

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes November 28, 2018

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:02pm on Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 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 Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Fire Chief Justin Hastings; Assistant Fire Chief Jay Fountain; Grantham Conservation Commission Chair David Wood; Grantham Conservation Commission Member Richard Hocker; Residents Clint Bean, Peter Gardiner and Paul Handley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Kimball.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of November 1, 2018; seconded by Selectman Garland. **Unanimously approved.**

A motion was made by Selectman Garland to approve the regular and non-public meeting minutes of November 14, 2018; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll Manifest #547
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #611/651
3. Shoreline Protection Cutting Plans:
 - a. M/L 215-113-000; 27 Granite Way
4. Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 222-142-014
5. Correspondence:
 - a. Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice: A letter was received from Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice thanking the Town for its support and requesting an appropriation of \$6,500.00 for Fiscal Year 2019 to support unreimbursed charity care provided by LSRVNA to Grantham residents.
 - b. Southwestern Community Services: A letter was received from Southwestern Community Services requesting \$500.00 in Town funding for Fiscal Year 2019 which is 1% of the amount of assistance provided to Grantham residents in Fiscal Year 2018.

A motion to approve the Consent Calendar was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Garland. **Unanimously approved.**

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APPOINTMENTS TO MEET WITH THE BOARD

Clint Bean: Clint Bean informed that he, Paul Handley and Peter Gardiner are interested in getting a better handle on their knowledge of real estate taxes. He said they understand the nature of the issue but would like a bigger understanding of the dynamics behind the process. He handed the Board a chart of comparison for different properties and tax rates over the past few years prepared by Paul Handley.

Paul Handley stated that he was surprised at how much his tax bill increased as were some of his neighbors. He said he thought, okay, this tax bill is a done deal but going forward, what would help them to gain a basic understanding of the budget process, the review process and what the controls are. He admitted that it could be fully that he missed any communication of what the budget was going to be and how much it was going to increase. He reiterated what Bean said about what they can do going forward to improve their understanding and maybe they could follow up with the Board again at another time. He asked how, going forward, they would be in a position where they are knowledgeable about what is going on with the budget for that next year and get that message out to people. He explained the handout and concluded that the taxpayers need to make the right tradeoffs between good services and good schools versus what they can afford.

Peter Gardiner stated that he was told by school personnel that the school gave the town one million dollars last year and questioned what happened to it. Selectman Jones explained that the town did not receive one million dollars, that the school used it to offset its budget.

Selectman Garland explained that in Grantham, you may be subject to taxation from three different municipalities: the School District which runs as a separate entity and has its own town meeting where they set their portion of the tax rate; the Village District for water and sewer if you live in the Eastman Community; and then the municipality tax rate. Gardiner asked about the tax for Eastman. Selectman Jones explained that the Village District tax is for water and sewer. Gardiner said he is not on the sewer. Selectman Jones said he would get taxed for the water, not the sewer and that the Village District is like a little municipality and the town is the vehicle that collects it and they get the money back and that is how it has to be done by State law. There are four entities on the tax bill: Municipal, Local School, State School and County.

Bean said he didn't understand what sounded like total independence between the school and the town and asked if the law provides for that provision and if the two entities can't coordinate with one another on budget considerations? Chairman Kimball replied that the Town and the School are two separate entities and the Town has no influence or control over the school's budget. Bean still wondered about coordination about not exceeding certain spending levels and asked if by statute, the school operates independently and the town officials and voters have no bearing on its budget. The Board replied that town officials do not but emphasized that the voters do. Chairman Kimball asked Bean if he has been to a school budget meeting. Bean said no and Chairman Kimball said that could be part of the problem because that is where they decide the school budget. Gardiner and Bean said the school's budget meeting is in February too when everyone is away. Selectman Jones explained that it is part of the rules and regulations set by the State of when you have to hold these meetings,

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they have to be so many weeks before the Town Meeting. Bean asked if that means the school doesn't have any flexibility in having a budget meeting before the first of the year, for example. Selectman Jones said she can't speak for the school but she said that the town probably would not have their budget solidified by then. Bean said he is searching for commonality between the school and the town on what the total impact would be on taxpayers. He believed it was all about communications and town officials being able to say hey school district, we have these considerations and this information and concern about the impact on the community and ask them what their plans are and if we can share some information on what your share of the impact is going be. He thought there must be a process by which the town could possibly follow and he is curious on what the road blocks are preventing that and asked if it is just not wanting to do it or if there is an avenue to pursue some joint coordination. Selectman Garland informed them about the Grantham News that goes out via email which lists the various meetings of the School Board and when the annual Budget Hearing will be held. He stressed that the important thing is to go there and represent your point of interest.

