

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

Monday, August 5, 2024, 6:00 pm

Present at the meeting in the Town Hall:

Selectboard: Chair Joe Pollio, Vice Chair Cathy Siano-Goodwin, John Gregory, Steve Sargent, and Anna Keegan

Also: Morgan Wilbur, Kim Record, Colby Record, Skip Lisle, Elise Lisle, Dottie Cannon, Kirk Goodwin, Mary Howard Feder, Sam Battaglino, Wendy Martin, Susan Senatori, Liisa Kissel, Joe Neal, Oliver Schemm, Laurie Danforth, and David Hall

Present online: Lain Stevens, Nancy Merrill, Eric Stevens, and Charlie Bonin

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

2. Adopt Agenda: It was moved by Steve Sargent, seconded by John Gregory to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approve Minutes of the July 15, 2024, meeting: It was moved by Anna Keegan, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2024, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Beaver Discussion: Cathy Siano-Goodwin began the discussion by stating that Skip Lisle had emailed the Selectboard about some concerns, but he had not heard back from board members. Therefore, Siano-Goodwin asked Lisle to attend a meeting. She also apologized for not responding in a timely fashion. Lisle provided some background on why beaver deceivers benefit the town. These deceivers help with flood abatement and overall water quality by purifying the downstream water. Lisle said that on occasion when a deceiver is beside a road, they can act as fire ponds. He stated that he met with the Selectboard before installing the beaver deceiver on Louis Marshall Road and there was a unanimous decision to install it. He also said that it is illegal to drain wetlands and kill beavers outside of the hunting season. Siano-Goodwin said that the work Lisle does is amazing, and she felt that the board values his work and hopes he can continue. Lisle offered to provide training to the Highway crew, if necessary. Joe Pollio thanked Lisle for the offer and hoped he could meet with the Highway crew soon to provide training. Pollio also felt it was important for Lisle to explain how these beaver deceivers work and the importance of them to the crew.

5. Library Board of Trustees Appointment: Morgan Wilbur explained that Kathleen Pajcic resigned from the Library Board of Trustees, therefore, the library board recommended appointing Galen Johnson to fulfill Pajcic's term.

It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Anna Keegan, to appoint Galen Johnson as a Trustee for the Library to fulfill Kathleen Pajcic's term ending at the Town Meeting in 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Highway Report: Colby Record said that the new loader is expected to be delivered to the Highway Garage on Wednesday, the 7th. The crew had been working on grant work on Stagecoach Road, which needed to be completed by the end of September. Otherwise, Record said they are continuing to grade various roads. Joe Pollio noticed that Lain Stevens had been grading that day and had taken his time but did a good job. Record said that he does a great job for just learning the machine. Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked if they were doing more roadside mowing. Record said they would be mowing on Stagecoach Road and Hall Ranch Road and then back on Route 121 where the knotweed had grown back up.

Hydroseeder: Colby Record explained that they are required to seed and mulch all ditches where there is exposed soil. He explained the cost difference in mulch hay compared to hydroseed, stating that bales of hay are much more expensive than hydroseed. Joe Pollio said that the Town is tight with money as it is, but recommended Record talk to Hardy Merrill, the Chair of the Capital Budget. Pollio said if it can't be purchased this year, the Selectboard could look at putting it in the budget for the following year. Cathy Siano-Goodwin also recommended contacting MJS Landscaping since they have experience with hydroseeders.

Schemm driveway: Oliver Schemm explained that he owns the house at 108 Route 121 East and explained the water drainage issue from water coming off the road. He said that years ago, he raised his driveway, but the apron of the pavement has an abrupt entrance to the driveway. Schemm also said there was a drain, he remembered, but it had been clogged and eventually was filled in. After some discussion, it was decided that the highway crew would install a drain to take care of the water drainage issue. Colby Record explained that the grant work on Stagecoach Road needs to be complete before they leave that road, but afterwards, they could work on the drain. Schemm was in agreement.

7. Clerk/Treasurer: Kim Record said she began a conversation with the bond counsel for an anticipated line of credit. She said a town vote would be required on Australian ballot. Record said the bond counsel would assist the town with language for the warning, which she hoped to have in the middle of September, which would allow time for the warning to properly be posted and for the vote to occur on November 5th. Record also said that when asked for an update on the Walker Bridge financials, the amount for the town remains the same. She said they are on track for traffic to be on the new bridge by the middle of November.

Record also stated that the first tax installment is due on August 15th, and several have paid in full which has been helpful. She said she's been working on the checklist that was provided by the professional auditors. She encouraged the Selectboard to stop into the office when the auditors are in on August 29th and 30th. Record also said that 2 security cameras had been installed at the Town Hall and 4 will be installed at the Town Garage soon. Funding for the cameras had been provided by a grant.

Approval of Legislative Body – JPs for General Election Ballot: Kim Record said that for the Justices of the Peace to be listed on the ballot for the general election on November 5th, the legislative body needs to approve it.

It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Anna Keegan, to approve Justices of the Peace to be listed on the general election ballot and to mail a ballot to all "Active Non-Challenged" voters. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee: Joe Pollio explained that Mike Waysville was hired to repair stones at the cemeteries, but then was notified about needing to carry a worker's compensation policy. Kim Record explained that he had stones left to repair at the Middletown Cemetery. She also contacted Fenton & Hennessey and they do repair work. However, in the meantime, she said that Waysville is already an employee of the Town as the constable; therefore, he is already covered under the town's worker's compensation policy. In the future, Record suggested hiring Fenton & Hennessey because they would work with cemetery agent Austin Powers to do an inventory of broken stones on a yearly basis. That way, it is not a big expense all at once.

Joe Pollio gave an update about the Village Cemetery fence. The highway crew were working on building it and they would straighten the gate as well.

July 2023 Committee: Morgan Wilbur gave an update by stating she and Bill Kearns met with FEMA earlier in the day. The projects are moving forward and she and Kearns continue to answer any questions that arise.

9. Town Website Upgrade: Morgan Wilbur said she was hoping to get some amount approved for updating the Town Website. She said the website needs to be more user-friendly, but didn't know how much money would be authorized to spend to do so. Anna Keegan recommended asking some companies to give a proposal and then the board would be able to make a decision.

10. Other Business: There was no Other Business.

11. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

12. Next regular meeting: Monday, August 19, 2024, at 6 pm.

13. At 6:40 pm, it was moved by Steve Sargent, seconded by John Gregory, to go into Executive Session to discuss "evaluation of employees" per 1 VSA § 313 (3) and to invite Colby Record. Motion passed unanimously.

At 7:42 p.m., it was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Anna Keegan, to exit Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Anna Keegan, to increase Morgan Wilbur's salary to \$30/hour retroactively to July 1st, to increase Colby Record's salary to \$33/hour retroactively to July 1st, to increase Lain Stevens' salary to \$26/hour retroactively to March 1st and to be given vacation time per the Personnel Policy, and to extend David Rogers' probationary period for Assistant Road Foreman for an additional 3 months at a salary of \$29/hour. Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Steve Sargent, to advertise for an Equipment Operator/Truck Driver position and to run the advertisement for 2 weeks. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Adjourn. It was moved by Anna Keegan, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Morgan Wilbur
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