

Groveland Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2015

Present: Chair William Dunn, Selectman Daniel MacDonald, Selectman Michael Wood,
Selectman Joe D'Amore

Absent: Selectman Ed Watson arrived at 7:43 p.m.

Others Present: Denise Dembkoski (Finance Director)

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

RESIDENT/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jan Dempsey (Hamilton/Wenham Public Library Director) said the Langley-Adams Library is not meeting their material expenditure requirement meaning they are not eligible for state aid and will not be certified for the upcoming fiscal year; no libraries in the state are required to lend to Groveland residents; it is a local decision and may differ from town to town, but some libraries may continue to lend if they see that the town is trying to rectify the situation. Her recommendation is to hire a qualified Interim Library Director; strong leadership is needed to bring the library back to the standards it once was. Chair Dunn said the board met with the Trustees and they had questions they wanted answered by Town Counsel. Selectman Watson and he met with them last week and asked them to discuss Town Counsel's findings with their board. Selectman D'Amore strongly suggested an Interim Library Director be hired; the structural problems need to be fixed; he feels there is a failure of leadership. He was also disappointed that Town Counsel had to be hired to read the bylaws to help individuals figure out what they say; they are in plain English; he said he knows the roles and has a good understanding of what people should be doing.

Tracy Gilford (Groveland Fire Department Lieutenant) thanked the Selectmen that attend the Firefighter's Recognition Night; nine members of the department received certificates ranging from 20-40 years of service from the State Fire Marshall along with three members who were recognized for finishing their Firefighter 1-2 course. He gave an update on behalf of the Veto Committee; he received an email from Doug Mund who apologized and said he will be in touch with Ms. Dembkoski very shortly. If possible he will try to have him attend the next BOS meeting. He also gave an update on behalf of the Cable Advisory Committee; they have not met yet to discuss Chris Liquori's job description. Mr. Gilford's work schedule has been hectic, but it will be discussed with the Committee soon. Ms. Dembkoski asked who negotiated the cable contract; he said it is the Cable Advisory Committee with final approval of the BOS. She said the contract does not expire until November 2019, but the state sent a letter regarding rate regulations and it has to be either accepted or not accepted by December 8th. She will forward the letter to him and he will have the board meet to discuss it.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Selectman Wood voted to approve PW#16-17 in the amount of \$153,763.83; Selectman D'Amore seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

Selectman Wood voted to approve DW#16-15A in the amount of \$23,863.21 Selectman D'Amore seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

Selectman Wood voted to approve BW#16-17 in the amount of \$1,143,096.86; Selectman D'Amore seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

Town Owned Land Discussion – The board reviewed the record cards, maps and overviews of the questionable properties; it is not clear if Seven Star Road (13-1A) is a legitimate lot. 22-3 Brown Island Road is landlocked on the Newbury line. Chair Dunn asked if we could send a letter to the abutters and let them know it could possibly be purchased; show due diligence to offer it. At a previous meeting the BOS gave approval to the Affordable Housing Committee for 61-C Main Street as a potential site; check with that group before moving forward. 42-41 King Street is deed restricted to conservation and recreation property; it was originally donated to the town to build a park, but given the proximity it was decided to put the park in a different area; we do own that that strip of land. 48-9 Salem Street, 48-10, 11A, 14 Uptack Street, and 48-16 Salem Street are industrial zoned properties with an assessed value is 220,000±. Ms. Murphy will be asked to follow up and contact brokers who specialize in commercial properties to get a market analysis; it may be at no cost. Off Federal Way is a small piece of landlocked property. There is confusion as to who owns the salt shed area; the records show that some years ago the lot was split from 1 to 2 lots; a resident claims he owns the upper lot; not the lower lot. In order to clean up the upper lot, a title attorney would have to research it. The upper lot abuts the Bagnall School and there was some question of what the school might need in the future. Chair Dunn suggested not moving forward until we have an answer on the upper lot. Ms. Dembkoski will follow up and report back.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

Selectman D’Amore made a motion to accept the September 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Wood made a motion to approve the One-Day Wine & Art Reception Liquor License on November 7th between 6PM-9PM; Selectman D’Amore seconded; voted 4-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Unfinished Business):

Selectman MacDonald asked about Zoning Bylaw revisions and should there be public hearings before it is formalized and approved by Town Counsel. Ms. Dembkoski said Town Counsel has been working with the new Building Inspector; at the upcoming spring Town Meeting they are planning to reorganize/format the Zoning Bylaws only; there will be no content changes, no law changes. Once organized, they will start working on the content which will require public hearings.