Bean said he is looking at it from the standpoint of what is possible and what can be done to improve communications and assume that it's not going to be a first priority for a lot of people to go to these meetings. For people who are at retirement or near retirement, it becomes less of a priority but it doesn't mean that you don't want to be kept informed. He thought we should ask what else we can do differently to generate new interest and new participation and thought there may be some new ideas that could help. Chairman Kimball stated the meetings are not secret and the Selectmen do their best to keep residents informed of when meetings are held but if they choose not to show up, the Selectmen are not going to go out and chase people to attend a meeting. Bean said that there may be some promotion options and maybe some partnering that can happen. Chairman Kimball said he did not understand. Bean said that maybe the Town can partner with ECA, for example, in communicating with residents. Chairman Kimball stated that the Selectmen have their own communications and questioned why they should partner with ECA? Bean said he has never received an email from anybody. Chairman Kimball asked if he has ever checked with the Town to see what is on the schedule. Bean said he thought it was up to the Town to tell him what is on the schedule. Selectman Jones reiterated that the Grantham News which residents can sign up to receive on the Town's website goes out via email and contains all meeting dates for the various town boards and committees. She continued that it also contains information about social activities and other updates, for example, the office received a lot of compliments today from people regarding the updates on the power outages. Fire Chief Hastings added that everything you receive from the town, like tax bills, has the town's website on it.

Chairman Kimball informed them about the CIP (Capital Improvement) Committee, if they cared to join, which is where the Committee interviews each of the departments to find out what the future needs are and sends a recommendation to the Selectmen.

Bean, Handley and Gardiner thanked the Selectmen for their time.

OLD BUSINESS

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

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NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department – October Report: Grantham Fire and EMS were called to 24 emergency incidents in the month of October. There were 13 calls for Fire/Rescue and 11 EMS calls – of which Grantham EMS responded to 3.

Fire Department Responses for October:

Medical assist	1
Power lines down	2
Smoke/odor removal	1
Public service assistance	1
Dispatched and canceled en route	2
Steam thought to be smoke	1
CO detector activation due to malfunction	1
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	1
Alarm system sounded, no fire-unintentional	2
Detail – community service	1

Training:

October started off with an open house that was a great success. As winter and the challenges ahead quickly approach, the Department focused on some specific training to be better prepared. Deputy Chief Libby from the Lebanon Fire Department/Midwestern Hazardous Materials Team spoke about ways to protect yourself and the public when faced with a hazardous material(s). New London Fire Department brought their ladder truck and joined the Department for chimney fire training and the month was topped off with driver training. They enjoyed the mad rush of princesses and super heroes for trick or treat. Chief Hastings remarked that they had a great group of volunteers at the Fire Station while the Department was spread around town.

Police Department December Schedule: The Police Department December Schedule was reviewed.

Transfer Station – October Report:

Solid Waste – 8 runs; 90.17 tons
Construction Demolition Debris – 10 runs; 44.53 tons
Old Metal Canister – 2.21 tons; Revenue: \$298.93
Light Iron – 2 loads; 8.75 tons; Revenue: \$962.50
Glass – 1 load; 7.31 tons; Expense: \$219.30
Tires – 1 load; 421 tires; \$885.75 from the reclamation fund
Fibers – Mixed Loose – (Paper) – 2 loads; 7.94 tons
Revenue: \$0.00
Expense: \$1,366.86

Comingle – w/o glass – (Plastic) – 2 loads; 2.64 tons
Revenue: \$0.00
Expense: \$232.32

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Total Tonnage of Material taken away: 163.55 tons
Tickets collected at Transfer Station: \$2,310.00

Total Revenue from recycling: \$1,261.43
Total Expenses from recycling: \$3,346.48
Net Expenses from recycling: \$2,085.05

Town Administrator: Town Administrator White was not present so her report will wait until the next meeting.

Assistant Fire Chief Jay Fountain commented that Town Administrator White did a great job getting out all of the power outage bulletins. The Board agreed.

The Norwich Technologies Solar Project in Eastman was discussed. Sheridan Brown will draft a letter to Norwich Technologies for the Board to review.

NON-PUBLIC:

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-d, a motion was made by Selectman Jones and seconded by Selectman Garland to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:48 pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Conservation Commission Chair David Wood and Conservation Commission Member Richard Hocker.

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

A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 6:50pm was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

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

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-e, a motion was made by Selectman Jones and seconded by Selectman Garland to enter into a Non-Public session at 6:55 pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Conservation Commission Chair David Wood and Conservation Commission Member Richard Hocker.

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

A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 7:00pm was made by Selectman Garland; seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

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In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-c, a motion was made by Selectman Garland and seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 7:05 pm. Present were: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; and Sheridan Brown.

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

A motion to leave Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 7:15pm was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Garland. **Unanimously approved.**

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Garland; by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 7:20pm.

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on **Monday, December 3, 2018** at 9:00am in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant