

MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOVEMBER 18, 2013

Meeting called to order at 6:21 P.M.

**Present** Selectmen Elizabeth Gorski and Joseph D'Amore and Chairman Donald Greaney.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

**Approve Warrants**

Moved D'Amore, seconded Greaney, and it was

**VOTED:** To approve Payroll Warrant #14-20.  
D'Amore, Greaney – "Aye"; Gorski – "Abstain" 2-1

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

**VOTED:** To approve Bill Warrant # 14-19 3-0

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

**VOTED:** To approve Deduction Warrant #14-18A. 3-0

Chairman Greaney asked Finance Director Labrecque if there were any Bagnall Bill Submittals to be signed and Labrecque responded there were not. Greaney asked if we are pretty much done and Labrecque responded that the air conditioning bid was awarded this week and contracts have been sent out; that they are still waiting on the engineering report for the generator; that the parking lot is done; that the bleachers go in during Christmas vacation, and it will be next Spring for the back lawn.

Chairman Greaney and Selectman Gorski apologized for missing the library walk through on Saturday. Selectman D'Amore attended and told his fellow board members that he will type up his notes and submit a report to the Chair by way of the Board's Assistant for delivery to them. Gorski and D'Amore stated that the Library Trustees and Capital Improvement Committee members all attended.

Selectman D'Amore told the Board that item #1 under correspondence "recommendations of Government Advisory Committee" should at some point be placed on an agenda for discussion as to what if any of the recommendations need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. The Board's Assistant responded that it is on the agenda and that a vote would be needed to accept or reject the recommendations. Selectman Gorski agreed that it is on the agenda.

Chairman Greaney asked if they will have a problem with two of the Selectmen being on the committee and the Board of Selectmen voting something presented by that committee. Selectman D'Amore told Greaney it was a good question and that he wasn't sure about that. Greaney stated he has seen some of the shows on t.v. and that it seems the group has gone way beyond what the Selectmen were going to be getting; that he got an email the

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other day from GAC Chairman wanting to talk about changing Greg's position to something else. Selectman Gorski who sits on the GAC committee responded that that wasn't discussed within the committee and Selectman D'Amore who is also a member of the committee agreed that it was not.

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Chairman Greaney stated that the GAC Chairman stated in the email that there had been discussion to change Greg's position to an administrative/ and Selectman Gorski told Greaney that everything was discussed in there and that the GAC committee is exactly what it is, advisory; that they make a suggestion and bring it to the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Greaney responded that that's why he is concerned that somebody could question them changing something and because two of the committee members are on the Board of Selectmen, that votes taken there and then votes are taken here. Gorski told Greaney that the only vote taken was to send the suggestions on to the Selectmen for consideration which she agreed is kind of a conflict with two people serving on that committee and both of the two people here on the board and told Greaney she agrees with him that it is a conflict.

Chairman Greaney acknowledged that D'Amore was on the committee before he was a Selectman but now that he is a Selectman he probably shouldn't be on it; that if there is going to be information coming back then the Board is supposed to vote on it. Selectman D'Amore responded that he has wanted to explore that and told Selectman Gorski he would be addressing that at Thursday night's GAC meeting. Selectman Gorski stated that a lot of ideas are thrown out during that discussion period; that it doesn't say anything on the list they have before them from GAC about doing that and the Board's Assistant told Gorski that the list she has is only through September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Greaney mentioned he saw where the GAC was going to meet with the school committee and they are elected; that he just wants to make sure that whatever is being done by that committee is what the Selectmen asked to be done. D'Amore said he will address it on Thursday because he has some concerns as well. D'Amore told the Board that when he saw GAC's recommendations as a correspondence, that to him is a correspondence and he was talking about eventually putting some of it on an agenda to vote. The Board's Assistant responded and told D'Amore that under the new changes to the Open Meeting Law if it's listed as a correspondence and there is a need to take a vote, because it's listed on your agenda you can have discussion and take a vote. D'Amore stated that he would not be ready to vote on any of GAC's recommendations tonight.

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Chairman Greaney told his fellow board members that people are getting concerned about some of the comments that are going on at the GAC meetings and D'Amore replied that he has heard the same complaints as well. Greaney stated he just doesn't know if they are at the point where they should dissolve the committee so that the Board goes back to taking care of the needs themselves which is what they are supposed to be doing. Selectman Gorski stated she sees things on the list submitted by the committee that were talked about, i.e., getting the Master Plan up and running, reducing costs to taxpayers by doing projects in town which they do as often as they can; having the Road Commissioner's job description for the future and the reasons why the members felt about appointed vs. elected. Greaney asked Gorski if those were all the things the Selectmen asked the committee to do and Selectman D'Amore responded that the recommendations are very consistent with the second charge that the Board of Selectmen had given them. Greaney asked wasn't the charge to see if the town went to a five member board of Selectmen what things the Selectmen could take on themselves instead of having appointed committees; that that is what he remembers. Selectman D'Amore said it was a little bit broader than that; that basically it did give discretion to the Government Advisory Committee to take a look at the organization of our town government and to look at different departments and even job descriptions if appropriate to understand how our town government worked; that it was kind of broad in scope but that the Chairman is on to something because he (D'Amore) feels that the committee's work is just about done; that he feels that this recommendation and the employees survey that the committee had discussed and will recommend also, pretty much wraps up what they were supposed to do and he thinks going beyond this point is going to exceed their second charge and will bring it up on Thursday; that he thinks that is important.

