



TOWN OF GRANBY

Kellogg Hall, Room 1
250 State Street
Granby, MA 01033
Telephone: (413) 467-7177 Fax: (413) 467-2080

Town Administrator: Christopher Martin

Granby Select Board: Wayne H. Tack, Sr.,

Mark L. Bail,

Mary A. McDowell

Board Meeting: August 2, 2010 @ 7:00 P.M.

AGENDA:

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION:

Vote on Salvaging the High School Gym

Update on Town Hall Report

Update on Auditor's Report

REPORT OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

APPOINTMENTS:

7:10 AFFIRM APPOINTMENTS

7:15 FIRE CHIEF RUSS ANDERSON

7:30 SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT TWO TAX-LAPLANTE

8:00 KELLOGG HALL ADVOCATES

8:15 SENIOR TAX WORK-OFF-BOARD OF ASSESSORS

ACCEPT AND SIGN MINUTES:

OTHER ACTIONS ITEMS:

NEW BUSINESS AND INFORMATION:

- 1 Accept Departmental Reports
- 2 Approve and Sign Maintenance Warrants
- 3 Sign and Approve Warrant for State Primary
- 4 Approve & Sign Local 4172 Contract
5. Approve and Sign Highway Superintendent Contract
6. Health Assistant Job Classification Change

REPORTS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Regular Session
Board of Selectmen
August 2, 2010

Members present: Wayne Tack Sr., Mark Bail, Mary McDowell

Others present: Christopher Martin

Chairman Tack called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Tack led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Chairman Tack stated that there are many requests for comment on the gravel permit even though it was not on the agenda. It was not on the agenda as the Town is currently seeking special counsel.

Mr. Martin stated that Town Counsel, Edward Ryan, has stated he will not be participating in the gravel permit process as a member of his firm had represented the Toths at a previous hearing. He also stated that his firm had represented James Trompke in other matters so he is recusing himself for the proceedings.

Susan Roitman, 54 Aldrich Street, stated she walks on Batchelor Street. She had questions regarding the size of the trucks, how many, speed of them and the noise they will create. She is concerned with walking on the street, which is very windy, with trucks speeding by. Mr. Tack stated that the laws govern the speed. The police department will govern the speed. Ms. McDowell asked that a copy of the application be sent to Ms. Roitman.

Matt Sanborn, 284 Batchelor Street, stated he lives 1/10 mile away from the proposed pit. He had concerns regarding the quality of life in regards to the noise that will be generated by the trucks. He also had a concern regarding wintertime and the trucks packing down the snow and the ability of the plows to remove the packed snow. Mr. Tack stated that the pit would mainly shut down during the winter months. Mr. Sanborn also asked how the sand and gravel would be extracted. Mr. Tack stated that it would be by loaders similar to the ones used by the highway department.

James Bruffee, 310 Batchelor Street, stated he will be directly affected by this pit. He has a concern over the speed limit. The police department sets the speed for all vehicles. He feels the speed for any vehicle over 26,000 lbs. and should be 15 mph. He also feels that Batchelor Street is not suitable for Class A trucks. He has a concern with the hours of operation, as that is the time children are getting on and off buses and walking to and from the buses. He is also concerned with a 26,000 lb truck's ability to travel on Batchelor Street. He is concerned with encroachment on the other travel lane and the closeness of the edge of the road. He asked that his memo and letter be part of the record. He also spoke of the Trompke Avenue 1990's development. With this development, the road needs to be upgraded to Town standards. This has not been done. He is also under the understanding that no development of any kind can occur until the

road is upgraded. He stated the Board needs to take into account the needs of its citizens. He would like to see the following concerns addressed:

1. Speed limit 15 mph.
2. Restrict use of compression brakes on Batchelor Street
3. No wholesome use of trucks on road. Trucks should be limited to those owned or leased by Stoney Hill and identified as such.
4. Testing of the water and aquifer. What happens if this pit destroys the aquifer? What protections do the residents have? There should be a bond for the aquifer.
5. Stoney Hill hasn't done all that is necessary for the application. He wants more substance to the studies. He feels a groundwater hydrologist needs to be hired.
6. He has a property value concern. What happens if their values go down? Is the Town going to give a re-assessment?
7. What will happen if there is a petroleum spill? More reporting should be required.

He feels that everything needs to be tightened up. Mr. Bail said that these concerns would be addressed by imposing restrictions.

Audrey Higbee, 82 Batchelor Street, her main question was where does the Town want to be and what type of Town does it want to be. She had attended the Town planning meeting and wanted to make sure that this fits in the larger Town plan. She also wanted to know if there is an ability of the Town or citizens to prevent this pit.

Kim Otis, 117 Batchelor Street, lives on the curve and has seen many accidents there. She has a concern of trucks going around this curve. She also had a concern for the people walking along the street. She inquired as to the procedure to make this a public referendum so the people can talk about it. She has environmental concerns and wanted information on the permits approved for the pit. She too had a concern on the speed and the use of jake brakes.

