

Groveland Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
June 27, 2016

Present: Chair William Dunn, Selectman Daniel MacDonald, Selectman Ed Watson, Selectman Michael Wood, Selectman William O'Neil

Absent: None

Others Present: Denise Dembkoski (Finance Director)

Recorder: Melanie Rich

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

**RESIDENT/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Heather Meninger (Conservation member) wanted to address the appointments of the Conservation Commissioners being put on hold because they are not making a decision on the grills. She said the July 15, 2015 Conservation Meeting Minutes reflect that there was a vote to remove the grills at Lower Center Street per the request of the Groveland Fire Chief. On May 11, 2016, the Fire Chief submitted additional regulations for grill use and permitting. The Commission approved Mr. Keene to work with the Fire Chief because they felt the rules submitted were insufficient. She disagreed with the BOS's reasoning and felt that if their vote is going to have a bearing on reappointments now and in the future, she is prepared to resign. Chair Dunn said the BOS did not make the decision that the two Commissioners were not being reappointed; it was going to be discussed at the next meeting. He did agree with one of the Commissioners who said that this is not only about the fire grills; it is about bigger issue. Ms. Meninger said on December 9<sup>th</sup> they voted to leave one picnic table and one bench, reducing the footprint of the usage because of the erosion that was happening. Selectman Watson said he received numerous phone calls on that issue and the appointments. People are frustrated and asked how we get rid of people on appointed boards that are not listening to the will of the people. Ms. Meninger asked why they didn't go to a Conservation meeting with their concerns; the majority that attended were in favor of their decision. Selectman Watson said it is a recreation area and it should be used for recreation purposes. He also said he will make decisions based on the best interest of the townspeople and voters. Selectman MacDonald said it is within the discretion of the BOS to go in another direction and appoint someone else. He understands there was only one reason to remove the grills and that was at the request of the Fire Chief. He believes the Fire Chief came up with a compromise and made regulations to safeguard it. If the one reason the grills were removed was because of the Fire Chief's decision and the Fire Chief has retracted that, then the Commission's issue becomes moot. We don't have to like every decision you make and you don't have to like every decision we make. Chair Dunn said watching the meeting it appeared that the Commission thinks the BOS is strong-holding them. Chair Dunn said it goes both ways. This board should be a checks and balance; it should not rubber stamp everything. She said if there are residents that don't agree with their decisions, they should come to their meeting. Chair Dunn said he believes the taxpayers of Groveland should have a nice place to go if they want to put a boat in the water and have a grill; we shouldn't be taking things away.

Laurie LeBlanc and Jennifer Close asked why their appointments to the Board of Registrars were placed on hold. Selectman Watson said there were three people on the list and one person no longer lives in town so the hold was put on. They are scheduled to be appointed tonight.

Jan Dempsey (33 Uptack Road) said she appreciates the time and effort the BOS puts into their role and urges the board to appreciate and respect the many hours that the appointed officers put in their respective jobs. She also urged the board to expedite the Library Director's contract; the library is still not certified with the state but hopes it will be by October/November.

Tracy Gilford (Fire Department) said Doug Mund told him that he did submit an updated plan separating the display and the building itself regarding the Veto project and respectfully asked Ms. Dembkoski to check her junk email. He will ask Mr. Mund to send it again and will forward it to the BOS. Ms. Dembkoski

asked if they had put together their priority list. Mr. Gilford said they don't need one now because it was separated out.

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:**

Selectman Wood made a motion to approve PW#16-53 in the amount of \$292,087.57; Selectman Watson seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

Selectman Wood made a motion to approve DW#16-51A in the amount of \$24,825.33; Selectman Watson seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

Selectman Wood made a motion to approve BW#16-53 in the amount of \$149,321.42; Selectman Watson seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to appoint James Scanlon to the Finance Board through June 30, 2019; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Wood made a motion to appoint James Scanlon to the Capital Improvement Committee through June 30, 2019; Selectman O'Neil seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Frederick O'Connor to the Conservation Commission through June 30, 2019; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Jan Voogd as Library Director pending successful contract negotiations outlining the terms of her employment and the effective start date; Selectman O'Neil seconded; voted 5-0-0. Terms of the contract will be ratified by the Selectmen at an upcoming meeting.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE:**

Annual Appointments – Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Laurie LeBlanc to a one year appointment to the Board of Registrars expiring 6/30/17; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Jennifer Close to a one year appointment to the Board of Registrars expiring 6/30/17; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint John Gebauer to a three year term to the Conservation Commission expiring 6/30/19; Selectman MacDonald seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to appoint Robert Lay as the Right-to-Know Officer; Selectman Watson seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Mike Ingham as the Veteran's Agent to a one year term expiring 6/30/17; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

At the last meeting the board appointed Carl Much and Dorothy DiChiara to the Council on Aging for a three-year term. According to their bylaws, members can only serve two consecutive terms. Carl Much cannot serve another term. They suggested appointing Anita Wright. Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Anita Wright to the Council on Aging for a three year term; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint the Reserve Police Officers, based on the Police Chief's recommendations, to a one year term effective 7/1/16 through 6/30/17; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint the Lock-Up Keepers, based on the Police Chief's recommendations, to a one year term effective 7/1/16 through 6/30/17; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint the Matrons, based on the Police Chief's recommendations, to a one year term effective 7/1/16 through 6/30/17; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Wood made a motion to appoint Michael Vets as the Harbormaster, based on the Police Chief's recommendation, to a one year term effective 7/1/16 through 6/30/17; Selectman O'Neil seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Robert Raimondi and Nicholas Toleos as Dock Masters, based on the Police Chief's recommendations, to a one year term effective 7/1/16 through 6/30/17; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Jeffrey Gillen, Robert Kirmelewicz, Stephen Sargent and Robert Arakelian to the Emergency Management/Civil Defense, based on the Police Chief's recommendations, for a one year term effective 7/1/16 through 6/30/17; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Michael Kastrinelis, Edward Reed, Robert Daniels and Carlos as Constables, based on the Police Chief's recommendations, for a one year term effective 7/1/16 through 6/30/17; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Nathaniel Peabody, Joshua Sindoni and Stephen Sargent as Animal Control Officers, based on the Police Chief's recommendations, for a one year term effective 7/1/16 through 6/30/17; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Selectman Wood spoke to Ruth Barrett about the Finance Committee vacancies; she was very interested. Ms. Barrett lives at 6 Berrywood Lane; has an Economics Degree from UNH, MBA with finance concentration from Babson, 16 years experience with high network money management, and volunteers at school, PTA, church and other causes. Selectman O'Neil made a motion to appoint Ruth Barrett to the Finance Committee to a three year term; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0.

Conservation Agent Follow-Up – Mr. Dempsey provided information for the board including the fee schedule and history of revenue. Sam Joslin reviewed the job description; he does not see any overlapping duties. Selectman MacDonald asked if the fees are competitive with other towns; yes. Selectman Watson asked about seasonal restriction. Mr. Dempsey said the reason for this is because November through April is not a good time to work in the wetlands; the Commission tries to discourage work during that time. Mr. Dempsey explained the fee revenue activity for FY14, FY15 & FY16 along with the staff cost projection. He does not anticipate having to raise fees to pay for the agent; money from three prior years is in reserves. Chair Dunn said he has proven that the money will be there to fund the agent. The board said there should be structured hours at town hall. Selectman O'Neil asked about agent increases and said the money will run out and they will have to raise fees. Mr. Dempsey said the easiest way to increase revenue is through increased filings which the agent could do. Chair Dunn made a motion to approve hiring a part-time Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission; Selectman Wood seconded. Selectman O'Neil asked if there could be a stipulation that the position is to be self-funded through Conservation fees; Selectman MacDonald asked if they could be held to the current fee structure and come before the board if

they have to raise fees. Mr. Dempsey said the Commission sets the fees. Chair Dunn made a friendly amendment that it has to be self-funded through the Conservation Commission for at least three years without raising fees. Voted 5-0-0.

Land Sale Discussion – Ms. Dembkoski these are the five parcels that make up the one large contiguous parcel. There are some rumors that there may be an issue with one of the parcels but the deeds show we have tax taking. We can proceed as is and when the title search is completed and examined, if there is an issue, we will deal with it at that point. She researched other communities and found that 99% listed a minimum bid. The properties are worth a total of \$164K±, but after having the appraisal done by Mr. Morocco, he said they should be worth \$50K/acre, resulting in a value of \$347,500; he suggested listing it at \$379K. The board agreed there should be a value on it. The property is 6.95 acres. Selectman MacDonald wants to consider what they are going to do with it. Ms. Dembkoski said the nature of the use plan must be submitted with the proposal, and the bidder is to summarize what they believe their proposal offers that is unique from other potential uses and provide three references that can lend credibility to the proposal. Also included in the proposal it states that the physical characteristics of the parcel includes 434' of frontage extending back 500'±, the topography is rolling topography, and there is evidence of ledge outcropping; nonetheless, the site offers average useable land in an industrial zone totaling 6.95 acres. Selectman O'Neil made a motion to advertise the land at \$379K; Selectman Watson seconded; voted 5-0-0. Ms. Dembkoski will move forward with the process.