D'Amore told Chairman Greaney that there were two charges (1) yes or no do we do a five member board and (2) let's take a look at how our town government works and make some recommendations such as what is on this evening's correspondence from GAC, i.e., whether some positions should be appointed vs elected, whether after meeting minutes are approved by town boards should be posted to the town website; investigate engineering costs, updating the Master Plan and maybe getting a committee to study the bylaws to see if we can upgrade them; that they are all pretty solid recommendations. Greaney stated that the bylaws have been re-written but never seem to get to the town meeting warrant and D'Amore stated that is what he has heard.

D'Amore commented that the Selectmen have the ability to disband the committee but feels the Board wants to be respectful to the volunteers that are serving on GAC but he will open up discussion that he thinks that the committee has pretty much done its work and asked Selectman Gorski how she feels about that.

Selectman Gorski responded that she thinks the committee covered a lot of information; that there were a lot of ideas of what they could or should do and how they could save the taxpayers money and getting to know all the boards and commissions and what their functions are. Gorski stated she thinks a lot of rumors floated around about people's jobs which was unfortunate; that people got themselves in a tizzy; that it wasn't the committee's intent to fire anybody, to hire anybody with D'Amore adding or to expose anyone and Gorski continued no it wasn't. Gorski stated that it certainly took on a life of its own; that she saw an email from somebody in town that had a lot of hostility in it and that wasn't the intent; that when the

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Selectmen decided to have the committee Bill Darke was sitting on the board and Bill was one of the first people to say that he thought it was a good idea for the group to get together and talk about the five vs three and the GAC committee voted 5 to 3 in favor of supporting a five member Board of Selectmen. D'Amore asked Gorski if she thinks the committee has completed the second charge and Gorski stated she does not feel its completed because they haven't talked with everybody; that some people may say why didn't you bring our group in, you brought other people in, so we should probably sit and talk to everybody so that no one can say they didn't have an opportunity. D'Amore responded that he feels they have good information to open up that discussion at Thursday's meeting to see what the end date is of the committee. Gorski agreed.

Former Selectman Darke was present in his new position as Assessor, and asked the Chair if he could ask a question. Darke commented that Greaney had alluded to whether the Board of Selectmen could take on other duties and that it was his understanding when they put that committee together that that would be part of the committee's second charge of how town government operates and are there other duties the Selectmen could take on especially if the board went from three to five members and Chairman Greaney agreed stating that's what he thought they were supposed to be looking at, what duties could be added if they end up with five Selectmen. Darke agreed and said to get to that point you had to look at how town government works but he thought that was going to be part of it. D'Amore told Darke that he thinks they are close to finishing; that there is an end in sight but he doesn't know if it's measured in weeks or months but they need to get to that question and kind of wrap it up. D'Amore suggested he will advocate for that.

#### **6:30 P.M. – Board of Assessors – Tax Classification hearing**

Assessors Gerald Hill and William Darke and their office manager Debra Webster were in attendance to hold their annual tax classification hearing which is part of the tax rate setting process. Webster explained the process and stated that as part of the process they determine whether to use a single tax rate or as some communities do, a split rate which shifts some of the burden from residential to commercial/industrial and personal property classes. Webster reported that typically small communities like ours with a small business base find that it doesn't make sense to shift the tax rate because there are so few business owners and so many residential in order to save small amounts on the residential side you shift a huge burden to the commercial residential side. Webster went over the paperwork she had provided copies of to the Selectmen (a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes). Webster told the Board that the proposed tax rate would be \$15.06 per \$1,000 of evaluation if all the numbers hold and aren't challenged by DOR, which would mean for the average single family home valued at \$329,500 this year the taxes would be \$4,960 a year, an increase of \$155 each year. Deb told the Selectmen that the Assessors met and made a recommendation of a single tax rate.

Selectman D'Amore asked how long has the town been with a single tax rate and Webster told him there may have been just one year where they tried splitting it; that you don't typically do the split unless your commercial/industrial and personal property base is at least 20% of the tax base and ours is only at 8%. D'Amore stated he is asking because some taxpayers have asked that they change to the two-tier system and Webster asked what would they save; that business would be raised from \$15+ per thousand to \$22+ per thousand and D'Amore stated that is anti-business and Webster agreed. Deb stated that a lot of the tax increases over the last 10 years

was due to reduction in State Aid; that the State now considers Groveland a wealthy community; that the State has access to everybody's income and we're no longer considered a blue collar community and not considered needy. Deb told the Board that even if you didn't raise the tax levy or budget a dime your taxes would have still gone up because of the reduction in State Aid. She told the Board that State Aid is half of what it used to be.

