

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

Monday, November 20, 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, Don Dougall, Denise Martin, Dottie Cannon, Colby Record, Liisa Kissel, and Sam Battaglino

Present online: Amber Stevens, Hardy Merrill, Donna Alexander, and Charles Bonin

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

2. Adopt Agenda: It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Rich Thompson to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approve Minutes of the November 2, 2023, Vicious Dog Hearing meeting: It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory, to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2023, Vicious Dog Hearing meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approve Minutes of the November 6, 2023, meeting: It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2023, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Wastewater Agreement: Seth Pajcic said there is a grant available to the Town for \$3,968,331 which can be used for the construction of the project, or if the Town chooses not to pursue that it could cover the installation of filtration systems in homes that have a high PFAS level. Pajcic also said if the Town of Grafton does not sign the grant agreement, the money will be given to another town, therefore, he thought it would be a mistake to not move forward with signing. Rich Thompson asked if there was any cost from the Town to sign the agreement. Pajcic said no, there would be no, there would be no cost to the Town for utilizing the grant.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to authorize Morgan Wilbur to sign the 06140-2023-ARPA-VWWW-01 grant agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Dog Ordinance Adoption: Joe Pollio said that at the recent vicious dog hearing, the Selectboard learned a lot and realized that the current dog ordinance in place did not make sense and did not give the Selectboard any authority to properly handle those situations. Seth Pajcic drafted a new *Ordinance Regulating Dogs and Wolf-Hybrids*, with assistance from VLCT. Pajcic said that at the hearing, the Selectboard could only make suggestions to the vicious dog owner and they did not have any authority to give explicit direction. Denise Martin asked what kind of power the ordinance gives the Selectboard. Pajcic said if it came to it, the Selectboard could

order the dog to be put down. Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked if the ordinance clearly defines premises and provoked dogs. Pajcic said that it did. Rich Thompson said he thought, as a prior Health Officer, that the power of the Selectboard was there. Pollio said that the old ordinance, it allowed them to make recommendations, but they were not able to give orders. Martin asked how many chances a dog gets before having to be euthanized. Pajcic said the individual(s) would still need to ask for a public hearing and then based on evidence, the Selectboard would make the determination. Siano-Goodwin said the *Ordinance Regulating Dogs and Wolf-Hybrids* is really for the safety of the general public. Morgan Wilbur said a copy of the ordinance would be available on the Town Website for the public to view.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Rich Thompson, to approve the *Ordinance Regulating Dogs and Wolf-Hybrids*. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists (UM/UIM): Seth Pajcic said the Town has always carried \$250,000 per occurrence in uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage. He said that VLCT is giving the Town an opportunity to raise that amount, however, he feels that \$250,000 per occurrence is sufficient. There were some questions in regard to what that covered. Pajcic clarified by saying it covered any injury to town employees in case of an accident.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory, to approve the \$250,000 per occurrence for uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage and to authorize Morgan Wilbur to sign the coverage form. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Highway Report: Colby Record reported that Lafayette would be in town repairing the damaged guard rails on Route 121 East on Wednesday. Mike Faulkner and Morgan Wilbur met with Scott Jensen to get updated hydrology studies on Stagecoach Road culvert #2 and Cabell Road bridge #B38 for upcoming grants. John Gregory asked if Jensen also looked at an alternative way to drain water from the ballfield in the village. Wilbur said that Jensen didn't feel comfortable giving a recommendation; he said we should ask a consultant. Joe Pollio asked if Green Mountain Power had begun the work on Stagecoach Road. Record said they were still bringing in materials but had not started excavation yet.

Morgan Wilbur presented a draft request for proposals for repair to the stone wall at the Village Pump Park. The damage was caused by the July rainstorm and the repair would be funded by FEMA.

It was moved by Rich Thomspson, seconded by John Gregory, to approve the bid for the presented request for proposals for the Village Pump Park. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Clerk/Treasurer: There was no report.

10. Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: Cathy Siano-Goodwin and Seth Pajcic said the committee had 2 interested candidates; 1 was highly qualified and the other was not. Pajcic mentioned they planned to continue running the job ad. Rich Thompson asked if running the ad for longer was necessary if

they had a qualified individual. Pajcic said the only downfall is that the person is a relative of someone who already is employed by the town. Joe Pollio asked if the person knew Grafton roads. Colby Record said he grew up in Town and is very involved with organizations within the Town. Pajcic said he was a certified mechanic and had his CDL. After further discussion, it was decided to hire the qualified person rather than push the ad out further.

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to hire Lain Stevens at \$24/hour for the *Equipment Operator/Truck Driver* position and that he would report directly to Mike Faulkner and Colby Record and that Morgan Wilbur would not be involved in any discussion regarding pay, work issues, etc. Motion passed unanimously. Pajcic will call Stevens to communicate the offer as stated.

Cemetery Committee: John Gregory reported that the expansion of the Houghtonville Cemetery is put on hold until the Spring. One of the abutting property owners listed his property for sale and had requested the committee wait until he could make a determination if he'd like to move forward. Gregory mentioned there was a site on Bull Hill however, they aren't sure if the property owners still wanted to discuss a potential cemetery. Gregory said the road getting to the location is in rough shape and would need significant work, but there would be 7-8 acres of available space.

11. Other Business: Joe Pollio said Seth Pajcic, Morgan Wilbur, and himself met with Tighe & Bond and the State to further discuss the Wastewater project. From the meetings, they had recommended the Town meet with an attorney who was familiar with forming fire districts. Bill Kearns had recommended Stephen Ankuda. Pollio said that Ankuda's time would be fully covered by the grant, therefore, there would be no cost to the Town. Pollio hopes that Ankuda will be available to come to a public meeting and answer many questions. He also mentioned he and Pajcic had thought about asking Ankuda to be the Town Attorney, rather than Lawrence Slason, to avoid any conflicts since Slason also represents the Windham Foundation. John Gregory expressed concern regarding Wilbur's time spent on the wastewater project since her salary is paid from the Town budget and is not being covered by a grant. Pollio said her time could be reimbursed through the grant. Pajcic said the Town would request reimbursement after paying invoices. Pollio also mentioned sending a letter to the residents in the proposed fire district to explain the process and encouraged forming the district to happen right away. If the district did not want the wastewater system, then the whole project would stop. Denise Martin mentioned that there is not a Selectboard member who would be directly affected by the system since they don't live in the village. Cathy Siano-Goodwin said that she had been involved with the Planning Commission and had met with representatives. Don Dougall said once the fire district is formed, they would make their own rules. Pajcic clarified saying that they can make their own rules but would still need to follow State Law. Pajcic also said if someone can vote at the Town Meeting and resides in the district, they can vote for or against the formation of the fire district. Wilbur would post the *How to Form a Fire District* document on the Town Website.

12. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

13. Set Capital Budget Hearing Date & Time: Morgan Wilbur suggested having the Capital Budget Hearing be held at 5:45 p.m. on December 4th which would be just prior to the regular Selectboard meeting. Everyone agreed.

11. Next regular meeting: Monday, December 4, 2023, at 6 pm.

12. Adjourn. It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Rich Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Wilbur
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