

TOWN OF GRANVILLE

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2017

In Attendance:

Select Board: Bruce Hyde/Chair, Sean Linskey and Richard Poole

Kevin Bagley/Road Commissioner

Public: Thomas and Jacqueline Hammond, Shawn and Marilyn Doughrity, Lou Englehardt, Diane and Mike Eramo, Judy Wood, Mary Falcon, Nancy Demers, Steve Werner, Margaret Defoor, Vivian and Fritz Branschofsky, Rhoda Stockwell, Cheryl Sargeant, Ron Millard, Aliza Bagley, Norm Arseneault, Becky Burgee, Stefan and Nancy Comack

Guests: Jon Benson of Benson's Rubbish Removal and Arthur Lynds of A.B.L.E Waste Management

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Approved With Amendments

1. Questions & Comments from Visitors /Community Members

- **Hear from Jon Benson of Benson's Rubbish Removal**-Jon introduced Arthur Lynds of A.B.L.E. Waste management. Jon said his business was merged with Arthurs who has taken over serving the Town of Granville. Arthur told the board he will honor the contact the town had with Bensons Rubbish Removal through June 30, 2018 with no increase in charges to the town in respect to the town's budget. Arthur submitted a hand out showing new charges for curbside pickup and per bag charges. Trash and recycling at the town transfer station will now be held the second and fourth Saturday of the month. Arthur encouraged customer's to mail in their information Update Forms to be added to curbside pickup. Recycling along with trash will now be included in the curbside pickup service. There was a discussion on food scraps being banned from landfills beginning in 2020. Nancy Demers asked about large items being accepted at the transfer site, most large items will be accepted including mattresses and electronics and tires. **Sean moved to sign the contract with A.B.L.E. Waste Management. Motion was seconded by Richard. All were in favor with none opposed.**
Bruce asked if there were any other comments. Becky Burgee asked to read a letter to the Select Board which was accepted. Becky stated she was here to represent her neighbors regarding dumping along Town Line Road that has become a collection of large rusted culverts from a recent road repair on same road in Rochester. The neighbor has been accumulating discarded metal and vehicles along with the used culverts causing an unsightly clutter close to the road. Becky reported her concern of an effect on the value of her homestead because of the eyesore. Mary Falcon who in on the Town Planning Commission stated the Planning Commission is currently working on updating the Town Plan and said this maybe something the commission could look into with town zoning or a town ordinance. Mike Eramo suggested providing a dumpster on Green-Up Day to encourage residents to clean up their yards of large items who may not be able to do so because of cost or lack of means to move large waste items. Bruce asked for any other public comment. Stefan Comack with permission shook the hands of each selectperson, the Town Clerk and the Road Commissioner and thanked them for serving the Town with planning and preserving the Town. Stefan also gave his thanks to the board for making West Hill Extension a recipient of FEMA Alternate Project funding to improve the West Hill Extension road.

2. Amend/Approve Agenda –Three items were added to the agenda under Old Business. USPS Update; Buttles Road Update and ECFiber Update.

4. Approve August 14th Selectmen's Meeting Minutes - Bruce said the August 14 minutes were amended that were highlighted on the copy presented for final approval. **Sean made the motion to approve the August 14 minutes. Motion was seconded by Richard. All were in favor with none opposed.**

6. Road and Other Reports

- **Hear Report from Road Commissioner**-The Road Commissioner reported the culvert on Maston Hill Road as slated for replacement this week. Norm reported that the Town's contract with G & N is coming to an end with the work on Butz Road. There is still a little more ditching to be done and there's a guardrail that still needs to be installed. All invoices for the Alternate Project need to be paid by the end of September and the Town should hold a special meeting before the end of September with a site visit to Butz Road. Norm reported he had a draft response to Town resident William Wright regarding his concerns related to the Butz Road work near his property. This will be part of the site visit before asking for final approval his draft response letter to Mr. Wright. Sean Reported on the Genes Road trail side parking. The Town received a General Wetland Permit for the work. The State requires a five day notice **before work is started**. Mike Eramo has volunteered to help with the work. Bruce reported the Town just received a letter from Vermont Land Trust that owns the land that the trail crosses. The Vermont Land Trust is asking to move the trail. No action at the meeting as the letter was just received on September 11, 2017. Bruce reported Dave Bagley has been given permission to park his school bus at the Town Hall when there is a snow storm this winter.
- **Application for Driveway Permit Approval** – Kevin reported he will talk to the owner.
- **Report on Short Hill Ski Club**-Bruce reported he had talked with the Chair and **Vice President** of the Short Hills Ski Club. They are favorable with the Town's idea to move the road on to their land to save the Town the expense of repairing the bridge on Kennedy Road. They are having their **board and membership meeting in September** to discuss the town's proposal and will report back to Bruce.
- **Constable's Report**-The constable was not present at the meeting but had earlier submitted a speed trailer report to Bruce from when it was set up on North Hollow Road. Bruce reported that there was some speeding shown on the report but not enough to warrant having the constable monitor the area. The speed sign is now located on Maston Hill Road.

