**MINUTES SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**Grafton Town Hall Upstairs In Person/Live**

**With accommodation for persons unable to attend in person via interactive Microsoft Teams**

**Monday, June 6, 2022, 6 pm**

Present at the meeting in the Town Hall:

Selectboard: Joe Pollio, John Gregory, Cathy Siano-Goodwin, Suzanne Welch, and Rich Thompson.

Also: Dottie Cannon, Joan Lake, Danny Taylor (Highway Foreman), Hardy Merrill (Member of Athens Grafton School Board), Nancy Merrill and Bill Kearns (Town Administrator).

Present online: Charlie Bonin, Amber Stevens, Lester Schwalb, and Fact8TV.

1. Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

2. Adopt Agenda: Bill Kearns asked that the agenda be amended to add under Committee   
Reports: Building Committee consideration of a boundary adjustment with Michelle Kraics to add land to the Town land for the school. Suzanne Welch asked that, in the absence of Kim the Expenditure Report item be removed and put on the next agenda; and under minutes the May 9th minutes, which had been previously approved, be removed from the agenda. As amended, it was moved by Suzanne Welch, seconded by John Gregory to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Minutes of Special meeting May 23 and Regular Meeting May 16, 2022. Suzanne Welch moved, second by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to adopt the minutes of May 16, 2022. Motion passed unanimously. Suzanne Welch moved, second by Rich Thompson to adopt the minutes of May 23, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Highway Report

* + FEMA meetings – status of Recovery. One accounting was in for payment. There was nothing else to report
  + Fed Aid Hwy – Rte. 121 – the invoice for this work had been presented and the money for the erosion repairs should be received soon
  + Other: working on better Back road grant work. Finished Wright orchard and working on Cambridgeport Rd. Shoulder work was being done in Houghtonville. Danny Taylor hopes to borrow a hot box from a neighboring town to do some paving patch work. Should it rain, there would be some grading done. Mowing was on going and austin powers was weed eating the brush around the bridges. Suzann Welch asked about work in the Park. Danny Taylor said the culverts and fabric was in the Park and that work would be done after Cambridgeport Rd. was completed. commented on the praise of Tim Morton for the Village Park Volunteers and Long view and their professionalism. Bill kearns was asked about the Putnam Rd culvert project and grant from VTrans. Bill Stated that VTrans offered the town a $135,000 structures grant. Bill discussed this with Danny Taylor and John Gregory, and it was decided the culvert that best matched the money was the Putnam Forest Rd Culvert #2 and so application was made for that project to VTrans. The Dist2 office sent the application along with its recommendation for approval. This project would be done next year if the funds are forthcoming.

5. Clerk/Treasurer

* + 200 AMP upgrade. The project meeting will take place on June 15th at noon with GMP and Grafton to plan for the digging for the transformer and set a date for that digging.
  + Unregistered Dog Report: Each member of the Selectboard read the names on the Unregistered Dogs Report. Motion was then made by Rich Thompson, second Suzanne Welch to send the Unregistered Dog Report to the Constable for his enforcement. Motion passed unanimously.
  + Humane Society Contract – 2022/2023 approval. There was discussion concerning the fee and what it covered. It was made clear that charges for keeping animals were on the animals’ owner, not the Town. Motion was made by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, second Suzanne Welch to approve the contract and authorize its signature by the Chair, which was done. Motion passed unanimously.
  + Other. Bill kearns stated that the Sheriff’s office was asking if the Town wanted the Sheriff Contract to remain the same number of hours or were there changes wanted. The contract calls for 8 hours a month. Suzanne Welch moved, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to keep the same 8 hours a month in the sheriff’s contract. Cathy Siano-Goodwin stated her second was for discussion. She would like to see the hours increased to 10 hours. Discussion ensued including that the budget was approved for the same number of hours as currently. Motion was called and passed 4 – 1 with Cathy Siano-Goodwin voting no.

