

# Approved

## Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes September 26, 2018

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00pm on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, by Selectman Jones. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief John Parsons; Fire Chief Justin Hastings; David Wood, Conservation Commission Chair; Sheridan Brown; David Allen; Wayne Arsenault; Alex Raducanu; and Mark Hill

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Selectman Garland to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of September 18, 2018; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Approved by majority vote.**

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Payroll Manifest #543
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #647
3. Library Trustee Appointment; Carl "Tod" Lloyd
4. Building Permits:
  - a. M/L 212-016-001; Frye Lane – New Home
  - b. M/L225-251-000; 18 Fairway Drive – Three Season Porch
  - c. M/L 216-026-000; 132 Miller Pond Road - Shed
  - d. M/L 222-035-000; 10 Azure Brae – Master Bath Remodel
  - e. M/L 222-208-000; 32 Highwood Way – Shed & Garage Extension
  - f. M/L 215-026-000; Kitchen & Bath Remodel
5. Correspondence:
  - a. State of New Hampshire Department of Safety: A letter was received from the State of New Hampshire Department of Safety notifying of a pending rulemaking action regarding the readoption of the Emergency Medical Services Rules, Saf-C 5900.
  - b. Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission: A letter was received from UVLSRPC informing that the Commission will be evaluating the existing 2021-2030 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan projects and solicit and prioritize new highway and bridge projects for this region. Regional priorities are then submitted for consideration by the NHDOT and the Governor and Executive Council to create a statewide Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

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- c. COA Chapin Senior Center: COA Chapin Senior Center respectfully submitted a request for \$3,900.00 from the Town of Grantham in 2019 to defray its expenses in providing services and programs for the seniors in Grantham.
- d. Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire: VNH for Vermont and New Hampshire thanked the Town of Grantham for its longstanding support and requested funding in the amount of \$2,000 in 2019.
- e. State of New Hampshire Office of the Governor: The School Safety Preparedness Task Force Report was received from the State of New Hampshire Office of the Governor.

Town Administrator White requested that item 4.c. be removed from the Consent Calendar as she is waiting for a call back from NH DES. The Board approved the removal of item 4.c. from the Consent Calendar.

A motion to approve the remaining items on the Consent Calendar was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones; **Approved by majority vote.**

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

The following three residents spoke regarding the Eastman Community Association Solar Array Project:

Wayne Arsenault, 23 Hummingbird Hill: Wayne Arsenault introduced himself and told the Board that he and his wife bought their home on Hummingbird Hill in 1996 after a three year search. He stated that one of the things they liked best about the location is how quiet it was there, but that changed this past summer when the solar array went in. He informed that he and his wife attended two of the four meetings about the proposed project, the first one and the last one, where the representatives from Norwich Technologies said on every occasion that it will not be visible or have any impact to the abutters. Arsenault reported that it is visible and not what Norwich Technologies said it was going to be. He stated they now have a bird's eye view of the sewer pond which they could not see before, the solar arrays, the maintenance shed and they can also hear Interstate 89 through the corridor that was made because they cut so many trees down. He expressed how disappointed he is at the way they presented this project and that the end result is not how they presented it. He commented that it is only going to get worse because the leaves are coming off the trees now.

David Allen, 25 Hummingbird Hill: David Allen informed the Selectmen that the project was given a zoning variance and the abutters did not vigorously object solely based on the assurances that were made to them that there would not be any negative impact and that has not turned out to be the case. He said the focal point in his home used to be two nine foot glass doors through which there was a view of a lovely wooded area. He said now they stare at a solar array and sewer ponds that he was assured they would not see. They hear the sewer pond pumps twenty four hours a day and smell it two out of three days. They also now hear Interstate 89. He said he believed the Selectmen had the right to hold this company to the variance conditions that were given to them. He suggested issuing a Cease and Desist to stop the project until they can live up to the commitments that they made.

