

Approved

Town of Grantham
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, by Chair Garland. The Board met in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Conference Room, 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Chair Peter Garland, Selectman Constance, Selectman Warren Kimball, Town Administrator Melissa White, Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott, Transfer Station Attendant Dana Ramspott, Deputy Building Inspector Rick Covill, Building Needs Committee Member Jeremy Walla. Resident Mary Ellen DeJon, Resident Jim Petelle, Resident Jon Raymond, Resident Jeanne Raymond, Resident David Brooks, Resident Cynthia Nichols, Police Chief John Parsons.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Selectman Kimball made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for 10/21/24, 10/23/24 and 10/29/24. Seconded by Selectman Jones. *Approved by majority vote*

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Payroll
2. Accounts Payable
3. Community Nurse Agreement
4. Energy Committee Appointment
5. Yield Tax Warrant – M/L 218-001
6. Change of Address – M/L 207-009-000
7. Property Tax Abatements (due to billing error)
 - a. M/L 221-062; 84 Nightingale Lane
 - b. M/L 216-099; 56 Draper Mill Road
8. Building Permits:
 - a: M/L 222-155-000; 53 Black Duck Spur – Deck
 - b: M/L 234-109-000; 96 Longwood Drive – New Siding
 - c: M/L 220-019-000; 179 Walker Road – Bathroom Renovation
 - d: M/L 220-030-000; 455 Walker Road – Siding and Insulation
 - e: M/L 225-163-000; 32 Troon Drive – Gazebo
 - f: M/L 213-024-000; 65 Anderson Pond Road – Furnace
 - g: M/L 222-097-000; 7 Slalom Drive – Replacement Gas Stove, add Propane Tank
 - h: M/L 234-057-000; 7 Troon Drive – Move Propane Regulator and Piping
 - i: M/L 213-020-000; 57 Anderson Pond Road – Replace shingle Roof With Metal
 - j: M/L 214-053-000; 8 Spring Valley Drive – Addition and Deck
9. Shoreline Cutting Application: M/L 213-017-000; 51 Anderson Pond Road
10. Correspondence:
 - a. Lake Sunapee VNA
 - b. Southwestern Community Services

A motion to approve the Consent Calendar was made by Selectman Kimball and seconded by Jones, *Approved by majority vote*

APPOINTMENTS TO MEET WITH THE BOARD

1. Cynthia Nichols & Jean Raymond – Food Scrap Diversion (pilot program)
 - Jean Raymond and Cynthia Nichols were approached by UVLSRPC to promote food scrap diversion in the Eastman community. Why choose Food scrap diversion plan? Landfill food scraps cause the 3rd most methane, food doesn't break down in landfill and does not replenish the soil as well. Can add more than just food that will typically not work in home compost systems, Lebanon indicates each household saves 1/3 of waste. Backyard winter composting at home is a big problem because it doesn't generate enough heat to compost, the food diversion plan allows composting year-round.
 - Nordic Waste and Renewal Compost are the two companies that are the cheapest option. Grants can be obtained to get supplies. Currently, they have twenty buckets and would like to find households for participation at no cost. Nordic Waste will swap out the bin weekly so there aren't critter problems but we also need to find a location in the Transfer Station for a place for bins. Start with a piloting program and try to establish habits and quantities (total households per bin); so far, a 48-gallon bin will support 15 people. After the pilot of have 3-4 months to learn and solve problems to make a permanent solution. New London and Lebanon have graduated from pilot programs and made permanent solutions. New London has 170 participants, 4 -64-gallon bins. There was a bear incident the first year in New London, in Eastman there has been no bear incidents. Nordic Waste charges \$600 for 12 weeks.
 - Chair Garland asks how to open the bucket. The screw top will also keep the smell in from the bucket as well.
 - Administrator White indicates there are currently 6 organizations to contact for grant opportunities. At this time of year, the Town would need volunteers to help find reach out to the various organizations. The cost to implement it would depend on how much grant money, location (cost to build structure). No current cost estimate for the structure, location at the transfer station would be by oil shed next to the door, away from everything else due to smell.
 - Chair Garland asked if there are any problems with improper disposal. Nichols responds that yes, some plastic was dumped, biodegradable bags, some education will be required for the homeowners and the Transfer Station staff. If the bins have too much non compostable material, it would then be put in the landfill, and then they are charged for it.
 - Administrator White asks pilot programming to be 20 households and limit times they could drop it off, especially if a volunteer is needed. Selectman Jones says weekends are the busiest times and would need volunteers. Nichols said participants are generally excited about it and won't make mistakes if they are volunteering.
 - Selectman Kimball motions to move ahead with the pilot program.
 - Administrator White indicates they should discuss the cost to build a structure before voting. Scott indicates they would simply chain them down for pilot program to see if it works or not and go from there, can save the cost of a structure. New London just did bins and then built the structure when it graduated. This way, it can be easily moved if needed. Administrator White points out to the board that New London saved 24 tons of food in 9 months. It could be \$2,500 in savings in MSW costs.
 - Chair Garland asks if this would be seasonal. Nichols said no, this program would be year-round. Less effective during fall and winter. The process would be to have 20 volunteer households. Only charge by bin when it's full. Keep lid locked when not in use. Envisioned 20 new people from the Town of Grantham. Use Grantham E-News to promote and find volunteers. Administrator White would request to give an explanation or fill out a survey on why and evaluate volunteers. All in favor to proceed with program. Selectman Kimball motions to move ahead with the program; Chair Garland seconds the motion, unanimously approved.