Webster told the Selectmen that the only way you can change things is to encourage some sort of business base in this town; that it's the only way she sees taxpayer relief happening.

Webster also pointed out that this tax rate does not include the bonding for the Bussing land purchase; that the bond hasn't been purchased yet so it will not hit the tax levy until July, 2014 and will be paid over 20 years. Webster again stated her Board voted to recommend a single rate tax and asked for the Selectmen's acceptance.

Moved Gorski, seconded Greaney, and it was

**VOTED:** To accept the recommendation of the Board of Assessors  
for a single rate tax for fiscal 2014. 3-0

Bill Darke asked to speak and said he wanted to congratulate Greg publicly for his new position he is starting; that it's well deserved; that they've all known each other for a long time and that it's interesting that he is going to be heading up the school's finances; that you never would have imagined that ten years ago; that it's a really good thing and he just wanted to congratulate him. Greg thanked Bill. Chairman Greaney told Darke that he missed out on some of his glory; that the Board went to the walk through at the Bagnall and the bridge opening both of which were some of Bill's work while Selectman. Selectman Gorski told Darke that there a lot of good things on his watch.

**6:50 P.M.-OpenSpace & Trails Committee to discuss Groveland Rail Trail**

Alex Johnson, Chairman and Mike Davis, members of the Open Space Committee, Jason DeGray, Project Manager and Bill Steelman, of Essex National Heritage Commission introduced themselves.

Alex reminded the Board that they had increased the size of the Open Space & Trails Committee last year because they were focused on a number of things, i.e., the Open Space Plan, the Center Street Greenway, some mapping work they were doing, and trail development, stating that most importantly the rail trail; that some people may have known there was a former rail line running through town; that there may be a rail trail and that there certainly is an informal rail trail. Alex told the Board that over the last couple of years they have had conversations with the MVPC on a number of items including the Merrimac River Trail, which is a planned trail skirting the Merrimac River from Lawrence all the way up to Newburyport, the bike and pedestrian pathway, and within the past year or so have been engaging in joint meetings about the Georgetown branch rail trail, and the Georgetown branch rail trail is a conceptual trail that would run up through Georgetown and Groveland into Bradford and end near the commuter rail there.

Alex told the Board that there has been a lot of work on the Georgetown/Boston rail trail and along the river on the Bradford trail. He told the Board that they need to figure out how Groveland fits into this regional plan; that two communities have spent a lot of time and effort

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building out their trails and we're sitting in the middle of it and are a critical link to making it more connected. He told the Board that his committee is trying to figure out how this will benefit our community and residents in the short term and later in the long term. Alex said his committee came to understand that this is a very lengthy process; that it's a lot more than just grading some trail and putting some gravel down. Alex told the Board that Mike has worked with MVPC and Jason to put together a presentation for the Board which he will walk them through not to lay down any set plans but to give the Board a general vision of what his committee is thinking about and to start the conversation; that Mike spearheaded this effort so he gets to run with it and turned the discussion over to Mike.

Mike thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the information to them this evening. Mike told the Board he has a personal interest in the project because he enjoys activities such as biking. Mike explained that the trail they are talking about is a 2.6 mile multi-use paved path; that as he goes through his presentation he will show there is an opportunity for it to be much more than that. Mike told the Selectmen that the trail would go down Main Street to the Bates Bridge, cross over 97 along the Merrimac River to the Shanahan field, to Esty Lumber across from which is a power line that runs down to Center Street, crossing over School and going up the right of way to Ashcroft Terrace and that is the proposed footprint for this path. Mike pointed out that along this path you have this development with the town hall and library, the Pines Recreation area, Perry Park, access to down town, frontage along the river, Shanahan field, residential densities along the way, Whitestone Village, Baldwin Terrace, Ashcroft and Pandora Drive. Mike said the idea behind this would be a central nerve of sorts connecting many town assets through a multi-use recreational path.

Mike told the Board the longer term vision that Alex mentioned was connecting into a much more wider-scale regional effort to Georgetown and Bradford. Mike said the current right of way is being shared between the main roads being owned by Groveland and the power lines owned by National Grid. Mike noted that there about 200 abutters. Chairman Greaney asked how wide the path will be and was told maybe 12 feet wide. Greaney asked if they will have to get deed clearance from all the abutters to use the trails. Alex responded that it would depend on how big National Grid's right of way is; that you would have to put a lot of the abutters on notice but he doesn't necessarily know if you need to get easements or permission from the abutters unless you need to cross over their property. Greaney told Alex and Mike that he had attended Georgetown's meeting the week before to listen to their proposal and someone he spoke with told him that National Grid has a 99 year lease on these right of ways but they don't have any titles to any of the property. Greaney said he doesn't know how you would go on these properties without National Grid having clear title; that if they are giving us permission do they actually own it? Jason responded that it was his understanding that National Grid owns the right of way. Greaney asked do you have to go to every individual owner to get an easement in order to go across these properties? Alex responded that you would work out your title work as part of this project. Greaney asked what happens when you come to a property that is 50' wide and you can't go across, than what do you do? Alex said that to some degree they will have some of that; that they will have some challenges like that anyway; that there will be one up near the substation off Main Street that will need to be figured out. The feasibility study will show us if we can even take this to the next step.

