

APPROVED

Town of Grantham
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, by Chairman Garland. The Board met in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Meeting Room, and provided electronic access to those individuals who did not feel comfortable physically attending. A telephone number and pin were provided on the notices for the meeting.

Present: Chairman Peter Garland; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; Police Chief John Parsons; Ed Buckman; and Brittany Pye, Grantham School Board, and Richard Wahrlich, of Osgood Construction, remotely

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Selectman Jones to approve the non-public meeting minutes of 04/07/2021; the regular meeting minutes, First Bond Public Hearing minutes and the Second Bond Public Hearing minutes of 04/14/2021; seconded by Selectman Kimball. *Unanimously approved.*

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll Manifest #622
2. Accounts Payable Manifest #765
3. 2020 Motor Vehicle Registration Refund – Gerard Spiller - \$34.00
4. Withdrawal from the Town Office Equipment CRF - \$1,203.22
5. Withdrawal from the Highway Equipment CRF - \$147,558.00
6. Capital Improvement Projects Committee Appointments:
 - a. C. Peter James
 - b. Steven Bookless
7. Application for Current Use Assessment:
 - a. M/L 243-011-000; Stoney Brook Road
8. Application for Veteran’s Tax Credit:
 - a. M/L 225-013-000; 17 Allens Drive
 - b. M/L 222-031-000; 2 Draper Mill Road
 - c. M/L 216-184-000; 13 Mill Pond Lane
 - d. M/L 237-043-000; 88 Splitrock Road
9. Application for Elderly Exemption:
 - a. M/L 221-053-000; 27 Nightingale Lane
 - b. M/L 226-033-000; 52 Rum Brook Lane
10. Application for Solar Energy Systems Exemption
 - a. M/L 217-007-000; 144 Walker Road
11. 2020 Tax Abatements:
 - a. M/L 234-020-000; 15 Greensward Drive - \$944.27
 - b. M/L 222-086-000; 16 Summit Drive - \$424.36
 - c. M/L 215-088-000; 23 Trillium Lane - \$92.26
 - d. M/L 211-070-000; 816 Miller Pond Road - \$5,142.15
 - e. M/L 221-006-000; Rawson Ridge - \$146.41
 - f. M/L 237-026-000; 548 Route 10 South - \$1,676.45
 - g. M/L 234-021-000; 17 Greensward Drive - \$620.49

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- h. M/L 225-278-000; 51 Fairway Drive
- 12. Building Permits:
 - a. M/L 215-092-000; 16 Trillium Lane – Tree House
 - b. M/L 222-033-000; 14 Azure Brae – Remodel
 - c. M/L 221-034-000; 127 Top of the World – Garage and Septic Install
 - d. M/L 237-052-000; 28 Sugarwood Lane – Remodel
 - e. M/L 220-023-000; 307 Walker Road – Addition
 - f. M/L 236-010-000; 631 Route 114 – Demolition of Garage
 - g. M/L 236-010-000; 631 Route 114 – Addition
- 13. Correspondence:
 - a. Lake Sunapee VNA: The 2020 Annual Report of Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice was received.
 - b. Chapin Senior Center: A letter was received from Chapin Senior Center expressing appreciation to the Town and the voters for the 2020 Town Meeting Appropriation in the amount of \$3,900.00.
 - c. Comcast:
 - 1) Notice was received from Comcast regarding changes to Xfinity TV service. Impacted customers were notified of the changes through a bill message.
 - 2) Notice was received from Comcast that the renewal period for The Town's agreement under Section 626(a)(1) is now open and they request the start of renewal proceedings.
 - d. Consolidated Communications: Notice was received from Consolidated Communications about an important dialing change notice. Beginning October 24, 2021, you must dial the area code (603) for all local calls. On and after this date, local calls dialed with only 7-digits may not be completed.
 - e. NH Department of Revenue Administration: The official notification of the 2020 Total Equalized Valuations was received from the NH DRA.

