

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

**Monday, March 3, 2025, 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: Sam Battaglini, Dottie Cannon, Mary Howard Feder, GailAnn Fisher, David Hall, Liisa Kissel, Hardy Merrill, Suzanne Welch, and Wendy Martin.

Present online: FactTV, Charlie Bonin, Nancy Merrill, and Ryan Sylvestri.

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

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

3. Approve Minutes of the February 18, 2025, meeting: It was moved by Anna Keegan, seconded by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2025, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Reappraisal Discussion and Proposal: Hardy Merrill said that the last Townwide reappraisal was completed in 2021 and it was now necessary to perform a statistical appraisal, as he had explained at the meeting of February 18th. He explained that it was a matter of validating the Town's data with a study; therefore, there would be a collection of data on 10% of total properties (or 60 properties) selected randomly. Ryan Sylvestri of New England Municipal Consultants Ltd. said that a random—not targeted—sample was required by the state. It's a way for the State to see that the Town is confident in the statistics it has, he said. Once that data is verified, the State will give the Town the go-ahead to do the statistical appraisal. He will perform a final field review, which meant a "drive-by" viewing of every property in Town. If he finds major discrepancies in the Town's data, he will flag those and make adjustments. Sylvestri will begin the process this summer and it will be completed in 2026 for the 2026 Grand List. The actual data sample will be done in the summer and fall. Merrill said the listers were ready and the next step was to sign the contract.

It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by John Gregory, to approve the contract with New England Municipal Consultants Ltd., direct the Chair to sign it, and proceed with the statistical appraisal as recommended by the listers. Motion passed unanimously.

Town administrator Morgan Wilbur will send the contract to Ryan Sylvestri for his signature after the chair has signed it.

5. Highway Report:

Excess Weight Permits: VELCO. It was moved by Cathy Siano-Goodwin, seconded by Anna Keegan, to approve the weight permit and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign and issue. Motion passed unanimously.

Posting of Class 3 Gravel Roads: Road foreman Colby Record said that the weather was warming up and it was time to post the gravel roads before conditions worsened. He had already installed the signs but asked the board to approve the posting. He said that, according to DOT, the process for reporting excess weight vehicles would

be for the crew to take a picture of the offending vehicle and its damage to the road, then measure that damage and send a bill to the person/company responsible. Record said he didn't mind if heavy vehicles (such as oil delivery trucks) traveled early in the morning, but preferred that they call him first. He has new signs ("local traffic only") and will put those up if and when conditions worsen.

It was moved by John Gregory, seconded by Anna Keegan, to post the Class 3 gravel roads. Motion passed unanimously.

Tree at Grafton Elementary School: Chair Joe Pollio said that Charlie Bonin had hired a contractor to take down dead or dying trees at his property next to the GES and one was on school property. After discussion, it was determined that the road crew can do the work now while there's snow on the ground. John Gregory pointed out that this kind of work was already in the Town budget, but not in the school's, so it made sense for the Town to do it. Colby Record said he would need Bonin's permission to use the excavator on his property, which Bonin granted during the discussion. Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked Record to ask the principal to see if the work could be done on a weekday.

Discussion on the Trailer: Colby Record said he had obtained prices for the Town's crew making the necessary repairs, using funds that had been set aside for a new trailer. He said that it could be done over the course of a couple of days. Cathy Siano-Goodwin asked about tires and Record said the existing tires would last another year.

Other: Record said the crew had been cutting trees on Middletown Road, Route 121, and Woodchuck Hill. The excavator, grader, and York rake had been serviced and were ready for mud season. Siano-Goodwin asked if the crew had obtained their flagger certifications; Record said he needed to get the online link from Morgan Wilbur and he would do that this week.

6. Clerk/Treasurer: Wendy Martin (on behalf of Kim Record) reminded the board that all board members would be needed to count votes after Town Meeting the following night.

## 7. Committee Reports:

Parks and Cemetery Committee: Open Parks and Cemetery Bids. Selectboard Clerk Steve Sargent opened the bids.

- There were two bids received: Spaulding Property Management LLC of Morrisville, Vermont (\$5,360 for Parks and \$18,750 for Cemeteries) and Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance (\$5,200 for Parks and \$24,000 for Cemeteries). Both bidders provided the required proof of insurance.

Chair Joe Pollio said that the Selectboard would review the bids and award the contract at the next meeting.

Personnel Committee: Cathy Siano-Goodwin said she was working on the amendments. There is a new drug and alcohol policy recommended by the State, and the attorney needed to review it, she said. There was a brief discussion concerning the Conflict-of-Interest training required by the State.

July 2023 Flood Update: John Gregory said the drilling company expected to drill along the Eastman Road retaining wall by Friday of next week, however, that had not been confirmed yet. This is necessary to determine if there is ledge below the wall.

8. Other Business: Anna Keegan said there was a grant available for ash tree removal (because of ash bore infestation) and asked if anyone had thought about this. Colby Record said that he would like to do it on Hall

Ranch Road and that Al Sands wanted to talk with the Town about it. Record said that the work needed to be done on a one-mile stretch of road, which would probably work on Hall Ranch Road.

9. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

11. Next meeting: Joe Pollio reminded the board that there would be an board organizational meeting after the votes were counted after Town Meeting the next evening. The next regular meeting of the board is on March 17, 2025 at 6 pm.

12. Adjourn. It was moved by Anna Keegan, seconded by Steve Sargent, to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Martin