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Mike told the Board that the mission of this whole project would be to create a more connected Groveland by creating this paved, shared use, non-motorized path for residents and guests of all ages and abilities with scenic, safe, healthy year-round transportation and recreation; that broken down this project would appeal to a very large group of people and allows Groveland to be part of a much larger effort with Georgetown and Bradford. Mike mentioned that the interesting part of this project is the trail's connection to the Bagnall School and those that connect with schools is looked on favorably by the State.

Mike stated that the project is in its very early stages; that the feasibility study was tackled by Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and they have shown full support for the town's project; that they have helped with some mapping work. The next step they really need to engage a Design Engineer Consultant to bring it forward beyond where they are to allow them to engage MA DOT and ultimately getting to a design phase which would trigger a public hearing to present it to the town for input. Mike told the Board that this type of project takes a long, long time and Georgetown is a good example of that.

Mike explained that two parties are responsible for funding this project, the town and the State; that the town is responsible for the feasibility and design studies, and the State will provide the funds for construction. Mike told the Board that the State will pay up to ten times what the town will pay giving an example of \$500,000 from town and \$5,000,000 from the State; that the State wants to see the town's commitment but they are motivated to fund these types of projects. Alex explained the timeline for the project taking a good number of years stating that part of the reason for that is because the que for the transportation funds that go into building roads and large projects like this is a six-eight year que and it would be a couple of years out before MVPC would even put Groveland into the que in the first place.

Mike explained that the challenges would be raising funding for the upfront design, licensing and leasing procedures with National Grid, if we ever get to the point where we have a trail how do you maintain—who does it, who pays for it; that with 200 abutters there will be “not in my back yard” type of concerns but on the flip side you will find a lot of support in that list of abutters as well. Alex told the Board that Georgetown has gone through the hearings and have a blue print plan already and have met with Groveland's Open Space and are willing to share their information and knowledge so Groveland won't be starting from ground zero.

Mike told the Board that they would like the opportunity to engage a Design Consultant to help them with the 25% design which would then trigger a sequence of events which would make this a much more formal project. He reported that his committee has discussed the thought of breaking the 25% design portion into two pieces to stagger the funding requirements and also to mitigate some of the risk and maybe alleviate some of the concerns Chairman Greaney brought up about licensing and rights of way. Mike told the Board that if the 10% went well they would move into the 25% design. Selectman D'Amore asked where the trail would be at town hall and Alex explained that it could be along the roadway or through the Pines Recreation area along the river, but if areas along the river weren't able to used they would go off site to the roadway.

Chairman Greaney commented that they are stopping at Ashcroft Terrace but Groveland's property goes almost to Jacob's Road and said he was wondering who would pick up that trail. Alex responded that the idea is to get the larger portion of the trail planned and worked on so it is ready when Georgetown has finished their connection with the Boston trail system, then

missing portions can be worked on. D'Amore asked about holding public hearings at 10% instead of at 25% and Jason recommended the town hold public hearings at 0% to get the public's input. A vote at town meeting will be needed to secure funding for the 25% design. Chairman Greaney asked if CPA funds could be used for this and Finance Director that they could but not this year because the committee had voted a one-year moratorium on approving projects. Bill Steelman told the Selectmen that Georgetown and Boxford have used CPA funds for design and survey work. Jason told the Board that the significant piece to this is the survey and title research and right of way and making sure everyone is fully aware of what is on the ground. He suggested that it is somewhat of an extension of the feasibility study done by MVPC. Jason told the Board that he would recommend taking on the full 10% to get through the survey effort upfront (\$125,000 to \$200,000) and then regroup and make sure everyone is on board with progressing this design. Jason told the Board that the survey piece is the big piece that needs to be broken off next. Jason noted that MA DOT is going through a lot of changes right now and their priorities are shifting; that they just issued this healthy transportation directive back in September; that it's basically saying they are no longer building highways and roadways in this State and will be lucky to maintain the ones we have; that they want more people biking and walking and using public transit and the goal is to triple the % by 2030; that this is the sort of project MA DOT is starting to favor.

Selectman D'Amore asked what Open Space's timetable is for this and Alex responded that they don't have one that's why they are here tonight; that he would like to have some sort of hearing to solicit interest and feedback from the residents. Alex stated that he would like to do a couple of public hearings, do a survey if they could do it in a cost effective way. Alex told the Board he would like to move this along but didn't want to do it unless he knew the Selectmen were okay with their plans at least on a conceptual level. Alex told the Board he asking them to allow Open Space to gather more information on this at this time. Chairman Greaney suggested they post the survey to their website or the towns and allow for questions. Alex told the Board there are cost effective ways to get the survey done. Finance Director Labrecque told Alex that the tax bills will be going out by the end of December and it's not against the law to put something in with them, that it would be free postage if the survey was only one page or so. Alex said they could do a one page that they could fill out and drop off or long online and fill out. Greg repeated that he can put something in with the tax bills provided it doesn't generate extra postage which would generally be one piece of paper. The Selectmen thanked the men for their presentation of what they've been working on.