Chairman Garland informed that a Memorandum from the Town Administrator requests the following items be pulled from the Consent Calendar: Items 8.a., 9.a., 9.b., 11.h., and 12.g.

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

Item 8.a.: The Applicant served in the US Public Health Service, which, unfortunately, the State Legislature did not include in the eligibility for the veteran's tax credit. A motion to deny item 8.a. was made by Selectman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

Item 9.a.: The income is over the allowed limit. A motion to deny item 9.a. was made by Selectman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

Item 9.b.: The assets are over the allowed limit. A motion to deny item 9.b. was made by Selectman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

Item 11.h.: Correcting the heat type does not change the overall value of the property. A motion to deny item 11.h. was made by Selectman Kimball; seconded by Selectman Jones. ***Unanimously approved.***

Item 12.g.: The proposed addition is a change from what was approved by the Planning Board in 2019, therefore, Planning Board for approval is required. A motion to deny item 12.g. was made by Selectman Jones; seconded by Selectman Kimball. ***Unanimously approved.***

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CITIZEN COMMENTS: Brittany Pye, Chair of the Grantham School Board, was joining the meeting remotely. She informed the Selectmen that she was speaking on behalf of herself and the Grantham School Board, with their permission. She thanked the Selectmen for the mask resolution that they adopted and informed them that Grantham Village School (GVS) returned to a five day, in person, instruction model this week. She mentioned that one of the pieces of advice that they were given by their medical professionals, in order for this to be successful long-term in that model, will be wearing masks because they are one of the keys that we have to keeping our community transmission level at a low to zero rate. Now that they do not have the support of a mask mandate at the State level, they are asking the Select Board to consider not only keeping the mask resolution that they adopted in place but, perhaps, increasing that to a mask mandate or a mask ordinance in town, similar to what towns like Lebanon and Enfield have adopted. She added that the town will see increased traffic this summer due to things like the golf course opening and people coming in to stay at their summer homes, which will increase risk. They are trying to use all of the tools at their disposal and, because the elementary students will be among the last to be vaccinated, they believe masks will help keep kids safe so they can continue to use this model going into the school year in the fall. They wanted to thank the Selectmen for their continued partnership in keeping us safe and healthy and keeping our transmission levels low in Grantham. She thanked the Board for letting her speak tonight.

Chairman Garland thanked Pye for her comments and asked if anyone else wished to speak on this matter. Ed Buckman stated that he was there for a different reason, but he is against the town mandating the wearing of masks. There were no other comments. Chairman Garland stated that they will keep the current Mask Resolution in place but that does not preclude the School Board, which is a separate governmental entity, from making any rules that they wish to regarding conduct at their school. Buckman asked what the current mask policy is. Selectman Jones explained it to him, and Chairman Garland noted that it can be found on the home page of the Town's website: www.granthamnh.net

On a different matter, Ed Buckman said that he is here to discuss an issue he has with our national flag being flown at half-staff a lot in this community and other communities. He said, when he sees that, he usually asks why and sometimes gets conflicting answers. Buckman explained that, if there is a reason for the flag to be at half-staff, the flag should go to full staff first and then be lowered to half-staff. At that point, you have a ceremony for whatever it is, and then it goes back to full staff, where it should stay unless there is inclement weather. If it stays that way overnight, it should be lighted. He said the problem that he sees most of the time is that it is directed from somewhere else, the federal government, the state or somewhere else. He said that he has looked this up and cannot find any federal law or state law that requires us in town to run that flag at half-staff. He continued, that when the directing or suggestion is made from the federal government because of death or whatever may be happening, if he understands it correctly, it is a suggestion, not a requirement. He said if we are going to do that, let's do it as a ceremony, but he wants to know that the ceremony is done and done correctly. If we don't, let's just keep it simple and keep it at full mast and not worry about it.

Town Administrator White informed the Board that she and Buckman chatted about this previously and she explained to him that email notices are received from the governor's office that directs flags on all public grounds and buildings to be at half-staff. She asked Buckman if he had a chance to call the governor's office for information about this. He said he did, but he has not heard anything back from them yet. Chairman Garland said that he knows there is a flag protocol, and they will look into it and figure out how to proceed.

