**MIINUTES**

**SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, August 19, 2019 @ Town Garage 6:00PM**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Present: Selectboard: Chair Joe Pollio, Cathy Siano-Goodwin, Josh Hearne, Al Sands and Stan Mack.

Others present: Chris Wallace, Amber Stevens, Palmer Goodrich, Meg Gonzales, Rich Thompson – Health officer, Frances Alford, Mark Hansel, Dottie Cannon, Sam Battaglino, Liisa Kissel, Suzanne Welch, Joan Lake, Christine Tattersall, Peter Jeziorski, Kim Record – Clerk/Treasurer, Danny Taylor - Highway Foreman, and Bill Kearns – Town Administrator.

FACT8 TV Matt Farkas

1. Adopt Agenda. The Chair offered an amendment – between items 10 and 11 add Executive Session for Personnel. Motion made by Josh Hearne to adopt agenda as amended, second Al Sands. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve Minutes: Al Sands moved to accept the minutes of August 5, 2019 as presented, second Josh Hearne. Motion passed unanimously. Al Sands moved to accept the August 8, 2019 minutes as presented, second Stan Mack. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Warrants, as signed, presented to Selectboard, and accepted.
4. Petition – Special Town Meeting. Bill Kea5rns presented the dates when the school and the Town Meeting Moderator, Dave Ross, were available. Al Sands clarified that this was a vote to decide, once the Town Plan has gone through Selectboard Public Hearings and has been approved by the Selectboard, who adopts the Town Plan or an amendment thereto - the Selectboard or the voters at a Town Meeting by Australian Ballot. The Selectboard was petitioned on July 1, 2019 and has 60 days in which to name a date for the Special Town Meeting. The Plan is up for Public Hearing next on October 17, 2019 at 6 PM at the School. Motion by Al Sands, second Stan Mack to set the date, time and place for the Special Town Meeting to consider the Article petitioned, that is, “Shall the voters of Grafton adopt or amend municipal plans by Australian ballot?” on November 14, 2019 at 6 PM in the gym at the Grafton Elementary School. There was no discussion. When called by the Chair, the motion passed unanimously.
5. Highway Report
	* Bids Turner Hill and Excavator – Danny Taylor began this portion of the meeting with Bid openings.
		+ Josh Hearne, Clerk of the Board, opened the Turner Hill bids. Ivor Stevens bid $15,000. Jamie Gregory bid $16, 800. Palmer Goodrich bid $14,995. Discussion ensued. When asked Danny Taylor requested the bid be awarded that night, because of the shortness of time to complete the work. After discussion it was moved by Al Sands to accept the lowest bid contingent or receiving the Certificate of Insurance. Motion seconded by Josh Hearne. When called the motion passed unanimously.
		+ Josh Hearne opened the excavator bids, of which there were two – one from Nortrax and one from Milton CAT. The Nortrax bid contain two options, with and without optional features as requested. Without going into details and comparisons, Nortrax bid was for a Hitachi for $135,165 with options an $127,300 without. Milton CAT bid was a discounted price of $95,000 plus ditching bucket for $2,500 and on-site maintenance contract for $8,800, and then, as requested in the invitation to bid, a list of variations from the bid specifications. Danny Taylor will review the bids and make a recommendation back to the Selectboard.
	* Hauling stone for the Turner Hill project and stock piling for the contractor.
	* Report on Chester Hill project – EJ Prescott per agreement slip-lined the culvert #1 on Chester Hill (Route 35) with plastic pipe. Work started on Tuesday and finished on Wednesday, plus an hour or so on Thursday to reline the streambanks with stone on each end of the pipe. All done without tearing up road and with minimum traffic inconvenience. The concrete slurry of 30 cubic yds, because of voids being filed, covered 85% of the void on top, which might cause a barely noticeable depression in 25 years from now. The Grafton welcome sign and flowers are back!
	* Bill Kearns noted the Selectboard had approved the VTrans agreement last meeting but did not authorize a person to sign. Motion by Al Sands, second Stan Mack, to authorize the Selectboard Chair to execute the Agreement. Bill Kearns then went through the comments made by the Town Attorney and the responses from VTrans. There was some discussion. The Agreement is based on VTrans dealing with all details of the construction and Grafton sharing the cost – Fed Highway 80% - VTrans -10% - Grafton 10%. There are provisions favoring the state, but both VLCT legal and Robin Stern the Town Attorney acknowledged that we cannot change the agreement.
