

Groveland Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2016

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

Absent: Selectman Michael Wood, Denise Demboski (Finance Director)

Others Present: Cassandra Murphy

Recorder: Melanie Rich

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

RESIDENT/PUBLIC COMMENTS: None tonight.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to approve PW#17-13 in the amount of \$161,910.53; Selectman Watson seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to approve DW#17-11AA in the amount of (-\$127.90); Selectman Watson seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to approve DW#17-11A in the amount of \$27,949.17); Selectman Watson seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to approve BW#17-13 in the amount of \$1,433,838.20; Selectman Watson seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

APPOINTMENTS:

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Elaine Wozny to fill a vacancy on the Board of Health effective October 3, 2016 until the next annual election; Selectman MacDonald seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Joan Searl to fill a vacancy on the Board of Health effective October 3, 2016 until the next annual election; Selectman MacDonald seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Rosemary Decie to the position of part-time Conservation Agent pending a successful CORI certification; Selectman MacDonald seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Chair Dunn said the Planning Board could not function last month because they did not have a quorum and do not have a quorum for Tuesday night; there are only three members currently; we urgently need people to be on the board. He asked if anyone from the BOS was available to help this Tuesday. Jim Freer, PB Chair, said there are applications before the board that they have not been able to act on. Debra Webster said she would step up but did not want to be appointed because her schedule does not allow the time on an ongoing basis. Mr. Freer said she would be appointed for one night and step down; she agreed. Selectman MacDonald made a motion to appoint Debra Webster to the Planning Board; Selectman Watson seconded; voted 4-0-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

Water & Sewer Department (updates on their department including sewer study, capital plan, and department infrastructure) – Before discussing the specified topic, Chair Dunn said the water bills have been mailed and he is receiving emails because the basic minimum water bill and the excess water charge

Tom Cusick, Superintendent said it should have been 15% across the board. There was a rate hearing; it all stemmed off of the Capital Improvement plan and the upgrade of the system. Notification was in the newspaper and on the website. It is an increase to the bond to debt; rates have to go up. The appropriation was voted on at town meeting. Water Office Manager, Patricia Rogers said she did make a mistake on the bills; the Conservation rate is too high; she will correct that and send out adjusted bills.

Tom Cusick said there was discussion with Ms. Demboski about sewer in south Groveland, what it would entail, what it would mean for some of the land recently purchased by the town, and if there would be a benefit. It is a fairly large project and would have to be done in stages. Bruce Adams (Weston & Sampson Engineers) did an evaluation for the cost to sewer the Pike and Pandora areas, Harvard, Yale and Murray Court and out through Chesterton. They costed out each of the neighborhoods and looked at two different routes to get sewerage collected from the neighborhoods into the interceptor which ends at the end of Whitestone; the cost would be approximately \$3.5 million (150 residents plus Chesterton). If the residents were to pay a portion it could be up to \$24K depending on the alternatives and routes chosen. If just sewer was brought out through the Mattingly parcel from the interceptor out to service Center Street and any new development, the cost is approximately \$400K. Chair Dunn said if only 150 homes will benefit and it is put on the bill, people will complain they are paying for it but getting nothing for it. Mr. Adams said it is common for the town itself to pick up the inceptor costs which is the main trunk pipes and which don't have any customers tied to them. The value is approximately \$350K. Chair Dunn asked where do they go from here. Consultant Bruce Adams said to see if the town has a thought process for Center Street and is it advantageous for you, the sewer would be per house, would be a betterment; they are looking to see if the town will share in the cost of the main interceptors. Chair Dunn wanted to talk to Chesterton in the future to see if they wanted to have some passive recreation; possibly sell a piece for commercial which would bring the value of the land up, but because of the way the note was written, if it was sold it has to stay in the bank for 10 years until the note matures. Chesterton has had sewer problems and may be willing to talk; Bruce Adams hopes there will be advantage to that as well. Selectman MacDonald asked why they selected those neighborhoods. Bruce Adams said Harvard and Yale expressed interest in the past; Pandora and Pike need it. Selectman O'Neil asked if it was the most cost effective place to begin. Mr. Adams said it is the largest contiguous densely populated neighborhoods in the town and in close proximity. Tom Cusick said a residual effect of putting sewers in that area is that it will protect the Aquifer. Selectman Watson asked if there was state funding available. Mr. Adams said not much in the way of state grants unless you can prove you are creating permanent jobs. State Revolving Funds are available which is 2% low interest loan.