Approved

OLD BUSINESS

1. MPR Safety and Drainage Improvements: Jeff indicates rocks are laid and working on the culvert. Close to taking off the agenda.
2. Building Needs Committee Highway Department Report: No report.
3. Transfer Station Packhouse Replacement: After approval of pad and shed Crete Pavers indicates it would be better to wait for spring. Winter would not allow the concrete to be cured enough, and the winter salt could cause the cement to break up quickly; waiting until spring would be ideal for longevity. Crete will hold the price quoted until spring. Weed will precast the packhouse structure now during a slow time and store it for better curing. Dana adds Weed came and measured and they are excited to have a project during their slow time. Measurements are set for windows and doors. A final drawing and approval will be provided before casting the one piece, 8 ft by 8 ft building. The Board agreed to take this item off of the old business and bring it back closer to spring.
4. Sale of Rolloff Truck- Two sealed bids were received from Onella Lumber Company and Hammond Grinding and Recycling.
 - Onella Lumber Company sealed bid: \$15,200
 - Hammond Grinding and Recycling: \$49,010
 - Selectman Jones motioned to accept the bid from Hammond Grinding and Recycling, seconded by Selectman Kimball. Unanimously approved. A representative from Hammond Grinding and Recycling was present and was notified of the winning bid; the Town Administrator will reach out to Hammond Grinding and Recycling to arrange payment and pick-up.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Facilities Maintenance Manager: Next time due to vacation.
2. Fire Department – July, August, and September Reports
3. Lebanon Ambulance – September and October Reports
4. Police Department – October Report
5. Trustees of the Trust Funds – September and October Reports
6. Town Administrator
 - In the month of October, the office processed nine building permits, one planning board application, and 16 property transfers. We also had one inquiry for financial assistance.
 - Since the last meeting, much of her time has been spent working on the proposed budget.
 - Administrative Assistant II Todd Hamm attended the NHMA annual conference and focused on sessions related to assessing and property.
 - The Office announced the arrival of the 2025 stickers for the Transfer Station, so it has been busy with residents obtaining them.
 - The Broadband project continues to progress, and the town hall fiber has been completed. In the coming weeks, the new SonicWall devices will be installed in the Town Hall, allowing us to connect to the new fiber.
 - Included with this report are an October expense report and an updated office calendar.
 - E-Mail from Paul Nicolai: Lorie McClory sent an email on what to expect from election day. Said signs are not allowed on the town property. Nicolai asked why signs are on land across from the landfill. Site RSA Political advertising may not be placed on public property, but the private owner must give permission. How to handle future elections? Chair Garland asks if the zoning ordinance allows these signs. Yes, they are allowed. One solution would be to make it clear that state right of way needs to get permission from the board. Signs without permission could be removed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Rick Covill commented that he attended training on PV solar systems and storage energy systems and that there is a lot to inspect and that it needs to be taken more seriously on inspections. Battery storage is less code friendly with a higher chance of a fire.

Approved

Administrator White asks if different questions for solar on the building permit application. Covill said that it is difficult to find and determine codes needed for compliance. Specific questions for fire rating battery storage units, ask the applicant that they are meeting requirements for rating. Licensed installers should follow the code. Building permit applications for battery storage must comply with this NH state building code. Administrator White says responsibility is on the owner and contractor that it is compliant with the state code. Future inspections may check fire ratings and batteries on systems.

NON-PUBLIC

In accordance with RSA 91-A:3 section II-a, a motion was made by Selectman Kimball and seconded Selectman Jones to enter into a Non-Public session at 5:55 PM. Present were Chair Peter Garland, Selectman Constance Jones, Selectman Warren Kimball, and Town Administrator Melissa White.

Selectman Kimball made a motion to come out of non-public session at 6:40 PM. Seconded by Selectman Jones. Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Selectman Kimball and seconded by Selectman Jones. Unanimous at 6:40 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn to a non-public session, seconded by Selectman Kimball. By unanimous vote, the Board adjourned at 5:55 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on **Wednesday, November 25 at 5:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Todd M. Hamm
Administrative Assistant II