6. Town Treasurer – Discussion of property tax. Kim Record asked the Selectboard to consider waiving the penalties for late payments. She explained that due to the uncertainty of the real tax bills, since the school tax had not yet been set, if the Selectboard imposed a penalty on the residents who paid their taxes late, the complications “chaos” that would follow would include extraordinary efforts, special NEMREC calculations and work, at the expense of the Town to try to figure the correct penalty going forward. The amount raised by collecting the penalty might not be worth the cost. Selectboard questioned whether it had the authority not to collect what the voters at Town meeting required for penalties. After discussion, The Selectboard asked the Treasurer to talk with NEMREC for cost of their efforts, then calculate the amount of penalties to be collected and bring that information to the Selectboard at its next meeting.
7. Tracey Lake and Ash Borer. Tracey Lake was out of town. Al Sands would like the discussion of the subject at the Selectboard meeting, not at a committee meeting. The matter was tabled.
8. Appoint Representative to VLCT Annual Business Meeting. Discussion. Kim Record will ask Cynthia Gibbs if she would like to attend for the Town.
9. Date of meeting to start Budget Process. Kim Record stated she would get the worksheets together and the Board should start the process in October. It was so agreed.
10. Public Comment: Suzanne Welch was recognized, and she asked to speak about the Village Water Committee and its water testing efforts undertaken last week. The target was to have 60 residences tested out of 73 invites. The numbered tested was 56, which gives the Committee a good sampling for a good picture of the water quality in the Village. She thanked the residents who volunteered to be tested, the testers for their efforts – Committee members Paul Hallock, Kim record, Matt Siano Chris Wallace as well as Meg Gonzales. What follows: within two weeks all results should be out. There were results for 20% of the residences tested because they showed positive for “total coliform” but no tests showed positive for E. coli
11. pollution. The State’s average for test showing “total coliform” are 2% so Grafton was right there. Those residents who are in the 20% will be offered a re-test, but at a cost of $15.00. Kim Record is taking those calls and will schedule tests on Aug 29, on which day the test bottle will be driven to Burlington. The new test will test the level of coliform, not just the presence. Those not testing on Aug 29 will have to send results to Burlington themselves at a cost of $30.00. Al Sands, on behalf of the Selectboard, thanked Suzanne and the committee for all their efforts.
12. Other Business
	* Health Officer. Rich Thompson, Deputy Health officer was present. Cathy Siano-Goodwin and Rich Thompson and Stan Mack and others they gather from Grafton will form a subcommittee of the Board and will review the S6tate requirements for the Health Officer and make recommendations back to the Selectboard regarding expectations and a budget.
	* Al Sand reported that he and Josh Hearne with Rick White, a forester with the Department of Forests Parks and Recreation, hikes the lower trail and Rick wrote short memo (which was sent to the Selectboard) with suggestions for work. One item not in his suggestions is access and parking and Al spoke of some ways to address that at the time logging is done to improve the Park. Josh Hearne added that with minimal work the park could be ready for visitors.
13. Date of Next Selectboard Meetings: Regular meeting September 2, 2019.
14. Executive Session – Personnel. At 7:20 PM motion to go into executive session for personnel, and invite Bill Kearns to attend, made by Al Sands, second Stan Mack and passed. Motion by Al Sands, second Stan Mack and passed - to exit executive session made and executive session ended at 7:45 PM No action was taken.
15. Adjourn. Al Sands moved to adjourn, second Josh Hearne and unanimously approved and adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully presented,

William G. Kearns