

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

Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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, Kirk Goodwin, Suzanne Welch, Sam Battaglini, Kim Record, Wendy Martin, and Steve Sargent.

Present online: Robbie Sprague, Liisa Kissel, Dottie Cannon, Jessica Moseley, Donna Alexander, Charles Bonin, Elaine Jardine, and Joe Hayden

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

2. Adopt Agenda: Joe Pollio requested the agenda be amended to include an Executive Session to discuss personnel per 1 V.S.A. § 313 after item #13 (next regular meeting).

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 January 2, 2024, Capital Budget Hearing: It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024, Capital Budget Hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approve Minutes of the January 2, 2024, meeting: It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approve Warning for Town Meeting: Cathy Siano-Goodwin said she would have the articles for the school the following day. Kim Record said she would include those in the Town Report. Morgan Wilbur said the warning that has been presented will remain the same, unless a petition is filed before Friday, January 19th. All board members signed the warning with the understanding that if there was a petition filed, a special meeting would be called to adopt a new warning.

It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to approve and adopt the articles as written for the Town Meeting on March 5, 2024, given no other petitions are submitted by Friday, January 19, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Firearm Use: Seth Pajcic said a resident in Houghtonville had a concern regarding their neighbor firing a semi-automatic weapon close to their home. Pajcic told the resident that the Selectboard does not have any policy or ordinance regulating this type of thing and that they follow state statutes. The resident spoke with their neighbor and ultimately came to an agreement that both parties were comfortable with.

7. MVP Coverage: Morgan Wilbur said the Town pays for MVP Coverage one month in advance. Therefore, in December, coverage for the month of January was paid. When Mike Faulkner ended his employment on January 9th, MVP requested confirmation that the coverage would carry Faulkner until January 31st, rather than ending on his end date of January 9th. Rich Thompson said he didn't have any concerns about this one-time instance, but in the future coverage should end on the last day of employment.

It was moved by Rich Thompson, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to carry Mike Faulkner's MVP Insurance until January 31, 2024, and this would be a one-time occurrence. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Highway Report:

2025 Model Tandem Axle Truck Request for Proposals: John Gregory said that he and Colby Record reviewed the presented request for proposal. He said it did not include a one-way plow and wing but is required. Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked if we'd sell the old one. Gregory said it would likely go with the trade of the truck.

It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Rich Thompson to approve the presented 2025 Model Tandem Axle Truck Request for Proposals with the addition of a one-way plow. Motion passed unanimously.

Certificate of Highway Mileage: Joe Pollio said the Town is required to submit a Certificate of Highway Mileage each year to VTrans. There had been no new highways or discounted highways in the last year, thus, the mileage would not change. All board members signed the Certificate of Highway Mileage for the year ending February 10, 2024.

It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Rich Thompson, to approve no changes of highway mileage and to submit the Certificate of Highway Mileage to VTrans. Motion passed unanimously.

Suzanne Welch thanked the Selectboard and the highway crew for their recent work in keeping the roads clear of snow. She asked the Selectboard if the sidewalk on the Village Bridge could be shoveled. John Gregory said he would speak with the highway crew and ensure the snow would be removed after each storm.

9. Clerk/Treasurer: Kim Record reported that the first rabies clinic was on Friday, January 12th and 2 dogs were vaccinated and registered with the town. She does anticipate more dogs at the next clinic on January 26th. Record reminded the Selectboard that the Grafton Improvement Association will be paying for the rabies vaccine for each dog and paying the vet directly. Record also said that petitions for office are due on January 29th. She plans to finalize the Town Report on Friday, January 19th, and then send it to the printers. She anticipates approximately a week for the reports to be back in the Town Hall available for pick up.

10. Committee Reports:

Wastewater Committee: Seth Pajcic contacted Tighe & Bond to get an update and said they would be writing a letter to the committee by the end of the week discussing how to move forward, given the withdrawal of the Spring Hill Farm property.

Personnel Committee: Seth Pajcic said they would discuss in Executive Session.

11. Other Business: Kim Record spoke of needing to either borrow or bond money soon. With the July 2023 flood and the Walker Bridge expenses, the reserve funds will be depleted. She had contacted the bond bank, and they said the interest rate would be around 1.5-2%. She said the Town also has a line of credit of \$1 million. John Gregory recommended the Selectboard contact the Emergency Management Director, Bill Kearns, to get an update on where filing for reimbursement from FEMA stands. After some discussion, it was decided that Morgan Wilbur would invite Kearns to the next regular meeting to give an update.

12. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

13. Next regular meeting: Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6 pm.

14. Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313: At 6:31 p.m., it was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel, per 1 V.S.A. § 313, and to invite Morgan Wilbur into the discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

At 7:00 p.m., it was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Rich Thompson, to exit Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Adjourn. It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Seth Pajcic, to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Wilbur

Morgan Wilbur