BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Greenland · Greenland, NH 03840
11 Town Square · PO Box 100
Phone: 603.431.7111 · Fax: 603.430.3761
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PUBLIC HEARING – 911 CHANGES – TOWN OF GREENLAND, NH
Public Hearing Date: Monday, June 11, 2018

The Board of Selectmen, pursuant to RSA 231:133 and RSA 231:133-a, are implementing recommendations from the NH Division of Emergency Services and Communications (E9-1-1) and the Greenland 911 Committee to rename and/or renumber certain addresses which, for reasons listed in the accompanying informational letter, pose a safety concern for our first responders. These changes will enable our emergency personnel as well as mutual aid personnel from neighboring towns to respond to critical situations in a much more expedient time frame.

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 11, 2018, for the purpose of answering any questions the public may have regarding the address change, such as "how do I handle: drivers license, registrations, mortgages, deeds, postal services, creditors", and specifically who is responsible for what. All interested parties are invited, but not required, to appear in person or by representation of agent or counsel. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Greenland Town Hall, located at 11 Town Square (formerly 575 Portsmouth Avenue).

It has been recommended that the following addresses be assigned a new street name and/or number:

- 86 through 256 Great Bay Road
- 8 through 73 Dearborn Road
- 4 through 10 Great Bay Drive

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Charlotte Hussey at the Town Offices (431.3070) between 7:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. or Police Chief Tara Laurent (431-4624) during business hours—please do not call emergency numbers.

Board of Selectmen: Paul Sanderson, Chairman; Vaughan Morgan, Vice Chairman; Chester Deorocki, Chip Hussey, Jim Rolston

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PROPOSED 911 STANDARDIZATION QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Based upon addressing standards created and recommended by NENA (National Emergency Number Association) for addressing throughout the United States, the "NH Division of Emergency Services and Communications, E9-1-1" has made recommendations for changes in the Town of Greenland. The standards are designed to: eliminate confusion, create consistent numbering with regard to distance, allow for any/all future expansion, and create consistency from community to community. Ultimately, all of these things allow for the quickest, most accurate response from emergency services.

Some of the most common addressing standards are as follows (not all inclusive):

- Even numbers on the right side of the road, odd numbers on the left.
- Numbers assigned at 50' intervals (numbered at the location of the driveway).
- No driveway accessing more than two (2) residences.
- No addresses that include letters (exception: apartments within a common building).
- No confusing or similar road names.

The Town of Greenland has been fortunate enough to have the "NH Division of Emergency Services and Communications, E9-1-1" analyze the Town and make recommendations with regard to the standards. The Board of Selectmen tasked the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director (the "911 Committee") to review the recommendations for possible adoption in order to enhance the safety of the citizens of Greenland. After much review, the committee has agreed on the standards recommended by the State.

Q: *Wouldn't large, reflective signs at the end of a driveway serve the same purpose as naming it?*
A: No. Unfortunately, locating an address that is off of a driveway with 3 – 8 houses in the middle of the night during an emergency situation can be extremely difficult. Although posting large, reflective numbers is better than nothing, creating a road name is ideal. It is a definitive intersection that can be easily explained to all responders (i.e. "third left off Post Road"), even if they aren't familiar with the area. Further, responders look for consistent numbering with regard to distance, so when 20 numbers are taken for four (4) houses off one road, it changes the pacing of the road on both sides.

Q: *GPS knows where my house is. Why can't emergency responders use that technology?*
A: In a non-emergency call (such as a lost dog, a past tense theft, or a non-severe medical call), responders could certainly use GPS to locate your residence in most cases. However, during an emergency response, there is usually only one officer in a vehicle who is driving in excess of the speed limit using emergency lights and siren, talking on the radio to collect as much information as possible prior to arrival, requesting additional units, and/or providing instruction for other responders. Utilizing additional technology would, quite simply, be unsafe. In an emergency situation, seconds count.

Q: ***Changing my address is extremely difficult and time consuming!***

A: It is true that changing your address is very inconvenient and can be time consuming. We have created a packet of information to make the process as simple as possible. The packet will include the form to change your address with the Department of Motor Vehicles, multiple copies of a letter that fully explains the address change that you can forward to your mortgage company and any other debtors/utilities that you wish, a list of companies with their phone numbers that you may need to contact and instructions on how to display your new number. Additionally, we will notify USPS of any and all changes as well as their effective date(s) and you will NOT need to complete a change of address form with them. E9-1-1 will automatically feed the information to companies for GPS mapping (i.e. Google). It should be noted that you do NOT need to make any changes to your deed until the time your property is sold or transferred. Any changes that are voted on will not take effect for at least 90 days. NOTE: The Town will provide assistance to anyone that needs help filling out the appropriate form(s) or forwarding the information to their utilities.

Q: ***I have had my address for the entire time I've lived in Greenland. It is part of my identity. Is there another way to go about this?***

A: We completely understand that people have a connection to their address. The longer we live in one location, the more pride and affinity we hold for that particular address. Our children memorize it when they are young, and they grow up knowing that it means "home". It is truly special. However, what is more important is that emergency providers are able to reach you in that moment of sheer need when your loved one is having a medical emergency or their life is being threatened. Those of us that have been tasked with keeping you and your family safe want the best possible opportunity to be successful when we are called upon. I hope you never need us, but if you do, we want to be there as quickly as humanly possible.

Q: ***If my road name is going to change, do I even get a say in the new name?***

A: Absolutely! If there is a possibility of a road name change, please talk with your neighbors about suggestions. Remember that the name cannot be similar to any other street name in Greenland and cannot contain numbers or directions. Bring any suggestions for consideration to the meeting for the Board of Selectmen.