Tom Cusick talked about the Electric Light building on School Street and the possibility of the Water Department moving into that building. He feels very strongly that it is great fit for them. Currently they are spread across town in two different locations; not very efficient. They have grown out of where they are now. It will be the same use so there will be no permitting issues. Chair Dunn and Selectman Watson toured the building and thought it was good for the Water Department. It will also open up town hall space. Since the Water & Light Departments operate as a separate enterprise, there would have to be some discussion as to if there will be there a payback to the town. Selectman Watson agreed it is a good fit; we just need to come up with a cost. Bruce Adams said to take into consideration that they put in the 400' radius around the well, they put in the solar field; the revenue generated goes back into the town, not the Water and Sewer Department; \$508K went to the town. Chair Dunn said to put it on a future agenda; in the meantime, Tom Cusick will do more leg work and have the Building Inspector look at it and report his findings to the board.

150 Center Street Discussion (ideas for use, funding sources, collaborations) – Mike Dempsey said he and Selectman MacDonald started working a year ago to see if there was a way to refinance the bond. When it was purchased, the Selectmen decided to fund it with a bond and not use any CPA funds. The Community Preservation Act does not allow you to go back and change it even though some of the potential uses could be CPA qualifying; Town Counsel agreed. They met with Lenny Mirra and he said he would be willing to

file a local relief plan that might, if the other legislators could be convinced to go along, give us some relief and allow us to potentially use CPA funds for portions of the bond. Representative Mirra said to provide a document showing what we are looking for along with a letter from the board asking him to move it forward if possible. Mr. Dempsey provided the board with an example. He said we might want to use it for recreational use and pay for it with CPA funds, but there are a lot of ifs there; it requires input from all portions involved. If we have some mitigation of the cost over time, we know that taxpayers are going to get some relief from that bill. Selectman MacDonald said they explored options and this is the only way forward to get tax relief. If language seeking legislative relief is adopted by the legislature and signed by the governor, it would give the town ultimate flexibility to use CPC funds for a debt service which we are already paying. If part of the property was used for open space, trails and recreations, a percentage of that debt service could be earmarked and CPA funds could be used to pay for it; we just need a mechanism. Selectman Watson asked Mr. Dempsey how much is in the CPA funds and how much he was planning on using on this project. Mr. Dempsey said at least \$1 million could potentially be put towards it. The board agreed to move forward. Chair Dunn made a motion to move forward with the request of legislation relief for the 150 Center Street property and get a letter from the board to Representative Mirra; Selectman MacDonald seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Chair Dunn said we discussed keeping a piece of land set aside for commercial and/or also for passive recreation among other ideas. He suggested sending a letter along with a map of the parcel to all committees and boards for their input; Chesterton will be included as well. Chair Dunn said he would meet with local businesses and let them know what is going on and see if they have any input.

Selectman MacDonald asked for an update on the police firing range. Chair Dunn said he believes it is not going in until the fall because of turtles. It will move forward when the right time of year is there. He said the Fire Department was using it for training, and the astronomy group uses it occasionally. Other groups are welcome to use it, but it has to be permitted.

Discussion of Amendment to Board of Selectmen Policy on Appointments – When the policy was approved, a reference to Chairman was omitted. It was the intention of the board to have the Chairman involved in the policy. Selectman O’Neil made a motion to add to item 2 of the Appointments to Boards and Committees Policy, “a member may hold the position of Chairman for no longer than two consecutive years except for the time served filling an unexpired term of the previous Chairman”; Selectman Watson seconded; voted 4-0-0.

September Volunteer of the Month Discussion and Selection – Recommendations for nominees Mike Dempsey and Ed Reed were read. After much discussion, Selectman Watson made a motion to recognize Ed Reed as Volunteer of the Month; Selectman MacDonald seconded; voted 4-0-0.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

1. Selectman Watson made a motion to approve the September 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes; Selectman MacDonald seconded; voted 4-0-0.
2. Selectman Watson made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Service Agreement between the Town of Groveland and Waste Management of Londonderry, Inc.; Selectman MacDonald seconded. Discussion: Selectman Watson asked about bulk item pick-up by appointment with a small fee and if a truck could come in a few times a year. Chair Dunn said it was brought up during contract negotiations and it would have increased the cost, but he will check with Ms. Dembkoski upon her return to confirm that. Voted 4-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Unfinished Business):

Selectman Watson discussed developing a job description for the Highway Superintendent. In order to make it an appointed position, a job description and qualifications are needed. Selectman O'Neil said until it is an appointed position we have no authority over. Chair Dunn said it would have to be changed at town meeting. Selectman MacDonald suggested it be a future agenda item for input as anticipation of an article being put on the warrant. Chair Dunn would like the Road Commissioner come in or send a letter with his thoughts on his position becoming an appointed one.