Chair Dunn updated items that were voted on at Town Meeting. The Washington Park project renovation: Ms. Dembkoski sent a contract to a company on the state bid list for the playground equipment (Phase 1); she is waiting for the signed contract. It will take approximately 4 weeks to get the equipment; the Highway Department will remove the existing structure, Groveland Baseball will excavate the area; the playground equipment will be installed by the end of November, and the wood chips will be put spread by GBL. The renovation at the Cemetery: an engineering company has been hired to begin work on that. The windows at Veasey Park have been put out to bid. Ms. Dembkoski said the documents have been sent, they will be advertised in the Central Register on the 28th. The negotiation on the ladder truck is in negotiation. The Fire Chief found a platform truck that it is on another state bid list (not Massachusetts); the Inspector General said as long as the other state bid process matches ours, we can purchase it from that one. He will negotiate a price and come to the board with an update before doing anything. The Veto Room: the architect has been contacted and will be in touch. The bathrooms at Shanahan Field are in the process of being built; it will take about four months. Chair Dunn said the Bagnall School will be meeting with the different officials Tuesday to discuss the wish list for the back of the school. The Pumpkin Fest staging will be set up on the 21st. Chair Dunn will be meeting with the School Committee. He will also be meeting with the Building Inspector and town officials to finalize the book they are putting together for the Building

Department and the town. He would like to come up with a plan to recruit volunteers for town boards; Ms. Dembkoski said vacancies are listed in the website.

Selectman D'Amore said there was a press release recently that talked about the Salem and School Street conservation land project (removing tires and trash); it has been largely completed. Mike Dempsey said it was a joint project with Groveland Conservation and Groveland Open Space, Parker River Clean Water Association, Georgetown Conservation, Northeast Mosquito Control, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife and the Groveland Highway Department. Over 250 tires were spread across the area both on private and state owned land; all the tires were removed; he said it was a great joint effort.

CORRESPONDENCE TO BE REVIEWED:

1. Minutes from October 5, 2012.
2. Executive Session Minutes from September 15, 2015.
3. Draft PRSD Facility Use Policy and Procedures – Ms. Dembkoski said feedback, if any, is needed from the Selectmen by next Thursday; she will forward any comments to the School Department.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME

The old lawnmowers sold for \$2,110.

After a three-month survey on the website regarding the Bagnall School addition being named in honor of someone, there were 43 responses; 17 wanted it; 17 did not; and 9 did not care; there was no majority out of the 17. Those numbers did not give the board confidence to vote; it will be tabled for the time being.

A representative from EcoSmith Recyclers visited the office; they own clothing drop boxes. He thought the town hall parking lot would be a prime spot for one; any money raised could go to the Council on Aging (approximately \$1,500-\$2,000/year based on what is recycled). There is definitely a need; people have been calling for clothing drop boxes in town. It is picked up every week; should there be any graffiti they will take care of it; any items dropped outside of the box they will come get it. The board thought it was a good idea.

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

Chair Dunn had a resident contact him saying there are some contaminants coming off the property behind Sewall Street. Mike Dempsey (Conservation) was contacted. He said Conservation had received similar reports about the land, in particular, dumping on private land. He was able to receive some EPA past testing reports and contacted a lab to see if there were any concerns; the lab reports don't indicate a major problem; there was some small indication that automotive waste may have been dumped there at some time; Conservation would like to confirm those tests. They need permission from the landowner to do the test and will try to complete them within the next month or two.

