

MINUTES SELECTBOARD MEETING
Grafton Town Hall Upstairs In Person/Live
With accommodation for persons unable to attend in person via interactive Zoom

Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 6:00 pm

Present at the meeting in the Town Hall:

Selectboard: Chair Joe Pollio, Vice Chair Cathy Siano-Goodwin, John Gregory, and Suzanne Welch

Selectboard not present: Rich Thompson

Also: Morgan Wilbur, Al Sands, Mike Field, Margo Matt, Hardy Merrill, and Seth Pajcic

Present online: FactTV, Nancy Merrill, and Cheryl Kaufman

1. Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Adopt Agenda: It was moved by Suzanne Welch, seconded by John Gregory to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve Minutes of the February 6, 2023, meeting: It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by John Gregory, to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Special Town Meeting on April 3rd: Joe Pollio reported that there will be a Special Town Meeting on Monday, April 3rd at 5:30 pm upstairs in the Town Hall, due to the fact that the Grafton Fire Department and Grafton Nature Museum's articles for their tax-exemption status was left out of our Annual Town Meeting Warning. The Selectboard members signed to approve the Special Town Meeting warning.
5. Grand List Closure: Hardy Merrill presented the Selectboard with the Certificate – No Appeal or Suit Pending document from the Grand List. He requested signatures from the Selectboard to officially close the Grand List.
6. Highway Report: Mike Faulkner was not present; Morgan Wilbur reported that the highway crew has posted all of the dirt roads. Joe Pollio asked if there is any plan in place for when a highway crew member is unable to work during a storm, due to an illness for example. Pollio said in the past, Jamie Gregory, Ivor Stevens and P&L Trucking have been called on to help. Wilbur will research this further.

Generator Estimate from Powers Guaranteed: Morgan Wilbur said a representative from Powers Guaranteed inquired about the generators that the town has (at the Grafton Elementary School and town garage). The Town currently had a contract with Brook Field Services that renews in November. The board will discuss options from Powers Guaranteed in the fall when discussing the upcoming budget.

Excess Weight Permits: Morgan Wilbur presented two excess weight permits from Barrett Trucking Co. Inc and Bazin Brother Trucking, Inc.

It was moved by Suzanne Welch, seconded by John Gregory, to approve these weight permits and authorize the Town Administrator to sign and issue. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Clerk/Treasurer: There was no discussion.

8. Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee: John Gregory said that Tim Mueller was still interested in discussing property at Burgess Cemetery. He would be sharing his thoughts in the coming week. Morgan Wilbur will follow up with Ben Jones regarding land at the Houghtonville Cemetery.

Highway Committee: Morgan Wilbur reported that a public notice for a warned public hearing must be given not less than 15 days prior to the date of the Public Hearing. She thought it would be best to have a public hearing on March 20th to further discuss the intersection at the bridge in Cambridgeport. Suzanne Welch acknowledged and thanked Wilbur for her communication on the topic.

Parks Committee: Mike Field reported that the Parks Committee plans to build another map trailhead kiosk with anticipation of receiving more grant funding. They think it would be beneficial to add a sign at the base of Fire Pond Road directing people to the new parking area. Field said that Morgan Wilbur had been working on the RTP grant as well as a grant from Ames Holt. They hope for funding to help build the Universally Accessible Learning Center and for construction of the easy access trail. Additionally, the park volunteers would like to add a loop trail at the top of the Village Park to utilize the trails from the logging that took place. If funding is not successful, they would like to look into donation opportunities. Field also said this year marks the 100th anniversary of the Town of Grafton acquiring the Village Park. They would be brainstorming potential event opportunities in the coming weeks. Lastly, the volunteers said how grateful they have been for the parks subcommittee. Specially, they appreciate Suzanne Welch's work and dedication to the parks.

Personnel Committee: There was no discussion.

Buildings Committee: Morgan Wilbur reported that the elevator construction is officially complete. The flooring had been installed and the elevator was inspected. The door for the elevator upstairs had been opening and closing repeatedly, so a service technician from the company would go back to fix this issue. Wilbur also met with Fissette Flooring to discuss sanding the floors upstairs. She would work around meetings and get them scheduled to perform the work. Wilbur also mentioned she spoke with Efficiency VT regarding doing an energy audit. She said they don't do a formal audit, rather than a test in and test out evaluation, which includes doing the blower door test. She said that the test would be \$500 and if the work is completed, 75% of the project costs up to \$5,000 is covered by a rebate. Suzanne Welch said that she had spoken with Jennifer from the State of Vermont and they would do an audit at no cost to the town. Wilbur will look into this more.

Water Wastewater Committee: Joe Pollio said they had a meeting with Erin Moore from Tighe & Bond the previous week. Essentially, they are still looking at options for the town now focusing on finding land outside of the village for a traditional mound system. There is a follow up meeting on Tuesday, February 28th at 1 pm via Microsoft Teams.

9. Divide articles for Town Meeting: After some discussion, the board agreed that each member would be available to answer any questions that arise at Pre Town-Meeting. They would like any board member to chime in if needed.

9. Other Business: Morgan Wilbur said the Grafton Elementary School reached out inquiring about listing the Town Hall as a relocation site for the students and staff to go in case of emergency. Wilbur said that if the town would like to pursue this, she would need a facility representative to sign off. Joe Pollio said that would be the Selectboard Chair.

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by John Gregory, to have the Town Office be a relocation site for the Grafton Elementary School and to have the Chair of the Selectboard be the facility representative. Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Pollio said they have a regular Selectboard meeting on Monday, March 6th and then on Tuesday, March 7th is the Town Meeting. He thought it might be best to reserve March 6th in case anything comes up that needs discussion, otherwise, they would just meet at the following regular meeting on March 20th. The board members agreed that would be a good idea.

John Gregory recommended that each board member pick up an expenditures sheet from Kim Record, the Town Clerk.

Hardy Merrill asked for an update on the boundary line adjustment for the School and Kraics property. Morgan Wilbur sent a follow-up email to Larry Slason, the Town Attorney, for him to write up the deed.

10. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

11. Next regular meeting: Monday, March 20, 2023, at 6 pm.

12. Adjourn. It was moved by Suzanne Welch, seconded by John Gregory, to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Morgan Wilbur