**VOTES OF THE BOARD:**

1. Selectman Watson made a motion to approve the May 31, 2016 Minutes; Selectman O'Neil seconded; voted 5-0-0.
2. Selectman MacDonald made a motion to accept the resignation of Carl Keene from the Conservation Commission; Selectman Watson seconded; voted 5-0-0.

**OLD BUSINESS (Unfinished Business):**

A response was received from Mrs. Delaflor regarding 299-301 Main Street. She is not willing to wait a year for possible purchase by the town. Ms. Dembkoski will forward the letter to the interested parties that were at the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

The well has been drilled at the Bagnall School; they have an adequate water supply to do the project. The shed has been ordered and the project is moving forward.

**CORRESPONDENCE TO BE REVIEWED:**

1. Minutes from June 13, 2016.
2. Letter from the Police Chief regarding retired officers working reserves.
3. Invitation to attend the PRSD hearing regarding the formation of a building committee for the high school project. Ms. Dembkoski said there will be a hearing July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the high school. The recommended list of people they would like to see on the committee will be reviewed for feedback. Some board members will attend.
4. Letter from Kopelman & Paige, P.C. to thank the BOS for their reappointment.
5. Email from Joe D'Amore regarding appointments/re-appointments.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME:**

Ms. Dembkoski updated the Pines well. The bid came in significantly higher than expected; approximately \$79K; they are re-evaluating what to do. She is working with Recreation on how they want to proceed

based on the money and funds they were granted from Community Preservation. Chair Dunn said the well driller made a suggestion that if it goes back out to bid to break it up; bid the well, pump and electricians separately. Ms. Dembkoski explained that one of the things Recreation wanted was a 24-hour well testing to produce 144,000 gallons of water; the well driller said that is excessive and not necessary. Recreation will re-evaluate that component of it. There was also some question on the size of the pump that is needed; the company doing it at Bagnall felt it was excessive for the work that needs to be done. The pump alone was \$40K. It needs to be fine tuned.

**SELECTMEN'S TIME:**

Selectman Watson commented that the appointments made were sent out on Finance Director letterhead rather than BOS letterhead. Ms. Dembkoski said the letters indicated the appointments were made by the BOS; but Selectman Watson would like them on BOS letterhead going forward.

Selectman MacDonald said with regard to appointments, we try to put good people on committees and hopefully will get good results. Some people have suggested to him that there be term limits on Chairmanships. He is not trying to micromanage, but believes there should be term limits for elected officials and for appointments as well. Ms. Dembkoski said what should happen after every election is reorganization of the board, but some boards don't do it. She further said that if they choose to reappoint the same Chair by a majority, that is within their rights. Chair Dunn said the criticism of the board he received since the last meeting is that we are dictators, but if we rubber-stamped everything and don't give the townspeople the right to discuss it and have conversation, we would appoint everybody. It is the board's job to do the checks and balances and doesn't think people should feel the board is doing something wrong for doing checks and balances; he thinks we have been a fair board and try to find common ground. Selectman MacDonald said if we all had the same view on everything, four of us are not needed. Chair Dunn feels we are a respectful board. Selectman Watson said when someone speaks up and says the Selectmen are disrespectful, he looks at that as we don't agree with them. If we agree with them we are respectful; if we don't, we are disrespectful. In conversations with Town Counsel, if the board decides not to appoint someone, the board does not owe them an explanation. Selectman MacDonald asked if the board would be willing to send a letter to all boards recommending they have annual reorganization, and include the board's suggestion to limit the number of terms; the Chair agreed. Selectman O'Neil also agreed but said to be realistic with expectations; they are volunteers and don't have to come back; we need to be mindful of what we do so we don't alienate some of the citizens so they don't want to be involved. Ms. Dembkoski will send an email recommending they reorganize annually and possibly consider term limits and rotating the chairmanship. Selectman MacDonald said the power is in the Chair; they set the agenda and they control the committee.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, July 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Selectman Watson made a motion to adjourn; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

\*\*\* Unanimously Approved on July 25, 2016 \*\*\*