**MINUTES**

**SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, January 6, 2020 @ Town Garage 6:00PM**

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

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

Others present: Joan lake, Dottie Cannon, Suzanne Welch, Richard Thompson, Fire Chief/ Health Officer, and Bill Kearns Town Administrator.

1. Adopt Agenda. Motion by Al Sands, second Chris Wallace to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve Minutes:
   * January 6, 2020. Correction in attendance and next meeting date. Motion by Stan Mack, second Al Sands to approved minutes as corrected. Motion Passed unanimously.
   * January 9, 2020 Emergency Meeting. Motion by Al Sands, second Stan Mack to accept minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Warrants of January 17, 2020 as signed, presented to Selectboard
4. Highway Report
   * Truck invitations to bid went out last week.
   * Winter operations and ongoing maintenance.
5. Town Health Officer. The Selectboard had been dealing with this over the last few months. Nomination for Town Health officer needed. Motion by Al Sands, second Chris Wallace to nominate Richard J. Thompson, Tow Health Officer and authorize Joe Pollio, Chair to execute the nomination on behalf of the Town of Grafton. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Commissions to be appointed. Selectboard Advisory Commission on Water-WasteWater and Selectboard Advisory Commission on School District will be created next meeting. Bill Kearns needs to receive and put into form the purposes for each meeting and member position longevity – one, two and three years initially and then all three-year terms. Bill Kearns explained how there was a concern about creating advisory bodies that would have longevity and some authority. Thus, he and Robin Stern, town attorney, come up with the 24 VSA 4433 Commission idea, and opted for, at her advice, the Selectboard appointed. With the three-year terms, there is longevity, and Commission are recognized in Education law, per Larry Slason attorney working with the school board, there is some legitimacy to SB School Advisory Commissions. Bill will prepare a motion for their creation in time for next Board meeting February 3, 2020.
7. Town Attorney. Robin Stern has been Town attorney for more than 30 years and has semi-retired from law and wants us to find someone new. She has suggested four firms. Bill will contact them, as about their interest in being Town attorney for Grafton and get some description of the firm and what they offer and get that back to the Board. Board wants to interview, so Bill was tasked with arranging that, even if it is by facetime or some such.
8. Otis road area roads. Bill Kearns explained he has found valid descriptions and layouts to three roads near Otis Road and suggested a discussion to which landowners are invited, to discuss putting these roads back onto the Map. This will happen February 3rd. Selectboard agreed. Stan Mack wants to discuss at some time those roads that should be thrown up as they serve just one house. That discussion will be held in March some tine as there is too much on the schedule now for February.
9. CIC Building, MatrixChem Cambridgeport. (Added item due to news today.) The Fire Chief/Town Health Officer (nominated) was present for this discussion. Chief Thompson said Ms. Linkin-Butler, the owner of MatrixChem called the Fire Dept this morning and left a message which said Green Harbors would be in the building at 3992 Route 121 E, Matrix Chem premises removing the chemicals and cleaning up the site. She said she had called Bruce Martin and told him, as well as Todd Cosgrove. The fire chief further said he had learned that last Thursday Clean harbors had inventoried the chemicals on site, and that this was probably for it to come up with an estimate of costs in order to enter into an agreement with the owner for the clean-up. In any case they were reportedly there today. They are a solid, hazardous-materials clean-up firm. There is no doubt they are there to do what is ordered in the DFS report, last paragraph, but this needs to be verified. There was conjecture about what is going on and who knows about it. Bill Kearns stated he would call Bruce Martin, Chief at Springfield DFS in the morning and find out what he knows and what is going on and report back to the Board including the new barrel removal, that is, will she be entirely out, or just the old dangerous chemicals barrels. As to her taking chemicals elsewhere, we have told people and they are aware of the possibility, and we are told other communities are paying attention. Bill Kearns state with that, there is nothing else we can do about whatever she used the U-Haul for. Bill will get back to the Selectboard with what he learns. There has been no reply to the letter to the Governor – not from Governor nor from anyone else.
10. Town Hall. Stan Mack and Cathy Siano-Goodwin stated these are the next projects they would propose:
    * Stan Mack stated the next project should be to renovate the basement by cleaning, getting rid of the dirt floor in the back areas, using a rubber membrane to seal the floor and stop dampness from entering the building in the area under the post office and under the SB office area, that is a crawl space. In the back repair falling battens of insulation.
    * Bill Kearns suggested before doing that work, have experts from the various service providers whose equipment is on the wall in the basement come and take out old obsolete unused boxes and circuits and wires.
    * Once the work in the basement is complete then turn to the heat/air conditioning with heat pumps, or a new boiler, whatever the SB decides it will do for heating and air conditioning. And in this regard, get estimates of the savings with new equipment (boiler, and/or heat pumps. Al Sands suggested talking to Guilford, which just redid the Town hall.
    * Suzanne welch asked where the elevator comes in, and the response from the Sb was the elevator is a separate item, funded with gifts or grants and will be done when that financing is in place.

Al Sands stated the logical order to him would be wire before cleaning, clean then redo basement, the heater and air conditioning. There was discussion followed by a Motion by Al Sands, second Cathy Siano-Goodwin to ask the building committee to proceed with a logical progression as expressed above in order to complete the work on the Town Hall. Motion passed unanimously. There was a short discussion on ridding the upstairs of the Town Hall of all the unwanted stuff.

1. Public comment – none
2. Other Business.
   * Al Sands – Emerald Ash Borer Beetle – There is assistance available Through Dept. of Forest and Parks for the Town to do an inventory of Ash trees in the Town of Grafton. He was at an EMD meeting in Guilford where the topic was discussed, including a discussion of the training available and grants offered to deal with the Ash Borer Beetle. There is a training available at Newbrook fire station on Jan 29th from 4:30 to 6:30, which Al Sands and Danny Taylor will attend, and others are welcome to join them.

##### Village Park proposed development creation of bird habitat by way of small clearings, and trails and development of a parking area off Fire Pond Road needs to be put on hold, if not completely ceased due to the new Town Plan. Al Sands stated the Village Park, like the state parks and Rockingham Town Forest are in the Critical Resource Area on the map, which area is subject to this restriction, on page 9: “**Critical Resource Areas** are key sites that are particularly sensitive and should be given maximum consideration for protection. Although there are no specific zoning regulations or ordinances prohibiting development on private land, it is the expressed desire of the Town that NO development occurs in Critical Resource Areas.” Discussion followed concerning who enforces the Town Plan. Stan Mack and Chris Wallace believed the wording is such at development is not desired, but no forbidden. Problem faced is who decides what is development and what development can be done without violating the provision. Chris Wallace will bring the issue to the Planning Commission. Joe Pollio said the Selectboard is not the boss of the Planning Commission, who is independent of the SB and the SB cannot dictate to the PC what it is to do. When asked who can tell us what can or cannot be done in the Park (in any Critical Resource Area, Bill Kearns replied, “The courts.”

* + Suzanne Welch spoke of the issue of Town Plan approval by electors and the cost of that process and asked that the issue be discussed at Pre-town meeting. It was agreed that it could be.
  + Adding the roads around Otis Road area is back on for February 3rd. Stan Mack would also like to discuss taking roads off that lead to one house and would like to do that soon. It was agreed that this would be on an agenda in March.
  + Monday Selectboard meeting on holidays, other than Christmas and New Year, will be continued, the SB unanimously agreed.

1. Date of Next Selectboard Meeting: February 3, 2020
2. Adjourn Motion by Al Sands, second Chris Wallace to adjourn at 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Kearns