6. School – May 24 district Meeting – recap Hardy Merrill. Hardy Merrill stated that the WNEUSD met on May 24th and all Articles that come before the meeting were approved including: Article 4 which set up the Grafton Athens School District. Article 5 which allocated $350,300 of the whole district’s surplus to Grafton Athens, which amount would be used to reduce future budgets. Article 6 which increased the Grafton Athens School Board from 4 to 6 members. Athens elected Harold Noyes to the Board. Grafton had no one step forward, though there is interest. Article 8 passed authorizing the Chair to sign an amended lease with the Town for the school building. ESSER Funds have been received by the State and send to WNEUSD – 3 separate amounts: 1.) $1,484,485 has to be used by 9/30 2022 on COVID relief. 2.) $5,828,077 to be spent by 9/23/2023 on loss of learning make up, summer programs etc. 3.) $13,000,000+ to be used by September 2024. The school has a list of projects, which has to be approved by the Dept of Education. The school is having a public meeting June 7, at 6 PM in the auditorium at the high school. Right now, the only money named for Grafton is $60,000 for the boiler. Hardy expects money will be used in Grafton on air quality in the building. All residents are encouraged to go to the meeting and speak. Hardy also spoke of H737 approved by the House and Senate to set the homestead and non-residential homeowners’ rates for next year. It appears both will be lower than this year if the Governor signs the law.

1. Committee Reports:

* Cemetery committee: John gregory reported that he and Joe have to meet with Dan Dowd on the possibility of land near Houghtonville Cemetery. In the cemeteries, the fences, the gravestones, the gates all need repairs. We need a solid answer on the use of Trustee Funds. Joe Pollio said he will try to resolve this with the attorney or CPA. John also complained that thought e grass was mowed the residue was not cleaned up and there were complaints. There was positive feedback concerning the services of Austin Powers from persons who had family members buried recently. There was then discussion about a uniform for Austin.
* Highway committee: Nothing.
  + Parks committee: Suzanne Welch state the grant for the trail work and leanto had been submitted. Suzanne also commented on the praise of Tim Morton for the Village Park Volunteers and Long View and their professionalism.
  + Personnel committee: Bill Kearns stated the policies had been delivered to all employees.
  + Buildings committee: Bill Kearns stated that after he discovered that the Michelle Kraics property went to the wall of the school and the school back door open directly onto private property and it always had done so, he called Michelle Krais, the owner of 151 Townshend Rd. He discussed the property lines with her and where she located her fence. In short, Michelle Kraics had spent a long time in Grafton since she was a kid, and in this spot wants to see the path through the village preserved, and she did not want the land between the school and her new fence. Bill offered to do a lot line adjustment between her and the Town for that portion of the lot outside her fence. In return the Town would pay for the survey. The estimate on the survey from DiBernardo is $2,200. She stated she was interested and told Bill to proceed. At this meeting Bill Kearns is asking for the selectboard to adopt a motion to, together with Michelle Kraics, lot line adjustment to move the boundary line of the town property, on which the school sits, to Michelle’s fence line, which line follows the westerly side of the pedestrian path across the back of her property from the Windham foundation land, which is a parking lot, to School Street. The survey would delineate this path in its current location as a public pedestrian right of way and would allow for no buildings in this area. Bill asked the SB to waive the lot line adjustment application fee. The fee for the survey $2,200 will be paid by the Town and authorized by this motion. And the motion should authorize the Chair of the selectboard to sign the application for lot line adjustment on behalf of the town. Bill further stated that if this were done, it would fulfill the desires of Michelle Kraics for the land, would allow for the repair and maintenance of the path, would clear up insurance issue for the school and the town, would allow the students and the teachers to move freely around the building without being on private property. If the additional land were to be included in the land leased by the School district, the school district would be responsible for the maintenance of the land. The Town crew would repair the path as soon as the land belonged to the Town. The application for lot line adjustment would proceed on a drawing of the land, which drawing would be the same as the ultimate survey that would be recorded in the Town Public Records when completed. The motion requested above was made by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by John Gregory, and passed unanimously.
    - Heat pumps. The one large heat pump was still back ordered.
  + Water Wastewater committee. Nothing

1. Other Business. Suzanne asked about responses to Don Dougall. Joe said he would discuss with Bill Kearns.
2. Public Comment
3. Next Regular Meeting – Monday, June 20, 2022 @ 6:00 PM
4. Adjourn. Rich Thompson moved, second by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to adjourn this meeting at 7:11 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Kearns