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Alex Raducanu, 27 Hummingbird Hill: Alex Raducanu stressed that the three of them are directly impacted by this project and they didn't think it would come to this because of the assurance of the Eastman Community Association Board of Directors and Norwich Technologies, the company hired by the ECA Board to do this project. He said there were meetings last year and then they went to Zoning Board and Planning Board and without any announcement, in July, they heard the trucks and they started excessively cutting the trees. After a week of that, the three of them went to the ECA Board to say this is not acceptable, what they promised is not happening. They invited the ECA Board and Norwich Technologies to come to their houses and look from above so they can see how they are impacted. He said only the project manager from Norwich Technologies came and he kind of indicated that they cut more trees than expected and explained that the cutting was done by a company that Norwich hired but there was no one from Norwich Technologies there to oversee the cutting. He believed that they cut more than they should have. He said they contacted Norwich Technologies and ECA to ask them to remedy this and bring them to how their view was before this project started. He estimated that over 2000 trees were cut, more than 3 acres, and Norwich Technologies offered to plant 10 trees as a remedy. About two weeks later, Norwich said they would plant 20 trees. Additionally, they can smell the sewer ponds when the wind blows and they can hear Interstate 89. They are trying to find a remedy from Norwich Technologies and/or ECA to bring their houses back to the value they had before this project but they have gotten no response so now they are asking the Selectmen for help.

Sheridan Brown told Selectman Jones that he had a question that could be helpful, if he could direct it through the Chair. Selectman Jones said yes. Brown said he heard them talk about what the impacts have been and wondered what potential solution they are looking for as a remedy. Allen requested that the project be stopped until they meet the conditions placed upon them because once the project is finished, it will be difficult to get any solution from them.

Allen also thought it important to point out that there is about a 40 to 50 foot elevation change from the sewer ponds to their homes and then another 20 feet depending on where you are in your home. They removed a buffer of 1000 to 2000 trees anywhere from 40 to 80 feet tall. He commented that for Norwich Technologies to remedy that by planting a half dozen six foot white pine trees tells him that they are not really interested in fixing anything but are trying to stall them.

Brown noted that they would like to have the project stopped until they meet the conditions and asked Arsenault, Allen and Raducanu what, as a practical matter, do they consider meeting the conditions. Raducanu said his opinion is that there is no physical solution to this as their houses are 40 to 50 feet high. He thought this would be his last house but now he and his wife might have to move because he can't stand looking at it and his wife is having health issues due to the stress of it. His suggestion was to bring them to the point where their houses are the same value as they were before this project started. Allen added that they can't uncut 80 foot trees so they would have to remove more than half of the panels, he guessed, and plant a couple of hundred fully mature evergreens and he is not sure if that would satisfy them but it would be a lot less expensive than making them whole financially and accepting the fact that there probably is no solution. Brown said that helped answer his question.

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Selectman Jones said the Board will look into this and commented that Norwich Technologies will probably be looking at other areas in town to put in an array and this will show people that they need to be aware of where these arrays are going and the impact they will have on the neighbors and everybody around them.

Arsenault, Allen and Raducanu thanked the Selectmen.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Stocker Brook Realty, LLC, et al v. Town of Grantham: No new information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Athletics Department Report for August 2018: Athletics Director Marsha Googins reported that August brought the soccer season back to Grantham with 89 players registered from grades K-6. Teams were organized providing a Kindergarten team, a 1/2 grade co-ed team, a 3/4 grade boys team; and a team for each 5/6 grade boys and 5/6 grade girls. Teams of grades 3 – 6 participate in games with the Merrimack Valley Soccer League comprised of teams between Concord and Grantham.

Soccer t-shirts were delivered to the K-2 grade group and wick away soccer jerseys and soccer socks for the 3 – 6 grade groups. Ads were placed locally and in the Grantham News to solicit Officials for the home soccer games. A few Referees were secured to officiate home games played at the Recreation Park.

With the start of the season underway, Googins is hoping to achieve more interest in having parents support the concession stand at the park for home games. She has created a sign-up sheet model for coaches to send to parents for the home game offerings. Past experience showed great enthusiasm and support with this.

A survey will be sent to soccer parents to gather feedback on the soccer programs, coaches, games and more. This is a valuable tool in an effort to provide the best opportunities for our youth in sports.

Fire Department – July and August Reports:

July 2018: Grantham Fire and EMS were called to 31 emergency incidents in the month of July. There were 10 calls for Fire/Rescue and 21 EMS calls – of which Grantham EMS responded to 5.