#### **Groveland Youth Soccer and Recreation Committee re: Groveland Day**

Present were Stephen Merrill, Pam Blaquiere and several other members of Soccer and/or recreation and Sergeants Dwight McDonald and Eric Ryan. Chairman Greaney told those attending that this meeting was asked for shortly after Groveland Day but was delayed due to the search for a Fire Chief. Greaney told the parties that the parties had said earlier that they had wanted to get together to discuss how Groveland Day went, whether the Board had any issues, the Soccer and Recreation groups or the Police had.

Chairman Greaney told the parties that someone had backed over the electric service box and never reported it; that the Road Commissioner did report it the Monday after Groveland Day and the Light Department was called immediately and made the area safe; that whoever hit it, damaged it so there was exposure to electricity. Greaney was asked what service he was speaking of and he explained it is the one near the potential future snack shack that feeds the



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building, the boat ramp and all the outlet areas around the Pines. Greaney also mentioned there were areas where people were roaming out of the corralled beer tent area; that the Board had said they wanted people drinking in a fixed area only. Greaney asked the Officers to explain what they saw.

Sergeant McDonald stated that he thinks there were many more people this year than the first year beer was allowed; that the first year they had two detail officers assigned so they duplicated that this year and it is very difficult keeping people in one area; that the Officers spent most of their time trying to chase after people and remind them there is an area for drinking. Dwight told the Board that looking forward, if it's going to be that populated of an event, they will need more Officers present. Dwight told the Board that the two on duty Officers that night had to spend time down there as well assisting the detail Officers with their assignment which left nobody driving around the town. Greaney asked if they had fulltime or reserve officers on the details and McDonald replied that it was a mix; that Sergeant Ryan was the full-time officer there. Greaney asked Ryan what he saw that he feels could have been done differently. Sergeant Ryan repeated that there were a lot more people which was a positive thing, but there not being enough police officers the people were able to move around and they weren't adhering to the corralled area as well as they did the year prior. Ryan told the Board that one person who is very familiar to the police and over twenty-one, that they actually caught him attempting to shuffle beers to minors over by the ball fields. Selectman Gorski responded that that isn't good and Ryan replied not good at all. Gorski said it's a family day, a family event .

Chairman Greaney stated that he did get down to the Pines during the day and that the police did a good job of keeping the flow of people moving; that the set up was great with all the different activities going on; that he didn't see anything wrong going on during the day; that he doesn't know who backed over the electrical service but there's not much they could do when they found out about it; that it could have happened at any point in the day. Greaney told Merrill that when they asked about having beer the first time he had felt it would be best to have the people retained within the softball field. Merrill responded that it's tough because of the electricity; that as things progress things will change down there; that electricity needs to be in more than one location, but currently that's that only place and they need to have it there for the band. Merrill said they can work on the corral situation and do it in a less noticeable way because people don't like to be corralled in but they can figure it out so they don't realize they are being corralled in. Merrill told the board that they had talked with the Sergeants outside in the hallway before coming in to the meeting and there are things that they can do. Merrill told the Board that if someone is breaking the law they are breaking the law regardless and you just have to nip it; that that can happen anywhere; that it happens at regular bars, but in this particular case he feels it's something they can work on; that the Police are fully behind that and would like to see it worked on as would those who plan the event.

Merrill told the Board that they also had some issues with kids going over into the construction site; that the site won't be there forever; that he saw the kids up on the hill and he went over a couple of times; that it's a free for all at events when parents just let their kids go. Merrill stated that they turned on the lights and when the sprinkler system came on, the lights went off. Chairman Greaney responded that it's a 10 horse power pump and it's not supposed to come on during the times the lights are on; that the timing has been off. Merrill told the Board that it happened around eight and again at 8:30 but they had already called last call because they had until 9:30 to get out. Chairman Greaney responded that he heard the police were trying to find

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out during the night what time last call was supposed to be so going forward that should be worked out ahead of time. Merrill told the Board that when they were in before the Board in August they had talked about needing to meet in April or May to plan for Groveland Day and get the Selectmen and Police informed early on. Greaney asked how the several days of activities went stating that the police were concerned they wouldn't have enough coverage for the Road Race and asked whether Merrill thought there were too many things going on. Merrill said he thinks Groveland Day itself is fine; that they already agreed to move the Road Race to late August so it's separate; that one of the reasons is it was too dark out in September, and that there was too much happening in one weekend. Steve said they will just need to get the Board's permission again for conducting the road race; that it will be the same route; that it has already been certified by U.S. Track & Field; that they donated \$1,000 from this year's race to the Wounded Warriors. Steve told the Board that there had been a few things they were concerned about themselves such as a lack of volunteers; that they were expecting certain groups to come in but they didn't. Merrill said the participation grew this year and he believes it may grow heavily in the future and that they will have to work hard to keep it under control and keep it going; that he would like to see it keep going because he feels there are a lot of positives out of it.

