

Town of Granby
COA Building
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Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2014

Members Present:

Mark Bail, Mary McDowell, and Louis Barry

Town Administrator: Christopher Martin

Mr. Barry, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and led the meeting with the "Pledge of Allegiance."

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

NEW BUSINESS AND INFORMATION

One-Day Liquor License Application: Used for June 28, 2014 for Joseph Lagasse from 5pm-11pm at 20 Greenmeadow Lane Granby, MA 01033. This liquor license is for serving wine & malt only at their "Jack & Jill".

On a motion by Mary McDowell, seconded by Mark Bail, the board unanimously approved the One-Day Liquor License for Joseph Lagasse.

Departmental Reports: On a motion by Mary McDowell, seconded by Lou Barry, the board unanimously accepted the departmental reports.

Maintenance Warrants: On a motion by Mary McDowell, seconded by Lou Barry, the board unanimously approved and signed the maintenance warrants as read.

Dufresne Rentals: The rentals were not in file for this meeting, moved to next meeting.

Letter to Kathy Kelly-Reagan: The Select Board has written a letter to Kath Kelly-Reagan, Town Clerk, asking her to add a few questions to the Annual Town Election Ballot:

Shall the Town vote to have its elected Treasurer become an appointed Treasurer of the Town? Yes or No.

Shall the Town vote to have its elected Commissioner of Trust Funds become an appointed Commissioner of Trust Funds for the Town? Yes or No.

Shall the Town vote to have its elected Recreation Commission become an appointed Recreation Commission of the Town? Yes or No.

Shall the Town vote to have its elected Tree Warden become the appointed Tree Warden of the Town? Yes or No.

On a motion by Lou Barry, seconded by Mark Bail, the board unanimously approved the letter to be sent to Kathy Kelly-Reagan as read.

APPOINTMENTS

Fire Department Appointments: Chief Anderson brought his new recruits to be introduced and approved by the Select Board. Jacob Goulet was the Fire Department's first intern and now he has joined them to be a member. John Roncalli and Joseph Lajoie were both appointed as members as well.

Chief Anderson- Ambulance Billing Fees: Right now, the Ambulance Billing Fee is "a la carte", but now since the Affordable Care Act has passed, the billing is supposed to be grouped together. The billing process is supposed to be bundled so it is one fee. Mr. Anderson is now presenting the "bundled" rate package. When these bills are presented to Medicare or Medicaid, the return money should come quicker because it is more efficient. Chief Anderson is looking to get this list of "bundled" rate packages approved and look at how their rates have changed come August. Part of South Hadley, Longmeadow, and Southwick bundle their prices.

On a motion by Mark Bail, seconded by Mary McDowell, the board unanimously approved the authorization for Chief Anderson and Chris Martin to sign the Rate Changes form that will be made effective April 1, 2014.

There was a brief discussion with Jenna Robertson of Pleasant Street asked if the bundled prices were based on Diagnoses Related Groups or based on Identifiers. Chief Anderson had no answer for this, but promised to get back to her. Another woman gave some background information.

Union Contract: Chief Anderson discussed a union contract that is up for review this year. Lou Barry was the selectman that was on point with the contract last year. This year's contract calls for the 1% raise each of the three years this contract is in place. This contract allows members of the Fire Department to have outside jobs, but there will be repercussions if their outside jobs interfere with the production of the Granby Fire Department. Also this contract reduces the callback time from 2hrs to 1hr. Last contract allowed union members to not have to comeback (if they worked in the day) unless it was a huge emergency and it was only for two hours, but now (since there are not many options) the union members are allowed to be called in, but it only has to be for an hour. The education stipend is changed from Fire Inspector to Fire Prevention Officer to match new state certification. The stipend is for \$200.00 and the state has changed what services

are offered that the certification is for. There was a \$400.00 annual stipend added as well to help firefighters become certified fire instructors. A \$400.00 stipend was removed from the school for a student fire education. This was because the fire instructor is generally on call that day and if he gets called out, he needs to leave the students and that would be a problem. On the firefighter 1 2 certification, it remains the same, but for future members the stipend will be combined. Detail rate will increase \$1.00 to match the police department. The Officer in charge will increase from \$1.00/hr to \$1.50/hr. That increases to about \$700/annually. Longevity changed from 11 years to 10 years and increased from \$500 to \$700. Grievance standards are set to that of the Police Department's contracts. Reduce in job posting time frame from a period of 10 days to a period of 5 days for internal jobs.