Fire Department Responses for July:

142 Brush, or brush and grass mixture fire	1
412 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1
440 Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1
444 Power line down	2
531 Smoke or odor removal	1

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711 Municipal alarm system, malicious false alarm 1  
735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction 3

Three training sessions were completed:

07/10/2018 – Basic knowledge review Truck/Pump operation  
07/17/2018 – Dry hydrant/Pumping familiarization  
07/24/2018 – Drafting/Pumping familiarization of non-hydrant water locations  
07/31/2018 – Mutual-Aid water supply training. Tanker shuttles, drafting and pumping

The month of July was full of activities. Grantham Old Home Day went very well despite the eerie silence of the parade. The town was able to recognize Jay Fountain for his unwavering dedication to the Fire Department. The Department had very successful trainings that gave all of its members a chance to become more familiar with the trucks, the town resources and the mutual aid available to them.

The Fire Department will be holding an open house on October 6, 2018 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Among other things, they will be providing CPR training to the public, fire extinguisher training and Francis Mutney will give some presentations on some of the antique equipment they have.

August 2018: Grantham Fire and EMS were called to 22 emergency incidents in the month of August. There were 9 calls for Fire/Rescue and 15 EMS calls – of which Grantham EMS responded to 4.

Fire Department Responses for August:

131 Passenger vehicle fire	1
352 Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	2
411 Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	1
444 Power line down	2
522 Water or steam leak	1
743 Smoke detector activation, No fire – unintentional	1
745 Alarm system sounded, No fire – unintentional	1

Three training sessions were completed:

08/14/2018 Thermal camera comparison and practical  
08/21/2018 Ladders  
08/28/2018 Call review, Apparatus review

Fire Chief Hastings stated that they are proud to have five members new and not so new start an EMT basic class in Thetford, VT. This class will dramatically increase the Department's EMS coverage in the coming year. They will continue to work on basics in the Fire Department in hopes to get all new members oriented to the equipment and procedures.

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Police Department – August Report: Chief Parsons and Sergeant Cunningham completed AR15/M16/M4 Armorer's Course that was held at Sunapee Police Department on August 8-9, 2018.

Sergeant Cunningham and Sr. Patrolman Gamble attended ALICE Instructor Certification Training on August 20, 2018.

Chief Parsons and Sr. Patrolman Gamble completed the Intox 9000 recertification on August 27, 2018.

Chief Parsons, Sergeant Cunningham and Officers Gamble and Cameron attended Low Light Rifle Operator Training at Sig Sauer on August 31, 2018.

Grantham Village School started the school year on August 30, 2018. Other than a few minor bus incidents, the school year has started off on a good foot.

The Department was notified that it had been awarded grant funding through NH Homeland Security Emergency Management for helmets and plate carriers. This will be used to reimburse a portion of the monies appropriated at Town Meeting.

Transfer Station – August Report:

Solid Waste – 8 runs; 92.01 tons  
Construction Demolition Debris – 10 runs; 41.06 tons  
Glass – 1 load; 7.31 tons; Expense: \$219.30  
Cardboard – 1 load; 21.78 tons; Revenue: \$1,579.05  
Light Iron – 2 loads; 8.5714 tons; Revenue: \$1,140.94  
Fibers – Mixed Loose – (Paper) – 3 loads; 11.91 tons  
Revenue: \$ 0.00  
Expense: \$2,050.49

Comingle – w/o glass – (Plastic) – 3 loads; 3.96 tons  
Revenue: \$ 0.00  
Expense: \$340.56

Total tonnage of material taken away: 186.6014 tons  
Tickets collected at Transfer Station: \$2,685.00

Total Revenue from recycling: \$2,719.99  
Total Expenses from recycling: \$2,610.35  
Net Revenue from recycling: \$ 109.64

## **NON-PUBLIC:**

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-e, a motion was made by Selectman Garland and seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:38pm. Present were: Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; and Conservation Commission Chair David Wood.



# Approved

A motion to seal the minutes of this non-public session was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Garland. **Approved by majority vote.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Selectman Garland moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:56pm.

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 10, 2018** 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