Selectman Gorski told Merrill she thinks it's the drinking and told him to find a way to get a handle on it; that people start drinking and having a good time and seem to forget where they might wander to and if someone is buying beer and passing it out to the kids that's not good for your group, for the town or for the police, asking how many police officers do they need down there; that the police do the best they can. Merrill agreed and said they talked about that and feel they can figure it out. Gorski told Merrill she agrees with meeting sooner and getting all their plans together as to who will be where; that you have enough people to help you. Gorski asked if they need the mechanical bull and the cow there and Merrill responded that they were very successful. Gorski expressed concern with the report that there was a woman in line with a glass of wine in her hand wanting to get on the mechanical bull. Pam Blaquiere responded that no adults went on the bull only the children and Gorski told her she just read it in a report that was given to the Selectmen's office. Merrill said the people that were running the ride it's their insurance on that piece; that he assumes they would have nixed her before she even got on. Greaney asked if they had gotten cow insurance and Merrill stated that they had. Gorski told Merrill that there needs to be more signage about where drinking is allowed. Merrill replied that next year he feels rather than do a full corral they could do a rope line and every so many feet have laminated signs stating no alcohol beyond this point. Selectman D'Amore told the group that he knows they put a lot of work into the event and commended them for delivering a great tradition. He asked if the Recreation Committee and the Police will have a separate session to talk over the next plans for this event and was told that they will be meeting. D'Amore asked that they put in writing the plan they come up with for 2014 to manage the alcohol and deliver it to the Board of Selectmen for their comments. Sergeant McDonald responded that he has no problem with that. D'Amore asked that they receive it as early as possible; that when they have a public safety plan for Groveland Day that he would love to see that document, not to approve it but to be aware of what the details are. Merrill responded that he thinks that's a good idea but he feels the recreation committee and those who put Groveland Day together need to have something from the Selectmen and the town as to what they need from the organizers of Groveland Day. Merrill said that this year being told that the insurance would be needed that he would like to know early on what the town will require in order for them

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to approve the event. Chairman Greaney responded that he believes they were given everything this year; that he doesn't believe they missed anything. Merrill responded that it should be written down and D'Amore commented that it was given to them at the last minute. He suggested that he could attend their meetings as a liaison and bring information back to the Selectmen.

Merrill mentioned how they had Selectman Gorski speak this year and would like to get back to doing that each year so the people attending know who the Selectmen are. Finance Director Labrecque reminded everyone that there's no way of know at this time what stage of development the Pines will be at when Groveland Day is usually run.; that there definitely will be construction going on down there. Labrecque suggested he give the recreation group an older set of plans that they can look at so they know what will be going where. Chairman Greaney responded that for the most part they have been using the roadway for their daytime activities and he doesn't expect that will change and Labrecque pointed out that there could be tennis courts where they had something this year; Merrill and Blaquiere responded that they know it's coming and they feel they can adapt but the biggest piece is being to have electricity they can use and water. Labrecque responded that the utilities will have to go in first before they can even do the parking lot so most likely they will be in by the time the Groveland Day event takes place.

Recreation member Alese asked what sort of commitment they could get from the town to help out giving the example that the area they put the staging on was full of rocks and debris and that she would imagine that they could solicit the highway department to help out with that or some other town resources they could get help from. She also mentioned that a big ticket item was the police details that they were hoping to get a line item for to pay for that; that one of the major aspects of Groveland Day is the fundraising and having to put out so many foot soldiers to raise all the money needed to fund that event; that the police details are really the one that has become the big burden; that they are hoping to have some help in that area. Chairman Greaney replied that he will give her the same response he would give anyone else asking him for money stating "you're going to raise money and asking the town to pay for something, what will they get out of the money that's raised?" Alese replied that all the money raised goes back into the event and Greaney asked "did you have an over abundance of costs so that nothing was taken in?" and Alese responded that anything they made was donated.

Merrill told Chairman Greaney that they had talked about it before; that they need to work on getting a line item on the Town Meeting Warrant for safety/police fire details not just for Groveland Day but for all other events; that the town has Pines Speedway Day and July 3<sup>rd</sup>; that there are events that nonprofits could utilize that line item but they have to go through the process and figure out a number that would be needed. Greaney responded that he needs to figure out a number of hours for all the events that go on and ask the Chief to add a line item for town sponsored events to his budget for police details. Merrill said they were thinking police and fire; that the school has things like Halloween Howl and things like that and also the insurance factor that is being required now; that these are all pieces that take away from the nonprofits producing any kind of funds for this event. Merrill told the Board that the committee doesn't make money from Groveland Day; that the nonprofits make money; that they try to get in enough from sponsorships but it doesn't always work. Merrill told the Board that the police do a lot of events and the events have to pay for the detail; that he feels the town should pay for

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the details but if they say no at town meeting then it's a no but feels it's something they should try to promote and push. Chairman Greaney told Merrill that there are probably 75% of the people in town who don't go to the events so they may find that tough and one of the members responded that not everyone's kids go to the schools but they all put in for the schools. Merrill said he was told they would need to see the Finance Committee in January and will make an appointment to do so. Greaney mentioned that there had been a line item every year for funding parades but thought that went away quite some time ago. Selectman Gorski responded that the funding may still be there and Greaney stated he thought it was \$1,500 or \$2,000 and Merrill commented that doesn't get you much today. Gorski suggested the committee try doing a tag day to raise funds; that other communities do things like that.

