

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

Monday, May 15, 2023, 6:00 pm

Present at the meeting in the Town Hall:

Selectboard: Chair Joe Pollio, Vice Chair Cathy Siano-Goodwin, John Gregory, Rich Thompson, and Seth Pajcic

Also: Morgan Wilbur (Town Administrator), Mike Faulkner (Road Foreman), Kim Record (Town Clerk), Colby Record (Highway crew member), Wendy Martin, Don Dougall, Dottie Cannon, Liisa Kissel, Sam Battaglino, and Russell Record

Present online: FactTV, Nancy Merrill, and Amber Stevens

1. Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Adopt Agenda: It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Rich Thompson to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve Minutes of the May 1, 2023, meeting: It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Fire Warden Re-Appointment: Morgan Wilbur said Bill Brown would like to continue as Fire Warden and Eric Stevens would continue as Deputy Fire Warden; each term is 5 years and would expire on June 30, 2028. Each board member signed the reappointment forms.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory to reappoint William "Bill" Brown as the Fire Warden and Eric Stevens as Deputy Fire Warden both for expiration on June 30, 2028. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Cambridgeport Intersection Update: Morgan Wilbur said VTrans gave a recommendation of making the Cambridgeport Intersection a 3-way stop. If the Selectboard did not want to make it a 3-way stop, they would at least recommend stop signs on the north and south sides of the intersection and adding plaques underneath the 2 stops advising traffic that the right/left does not stop. Wilbur said the Windham County Sheriff's Office is conducting the speed study.
6. E-911 Coordinator: John Gregory asked when the Selectboard wanted to appoint Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, as the E-911 Coordinator. He explained that Bill Kearns is currently the coordinator but feels Wilbur is ready to take it over. After a brief discussion, Wilbur said she felt comfortable with the responsibility and agreed to assume the E-911 Coordinator role.

It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Rich Thompson to appoint Morgan Wilbur as the E-911 Coordinator, effective immediately. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Water at Village Park: Mike Faulkner and Colby Record looked at the property abutting the Village Park in regard to the water concern from the homeowner at the previous Selectboard meeting (Stephan Keegan on Hinkley Brook Road). Faulkner said it was clear the water was an issue and could be fixed by adding a few water bars and potentially a swale by the Kiosk in the park to redirect the water. The Selectboard asked the highway crew to fix the problem as soon as possible.

8. Highway Report: Mike Faulkner reported that they put chloride down on Route 121 towards Houghtonville and plan to do sections of Eastman Road. However, they will need to order more chloride. Joe Pollio asked how much chloride is currently and Faulkner said it is \$1.18 per gallon which had gone up from previous years.

9. Clerk/Treasurer: Kim Record said the town had received an engagement letter from Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C. to do the Town's audit for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Record said she has been pleased with their work in the years past and requests that the town continue with them. She mentioned their price last year was \$16,000 and it went up to \$17,500.

It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to hire Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C. to do the FY2022-2023 audit. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Wastewater Update: Joe Pollio reported there are two sites in town that are potential sites for the wastewater project. The first site was Springhill Farm on Route 121 (owned by Joe Pollio) and test pits were dug on Wednesday, May 10th. Tighe & Bond is proposing a drip dispersal system at this property. The second site was Upper Howland Mill (owned by the Windham Foundation) and test pits were scheduled to be dug on Wednesday, May 17th. Colby Record stated there were some trees that needed to be removed in preparation for the test pits at Upper Howland Mill, which was approved by Bob Donald, CEO of the Windham Foundation. John Gregory inquired about seeing an accounting of how Tighe & Bond has used the funds to date and where they stand financially because, in an email from Erin Moore on May 2, she stated that Tighe & Bond was working out of budget and with no contract. Pollio said he asked Moore to hold a town-wide informational meeting and questions such as financials and logistics could be answered then. Pollio also mentioned there is additional funding through a grant that could be available to the town if needed. This separate grant would act the same as the current grant, as it would only need to be paid back if the town moves forward with the project. Russell Record said this whole project has "opened a huge can of worms with the State of Vermont" and the State may think Grafton has a problem when there is not. Discussion regarding having a town vote ensued. Pollio said Bill Kearns previously did some research on forming a wastewater district, but the results were unclear. Gregory asked Pollio if he would allow the town to use his property (Springhill Farm) if Upper Howland Mill's test pits fail. Pollio did not feel comfortable giving an answer without fully understanding the process and what Tighe & Bond would be requiring of his property. Rich Thompson mentioned it might be best to "cut the losses at where we stand." Don Dougall mentioned Pollio recusing himself from the discussion due to conflict of interest with his property. Seth Pajcic noted that Pollio is not benefiting from the project currently, so

recusing is not necessary at this point. Pollio said the town would be sufficiently notified when an informational meeting takes place with Tighe & Bond.

11. Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: Cathy Siano-Goodwin stated the committee would be meeting with the highway crew in the coming weeks to do their reviews.

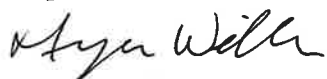
12. Other Business: Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked for an update on the repair projects at the cemeteries. John Gregory said he has looked at the cemeteries but needs to meet with Joe Pollio to discuss them further. Kim Record said the ground settled down significantly where the winter burial took place. She contacted Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home since they did the burial. They are aware of the situation and will be there soon to resolve the issue. Gregory said that no landscaping work had begun at any of the cemeteries and that clean-up was needed; Morgan Wilbur said she had contacted the contracted company about this and the importance of work being completed ahead of Memorial Day.

13. Public Comment: Russell Record said that Russ Hodgkins, who is the new foreman of the Windham Foundation maintenance crew, on occasion likes to park at a pull-off at the bottom of Turner Hill Road and hike up the hill after work. However, a new resident (who lives in the area of Turner Hill) approached Hodgkins aggressively and was clearly distraught about Hodgkins parking his vehicle on the pull-off. Record said the fire chief had experienced something similar when he visited the property to check on smoke coming from the area (the resident may have been burning trash). Record just wanted the Selectboard to be informed of this activity happening. Joe Pollio and Morgan Wilbur will discuss further.

14. Next regular meeting: Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6 pm.

15. Adjourn. It was moved by Rich Thompson, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Morgan Wilbur