On a motion by Mary McDowell, seconded by Mark Bail, the board unanimously accepted the International Association of Fire Chiefs on behalf of the Granby Fire Department, contract that will be in place from July 1, 2013 until July 1, 2016.

AECOM, INC: Dennis, Maureen, and Joe have come to follow up with their possible plans for the sewer infrastructure and the natural gas. There is an in town option with developing a well site that connects some neighborhoods by having a water line travelling down Route 202. The out of town option is to connect to Fire District 1's water network in South Hadley. AECOM has come up with some prices for this project. With this sort of project, combining sewer with water, it gets pretty expensive to put in the 17 miles worth of pipes. AECOM went through a few different options for funding this project. This piping project could cost upwards of \$35,000,000-\$40,000,000. AECOM made the suggestion that the next step that Granby takes in this project is to sit down in a workshop approach with the committees and stakeholders of the town and discuss how the Town of Granby will continue with this project. AECOM want Granby, as a whole, to understand what their main goal is for the sewer and water lines. AECOM understands that the price is not the biggest issue as long as it can be paid in increments over the course of several years, so the Town can shape their vision of the project as they go. AECOM talked to the gas company about information about putting in gas mains and they asked what the load size is, but AECOM does not have that information yet. Right now, AECOM is looking for some sort of way to get past this road block with the gas company. As of right now, the cost for a sewer line is about \$18,000,000.

Joe Furnia, 154 Taylor Street, asked if spending \$35,000,000-\$40,000,000 as the driving force to connect with MacDuffie School. Mr. Furnia also asked how cost effective it would be to combine the sewer and water projects since alone, the sewer would cost \$18,000,000. AECOM's comment were that this estimated cost of \$35,000,000-\$40,000,000 is just that: an estimate. Once Granby has decided what they want exactly, they will have a better idea of the price. He then asked how many taxable units would be on this sewer system, but the Select Board has not reached that stage of the project to know the answer of that question. Right now, the Select Board is just looking at options.

There was more discussion of the potential workshop that AECOM wants to set up. More discussion of loan programs and what government programs will give money for this project.

Installing the sewer would be about a 6 year project. Through more discussion, there were a whole bunch of people listed who would probably want to be at this workshop. Department heads, Superintendent of Granby schools, MacDuffie School, and possibly the DEP.

The workshop has been set for March 31, 2014 at 6 P.M.

Micheline asked where fire hydrants would be placed for future fire department uses. Again the Board reiterated that the town has not decide on anything, therefore, they do not have that answer.

Curbside collection: Arlene from DEP has come to give advice to the Town of Granby about the landfill closing and what to do next. Chris Martin, Town Administrator, explained how the town has ended up looking at a town wide trash/recycling service. Back in December of 2013, the town had received several offers for a town wide trash/recycling collection service. The final decision was between Waste Management and Republic Services. The Town of Granby moved forward with was Republic Services (Also known as Allied). Through Allied's different options, the Town looked into a 2200 unit pick up service and 3 vs. 5 year contracts. While looking at Allied's options for how to put the garbage out on the curb, the Town agreed that the best option was Granby citizens putting out their own container that couldn't weigh more than 40lbs and anything that weighs more than that needs to go into an official Granby blue bag. Allied also said that they would provide 2 30yard roll offs (at no cost to the town) for a town wide day to get rid of big items like TVs, mattresses, etc. Also, upon asking what their services were for an annual hazardous waste day, Allied said that they would give \$3500 to Granby annually to put towards this event. When Granby asked Allied what they would do to inform the public, they said that they would personally mail out a brochure that outlines the entire program to every home. Allied also offers a Sharps Program, at no cost to the town, to reduce the number of needles in the solid waste. If a citizen needed this program, they would call a special number, Allied would drop off a Sharps container, and once the container was filled the citizen would call and it would be specially picked up. After reading off all of this information regarding Allied's services, Mr. Martin asked the Select Board if they would be willing to ask the town for an override of \$363,041 through a question on the May election ballot. Mr. Martin stated that by his calculations, this override would cause a tax increase of \$.63/ \$1000 of each home rate. This figure is really about a \$146.02 tax increase to each household in Granby. All in all, Republic Services was the best option to go with.

