**MINUTES SELECTBOARD**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**Town Plan and 2021-2022 Capital Budget**

**And**

**MEETING**

**Monday 6:00 PM, December 21, 2020**

**Attendance of Selectboard by Electronic Devices**

**Meeting being held electronically pursuant to 1 VSA 312, including The Legislature’s H.861 (2020) “Temporary Suspension of Designated Physical Meeting Location Requirements”**

**Public, wishing to attend the meeting may use the link posted on the Agenda for that meeting.**

**Present at the hearings and meeting were:** Chair Joe Pollio, Stan Mack, Cathy Siano-Goodwin, Al Sands and John Gregory.

**Others present:** Charles Bonin, Galen Pinkham, FACT 8 TV, Hardy and Nancy Merrill, Eric Stevens, Meg Gonzales, Wendy Martin, Suzanne Welch, FACT 8 TV, and Bill Kearns Town Administrator,

**Public Hearings:**

6:00 PM **Public hearing on Amendments to 2020-2028 Grafton Town Plan**

[Found on Town website, Town Plan page: <https://graftonvt.org/?page_id=271> ]

Open Hearing: The Chair Joe Pollio opened the hearing at 6:02 PM

1. Proposed edits Presented, Discussed by Public and then by Selectboard, and the proposed edits individually rejected or approved. – not by a vote at Hearing, but by individual opinion. Note the following: The Plan, at the meeting, will be either edited or approved without edits, resulting in:
   * 1. The Plan being edited and, as edited, approved with “substantial changes” and a new hearing scheduled on the Plan as edited, or
     2. The Plan as proposed for the hearing (that is, the July 11th Plan approved by SB for this hearing) being approved, in which case the Plan could be adopted at the next Selectboard Meeting.

Discussion. The Chair asked if there was anyone who wanted to raise any discussion points. After a bit of silence, Charles Bonin wanted to discuss the language on Wind, that is, the critical language regarding industrial wind and favorable language regarding residential wind. As this was not part of the text for which amendments were offered by the Planning Commission, and not noticed issue, the Chair discouraged discussion of it and focused on the amendments themselves. There was no discussion offered on the relevant amendments.

1. Close Hearing. There being no further discussion offered, and on motion by Al Sands, second John Gregory to close the meeting which passed unanimously, the chair closed the hearing at 6:14 PM

Immediately following – **Public Hearing on Capital Budget:**

**[Found on website at:** [**https://graftonvt.org/?page\_id=271**](https://graftonvt.org/?page_id=271) **]**

Open hearing: the chair opened the meeting at 6:14 PM

1. Present and discuss the Capital budget as proposed by the Capital budget Committee. Discussion - first the Committee, then public, then Selectboard.

The Chair opened the hearing up to discussion. Hardy Merrill, Chair of the Capital budget Committee, lead off with an offer of an amendment to the amount that was arrived at the Budget meeting on December 17, 2020. He recommended to the Selectboard to lower the total Capital Budget amount to $200,000 by taking approx. $3563 out of Highway Roadway and Structures, $3000 out of Bridge maintenance and approximately $1000 from equipment. Joe Pollio agreed with the lesser amount stating, since the voting will be by Australian Ballot there is no chance to amend the motion from the floor. This increase is from 2 cents on the grand list to 1.5 cents. There was no further discussion.

1. Close Hearing. Motion to close the hearing was made by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, second John Gregory and passed unanimously and the Chair closed the meeting at 6:17 PM.

**Selectboard Regular** Meeting - Immediately following Hearings:

Open the meeting: the chair opened the regular meeting of the Selectboard at 6:17 PM

