

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

July 29, 2013

Meeting called to order at 6:19 P.M.

Present Selectmen Elizabeth A. Gorski, Joseph R. D'Amore and Chairman Donald N. Greaney

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Greaney apologized that he would need to leave the meeting shortly.

Approve Warrants

Moved D'Amore, seconded Greaney, and it was

VOTED: To approve weekly Payroll Warrant #14-04. 2-1

D'AMORE, GREANEY – "AYE"; GORSKI – "ABSTAIN"

Chairman Greaney announced that the Selectmen's stipend is on the payroll warrant this week and he and Selectmen D'Amore will sign the warrant under the Rule of Necessity.

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

VOTED: To approve Deduction Warrant #14-02A. 3-0

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

VOTED: To approve Bill Warrant #14-03. 3-0

Storm Water Management Annual Report

The Board reviewed the 2013 Storm Water Management Annual Report prepared by the Storm Water Management Committee with assistance from Road Commissioner Robert Arakelian. Moved Gorski, seconded D'Amore, and it was

VOTED: To approve Chairman Greaney signing the 2013 Storm Water Annual Report and forward to EPA and DEP. 3-0

Purchase & Sale Agreement-Bussing to Town of Groveland

The Board reviewed the Purchase and Sale Agreement between James Bussing and the Town of Groveland which was prepared and approved by both parties counsels. Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

VOTED: To sign the Purchase & Sale Agreement prepared by town counsel for the purchase of Center Street property owned by James Bussing, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes. 3-0

Chairman Greaney excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

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The Selectmen's Assistant informed them that several agenda appointments were rescheduled for August 5th prior to Special Town Meeting (Recreation Committee to discuss Groveland Day plans) and August 12th (John Clement to discuss selection process and criteria for hiring a new Fire Chief); that she did so upon conferring with Chairman Greaney. Selectman Gorski and D'Amore agreed to meet with Recreation prior to Special Town Meeting on August 5th.

Selectmen Gorski and D'Amore reviewed several emails the Board's Assistant had received from residents interested in being appointed to the ZBA, Finance Board, Cable T.V. and Affordable Housing Committee. Selectman D'Amore told Gorski that it is exciting that residents have come forward. The Board's Assistant told them that she will ask the Cable T.V. Chairman and the Affordable Housing Chairman to reach out to the respective interested residents and explain to them what the committees are responsible for, how often they meet, etc. D'Amore asked what is customary procedure when a resident expresses interested in an appointment. Lewandowski explained that certain committees/boards she asks the Chairman thereof to speak with the interested resident to explain how the committee/board operates and what their responsibilities are; that if the resident remains interested they let her know and generally the Selectmen meet with them briefly prior to appointment.

Selectman D'Amore – naming public property/bridges

Selectman D'Amore reported that he had pulled several articles from newspapers showing how things have gone wrong when people don't name things properly. D'Amore told Gorski that he wanted her and Chairman Greaney to read the articles. D'Amore told Gorski that one of the articles is about an issue he lived through himself and felt it was kind of embarrassing; that one of the Pentucket fields was named for someone, then because it wasn't done through a proper process, it had to be done again. D'Amore told Gorski that was why he wanted her and Chairman Greaney to see the articles; that they are a precedent of things going wrong when there isn't a transparent process to follow. D'Amore said the bridge issue is kind of sad because everyone agrees that the gentlemen the bridge is named after is deserving but people are complaining about lack of transparency, not having input, all of the things this Board wrestled with a couple of weeks ago. D'Amore told Gorski that what he was proposing last time was to see an open and engaging process where a lot of people have input. D'Amore said he was very impressed with the veteran's group who came to the meeting saying they want to research it, reach out to their counterparts in Haverhill, they want to name it something that doesn't offend anybody. D'Amore said the articles he provided really shows how things can go wrong and he really doesn't want that to happen in Groveland. Selectman Gorski agreed that they don't need to embarrass anybody or hurt anybody's feelings. She questioned whether the school committee has a policy on naming things and D'Amore told her he didn't know if they did but would ask them. Gorski stated she doesn't know how something gets named. The Board's Assistant told her that the Bagnall school was named by vote of town meeting.

Selectman D'Amore told Gorski that that A.J. from Senator Tarr's office told them that they have the right to propose naming the bridge either by themselves or in conjunction with another town and whether that would be approved by the State is another matter. D'Amore said he will find out from the school whether they have some sort of policy for naming school property and asked Selectman Gorski to check with the officials in Haverhill to see if they do and maybe they can discuss it again in September.

Michael Dempsey-Chairman of Conservation – Update on Center/Main St. properties

Mike Dempsey, Water/Sewer Commissioners Bruce Adams, Jim Sheehan and Jack Willett and Supt. Tom Cusick met with the Board to update on the purchases of property off Center/Main Street. Dempsey told the Board that the last time they discussed what the costs would be to complete the purchases; that he had met with Woody Cammett and pared down his estimate to only Engineering fees. Dempsey suggested that since the town is who will be applying for all the permits, regarding Angeline & Mattingly

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purchases, all local fees will be waived; that the total of the engineering costs is somewhere in the \$28,000 to \$30,000 range.

