

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

Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 6:00 pm

Present at the meeting in the Town Hall:

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

Selectboard not present: Rich Thompson

Also: Morgan Wilbur, Hardy Merrill, Dottie Cannon, Mike Faulkner, Colby Record, Amber Stevens, Kim Record, Patrick Cooperman, Lisa Record, Ann Record, Liisa Kissel, and Sam Battaglino

Present online: Suzanne Welch, Nancy Merrill, Wendy Martin, Cheryl Kaufman, FactTV, Lain Stevens, Charles Bonin, Cheryl Kaufman, and Donna Alexander

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

2. Adopt Agenda: Morgan Wilbur requested the Selectboard add awarding the Village Pump Park bids to the agenda after the committee reports.

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

3. Approve Minutes of the December 18, 2023, meeting: It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Action after Capital Budget Hearing: Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked if the Town could lease equipment rather than financing. Hardy Merrill said the Town would need to pursue options such as leasing by going to a company that allows it. Mike Faulkner said it is typically handled as a lease-to-own situation, and the Town eventually owns the vehicle or equipment after the lease is paid.

It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to accept the recommendations from the Capital Budget Committee as presented at the Capital Budget Public Hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Kidder Hill Bridge Insurance: Wendy Martin said she was talking to an individual and they questioned why the Kidder Hill Bridge was no longer insured. She asked if the bridge was not insured and if something happened to it, how would it be paid for. Joe Pollio said the amount of insurance did not even begin to cover the cost of replacement. Kim Record said it was originally insured because it was a covered bridge, however, no other bridge structure in town was insured.

6. Village Park Grant Agreement: Morgan Wilbur said she will be receiving a grant agreement from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation for the installation of the learning center project at the Village Park but would need authority to sign the agreement. Seth Pajcic asked how much the grant covered. Wilbur said total project costs came to \$36,975.60 but with the 20% match, the grant would cover \$29,580.48. Kim Record asked how the 20% match would be paid for. Wilbur said that most of it is from the park Volunteers' labor and \$1,500 from the Town of Grafton Village Park Fund. Record said that the budget line item was taken out for the fiscal year 2024-2025. Wilbur and Record will look into it further.

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to authorize Morgan Wilbur, the Town Administrator to sign the grant agreement for the Village Park Learning Center. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Highway Report: Colby Record said the Highway Crew had been grading the dirt roads to minimize the large ruts that had been created from the warm weather. They hope to cut some trees on Stagecoach Road as part of grant work. Mike Faulkner said Record went out in the middle of the night and ran the grader for approximately 5 hours. Then, the rest of the crew went out the next morning to put gravel down, all to deal with the ruts. Seth Pajcic and Hardy Merrill thanked them for the work they did on Route 121 West/Houghtonville Road because it made a big difference.

8. Clerk/Treasurer: Kim Record said that petitions are due back in her office on January 29th. She said that the presidential primary coincides with Town Meeting Day on March 5 so she is hoping for quite a few people to attend Town Meeting. She advised the Selectboard to set a date for the Pre-Town Meeting. After some discussion, it was determined that Morgan Wilbur would ask the school if the gymnasium was available for Thursday, February 29th, or Monday, February 26th for Pre-Town Meeting.

Record then said that last week, she had worked with Ashley Pinger, the Animal Control Officer to coordinate a rabies clinic. Pinger and the veterinarian will be at the Town Hall on January 12 & 26, February 9 & 23, and March 8 & 22 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The Grafton Improvement Association is willing to sponsor the event by covering the cost of vaccinations (\$22 per vaccine). Dog owners will need to bring their prior rabies certification. Record will also be at the Town Hall during the clinic for people to register their dogs at the same time. Cost for dog licenses is \$9 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$13 for dogs that are not spayed/neutered. Record said this information would be advertised on the Town website, Facebook page, and through email.

Record also said she would be holding a BCA meeting at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16th, which is just before a regular Selectboard meeting.

9. Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: Seth Pajcic said that Mike Faulkner is resigning and that the Selectboard would need to appoint a new Road Foreman. The Personnel Committee recommended that Colby Record take on this role. Pajcic said that Record had been the Assistant Foreman and had done a good job and seemed to be ready for the Foreman position. Pajcic also thanked Faulkner for his 19 years of hard work and dedication to the town highway crew.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to appoint Colby Record as the Road Foreman beginning on January 9, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Award Village Pump Park Bids: Seth Pajcic read the bids:

- Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance: \$16,350
- P&L Trucking Inc.: \$18,950
- Daniels Construction: \$49,500

John Gregroy reviewed the bids and recommended low bidder Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance be awarded the bid.

It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to award the Village Pump Park Bid to Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance in the amount of \$16,350. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Other Business: Joe Pollio requested a moment of silence for Stan Mack who recently passed. Mack had served on the Selectboard for many years, was always very involved in the community and Fire Department, and will be greatly missed.

12. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

13. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2023, at 6 pm.

14. Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313: At 6:25 p.m., it was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel, per 1 V.S.A. § 313. Motion passed unanimously.

At 6:42 p.m., it was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to exit Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to increase Road Foreman Colby Record's salary to \$30/hour with a 6-month probationary period, for the Personnel Committee to have an exit interview with Mike Faulkner, and to run a job ad for an Equipment Operator/Truck Driver. Motion passed unanimously.

15. Adjourn. It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory, to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Wilbur

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