1. Adopt Agenda. Bill kearns asked to add the minutes of December 17th to the minutes to be approved. The minutes were added and motion by Al sands, second Stan Mack to adopt the agenda as amended passed unanimously.
2. Approve Minutes:
   * November 19, 2020: The town Administrator directed the Selectboard’s attention to the lines that were questioned at the last meeting and showed they were properly reflecting the tape of the meeting. Cathy Siano-Goodwin moved to approve the minutes as presented, second Stan Mack. Motion passed unanimously.
   * December 7, 2020: Stan Mack offered some 9 or so corrections to the minutes, mostly typos. Al Sands moved, second John Gregory to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.
   * December 17, 2020: Stan Mack offered some 7 or so corrections to the minutes, mostly typos. Al Sands moved, second John Gregory to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Warrants had been signed by all. Issue was raised about the oversight of Highway bills and review of those bills by the Foreman before they are presented to Selectboard. This will be resolved. An issue has already been addressed concerning the person cleaning the Town Hall and the manner of presenting bill to the Town, and Kim Record is already addressing that.
4. Adoption of the Amendments to the 2020-2028 Town Plan. Motion by Al Sands, second Cathy Siano-Goodwin to approve the amendments as presented and send them along to Town Meeting for vote by Australian Ballot.
5. Highway: Danny is out. Bill Kearns asked that the contracts for winter snowplowing be finalized. He will contact the contractors and asked who will be authorized to sign. Motion by Al Sands, second Cathy Siano-Goodwin to authorize the Town Administrator to sign those contracts on behalf of the town. Motion passed unanimously. An issued was raised concerning personnel, contractors, use of equipment and cleaning the equipment for use. Bill Kearns stated Danny Taylor is out but in in contact with the crew who are fully aware of what needs to be done and are doing it, Mike Faulkner is in charge in his absence, the crew follow the sanitization protocols which they have done from the beginning of the pandemic. Should the Contractors be needed, the trucks will be sanitized before their use. The contractors are free to come in or not if they have concerns.
6. Clerk/Treasurer. Bill Kearns reported that Kim would not be here tonight. She wants to remind the Board to read the draft audit documents and get back to her with questions or discussion. She noted in the new draft of the letter the fraud risk, which the town addressed last year with internal controls, is no longer in the letter. She will ask the auditors why that was removed.
7. Streetlights. Resolved.
8. Listers – Errors and Omissions to Grand List after it was lodged. There was one error in the Grand List, discovered by the Listers after the list was posited. That error was to land owned by the Grafton Improvement Association. That parcel was reported at $837,000 instead of 837,700 resulting in an under charge of $15.36. The Selectboard acknowledged the error.
9. Acceptance of the proposed Budget from the Capital Budget Committee and approval of Article for vote at town meeting. Hardy Merrill stated that, should the Selectboard wish to accept and recommend to the voters a Capital Budget of $200,000 even, the details would be: Fire Truck Fund $15,000., Bridge Construction Program (Walker bridge) $46,391 and Highway Equipment Program $138,609. Stan Mack made the motion, second by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to accept $200,000 Capital Budget and recommend to the voters a budget of $200,000, which is made up of: Fire Truck Fund $15,000, Bridge Construction Program (Walker bridge) $46,391 and Highway Equipment Program $138,609. Motion passed unanimously.
10. Cemetery Land. Discussion. The Selectboard discussed the various pieces they have looked at and directed the Town administrator to follow up with the landowners of the properties abutting Burgess Cemetery (not the whole piece but a portion), Cobb Cemetery (the land that surrounds the cemetery) Houghtonville cemetery (the piece to the south and the land between the cemetery and the river.).
11. Other Business
12. Public Comment: Wendy Martin asked about the status of the streetlight issue. Joe Pollio stated he and Bob Donald talked and the Windham foundation will repair those few light poles and lenses that need repair and timers would be placed on the lights that now do not go our as a temporary fix, and then the light sensor bulbs of a softer hue would be installed in all the light poles soon.
13. Date of Next Selectboard Meeting: January 4, 2021 @ 6PM - Microsoft Teams
14. Health Officer and any other personnel issues – personnel, executive session. To be discussed in Executive Session. Motion to enter into executive session Al Sands, second Cathy Siano-Goodwin. Passed unanimously at 7:00 PM. Motion to exit executive session Stan Mack, Al Sands second. Exited 7:12 PM. No action was taken in executive session
15. Adjourn: The Chair reminded all that the Westminster vote on withdrawal was January 4th or so. Motion by

Stan Mack, second Al Sands to adjourn at 7:15 PM. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

William G. Kearns, Town Administrator