A citizen of Granby asked what the other options for trash collection were. The options were leasing the dump for a longer period of time, but that means re-permitting the staff again by May 31, 2014. For what little room is left at the dump, it is too expensive to go through the permitting process again. Granby has tried combining with South Hadley or Belchertown, but the cost and the distance is too great for most citizens of Granby. All-in-all, Republic Services is the best priced option.

Another citizen asked a question: What if you don't want trash picked up at our house, do you still have to pay the taxes? The answer was yes because it is an override bill. Then they asked when this service will start. The Board answered that Waste Management could get their program running in October, but the Town would have to pay for the dump to stay open until then. However, Allied can open their program starting

June 1, 2014.

Many citizens are confused as to the actual closing of the dump and how the trash pick-up will work. There was further discussion on how citizens will get rid of brush. There were further questions discussing the "what ifs" regarding the town and the future of Granby's trash. As a citizen from Granby asked, the Select Board will send out their own mailing in addition to the individual company's mail out.

On a motion by Mary McDowell, seconded by Mark Bail, the board unanimously accepted the recommendation to proceed forward with the quote from Allied and Republic Services, Inc in the amount of \$363,041 for curbside solid waste and recycling services.

The Board reviewed the Special Town Meeting warrant for April 7, 2014.

On a motion by Mary McDowell, seconded by Mark Bail, the board unanimously approved and signed the STM warrant asking the Town Meeting to approve the Select Board to enter into a contract in that amount contingent on the passing of an override vote.

Arlene from DEP has started and revised a Q&A that she will be communicating with the Select Board members and Chris Martin with.

OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION

Board of Health Clerk: Mr. Martin got in touch with Dick Bombardier to discuss if they wanted to combine the positions of Board of Health Clerk with the Landfill Clerk. They planned to offer the job to Jeanne Crosby and the position would be based in the Annex. There was discussion as to what the job description is for the Board of Health Clerk and if Jeanne Crosby will be able to fulfill (time wise) her job as Landfill Clerk, Library employee, and Board of Health Clerk. Now since the Landfill is closing, the hours that were present are being virtually cancelled. Therefore, Jeanne Crosby shall be released from Landfill clerk when the Board of Health can use her as their clerk.

Library: The Select Board had previously discussed what boards and committees will start meeting regularly at the new library. As of right now, there are plans for the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board to meet in the downstairs of the new library. Ms. McDowell made a comment that she would like to see the Select Board start meeting in the downstairs of the library because it seems more executive. Lou Barry stated that all of their supplies is here at the COA, so it would be difficult to move their meeting spot. There was also discussion about a possible college age intern working for both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Hampshire Council Municipal Aggregation Agreement: The HCOG is looking for the Select Board to sign a letter of authorization that allows National Grid to release energy usage data for all great payers of Granby.

DOER: The Selectmen have received a letter from DOER (Department of Energy Resources) that assigns a number to the Municipal Aggregation Agreement. This letter is to be included with the letter of authorization to HCOG. This will be put on hold until a later meeting.

Dave Desrosiers: He has some concerns about the lack of help the Highway Department has when snow plowing. Especially this past winter. Mark Bail will plan to meet with Isabelina Rodriguez and Ken Scully at the Granby Jr-Sr High School in order to discuss with them the potential of them doing their own snow plowing for the schools. The schools have their own man power and equipment. There was discussion about leaving some of these decisions to the school system. School closings are based on the Town Administrator and the Highway Department Coordinator.

Jenna Robertson of Pleasant Street was wondering if there were any regulations as to how far from the drain the snow should be pushed away from. The Board confirmed that there are no regulations regarding that.

Abandoned Buildings: Micheline wanted to set up a meeting with the Select Board when a woman from a Springfield can come in and explain that her program helps get rid of abandoned homes.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mary McDowell, seconded by Lou Barry, the board unanimously adjourn the meeting