

Approved

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes December 18, 2019

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, by Chairman Kimball. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Building, Lower Level at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; Police Chief John Parsons; Recreation Director Emily Rinde-Thorsen; and Shawn Hayward

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll Manifest #579 & 580
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #656/704 & 657/705
3. 2019 Supplemental Property Tax Warrant - \$2,881.00
4. Rules of Procedure
5. Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 237-053-002; Cote Road – new home
 - b. M/L 225-243-000; 38 Fairway Drive – convert gas fireplace
 - c. M/L 226-019-000; 161 Yankee Barn Road – mobile home replacement
 - d. M/L 225-068-000; 19 Wedgewood Drive – roof extension/cover generator/electrical repairs
6. Correspondence
 - a. Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission: The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission December 2019 E-Bulletin was reviewed.
 - b. NH Department of Transportation: The NH DOT is planning project “Newport-Grantham 41914” to replace existing deficient roadside cable barrier, and W-beam guardrail with Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH) approved steel post-W-beam and terminal end units and extend the guardrail where necessary to meet current safety standards. The proposed project is located on NH Route 10 in the Towns of Newport, Croydon, and Grantham. All proposed work is within the State right-of-way.
 - c. Eversource: A Vegetation Management Tree Removal Request Form for Cote road was received from Eversource.

Town Administrator White asked that item number 4 be removed from the Consent Calendar because she was unable to complete the updates. Selectman Garland made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar after the removal of item number 4, seconded by Selectman Jones. **Unanimously approved.**

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CITIZEN COMMENTS

Resident Shawn Hayward informed that he provided updated pictures of his property at 172 Cote Road. A meeting with Mr. & Mrs. Hayward is scheduled for January 8, 2020, at 3 PM.

APPOINTMENTS TO MEET WITH THE BOARD

Darren Fagan: Resident Darren Fagan asked the Board of Selectmen to consider the establishment of a Grantham Technology Development Committee. Mr. Fagan gave an overview of his education in medical and computer-aided mechanical engineering and explained how he thought the committee would function, which would be:

- To assess technology on behalf of the Town;
- Find technology to reduce existing costs to the Town;
- Find technology solutions for existing challenges of the Town, such as radio reception for the Public Safety departments;
- Use the technology to improve the quality of life for the residents of Grantham;

Fagan felt that there was a plethora of expertise to draw from in Grantham and that it would need to be a town-sanctioned committee in order to garner support when talking to external parties. Fagan said that although his idea came during the Comcast public hearings, he felt that obtaining high-speed internet for the whole town would not be the committee's sole focus.

Fagan reviewed the process and oversight as he saw it:

- Brainstorm and develop ideas – what can they do, and what are they solving for?
- Feasibility – is it possible, what did other towns do?
- Value – is it worth doing? What would the return on investment be?
- Present the research project to the Selectmen and gain approval for further work
- Project plan – what needs to be done and when?
- Execution – complete the project
- Project review – what went well; were the goals achieved?

Fagan reviewed some examples:

- Internet expansion – explore how other towns did it (Enfield, Bristol, etc.)
 - Research grant options (USDA and others)
 - Other less conventional options that might work for Grantham, e.g., partner with Google on rural internet expansion, etc.
- Improve communication access for Public Safety Departments of the Town
 - Improve radio and cellphone coverage where needed

Fagan reviewed the possible next steps:

- Secure volunteers to support the program
- Interview town Department Heads to understand their challenges
- Survey the Town for ideas
- Compile project ideas based on input from town Department Heads and survey results

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- Rank ideas based on feasibility and value proposition (return on investment), and then send the results to the Town Administrator for Selectmen review
- Begin the proposed process of working on the top technology proposal

Selectman Garland stated that he looked at what Rindge and Enfield did to get fiber optics in their towns. He then asked about microwave options. Fagan felt the committee would explore all ideas and then see what would make the most sense for Grantham.

The Board requested that Mr. Fagan come back with his proposed mission statement, which shall adhere to the Board's Rules of Procedures for creating new committees.

OLD BUSINESS

Partial Survey of the Class VI Portion of Miller Pond Road: No new information.

Miller Pond Road Safety and Drainage Improvement Project: See the minutes from 12/18/19 at 2 PM.

Emergency Operations Plan Updates: No new information.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates: White stated EMD Beckley has reached out to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission to secure their services in updating this plan. It is anticipated that work will begin after the Town Meeting in March 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Lebanon Ambulance – November Report: 13 calls for service; 6 were transported.