Mike Eramo stated the speed sign did have an effect on people to slow down while it was set up near his house on North Hollow Road.

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7. Financials

- **Approve Selectmen's Orders**-All Orders were approved.
- **Review Financial Reports**-Financial reports were made available.

8. Old Business

- **Appoint Members to the Town Highway Study Committee**-(See Minutes from August 14 for appointments made to the Study Committee) Richard reported the Study Committee have not been able to identify if there would be a cost savings to the Town to have its own Highway Department. The highest increase to highway spending is in snow plowing. Richard suggested the Town start ***an investment*** fund to purchase its own plow truck in the future. Ron Millard suggested the idea of starting the nest fund by using the \$15,000 the Town have at their disposal that was discussed at a previous meeting (this is the accumulated interest in the Morgan Stanley investment).
- **USPS Update**-Bruce reported just receiving word from USPS they are interested in leasing the Old Town Clerk Office at 4801 VT Route 100. The USPS plan is to use the existing building, make some upgrades to the building but not expand the size of the building. Mr. Hammond asked if the Town would be responsible for the cost of making improvements to the building and Bruce reported the USPS would pay for the upgrades as well as snow plowing, heat and electric. The next step would be to hold a Special Town Meeting to ask the voters if they would approve leasing the building to USPS. **Sean made the motion to hold a Special Town Meeting on October 16, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Motion was seconded by Richard Poole. All were in favor with none opposed.** The Special Town Meeting will also include an Article for renewal of tax exemption on Moss Glen Grange.
A motion was made by Sean to set a date for a Special Selectmen's Meeting as September 25, 2017. The motion was seconded by Richard. All were in favor with none opposed. A site visit to Butz Road will be held before the meeting at 5:30.
- **Buttles Road Update**-Bruce reported that the Town of Rochester has settled the issue of Buttles Road and it was confirmed that the section of Buttles Road in Rochester is indeed an existing town highway and is a Class 4 road. Many thanks went to Nancy Maston for her efforts and research on this road and with representing the Town of Granville.
- **ECFiber Update**-Richard reported because the Town of Granville is seen as an underserved Town, ECFiber has decided to bring their services to Granville in 2018. ECFiber is a nonprofit organization. ***All telephone poles will have fiber installed.***

9. New Business

- **Report on Hammond and Doughrity VS Town of Granville lawsuit**-Bruce reported that the Town of Granville has been served a Summons and Complaint in response to their decision to reject the petition to enlarge the Elmwood Cemetery. An attorney for the Town has been

retained and on behalf of the Town has filed a response to the Complaint to the court. The attorney asking the court for a trial jury if the lawsuit moves forward. The Plaintiffs attorney and Defense attorney will meet next to see if a settlement can be worked out without going to court. If no settlement can be reached the lawsuit will move forward to a discovery phase. So far the Town has spent around one thousand dollars in attorney fees. If the lawsuit moves forward the cost could go up as far as \$20,000 or more. Questions came from the floor regarding next steps and would the town's people be included in the discussions between lawyers. The Town will have to wait and see what happens next before an answer can be given to their questions.

10. Items for Next Meeting's Agenda

- Town Report printing contract with Repro Graphics
- Renew Contract with Steve Twombly as Town Assessor

11. Adjourn-Richard made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. Motion was seconded by Sean. All were in favor with none opposed.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Kathy Werner
Town Clerk/Treasurer