Mr. Bail stated that she could request to be on the Board's agenda. Ms. McDowell suggested that another meeting be scheduled to hear concerns just on the gravel pit. The Board will see if a meeting can be scheduled for August 9th at the COA at 10 West State Street. She asked that people give their name and contact information so they can be given the actual time, date and place of the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Bail and seconded by Ms. McDowell, it was unanimously voted to affirm the appointment of Theresa Lajoie to the Historic District Commission.

On a motion by Mr. Bail and seconded by Ms. McDowell, it was unanimously voted to affirm the appointment of Peter Dufresne and Marisa McCarthy to the School Building Committee.

Chief Anderson was present to seek approval to abate some ambulance bills per the Ambulance write-off policy. There are \$30,000 in unclaimed ambulance bills that go back to 2008. Per the policy, the Selectmen need to approve the abatements. By abating, this will cause a fourth letter to be sent giving them a chance to pay 50% of the bill or submit a hardship application prior to being sent to a collection agency. Any bill under

\$50 will be automatically be written off. On a motion by Mr. Bail and seconded by Ms. McDowell, it was unanimously voted to accept the abatements.

Ms. McDowell presented the new contract for the IAFF Local 4172 dated July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013. Ms. McDowell reviewed all the negotiated changes to the contract. On a motion by Ms. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Bail, it was unanimously voted to accept the IAFF Local 4172 contract dated July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013.

David LaPlante came in to get an update on the South Hadley Fire District II issue. Mary McDowell, Mark Bail and the Town Administrator met with Robert Lak of District II to discuss our concerns. It was decided that four potential options needed to be explored.

1. See if there is a way to abate one of the taxes.
2. Look into the procedure to petition the Legislature to redraw the District lines.
3. Explore regionalization of services with District I, District II and Granby.
4. See if an intergovernmental assessment can be included in the tax rate.

The Board has not forgotten his predicament but it is a slow process. This is not a simple solution and nothing can be done until we proceed with one of these options. A letter will be sent out this week explaining what has happened to date and will be followed up with a meeting in the Fall.

Pamela Maheu, representing the Kellogg Hall Advocates, asked for an update. She was given a copy of the 1995 structural report. She stated that they have started a petition and have enough signatures to save Kellogg Hall. They will not pursue it at this time as they feel the School project should have its own night. They asked about the questions they had submitted at a previous meeting. Mr. Bail stated that they will be addressed when the issue is addressed.

Senior Tax Work-off Program

Gregg Leonard, Chairman of the Board of Assessors stated that they have researched the issue. The Assessors are only administrators of the program. They can abate up to \$750 through the program. Participants must be 60 years or older. He was not sure of the level of interest. He suggested the COA conduct a survey to see who would be willing to participate. He looked at the City of Chicopee, a city of 60,000, and they only had twenty applications. The program must be approved by Town Meeting. The process would be someone works for the Town. The Assessors get a letter indicating the worked and the amount earned. The Assessors would then abate the tax bill. Ms. McDowell presented a proposal to the Board and would like a vote and discussion at the next meeting.

The Board addressed the salvaging of the High School gymnasium. Due to the cost of salvaging it and potential renovation costs, the Board felt the cost was excessive and not in the best interest of the Town to salvage it. On a motion by Ms. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Tack, it was voted not to salvage the High School gymnasium with a vote of 2-0. Mr. Bail abstained from voting.

Town Hall Update

Mr. Bail read a letter dated October 14, 1995 from Raymond Lewis into the record.

Mr. Bail then read a letter dated October 25, 1995 from Raymond Lewis. The letters dealt with the condition of Kellogg Hall. The pointing has been done on the building. Some of the slate roof has been repaired. We also need to deal with the bat issue. Mr. Tack warned of hitting the 30% of assessed value in renovations that would trigger seismic and handicap code compliance. The Town needs to contact an engineer to get a cost estimate so they can make an informed decision.

The auditor will be coming to the September 7th meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Bail and seconded by Ms. McDowell, it was unanimously voted to accept the departmental reports.

On a motion by Mr. Bail and seconded by Ms. McDowell, it was unanimously voted to sign the maintenance warrants.

Mr. Bail read the State Primary warrant and the Board signed it.

Approval of the highway superintendent's contract was postponed to Monday night to resolve all issues. Mr. Desrosiers will attend the meeting.

Health Assistant Job Classification Change

Mr. Martin had received a request by one board member asking for temporary coverage. Nothing has been done, as the Board of Health will be discussing it again at their August 5th meeting. No action will be done until an official request is received.

Mr. Bail spoke of being contacted regarding localocracy. It is like Masslive but can only be used by registered voters in Granby. To start it up they need \$500 in pledges and 50 people to sign up. He has asked that a presentation be made at the next meeting.

It was reported that there are some problems with the website; some link problems and design problems. They are currently being worked on.

Anne Marie Sapowski e-mail.

Ms. Sapowski had a concern regarding some spillage that was left on her father's driveway and public road on Greenmeadow Lane. She asked what could be done. After discussing it, the Board decided to have David Desrosiers go out, look at the issue and advise if it is a Town concern so we can address it if it is.

On a motion by Mr. Bail and seconded by Ms. McDowell, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Martin
Town Administrator