Police Department – November Report: The Department attended Harassment in the Workplace training put on by Primex.

Sergeant Cunningham and Department Secretary Judy DiPadova attended the Cyber Training on November 14, 2019.

Sergeant Cunningham, Patrolmen Gamble, and Cameron, and Chief Parsons attended Close Quarter Pistol Operator training at Sig Sauer on November 4, 2019.

Sergeant Cunningham and Sr. Patrolman Gamble successfully completed their 3-year fitness test on November 9, 2019 and attended Stress Management for Supervisors training at NHPSTC on November 13, 2019.

The DARE Program for fifth graders at Grantham Village School began on November 20, 2019.

Sergeant Cunningham and Patrolman Cameron attended LAP (Lethality Assessment Protocol) Training on November 26, 2019.

The Department received notification from NH HSEM that it successfully obtained an EOC

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Equipment EMPG Grant totaling \$17,000 plus.

A resident stopped by the Grantham Police Department and told Department Secretary Judy DiPadova to say to the Chief that he wanted him to know that “both Ryan’s are good dudes.”

Chief Parsons informed that DCFY asked him to support their campaign to encourage people to become a foster parent, so he put a message on their portable message board sign.

Recreation Department Report by Emily Rinde-Thorsen:

- Basketball: Basketball is underway and has 67 participants that equate to five teams. Little Brothers Burgers, LLC sponsored the jerseys and pinnies this year. There is a pool of six basketball officials/clock operators and a schedule has been set for all games for the year. The coaching staff is as follows:
 - Amy Fowler and Stan Henkin are coaching co-Ed Kindergarten Team;
 - Brian Peck, Tyler Brock, and Matt Polluck are coaching Co-ed First and Second Grade, teams;
 - Jeremy Batchelder and James Wachsmann are coaching third and Fourth Grade Boys Team;
 - Tom Ripley is coaching fifth and Sixth Grade Boys Team; and
 - Jeremy Batchelder, Mary Jo Weber, and Amy Fowler are coaching Fifth and Sixth-grade Girls.
- All volunteers have completed the background check.
- The second session of Tae Kwon Do has started and is full again.
- Soccer: The 2019 survey for soccer was received. Rinde-Thorsen said there was a 30% response rate, and those respondents rated the coaching, officiating, and games as “strong,” and that the program was worthwhile.
- Activities: The last Sunday in November was the annual Tree Lighting. The tree needed new lights, which were purchased out of the rec revolving fund. The tree is also growing, and there was an issue reaching the top of the tree with just the ladder. In 2020, a pole will be needed to help string the lights.

The North Country Chordsmen sang at the event, and there was a gingerbread house decorating activity. Fifty-seven people attended and participated this year.

- Recreation Committee: The Recreation Committee has submitted a draft of the proposed mission statement for the Recreation Department. They started compiling a wish list of items for which to fundraise – both items for the park itself and items that will create greater opportunities for athletics and the community. A list will be forthcoming once items have been prioritized.
- Rinde-Thorsen discussed at length with the Board the difficulty with using the gym in the winter and early spring because of the after school enrichment program. Rinde-Thorsen said she will be discussing this issue with GVS Principal Heather Cantagallo on creating a compromise, and then the school board if needed.

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Town Administrator:

Statistical Update: Notices will go out soon that outlines the different phases of this project.

Town/School Joint RFQ: The Library Trustees met on the 16th and decided they do want their building included.

Building Updates: The new generator for the Transfer Station has been pushed back to January 15.

Sale of Tax-deeded Property: The Conservation Commission will review this list at their meeting on January 6th. If approved, the sale will likely take place in the springtime, after Town Meeting.

Audit for FY2019: The draft was received on Tuesday, so White said she would review it soon.

February 11 Primary: White stated that she will help ensure all departments are available to help with such tasks as safety, lighting, etc. Polls open at 7 AM!

Town Sand Use for Residents: White said it was brought to her attention that there are residents not adhering to the two, 5-gallon bucket limit of sand. Some are filling the sander in the back of their truck; others are filling the truck bed. Road Agent Jeff Hastings will place a waste-block barrier in front of the pile so that it restricts the ability to back right up to the sand pile.

White informed that she received notice from Primex informing that a contribution holiday for the Unemployment Compensation Insurance coverage was awarded in the amount of \$2,473.91. That amount will be applied to the January 1, 2020 invoice.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Garland moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Jones; by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 6:11 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on **Wednesday, January 8, 2020**, at 5:00 pm in the Grantham Town Building; Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa White
Town Administrator