Selectman D'Amore attended a meeting with the Water Commission and said we should be aware of the capital improvements proposals that will be coming from them at some point; a major infrastructure rebuild is needed; water mains need to be replaced in order to solve the rusty water problem. Ms. Dembkoski said all hydrants were flushed Thursday with a second flushing at River Pine. The Water Commission will report back with the results. The Housing Authority and the Water Department are actively working together.

APPOINTMENTS:

Ms. Dembkoski said the Personnel Policy does allow reinstatement of employees within 90 days; Ms. Cummings is 4 days over 90 days; Ms. Dembkoski spoke with Town Counsel who said at the board's discretion they may appoint her knowing she is outside of the 90 days, but there should be a discussion on

it and if approved, the Board should make a statement that it will not set a past precedence. Chair Dunn acknowledged it and said it will not set a past precedence. Selectman Watson said it should be handled on a case by case basis. Selectman Wood made a motion that we make an exception to the 90-day reinstatement rule and appoint to reinstate Diana Cummings to the position of Adult Services Librarian for 37 hours/week at \$20.48/hour effective November 1, 2015; Selectman MacDonald seconded; Ms. Dembkoski said the reinstatement does reinstate the employee to where they were when they left; voted 5-0-0. Chair Dunn asked if the Library Board of Trustees had a plan in place should Ms. Cummings become the Interim Director and was told it will be discussed at their October 28th meeting.

Selectman D'Amore made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Library Board of Trustees to appoint Jay Collins to fill the Board of Library Trustee vacancy effective October 19, 2015; Chair Dunn seconded; after further discussion Selectman D'Amore made a motion to table the appointment to the next BOH meeting; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Wood made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Library Board of Trustees and to jointly appoint Charles Herman to fill the Board of Library Trustee vacancy effective October 19, 2015; Selectman Watson seconded; voted 10-0-0. Present and voting for the Library were Chair Elizabeth Burton, Vice-Chair Ann McCann, and Trustees Barbara Gauvin, Kathleen Prunier, and Laurel Pulchalski.

The Board of Library Trustees will be appointing an Acting Director and a Search Committee is set up to start interviewing for an Interim Director. Selectman MacDonald asked if it is the recommendation of the Library Trustees as to the contract term or is it up to the BOS to make that recommendation. Library Trustee Chair, Beth Burton said that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners recommends having a contract; there has been a conflict in the past with Town Counsel's recommendation and she said we should follow the MBLC recommendation. Ms. Dembkoski said Town Counsel still recommends we not have a contract; it is not in the best interest of the town; we should follow the Personnel Policy. Selectman Watson said after meeting with them, he is confident that they will get things in order. The Search Committee is comprised of three Trustees, one Town Hall member (Ed Watson), and a representative of the community (Marylou Costello).

Selectman D'Amore made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Library Board of Trustees and to jointly appoint Leonard Lee Thomas to fill the Board of Library Trustee vacancy effective October 19, 2015; Selectman Watson seconded; voted 10-0-0. Present and voting for the Library were Chair Elizabeth Burton, Vice-Chair Ann McCann, and Trustees Barbara Gauvin, Kathleen Prunier, and Laurel Pulchalski.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Jayne Jennings to the Groveland Cultural Council through June 30, 2019; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Ms. Dembkoski reminded the residents that next Monday is Special Town Meeting, 7PM at the Bagnall School; 100 registered voters are needed.

Chair Dunn reminded everyone that carved pumpkins for Pumpkin Fest should be dropped off on October 22nd from 4:30PM-7:30PM; October 29th is the lighting. Selectman MacDonald said CPC is meeting tomorrow on the Pines funding. Wednesday night is the Police Association Harvest Dinner for the seniors; and October 26th is the Special Town Meeting.

The next meeting will be held Monday, November 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

Selectman Wood made a motion to adjourn; Selectman D'Amore seconded; voted 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19p.m.

*** Unanimously Approved on November 16, 2015 ***