

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes April 30, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 10:11 AM on Thursday, April 30, 2020, by Chairman Garland. As Chair of the Grantham Select Board, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically, and these reasons shall be reflected in the minutes. Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen comprehensively to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are meeting telephonically, the numbers were posted on the notice for the meeting as a toll-free number with a pin.

Present on the Call: Chairman Peter Garland; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Melissa White; Police Chief John Parsons; Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott; and Board Clerk Emily Owens

Town Administrator Melissa White explained the purpose of the meeting is to review the Transfer Station operations. Two emails were received from residents; one from Sheridan Brown requesting the Transfer Station policy be updated online and some of the restrictions be lifted. Mr. Brown would like brush disposal and tire collection operation at the Transfer Station to resume. The other email is from resident Jeff Figley requesting that the restrictions placed on the Transfer Station be lifted. Mr. Figley felt that Grantham residents could maintain social distances while returning the Transfer Station to normal operations. Town Administrator White explained that she and Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott had started discussing reopening different areas of the Transfer Station prior to the emails.

Supervisor Scott elaborated that he was interested in seeing brush, tires and the compost section of the Transfer Station reopen. Initially, when the Town started accepting only household trash, Supervisor Scott was concerned about the availability of empty containers. He thought the brush and tire sections of the Transfer Station could be opened next week, with the condition that all loads must be inspected to check for C&D material. Supervisor Scott thought the compost area should wait, because it was still muddy and residents might get stuck. Selectman Jones asked if the ash bucket was located near the compost section and Supervisor Scott responded it was near the brush container.

Town Administrator White inquired when Supervisor Scott felt the recyclables and C&D areas could be opened back up. Supervisor Scott thought containers were too close for proper social distancing and the Transfer Station too small for residents to wait and unload safely. His concern was residents would be waiting out on Route 114, presenting a dangerous situation. Additionally, there is an issue with residents paying for the C&D. Currently, there is no way for residents to buy Transfer Station Disposal Tickets. The idea of Transfer Station employees collecting checks for C&D presents an additional layer of risk to Town employees.

Supervisor Scott updated the Board that Casella in Newport, NH is accepting C&D at \$140 per ton but only on certain days. There is a minimum charge of \$75.00 regardless of the weight. Recycling is free but only on Thursdays 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM and Saturdays 8:00 AM -1:00 PM.

Supervisor Scott's anticipated plan for opening recycling back up, is to use the Planet Aid area and their bins to hold the material. The cardboard would need to be broken down into smaller pieces and opened to lay flat. When the cardboard bin is full, employees will use the loader to bring the materials into the

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building to bale. The cans and plastic bottles will be placed in a separate bin, an appropriate distance away. The bins will be spray painted green to indicate their new function as recycling bins. Supervisor Scott is waiting to hear an update from the Governor regarding the Stay-at-Home order before deciding what to do with recycling and C&D material.

Town Administrator White asked if recycling could be accepted during slower periods at the Transfer Station. Supervisor Scott was unsure but stated he needs to provide the Vendor with at least a week's notice about the change of accepting recyclables. Town Administrator White asked about the increase in material being received and additional costs to the Town. Supervisor Scott thought there might be a cost savings to not recycling because the weight of his loads have been less. He explained there has only been an increase of roughly one extra container of household trash per week, which translates to seven to nine tons of waste. Previously, the weight of household trash, per container, was eleven to twelve tons. Scott explained that this is because recycling material such as plastics, weighs less. Chairman Garland asked how many residents have expressed their unhappiness with the lack of recycling. Supervisor Scott stated that very few residents had expressed an opinion and if they had, he reminded them about the Newport option.

Chief Parsons expressed his opinion that the risk of opening the brush bin and ash bucket is minimal but opening C&D and recycling material presents a bigger risk. There is an increased need to interact with residents and if the Transfer Station employees are exposed there is a potential for the entire Transfer Station being shut down while the employees quarantine. Chairman Garland mentioned that he had received very few complaints regarding the lack of C&D and recycling disposal. Supervisor Scott mentioned his concerns were more for residents, because the area for recycling is so small that if five people are unloading then six feet of social distancing is not being observed. Town Administrator White's concern is that residents will not ask where an item goes, instead throw it in the closest bin resulting in contamination. If there is too much contamination to the recycling material the Vendor will reject the load and might discontinue accepting Grantham's material. Additionally, the entire load of material is now considered the same as the contaminated item and the Town pays for the load at the increased rate.

Selectman Jones took exception to the idea that there were no cases of COVID in the Town so everything should return to normal. Supervisor Scott stated that he had numerous residents tell him that they have had the virus, or their spouse has the virus, but they are still unloading their trash. Chief Parsons mentioned the map is not entirely accurate. Town Administrator White explained to the Board, this was her response to Mr. Figley but she had not received a response back.

Chairman Garland suggested that the brush area, ash bucket, tire collection area, and compost area be opened at Supervisor Scott's discretion. There is an understanding that the compost area is currently too muddy but will open when Supervisor Scott decides. Garland suggested that Town Administrator White put out a long-term plan for the Transfer Station announcing the Town's intentions. This will give residents an idea of when certain collection items will be reopened.

Town Administrator White informed the Board that the Transfer Station had received a donation of face shields. She asked if Supervisor Scott had written a policy regarding employees wearing the face shields. Supervisor Scott explained that he had planned on implementing further protective equipment requirements after additional areas are opened to residents. Town Administrator White requested that Supervisor Scott obtain safety glasses with side shielding for all employees. Chief Parsons suggested Walmart, Lavalley Building Supply, and Cabela would have the above-mentioned type of glasses.

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Selectman Kimball made a motion to open the Transfer Station's different entities as Supervisor Chris Scott sees fit, starting with the brush area, ash bucket, tire collection area, and compost area; seconded by Selectman Jones. A discussion ensued clarifying that "as Supervisor Chris Scott sees fit" means that he can open the four items mentioned above, on his schedule, but come back to the Board for a vote to open the rest of the closed Transfer Station sections. *Unanimously approved by Roll Call.*

Chairman Garland asked if there was any additional business to discuss. Chief Parsons updated the Board that the department had received approval for the \$8,400 grant for a trailer for the UTV. He would provide additional information to the Board at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Kimball; by unanimous roll call vote, the Board adjourned at 10:46 AM.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held telephonically on **Wednesday, May 13, 2020**, at 5:00 PM. Complete details on how to join will be included on the agenda, which will be posted at the Grantham Post Office and on the Town's website calendar at www.granthamnh.net/calendar.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Owens
Board Clerk