**MINUTES SELECTBOARD MEETING**

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

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

**Monday, October 3, 2022, 6 pm**

Present at the meeting in the Town Hall:

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

Not present: John Gregory.

Also: Sam Battaglino, Dottie Cannon, Don Dougall, Mike Faulkner, Hardy Merrill, Liisa Kissel, Hardy Merrill, Kim Record, and Wendy Martin.

Present online: Jack Bryar, Nancy Merrill, Lester Schwab, Amber Stevens, Eric Stevens, Morgan Stevens, FACT TV.

1. Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. Adopt Agenda: Chair Joe Pollio asked that Capital Budget Appointments and Letters to Candidates be added under 6a and 6b, respectively. He also noted that the Village Park volunteers would be invited to the October 17th meeting, not this meeting. It was moved by Suzanne Welch, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approve minutes of the September 15, 2022 Special Meeting. It was moved by Suzanne Welch, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2022 Special Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve minutes of September 26, 2022 Special Meeting. It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Suzanne Welch, to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2022 Special Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve minutes of September 19, 2022 meeting. It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Suzanne Welch, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2022 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation BDCC: No one from SeVEDS was present at the meeting.

5. Highway Report:

Interim Road Foreman Mike Faulkner said that the crew had moved on to ditching and pulling in winter sand. He said that the mowing is done and there are three culverts to replace. Faulkner said that Colby Record was doing well.

Faulkner said that winter salt had been a conundrum in that the shed has none, and he had finally obtained a price of $94.40/ton ($20 per ton increase over last year) from Apalachee of Rochester, NY. He said that the price had been $73/ton at the beginning of last winter. The quality from Apalachee had been better in the past than Cargill. Faulkner suggested buying 150 tons from Apalachee now with the hope that Cargill will have a cheaper price; Cargill had not been able to provide a quote, even after several calls from Faulkner. Apalachee comes from Rochester, NY and the price includes trucking. There was a brief discussion about Cargill having a depot in Rockingham and whether towns could get together to buy in bulk, and Faulkner said that happened in a very long time.

Faulkner was asked about the beaver situation on Marshall Road, and he said the situation was never ending and that he would contact Skip Lisle for an update.

• FEMA projects status. Kim Record said that FEMA was planning a recovery transition meeting having to do with the state closeout on the town’s 5% owed. It will be a brief virtual meeting, making sure all documents are signed and complete and she said everything else was all set. She said that Bill Kearns and John Gregory would probably attend.

• VTrans Stormwater and Mitigation Grants. Record said that this concerned the culverts discussed at the previous meeting and that the town would have to do the engineering itself, doubling the cost of the project, which would be three or four years away. She said that it would be cheaper to the town to replace the structure than to go through this process, Kearns had told her.

5. Clerk/Treasurer Report: Kim Record said that all the light bulbs in the streetlights had been changed; Russell Record had completed three-quarters of the work and the highway crew did the rest. All now have dusk-till-dawn bulbs.

Record reported that the General Election ballots had been mailed to everyone by the state and she encouraged voters to drop them in the lockbox (Town Hall door), hand deliver them to her office, mail them, or bring them to the polls on November 8.

6. Capital Budget Committee Appointments. Capital Budget Chair Hardy Merrill said that he would like the Selectboard to appoint Hardy Merrill, Kim Record, John Gregory, Cynthia Gibbs, Mike Faulkner, Colby Record, and Maureen Parker to the Capital Budget Committee. After a brief discussion, it was moved by Rich Thompson, seconded by Suzanne Welch, for the Selectboard to appoint these candidates to the Capital Budget Committee. Motion passed unanimously. Merrill said he would organize the files and call the meeting. He will also meet with Faulkner about equipment needs. He will also talk with the fire department about its equipment needs. Joe Pollio said he would ask Town Administrator Morgan Stevens to contact organizations about their budget requests. Thompson asked about the Walker Bridge plans and Pollio said the Highway Committee should look at the plans and report to the Selectboard.

6b. Letters to Candidates Who Applied for Town Positions. It was moved by Rich Thompson, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to send letters on letterhead to all who inquired or applied for the Town Administrator position, thanking them for their interest. Suzanne Welch asked if the same had been completed for the Town Highway position, and Thompson said it had. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Committee Reports:

• Cemetery Committee: Joe Pollio said there was nothing new to report, and he and John Gregory were still working on the policy.

• Highway Committee: Kim Record said that the town had received a new report from VTrans on the Walker Bridge and it had been received on September 29; she forwarded it to the board that day (October 3). VTrans would like comments from the board by October 31; Pollio will add this to the October 17th meeting agenda. Suzanne Welch asked if the Highway Committee would look at the report, and Pollio said he presumed so.

• Parks Committee: There will be a presentation at the October 17th meeting.

• Personnel Committee: No report.

• Buildings Committee: Kim Record said the process was moving along and it was loud and dusty. Once sanding was finished that week, painting would begin in the lobby, and the next step would be flooring. The elevator shaft should arrive sometime during the first two weeks of November; Record has told them November 8 (General Election day) was not an option. Rich Thompson mentioned ice on the roof of the Town Hall falling and being a hazard; there was a brief discussion about a temporary fix.

Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked Thompson if he had the list of building needs and priorities; Record suggested lining the list up with upcoming budgeting and the capital budget discussions.

• Wastewater-Water Committee: Joe Pollio said there had been a good showing at the 30% meeting conducted by Tighe & Bond on September 28. He said that there would be feedback. Cathy Siano-Goodwin said that her take was that it was well attended, there were good questions and it was a good presentation. Kim Record said the PPT presentation was posted on the town’s website. There was a discussion about different plans and potential systems, maintenance, voting, and petitioning for a vote. Pollio said that this was just the beginning and Tighe & Bond had more information to gather.

8. Other Business: Suzanne Welch asked about a recent rescue call at which an ambulance was not able to be dispatched. She said that the town’s contract with Golden Cross is $750/month and asked that Keith Hermiz attend a meeting to talk about this incident.

Kim Record asked about dates for the budgeting. Joe Pollio said to wait until after the organizations had attended the early November meeting with their requests and take it from there.

9. Public Comment: Liisa Kissel asked that regarding the Traffic Ordinance Public Hearing, how would a member of the public send input? She was told to send it to the Selectboard now, before the hearing.

Don Dougall said that he had met with Chester’s zoning people with regard to the short-term rental situation there and he learned that everything that happens in Chester doesn’t apply to Grafton; solutions must be tailor made. He said that Chester registers the rentals and each is required to pay $300 and then the rental is licensed for the year. That’s the way Chester learns who owns the rentals and how many there are. Chester contracted with a data mining company that surveyed the internet to identify the rentals. The town learned that 8% of their abodes are short-term rentals and he supposed Grafton had more than that. There was further discussion about collecting taxes, fire and safety, septic issues in the village, and licensing. Joe Pollio asked Dougall to give the board his written information and he agreed that something needed to be done in Grafton. Dougall said the question was not if the board can do it, but would the board want to do it. Pollio said he couldn’t speak for the board and it was something it would work on and would be added to a future meeting agenda.

10. Next regular meeting: Monday, October 17, 2022 at 6 pm.

11. Adjourn. It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Suzanne Welch, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Martin