

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

Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 6:00 pm

Present at the meeting in the Town Hall:

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

Selectboard not present: John Gregory

Also: Morgan Wilbur, Mike Faulkner, Kim Record, Colby Record, Don Dougall, Dottie Cannon, Maureen Parker, Michael Parker, Patrick Cooperman, Pamela Johnson-Spurlock, and Patrick Spurlock

Present online: Charles Bonin, Cheryl Kaufmann, Lester Schwalb, Eric Stevens, and Liisa Kissel

1. Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Adopt Agenda: It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve Minutes of the August 21, 2023, meeting: It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2023, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Discussion about a signed petition for Cambridgeport Intersection: Cathy Siano-Goodwin began the conversation by saying she feels people speed through the intersection and that having 2 stop signs would slow them down. Michael Parker feels the intersection should remain how it is at present, with a stop sign coming from Athens and a yield sign coming from Grafton. Pamela Johnson-Spurlock said her main concern was that people don't yield; rather, they speed up. Seth Pajcic explained that the Selectboard has two options: do nothing and leave the intersection how it is or hold a Special Town Meeting for the town to vote on it. Maureen Parker said stop signs do not mitigate speed, according to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and that enforcement of the signs is needed. Joe Pollio said they have asked the sheriff to patrol the whole town to help with speeders on various roads. Parker said that if the main problem is speeding, she suggests increasing the sheriff's budget and then waiting to see if that helps the situation. Johnson-Spurlock said this issue was about safety. They do not feel comfortable with the school bus stopping at their residence to pick up their child because of the speeding problems. Siano-Goodwin said there are young children all around the intersection. Parker suggested adding a "yield to bridge traffic" sign and increase the enforcement. Consistent signage and markings on the pavement are crucial. Parker also said the speed limits entering the intersection should all be consistent so there is no confusion. Pajcic said that both parties are passionate and should be heard. Rich Thompson said it's important to reevaluate the sheriff's contract. There was a question about who would be liable if the Town did not decide to go with the State's recommendation of putting 3 stop signs, at the very least 2 stop signs. Pajcic and

Parker both said it would be the responsibility of the motor vehicle operator not the Town if an accident were to happen.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to have a Special Town Meeting on this issue. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Open bids: Selectboard Clerk, Rich Thompson opened the bids.

- Front Walkway at Town Hall: Three bids were submitted: Record Concrete (refusal letter), Stoneman Masonry Company (refusal letter), and Noyes Masonry (\$6,000 using reclaimed granite or \$5,200 using new granite for the full length of the building).
- Stone Wall at Village Pump: Three bids were submitted: Mike Waysville (refusal letter), Noyes Masonry (\$20,000), and Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance (\$4,950).

6. Award bids:

- Paving on Fisher Hill Road: Bazin Bros. Trucking, Inc. (\$57,250).
- Paving on State-Aid Roads: Bazin Bros. Trucking, Inc. (\$112,000).

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Rich Thompson, to award Bazin Bros. Trucking, Inc. the Paving on Fisher Hill Road and Paving on State-Aid Roads. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Highway Report: Mike Faulkner reported that the Hinkley Brook Road box culvert was installed, and the road is passable. Jamie Gregory Trucking & Excavating, the awarded contractor, will be working on the Putnam Forest Road box culvert over the coming week. Once that is complete, guard rails will be placed at both locations (Hinkley Brook and Putnam Forest). Gregory would then move to replace the culvert on Dick Desrochers' property on Middletown Road. Faulkner also said there was a 30" culvert that needed to be replaced on Cabell Road. Joe Pollio mentioned the Bell Road box culvert project would not be awarded at this time because the Town is waiting on guidance from FEMA in regard to funding that project.

8. Clerk/Treasurer: Kim Record gave an update on the flood financials, saying the budget looked fine currently, but she may need to use some of the \$1 million line of credit through Community Bank. At the next meeting, she will give quarterly reports and ask to set dates for the budgeting process.

9. Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: There was no report.

10. Other Business: Kim Record said Mike Waysville fixed the headstones in the Houghtonville & Village cemeteries which cost \$2,480. He will continue with the other cemeteries next year.

Joe Pollio said he spoke with Bob Donald, CEO of the Windham Foundation, and they have agreed to cover 50% of the cost for the replacement of the long culvert that runs from the ballfield in the village, down Pleasant Street, and into the Saxtons River. Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked if this was in writing. Pollio said he would ask for a written agreement from the Windham

Foundation. Record asked if the Windham Foundation has a new attorney. Pollio said they currently have the same attorney as the Town, but at this point, it is not a conflict.

Rich Thompson said an anonymous individual inquired about any changes to the Act 250 permit for the Hitchcock Firewood operation at 3392 Route 121 East. The individual raised this question because of concerns about working past operation hours. Cathy Siano-Goodwin mentioned Scott Hitchcock was in the process of purchasing the building and property. Record said the sale had not yet gone through, but it was in the works. Morgan Wilbur said she was not aware of any changes to the Act 250 permit but would let the board know if there were.

Pollio said a voting delegate needed to be elected to speak on the Selectboard's behalf at the VLCT Town Fair on September 26th and 27th. No board members would be available to attend, but Wilbur planned to.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Rich Thompson, to elect Morgan Wilbur the voting delegate for the VLCT Town Fair on September 26th and 27th. Motion passed unanimously.

Pollio reminded the public to attend the 60% Wastewater Presentation on Wednesday, September 6th at 6 p.m. at the Grafton Elementary School.

11. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

12. Next regular meeting: Monday, September 18, 2023, at 6 p.m.

12. Adjourn. It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Rich Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Morgan Wilbur