

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

Monday, June 5, 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, Kim Record, Rodney Record, Mike Faulkner, Margo Matt, Wendy Martin, Liisa Kissel, Sam Battaglino, Dottie Cannon, Don Dougall, Patrick Pajcic, and Russell Record

Present online: Peggy Samuels, FactTV, Erin Moore (Tighe & Bond), Charles Bonin, Emily Hackett (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources), and Robin Russell

1. Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Adopt Agenda: Joe Pollio requested to add the Windham County Animal Control Officer Contract to the agenda after item #4.

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by John Gregory to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approve Minutes of the May 15, 2023, meeting: It was moved by Rich Thompson, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2023, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Windham County Sheriff Contract FY23-24: Morgan Wilbur stated that the board had budgeted for the two contracts; Windham County Sheriff's Department and the Windham County Animal Control Officer. Wilbur said she wrote Town Administrator and Selectboard members down for being authorized individuals/positions to request services under the agreements.

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Seth Pajcic to approve the Windham County Sheriff's Department and the Windham County Animal Control Officer contracts and to allow the Town Administrator and the Selectboard members to be authorized personnel under the agreements. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Traffic Ordinance Set Public Hearing Date: Morgan Wilbur suggested setting the date for July 17th because the notice is required to be in the local newspaper, *The Grafton News*, 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. After discussion regarding the process of a Public Hearing, it was decided to have the hearing begin at 5:00 pm on Monday, July 17th, and for the regular Selectboard meeting to begin immediately following the hearing and to be so warned.

6. Septic Pumping Letters: Morgan Wilbur said the 1st round of septic letters will be mailed the coming week. This letter is sent to homeowners within the Septic Pumping Ordinance map whose septic tanks were last pumped in 2019.

7. Additional Wastewater Grant: Seth Pajcic began the discussion by giving an update. On May 22nd, the Selectboard received a letter from Tighe & Bond requesting an amendment, which included a budget increase of \$34,300 to the 60% project phase. Pajcic explained the budget increase was due to the extensive work it took for the Wastewater group to find a feasible site within the village. To date, Pajcic confirmed that Tighe & Bond's total billings were \$27,700, which the town had been fully reimbursed for by the state. In terms of repayment, Pajcic explained there were two options presented. The first option is an amendment to the original engineering planning advance (EPA) loan of \$92,500 to request the additional \$34,300, then the town would have to repay the loan, but only if the project moves to the construction phase. The other option would be to apply for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) from the US EPA. This option includes 100% loan forgiveness.

Emily Hackett from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources suggested the town apply for the CWSRF subsidy money since it is a faster process that would allow the project to continue as needed. Joe Pollio asked if there were any questions from the public. Town Treasurer Kim Record requested clarification if the CWSRF is completely forgiven or if interest would need to be paid. Hackett explained that it is entirely forgiven. Pajcic mentioned the 85 parcels in the system would ultimately be responsible for paying for the system. Liisa Kissel asked how those parcels were identified. Erin Moore from Tighe & Bond explained there was a diagram presented at the 30% phase meeting which included a ¼ mile buffer zone outside of the village. Morgan Wilbur will share the graphic with Kissel. Moore said this would be discussed more at the 60% phase meeting. Hackett said it is up to the town if the connection to the system is mandatory or voluntary. Pajcic asked about the potential impact of the new federal drinking water standards. Moore gave a summary saying that the current standard of PFAS is 20 parts per trillion. The EPA proposed new standard would be 4 parts per trillion. She said the EPA federal standards should be in place by the end of 2023.

Charles Bonin said that regular testing of his well by the state had been taking place at his property on School Street. Bonin said that his well had failed several times with the current standard and would likely continue to fail with the new standard in place. He said other wells on Pleasant Street and School Street would also likely fail with the new standard. He said that he felt remediation efforts with his well had stalled at the state level, though he had been in constant contact with Kim Caldwell. Hackett said they are working to find where exactly the contamination is. Moore said revisiting the water issue is part of their scope. Pollio urged Bonin to continue to question the state about his situation.

Kissel and Wendy Martin asked how short-term rentals and seasonal homes within the village relate to how the cost would be distributed. Moore said pump run time, meters, etc. can work with the systems, which should be taken into account by the town. Pajcic asked when the application for the CWSRF needs to be completed. Hackett said as soon as possible because the cycle runs with the state's fiscal year, which ends on June 30; she will send the paperwork to Pajcic and Wilbur.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to approve the additional \$34,300 CWSRF subsidy in order to move forward with the project; the town will not bear any cost to get to the 60% meeting. Motion passed with a vote of 4-1 (John Gregory).

8. Planting shrub at Wilson Park for Joan Lake: It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to approve the planting of a shrub at the Wilson Park in memory of Joan Lake. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Village Park Kiosk: Margo Matt gave an overview of what the Park Volunteers have done thus far in the park, including hanging trail signs, routine maintenance on the trails, and they anticipate a porta-potty being delivered in the coming week. They plan to have a centennial Village Park celebration the morning of the Community Picnic on July 29th at 9:30 am. She encouraged people to enjoy the trails and to donate funds to go towards the construction of a trailside educational lean-to. Matt explained that the volunteers would like to move a kiosk closer to Fire Pond Road so visitors can easily see the sign. Joe Pollio mentioned they would just need to be careful about staying out of the town right-of-way. Mike Faulkner said he would meet with Matt and choose a good place for the kiosk. Matt also requested assistance from the highway crew with digging the holes. Faulkner said they would be able to help later in August/September. Kim Record asked if the lean-to would affect the Town's insurance. Morgan Wilbur will follow up on that.

10. Highway Report: Mike Faulkner said the street sweeper was in town the previous Friday and suggested to the Selectboard that the budget be increased for that service in the future. He also stated that Truck #1 had been repaired from an incident that occurred the previous December. The highway crew had replaced two culverts on Fisher Hill, was doing grant work on Anderson Road, and mowing the poisonous parsnip on the edges of the roads.

11. Clerk/Treasurer:

Unlicensed Dog List: Kim Record reported there were 3 unlicensed dogs that have not been registered since last year. Record will present this list to the Animal Control Officer who will handle it further, in accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 3590.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, for Kim Record to notify the Animal Control Officer of the known unregistered dogs. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: Cathy Siano-Goodwin said she and Seth Pajcic still needed to connect with Mike Faulkner and Morgan Wilbur to do their reviews.

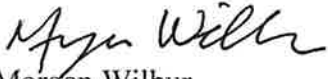
13. Other Business: There was no Other Business.

14. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

15. Next regular meeting: Monday, June 19, 2023, at 6 pm.

16. Adjourn. It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Rich Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Morgan Wilbur