Selectman MacDonald asked the status of the Pines. Chair Dunn said we asked the Recreation Committee if they wanted to take some ownership, etc. He asked if they could meet on the 11th; they were unable to. Mike Houghton emailed a list of questions to the board about them taking ownership and would like them answered. Chair Dunn said some of them are not easy to answer without them being present. Selectman O'Neil read the list. Chair Dunn said there was \$269K; \$200K was frozen for maintenance; \$69K was to be used to finish the bathrooms. He believes approximately \$58K was already used. The boat ramp was \$149K (the boat ramp and the bathrooms were going to be done by the Highway Department). When the project was done they were going to turn it over and the Committee would run it. CPA money set aside was approximately \$240K; \$1,300 was spent money on advertising; the amount remaining is \$212K; that is the number to work with to start the process to do the wells and sprinklers. We need them to come before the board. Selectman MacDonald said we need a management team in place. Selectman O'Neil said to reach out to all the groups that use it and have a representative of each group form a committee who will now have a vested interested in the use of that facility. Chair Dunn will reply to the letter and ask them to see about forming a Board of Directors and come back before us for discussion.

Selectman MacDonald asked about the Bagnall Summer Program; he thought someone from that group was to come before us with a proposed budget; we were going to work together to break away from the revolving fund which has cap limitations and if that's not a suitable structure for the ultimate goal of serving the children then we should make legal changes to that structure. Chair Dunn he has not received an official resignation but said the current Director is resigning; the position needs to be posted. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Matt Castonguay will be asked to attend a meeting to give an update on the program, where it is going, and the funding mechanism. Chair Dunn said we received some money from them to do the Bagnall project. He will be unloading 12 trees for the project and is looking for volunteers to help spread woodchips. He met with the sprinkler contractor who will charge \$7,600 for labor and material; the sprinkler system will be taken care of November 15th. Seeding will take place in the spring and the project will be completed. The Highway Department has committed to planting the trees on the 11th; after that Chair Dunn will donate and deliver the woodchips and hopefully they will be spread by volunteers. There will be approximately \$35K left; he would like to hot top the side of the school that wasn't done because they ran out of money. Chair Dunn asked Ms. Murphy to ask the Principal at the Bagnall School to send a note home with the children asking parents to volunteer to spread woodchips and put in the picnic area. Selectman O'Neil said to reach out to the High School as well for students needing community service.

Chair Dunn said the library responded to him regarding the checkbook issue and the custody of the funds. Selectman Watson read the letter which said in part they are devoting as much time as possible research archives and appropriate records as well as contacting family members to resolve the issue and will keep the board informed regularly of their progress. Chair Dunn said they are moving forward so we will give them time.

Selectman MacDonald asked about Pumpkin Fest. Chair Dunn said it is moving along; the staging has been ordered. The library, police and fire are all involved. Drop off for the pumpkins will start on Wednesday the 19th; they will be lit on Wednesday the 26th; the hours are 5PM to 7PM.

CORRESPONDENCE TO BE REVIEWED:

1. Minutes from September 19, 2016.
2. Executive Session Minutes from September 26, 2016.

SELECTMEN’S TIME:

Chair Dunn announced that the Police Association Harvest Dinner for the Seniors at the Bagnall Elementary School cafeteria will be held on Wednesday, October 19th; doors open at 5PM; dinner will be served at 5:30PM. Call the COA by Wednesday, October 12th to reserve a place. If any Selectmen are available, they are encouraged to attend.

Selectman O’Neil said children and some teachers at the High School are working on a project to name the southbound side of the new bridge (over the Merrimack and Route 95) after Mr. Garrison who was instrumental to Mr. Whittier during the Civil War. Selectman O’Neil said during his time at the High School he noticed that the only group that was not on board with the project was the Selectmen of Groveland. He was wondering if we could bring in some of the students and support their idea to rename part of that bridge after a significant person in our local history; it would be a great opportunity to let them see how government works. This will be an agenda item; Lenny Mirra will be invited to attend.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, October 17, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Selectman O’Neil made a motion to adjourn; Selectman Watson seconded; voted 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

*** Approved on November 1, 2016 by a vote of 4-0-1, with Selectman Wood abstaining ***