Dempsey reported that they met with National Heritage Endangered Species program and DEP last week and gave them (the town) the idea that it's not going to be too complicated to do and one of their (NHES) permit fees will also be waived. Dempsey also told the Board that the Finance Director told them today that CPC has been charged with \$14,000 of legal costs to date and they also are expecting another \$14,000 of legal costs for an estimate of legal costs in the range of \$20,000-\$28,000. Dempsey said the projected total cost is about \$50,000-\$58,000. He said the Finance Director looked at all possible areas and today the Water Department agreed to commit to pay \$20,000 toward these costs, with \$20,000 coming from an Open Space account and \$20,000 from CPC with both of those committees needing to approve the use of those funds. D'Amore asked Dempsey to explain about the funds he mentioned, what are they called, how long did it take to build those funds and how do they replenish that money. Dempsey explained that the Open Space fund is money paid by the State for the transfer to them of a piece of town property about ten years ago (\$40,000); that they have slowly been spending it on things like this; that it is specifically earmarked for open space purchases, i.e., appraisals, purchases, etc. Dempsey said that account won't be replenished but what is there is available to spend on this type of project.

Dempsey told D'Amore that administrative funds from CPC is a percentage of what is allowed to be set aside each year for administrative costs and gets funded each year at town meeting from the 3% residents paid on their property tax bills and the Water Department will pay from their expense line item in water if the Commissioners so vote which they are anticipated to do. D'Amore asked what the time frame is for making this money available and was told by Water Chairman Bruce Adams that the money from Water is available now and Commissioner Sheehan suggested that are still a number of things to get done so the purchase probably won't happen until sometime this Fall. Dempsey responded that CPC and Conservation/Open Space just need to vote to approve using the money for these land purchases. Selectman Gorski asked if the Water/Sewer Department sees the \$20,000 costs they will be contributing being passed on to the rate payers and Commissioner Sheehan responded that they don't at this point; that this meeting happened today with Cammett and in defense of Mr. Cammett his earlier numbers were put together quickly as last case scenario and today they cleaned it up but have not had time to discuss this matter or vote on the funds being used.

D'Amore asked if there is anything the group needs from the Board of Selectmen or anything they can help move these purchases along and Dempsey responded that they still need to work hard to get these permits done; that Woody Cammett will be the point person, but anything the town can do to save us money such as waiving of fees by Conservation, Planning and Selectmen, i.e., conservation permits, earth removal permit and several zoning permits. Selectman Gorski told Dempsey you are saying that in the spirit of cooperation town boards work together to get this done; that delays will cost the town money if it gets bogged down at any place, so it would be best to all work as a team and not get back logged with attorneys, etc. Dempsey agreed. Selectman D'Amore told Dempsey if they need the Selectmen to call an extra meeting the Board will be happy to do so and complemented him and the Water Department officials on doing a great job.

Shanahan Field

The Board discussed the problems with parking at Shanahan field and the request for fencing around the Historical Society's building on the site and the right of way leading to Jim Sheehan's property. Finance Director Labrecque noted that Clair Walsh had mentioned an estimate of \$2,200 for a split rail fence; that there are funds in the Municipal Fields account that could pay for that amount. Selectman Gorski asked what would be the most attractive for the abutters and neighboring homes to look at, suggesting maybe planting trees/shrubbery of some sort. She suggested the town made a blunder there years ago allowing the soccer with no parking area, and now has allowed the Historical Society to change it's office building to a residential unit. Jim Sheehan told the Board that the problem is the number of cars during soccer season; that it's not one car per child and there's not enough space for parking so they park anywhere they can make room.

Sheehan told the Board that someone needs to come up with a plan. Soccer representative Stephen Merrill arrived at the meeting and told the Board that he has nothing to do with what is done with the right of way and/or parking arrangements; that it's up to the abutters to decided what they want to look at. Selectman D'Amore responded that they need to fix the problem now with a fence; that the town doesn't have \$50,000-\$80,000 to put a lot of money into paving at the time; that hopefully the fence would last a few years.

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

VOTED: To approve a post and rail fence being installed along the right of way abutting Shanahan field with the cost being paid from Municipal Fields & Water account. 2-0

Merrill asked about storage space at the Pines Recreation area and asked if anything was going to happen with the current shed. Labrecque responded that nothing will happen with the shed until next summer; that eventually there will be a permanent equipment shed at the Pines. Gorski asked if Merrill is expanding the soccer program again and he responded "not now".

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, D'Amore moved, Gorski seconded, and it was

VOTED: To adjourn. 2-0

Adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Lewandowski
Administrative Assistant