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Buckman informed the Board that he takes flags in disrepair and disposes of them properly, that this has been important to him for a long time, and he hates to see a flag in disrepair. Chairman Garland asked if he disposes of them on Memorial Day and if he works with the American Legion or another organization. He said he does try to pick a particular day and he has worked with the American Legion and other organizations. Chairman Garland said they will put that information in the Grantham News and thanked Buckman for bringing it to their attention.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Update: The Board reviewed the April Report from Recreation/Activities Director, Emily Rinde-Thorsen. Rinde-Thorsen added one update to adult softball in regard to the surveys that have been out for about a week and a half. They had 27 responses with interest and of those, 20 people left an email for follow up, for more information. She said that will stay up for the next two weeks and she will report the findings to the Board and talk about the next steps at that point.

Chairman Garland suggested putting the Town Wide Yard Sale (to be held on June 12, 2021 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM) and the End of Summer Celebration (to be held on August 24, 2021 at 6:00 PM) in the town newsletter so that residents can prepare ahead. Rinde-Thorsen said the yard sale information went out last week and will continue to go out until the event.

Transfer Station – March Report: The Board reviewed the submitted report from Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott.

White informed the Board that she will be putting a notice out in the Grantham News to request that residents be patient at the Transfer Station because they are short staffed. There are only two people there most days so there have been times when residents get frustrated because things are not moving as quickly as they used to but with only two people there, it's difficult to keep up. White said the position has been advertised but there has been no interest so far.

Town Administrator: White has been working with the Assessors on the annual pickups and processing the 2020 abatement recommendations. In addition, the office has seen an increase in more complex inquiries regarding land use regulations from potential new property owners.

White stated that she has been working with the Town Meeting officials about setup in the Recreation Park and she has been in touch with Don Gobin about the tents. She asked Rinde-Thorsen the status of the speakers. Rinde-Thorsen said they are in the process of getting refurbished and cleaned. It should be done by the weekend and they will be able to test everything. Chairman Garland asked if there are speakers for residents to use at Town Meeting. There was discussion about microphones and if any are compatible with the sound system. Chairman Garland asked about a PowerPoint presentation that is usually presented at Town Meeting. White said she will not be able to present it, but there will be handouts of it.

White reported that the properties eligible for tax deed will be presented to the Board at the June 9, 2021 meeting.

Notice was received from the Charlestown Planning Board that a final site plan review for New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM, in the Silsby Library Community Room at 26 Railroad Street, Charlestown, NH, regarding the reconstruction of an existing cell tower at 264 Birch Drive. This meeting is also available via Zoom.

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Chairman Garland asked why Grantham received notice. White said it is a notice of regional impact.

Chairman Garland asked if there was anything else. Richard Wahrlich, of Osgood Construction, who was joining via Zoom, asked about the Building Permit Application that he submitted for Kennebec Lumbar. Chairman Garland explained that the Board took a vote to deny the Application based on the fact that the proposed addition is a change from what was approved by the Planning Board in 2019. He told Wahrlich that if he wanted clarification, he would need to contact the Planning Board. Wahrlich asked if they have to present in front of the Planning Board again. Chairman Garland said yes.

Holidays: 05/31/2021 – Town Offices and Transfer Station closed for Memorial Day
 07/05/2021 – Town Offices and Transfer Station closed for Independence Day

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-c, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball and seconded by Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:25 PM. Present were: Chairman Peter Garland; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Melissa White; Administrative Assistant Ann Jasper; and Police Chief John Parsons

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

A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to leave the Non-Public session and return to Public Session at 5:36 PM; seconded by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously approved.*

A motion was made by Selectman Kimball to seal the minutes of the Non-Public session; seconded by Selectman Jones. *Unanimously approved.*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Kimball; by unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 5:37 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on **Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 5:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Jasper
Administrative Assistant