

**MINUTES SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
BUDGET 2025-2026
Grafton Town Hall Upstairs In Person/Live
With accommodation for persons unable to attend in person via interactive Zoom**

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 4:00 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 and Kim Record

Present online: Charlie Bonin

Call to order: The Chair called the special meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Adopt Agenda: It was moved by Steve Sargent, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Stormwater Master Plan: Joe Pollio said that Margo Ghia from the Windham Regional Commission had attended the November 4, 2024, Selectboard meeting to explain the stormwater master planning project. Pollio felt it was a “no-brainer” to pursue the stormwater master plan.

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by John Gregory, to move forward with the Stormwater Master Planning process and to notify Margo Ghia from the Windham Regional Commission to begin the process. Motion passed unanimously.

3. 20-ton Trailer Bid – Review: Morgan Wilbur explained that Colby Record wrote up the request for proposals for a new 20-ton trailer. Wilbur said the request was very straightforward and clear. John Gregory said the current trailer is not worth putting on the road, it is very unsafe. Gregory estimated a new trailer would cost approximately \$30,000 and he spoke with the Capital Budget Committee who said there was money available for this purchase. Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked if the current trailer could be repaired. Gregory stated that it is in very bad condition and cannot be repaired; it is a safety issue.

It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Steve Sargent, to advertise the Request for Proposals for the 20-ton Dovetail Trailer. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget for 2025-2026: Kim Record summarized the minor changes within the anticipated budget. There was some discussion about putting \$50,000 in debt services for the Walker Bridge. Record received 2 debt service schedules, one would defer the first interest payment to 11/1/2026 and has an interest rate of 3.31%. The other schedule included the first principal payment on 11/1/2025 with an interest rate of 3.17%. After some discussion, it was decided to keep \$50,000 in the FY25-26 budget. Some other increases were for a single audit, a new lister’s program, and health insurance for employees.

5. Other Business: Morgan Wilbur said she had received an agreement from Catalis for a new program for the Listers. Kim Record said that the program is what the Listers use for all of their work such as the data for the Lister Cards/property cards. There were some questions about if this is the only program that could be used and if it was necessary. Wilbur said she would talk with Hardy Merrill, Chair of the Listers.

Morgan Wilbur said that the Selectboard would need to hire someone to be the Municipal Project Manager (MPM) for the Fisher Hill Road culvert #10 project that was being funded under the Transportation Alternatives Program. Wilbur explained that the MPM is the liaison between the Town and their consultants and contractors. The MPM also needs to demonstrate familiarity with the VTrans/FHWA project development process. Wilbur said that the VTrans project manager recommended hiring the local Regional Commission. Wilbur contacted the Windham Regional Commission and Margo Ghia would be available to be the Town's MPM. The cost for her services would be \$30,000 through the whole project. Wilbur said that the cost was estimated in the grant application and would be reimbursed for.

It was moved by Anna Keegan, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to hire the Windham Regional Commission to be the Municipal Project Manager on the Grafton TAP TA24 (16) project. Motion passed unanimously.

John Gregory reminded the Selectboard to be prepared to discuss the Ordinance Regulating Dogs and Wolf-Hybrids at the next regular meeting. Anna Keegan expressed some concerns about the ordinance. She stated that if a dog is running loose on a back road (not listed within the Dog Control Area) and bites a person or attacks another dog, there should be some control. Morgan Wilbur said that if a dog bites a person or attacks any other animal, they would be considered a vicious dog and that is handled separately, which is explained in the ordinance. Keegan felt reassured but still thought the Dog Control Area should include the whole town. Further discussion would be had at the November 18, 2024 Selectboard meeting.

6. Public Comment: Cathy Siano-Goodwin said the Grafton Elementary School will host a Community Forum on Thursday, November 14, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the school. She said childcare and food will be provided.

7. Next Site Visit & Public Hearing: Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 4:00 PM

8. Next Regular Selectboard meeting: Monday, November 18, 2024, at 6 PM

7. Adjourn. It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Anna Keegan, to adjourn the special meeting at 5:07 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Morgan Wilbur
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