Chairman Greaney told the group that a lot of things went well at Groveland Day and that there were a few hiccups that need to be worked out. Selectman Gorski asked how they did overall and Pam Blaquiere responded that she thought it was a great success and Merrill added that a lot of people were very happy. Selectman Gorski said there were a lot of people from other towns and Merrill told the Board that when he and others went door to door selling cow pad tickets a lot of people weren't aware that Groveland Day still existed.

The Board thanked everyone for coming and Selectman D'Amore asked that they keep them updated and invite him to some of their meetings. Merrill mentioned that he had asked the Board's Assistant for a few minutes on the agenda to speak about soccer. Chairman Greaney asked him to wait until he asked a question of the Sergeants.

Chairman Greaney asked the Sergeants if they could answer a question about reserve officers working a detail for a town department, that they get a different rate of pay than an officer coming in from another town. Sergeant McDonald told Greaney that is correct and Greaney asked wouldn't we rather have our own people and have one rate so we are utilizing our own people. Sergeant McDonald responded that he absolutely agrees. Chairman Greaney asked D'Amore if he would support paying one detail rate for all our officers and the Board's Assistant told the Board that they would have to wait until the next budgets come out because there wouldn't be funds to pay for that increase. Greaney responded that companies pay the detail and the Board's Assistant replied yes, they could be charged the new rate now but town budgets such as the Highway would need to wait until next fiscal budget so Greaney asked if D'Amore would consider discussion later and he replied absolutely. McDonald explained that the reserve officers do receive the detail rate full time officers do when working for outside companies but receive time and one-half from town departments. McDonald suggested the Board may want to check with town counsel on the town payments; that there may be a reason why time and one-half is being paid for town details instead of the contracted detail rate. D'Amore asked if there is a departmental regulation for this and McDonald replied there is not. D'Amore asked if he thinks there should be and McDonald replied that would be a question for the Police Chief. The Board's Assistant explained that the time and one-half for town details was negotiated many years ago; that the detail rate that was agreed to was much higher than a patrolman's overtime rate which was a much lower amount so it was agreed to in order to save town departments money because their budgets were small to charge the town departments time and one-half. Greaney stated he was curious why it was the way it was and they can look into it. It was noted that contract negotiations he would probably be scheduled for January. Greaney told D'Amore that they can wait and he will talk with the Chief and D'Amore said

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maybe one of them will ask the Chief about this being a departmental regulation; that it sounds like it's lacking.

Chairman Greaney addressed Merrill and told him he had the floor. Steve turned the discussion over to two of his fellow soccer board members, Jim Pelletier and the other's name wasn't heard. One of the men told the Board that they went through the whole process with the town to construct and install a bathroom at Shanahan Field; that they went to the Town Meeting, got all the funding approved, it went out to bid and they got an email a couple of weeks ago that said the Selectmen had decided to pull back on the project so they wanted an explanation of what happened. Greaney told the men that Greg is moving on to another job so they will have to find a replacement for his position before they take on another project like that because somebody has to be in charge of it and the Board had put that on to the Finance Director and without him here they wouldn't have anyone overseeing it. Greaney was asked just this project or all projects and he replied that he doesn't believe they have other projects going on; that they are trying to finalize some land purchases. One of the men asked if bringing in a new Finance Director would affect the funding for their project and he was told no. Labrecque stated that the funding is fine and the bid package is sitting on his table and could go out to bid in a week. One of the other men asked if there were issues with the neighbors and Selectman Gorski responded not with the bathroom that she knows of.

Steve Merrill suggested that based on what the Finance Director has said, that with the bid package ready to go Merrill thinks it should be sent out so they are ready to go ahead with construction in March. Greaney told the soccer group that bids are only good for thirty days so it doesn't make much sense to bid it now. One of the men asked if the bid package can include how long the bid is good for and Labrecque responded it's hard to ask a contractor how much the cost will be six months from now and, since this will be prevailing wage rate, the rates will change in January. Selectman Gorski asked can't we do this in town like they did for Bagnall School and Greaney interjected like the extra work done by the highway department. Labrecque responded that that is called force account labor and anything you do on your own you don't have to go out for bid for but that would be a conversation you would have to have with Water/Sewer and Highway Departments. Merrill said the Sewer Department doesn't want to open the ground in January but he wants to start construction in March or April and asked if they will be able to because he's concerned there could be delays with the bidding time frame. Greg suggested the maximum time needed would probably be five weeks getting it in the central register and getting the bid packages out. Merrill said their primary concern is getting in the ground in March if they can. Selectman Gorski asked if the \$70,000 includes everything and Merrill stated that it does. Merrill told the Board that their concern is because the second week in April is when their season officially starts and they don't want to have a lot of things going on; that they want to start in March but they understand that the weather is a big factor. Labrecque told the men that if they want them working at the field in late March then you want the bids opened sometime in late February or early March. Chairman Greaney told the men that they don't want to get charged extra charges for dealing with frost; that they want to avoid that.

