall and explained the location and how close they come to the river. Davis said he wasn't aware of that and thought they went farther back into the woods. He said they would have to take that into consideration. He emphasized that the school has not agreed to go solar and has not entered into any kind of agreement; that the Energy Committee wanted to go to the Board of Selectmen first to see if the interest was there from the town to do a joint project and if it is, then the next step would be for him to go to the school.

Beckley pointed out that they will need a road for construction and asked if that road would be maintained as part of the other maintenance. Davis stated that typically the kind of road they would build there would be like a logging road and that maintenance after it is built is a couple of guys in a pick-up truck, that they don't need heavy equipment to access the site. Beckley said they would be creating a fire risk in the woods and he is concerned as to how he would get equipment and fire trucks into the area where they would be generating a large amount of electricity. Davis said it would be built according to code and according to permit so that would all be taken into account. He added that it would not be put completely into the woods and that the access road would be kept clear.

Selectman Kimball said the town has an interest in pursuing this and suggested that Davis talk with the school officials. Davis said that will be his next step and informed that if the school is not interested they do have other options of where they could place the array as long as it is in Eversource territory. Selectman Kimball thanked Davis for his presentation.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Building Permit Application – M/L 232-001-000; 36 Gray Ledges – Remove Pool House: Selectman Kimball stated that after reviewing the planning Board documents and consulting with Town Counsel, it was determined that the Selectmen are without the power to approve the demolition permit application. Kimball explained that the Planning Board applied a condition that the brick house be preserved as part of the Site Approval for Gray Ledges so in order to alter its condition, application has to be made to the Planning Board for approval. Peter Guillette, President of Gray Ledges Condominium Association, said that none of the current owners at Gray Ledges were aware of that condition and they were all taken by surprise. He wanted to clarify that he understood that when the condition was applied, the building was referred to as a historic building but it is not designated as a historic building because it was modified and didn't meet the criteria for that. He thought that might be where some of the confusion was. White said they are aware that it is not on the historic registry. Guillette said they are happy to do whatever is required and will go before the Planning Board. He noted that he will obviously have to recuse himself for this. Selectman Kimball informed that the Board is still gathering information and when they have it all together, they will give him a copy.

Comcast Cable Agreement: Selectman Kimball informed that former Selectman Brown has offered to help them by drafting a letter to Comcast.

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

Fire Department – December Report: Grantham Fire and EMS were called to 23 emergency incidents in the month of December. There were 13 calls for fire/rescue and 16 EMS calls of which Grantham EMS responded to 4.

Fire Department Responses for December

3 – Structure Fire, and Re-kindle  
4 – Motor Vehicle Accident  
2 – Chimney Fire, Pellet Stove Issue  
1 – Electrical Issue Investigation  
1 – Alarm Activation, Mutual Aid to Springfield  
2 – Propane Odor Investigation  
Equipment: No reportable equipment issues for December

Training: The Fire Department has implemented a Training Commitment letter, copy attached to report. The letter is in place to both encourage the completion of training classes and as a means to recover costs of training if a member leaves the Department prior to an agreed repayment period.

The Fire Department is also taking advantage of online training for our members. The first course offering through the NH Fire Academy is “Firefighter Cancer Awareness”. About half of the active firefighters have completed the program.

Two in-house training sessions were completed in December:

- 12/12 – Personal Protective Equipment Basics and Radio Communications
- 12/19 – Gas Meter Operation and Readings and Thermal Imaging Camera, additional techniques for use.

Lebanon Ambulance – December Report: eleven (11) calls for service; four (4) were transported.

Police Department – December Report: Happy New Year from the Police Department.

On December 5-6, 2017, Officer Cameron attended the Pro-Active Drug Interdiction and Vehicle Concealment training with Instructor Sgt. Mike Connor of NESPIN.

Officer Gamble also attended training workshops on December 5-6, 2017 sponsored by New England Division of the International Association for Identification. The trainings were titled: Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis; Crime Scene Photography, and Staged Crime Scenes.

Officer Schwartz attended training on December 6, 2017 titled Crisis & Trauma in Police Work and on December 11, 2017 titled Victims of Investment Fraud. Both classes were held at NHPSTC.

The Department completed the required firearms training and taser recertification for 2017.

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For 2017, the Department responded to 3323 calls; 1084 of those calls were for traffic citations or warnings.

Trustees of the Trust Funds – December Report: The December Report was reviewed.

Town Administrator: Most of December was spent working on the budget, participating in a multitude of storm briefings conducted by the State's HSEM, and covering for Ann during her medical leave. I am grateful her recovery went well and enabled her to return on January 4<sup>th</sup>!

Thank you to Chief Parsons for providing our residents with updates from the storm briefings we participated in. Many residents have contacted me with great appreciation for keeping them informed, along with his humor! Police Department Secretary, Judy DiPadova, has also received many residents stopping by her window to express their thanks to the Chief.

Thank you to EMD and Deputy Fire Chief David Beckley for all of his support in getting the word out about fire safety.

Road Agent Jeff Hastings attended Dig Safe Training on December 7<sup>th</sup> and his assistant, Brian Hastings, attended the same training on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The JLMC held its 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting. Library Representative, Andy Gelston, Selectman Connie Jones and Town Administrator White conducted the annual building inspections. Thank you to Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Penny Palmer, for taking over as chair of the committee for 2018.

The office also processed: 5 building permit applications, 5 Planning Board applications, 2 Veteran Tax Credit Applications and 23 property transfers.

**Town Report:** The Selectmen's submission for the 2017 Town Report is due by January 19, 2018.

Holidays/Town Office Closures:

- Martin Luther King Day: Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>
- President's Day: Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>
- Easter: Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> (Transfer Station only)
- Memorial Day: Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>
- July 4<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day: Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Columbus Day: Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>
- Veteran's Day (Observed): Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Break: Close at noon, Wednesday, 11/21 through 11/23
- Christmas Break: Monday, 12/24 through 12/25

Selectmen's Report: Selectman Kimball and Selectman Jones regrettably accept the resignation of Selectman Sheridan Brown. They are very grateful for his service over the last two and one half years.



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A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 5:56pm was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Kimball. **Approved by majority vote.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Kimball; *the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:00PM.*

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 24, 2017** 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