

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

Monday, July 17, 2023

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, Wendy Martin, Kim Record, Mike Faulkner, Colby Record, Amber Stevens, Liisa Kissel, Christine Tattersall, Kirk Goodwin, Pam Robinson, Ray Robinson, Hardy Merrill, Don Dougall, Sam Battaglino, Patsy Ellis, Patrick Cooperman, John Patterson, Nicole Pilson, and Joanne Plummer

Present online: Nancy Merrill, FactTV, Charles Bonin, and Eric Stevens

1. Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:22 pm.
2. Adopt Agenda: Joe Pollio requested to add Action After Public Hearing 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 July 5, 2023, meeting: It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by John Gregory, to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2023, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Approve Minutes of the July 10, 2023, Emergency Meeting: It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Rich Thompson, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, Emergency Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Action on Traffic Ordinance: John Gregory stated he would like to see 2 stop signs placed on the north and south sides of the intersection. Mike Faulkner said it would be challenging for a large truck to stop on the bridge if trying to travel toward Grafton. Joe Pollio said he would check with the Windham County Sheriff's Department to see where exactly the speed limit change needs to occur. Maureen Parker also suggested increasing the contracted hours for the sheriff to 12 hours per month, rather than 8 hours.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory, to put 2 stop signs (north and south) at the Cambridgeport Intersection and to change the speed limit to 35 mph from the intersection to the Athens/Grafton town line. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Primary Contact for WRC regarding Wastewater Project: It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory, to appoint Joe Pollio & Seth Pajcic as points of contact for the Windham Regional Commission for the Wastewater Project. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Dick Desrochers' Culvert: John Gregory stated replacement of this culvert is still on the schedule for replacement during the FY 2024-2025 year. He said FEMA typically wouldn't pay

for replacement, in connection with the 7/9-10 Rain Event, since the culvert itself was not fully destroyed. Gregory said we would still try for another grant; if the Town moved forward with purchasing the culvert, it would not have any effect on potentially getting a grant. Kim Record and Mike Faulkner recommended purchasing the culvert now.

It was moved by Rich Thompson, seconded by John Gregory, to purchase the culvert for replacement of culvert #34 on Middletown Road. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Lawrence & Lober to install an outlet in the Town Administrator's office: Kim Record said there is an outlet that the cyber security and internet are plugged into that does not work. For some reason, the electricians can't figure out why the outlet doesn't work. The quick solution was to install a new outlet. Morgan Wilbur would check to see if they gave a quote to fix the problem. The board's consensus was to replace the outlet.

9. First Quarterly Tax Installment Date: Kim Record said she had not received the printed tax bills yet; the company that usually prints them had a computer issue that had delayed sending them out. Record asked for approval to adjust the first payment due date (which is necessary, according to state statutes).

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Rich Thompson, to give Kim Record authority to move the first payment date for the FY2024-2025 tax bills to be 30 days from the mailing date. Motion passed unanimously.

10. 7/9-10 Rain Event Loan Through Community Bank: Kim Record distributed a contract through Community Bank for a line of credit of \$1 million to help pay for the 7/9-10 Rain Event. The line of credit would be available the following day. Record said FEMA does not pay back interest on any type of loan and the interest would be 5.28% fixed.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory, to authorize Kim Record as point of contact for the loan, and to approve it once everyone has had a chance to read the contract by the following morning. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Approve additional rates for the 7/9-10 Rain Event: Morgan Wilbur presented a list of additional rates to be approved; those are as follows:

- Dozer D4 or D5 @ \$150 per hour
- Tractor Trailer Dump @ \$150 per hour
- Skid steer @ \$120 per hour
- Dump Truck 4500 or 5500 @ \$100 per hour
- Ten-wheeler dump truck @ \$120 per hour
- Labor @ \$65 per hour

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory to approve the list presented. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Highway Report: Mike Faulkner reported there were only two roads, Kidder Hill Road and Anderson Road, with large holes to be filled in. They would continue ditching, stone lining, and adding gravel to several roads. He mentioned that paving on some sections of the roads also

needed to be repaired. Debris cleanup and putting rip rap on banks will take place in the following days. Seth Pajcic thanked the highway crew and the contractors for their work.

13. Clerk/Treasurer: There was no discussion.

14. Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: There was no discussion.

15. Other Business: Cathy Siano-Goodwin said the school board chair has resigned; Athens is looking for another member to join the school board.

16. Public Comment: Wendy Martin asked if any Selectboard members had visited Kidder Hill Road to look at the significant damage caused to Patsy Ellis' house and yard. Ellis said approximately 15-20 feet of her lawn got washed away during the recent storm and exposed a now-crushed drainage pipe/culvert that runs through the village beginning at the ballfield. Joe Pollio said they'd have to contact the Windham Foundation since they put the pipe in; there was a brief discussion about ownership of the culvert—the town or the Windham Foundation. Ellis said she would provide the board with documentation she had received when she purchased the property from Rosie Wilson. Martin said it would be appreciated if someone could come by to look at that property and the one next door to it, where the Brailsfords own. She said the house is uninhabitable due to damage.

Nicole Pilson said she also lost a great deal of her property due to the river that runs behind her property on Route 121 West (Houghtonville, next to the Cabell Bridge) and her lawn is now quite dangerous. Ellis, Pilson, and John Patterson were requesting guidance on how to get their properties repaired. Pollio said Bill Kearns would know more information regarding the NRCS program that helps individual properties. Patrick Cooperman said it's important that people know about contacting charitable organizations to get assistance. Amber Stevens said there is \$20,000 through an Ames Holt grant for homeowners who have mold/health concerns due to flooding.

Martin asked how homeowners could get on a list for FEMA buyouts. Kim Record said in the past there were several phases and requirements that would need to be met for eligibility.

Pam and Ray Robinson said their basement was flooded but they did not experience significant damage to their property since the bank was reinforced already. They asked if there was a local contractor to help with other areas of their property on Townshend Road.

17. Next regular meeting: Monday, August 7, 2023, at 6 pm.

18. Adjourn. It was moved by Rich Thompson, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Morgan Wilbur