Chairman Greaney asked if there was anything else and Merrill asked how the fence issue went stating that he had been attacked by several of the neighbors on finding out what's going on over there (Shanahan Field). Greaney told Merrill that the Board approved Claire Walsh of

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Groveland Historical Society putting the fence around their building; that as far as the parking situation since Soccer put the half hour time frame in he hasn't seen a traffic problem when he has driven by the field and asked Merrill if he has seen a problem. Merrill said some of the neighbors aren't nice sometimes but he can understand why; that none of them can control what Marblehead does, or what Hamilton-Wenham does; that they have posted on the websites that parking is on the street. Greaney asked if they have been blocking the right of way and Merrill replied that he has seen people on that side; that he's also seen the cones come out every week; and that he's seen people yell at one another. Chairman Greaney and Selectman Gorski both told Merrill they thought it had quieted down. D'Amore mentioned that some of the people there have inquired about the fence and that there may not be one because it seems that the problem has mitigated itself just by implementing the half hour margin in between games. D'Amore stated that it hasn't solved the problem completely but thinks it's under control and feels more people will be happy that there won't be a fence and they need to know that.

Merrill told the Board that the only other thing that Soccer wants to talk to the Selectmen and Mr. Arakelian about is landscaping down there and some of the things they are having issues with; that he knows that baseball has a few issues as well because they contacted him about a few things; that it might be a good idea to have one big brain storm and have Bob Arakelian in the room and go over some things for landscaping. Merrill told the Board that this year they spent a lot of money trying to get the green back up and saw a huge difference at the end of October from what it was all summer long; that they did watering and changed over some fertilizer companies and a few other things but they're going to spend a lot of money and want to be sure they do the proper things for landscaping; that that will be with their side and the highway department or whoever cuts the lawn; that it's very important they get together and draw up a good plan at least for Soccer but hopefully Washington Park is going to do the same thing because that's a great park down there too. Merrill said he would like to see the Selectmen schedule a meeting with some members of soccer, baseball, the selectmen and Mr. Arakelian sometime in January or February.

Chairman Greaney asked resident Stephen Bird if he needed to speak with the Board and he said he was just curious about the Finance Director leaving; that he had heard that was the case but didn't know it wasn't becoming official until this evening and was wondering what the Board's time table is for hiring his replacement. Mr. Bird told the Selectmen that having served a number of years ago on the Finance Board that he knows they are coming into an extremely critical time frame (budget season) and he was hoping the Board would already have a plan on what the time table is going to be. Chairman Greaney responded that they just received Greg's letter of resignation in their packet this evening which states that December 6<sup>th</sup> will be his last day; that the Board may have to get together again some night this week to discuss how they will proceed. Mr. Bird stated that he's sure he doesn't have to tell the Board that this is a pretty critical position especially during the budget season; that he remembers being on the Finance Committee and how they relied on the Finance Director's financial information; that it's a resource that needs to be in place. Finance Director Labrecque told Mr. Bird that his contract basically says until the Board replaces him, and Pentucket is aware of this, that he will come back every night and check the mail, make sure the accounts are done and all that stuff so they can go through a process; that the town audit is being done as we speak and the free cash certification is being processed and he has a sample budget ready to go and sample revenue estimates ready to go; that he would never leave the town high and dry so he hopes the Board takes their time and he doesn't mind popping in to make sure everything is getting done.

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Selectman D'Amore stated that Dr. Mulqueen (Pentucket's Superintendent) has also given his blessing on that as well and Greg agreed. D'Amore said the Superintendent is in tune with the fact that there it will be a bit of transition and that they will still rely on Greg's services and that will be fine with him. Greg told Mr. Bird that he has a lot of work in place they just need to be finalized when needed. Mr. Bird comment that he didn't know until tonight that Greg also oversaw construction projects. He thanked the Board for their time and said that he is glad to know they have a contingency plan in place.

**Executive Session**

Moved Greaney, seconded Gorski, and it was

**VOTED:** To enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (2) for the purpose of reviewing draft contract to be presented to Fire Chief Robert Lay for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

GORSKI, D'AMORE, GREANEY – "AYE" 3-0

Chairman Greaney announced that the Board will return to its Open Session at the close of the Executive Session for the sole purpose of adjourning its meeting. Executive Session was entered at 8:30 P.M. and closed at 8:48 P.M. The Minutes of the Executive Session are on file in a separate binder in the Administrative Assistant's office.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:05 P.M. and Chairman Greaney authorized the Board's Assistant and Finance Director to meet with the Dispatcher's new Union N. E. Police Benevolent Association to begin negotiating contract renewal.

**Adjournment**

Moved Gorski, seconded D'Amore, and it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn.

Adjourned at 9:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Lewandowski  
Administrative Assistant