



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 9, 2022

Groveland Town Hall

183 Main Street, Groveland, MA 01834

This meeting was in-person and also broadcast live on Groveland Public Access, Channel 9, as well as through Zoom virtual meeting software for remote access.

PRESENT: Chair Ed Watson, Selectmen Jason Naves, Kathleen Kastrinelis, Dan MacDonald and Mark Parenteau.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD:

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to nominate Selectman Kastrinelis as the Chair.

Selectman Naves stated that the biggest reason for nominating Selectman Kastrinelis' is her experience and tenacity with her previously established relationship with the School and Finance Committee will benefit the Town.

Motion failed: 2-3-0. Watson, MacDonald and Parenteau voted against.
(Motion moved so that it followed the discussion of the motion)

A motion was moved by Selectman MacDonald and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to nominate Selectman Watson as the Chair.

Selectman Kastrinelis commented that it was clear this was a set up that we are making the same person chairman again so that she could not serve as Chair even though she felt she would be fair. Selectman Kastrinelis felt this sets a bad precedent and she would be voting against this stated the residents of the Town should be concerned.

(Discussion moved so that it followed the motion but preceded the vote)

Selectman MacDonald responded:

Last year something happened that was unprecedented, Kathy and Bill O'Neill tried to remove the Chairman mid-term. If we are going to get along civilly it should never happen, it is unprecedented, and he will not reward Kathy for it. We do not need the vision on this board it is a procedural position, it is not a power position and that is how he sees it. He felt they needed stability and continuity, Ed did an outstanding job and was badgered and belittled last year and he thought Ed did a great job, an exceptional job, he is proud of his Chairman Ed Watson, and he wanted to give him another shot at it.

(Discussion moved so that it followed the motion but preceded the vote)

Selectman Kastrinelis responded by speaking to the residents of Groveland and noted that she almost had the gavel hit on her by the current Chair, was called names by Board members and as Chair she would never allow that to happen during a meeting. There is no civility on this Board.

(Discussion moved so that it followed the motion but preceded the vote)

Motion Passed 3-2-0. Kastrinelis and Naves voted against.
(Motion moved so that it followed the discussion of the motion)

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to nominate Selectman Naves as Vice-Chair.

Selectman Kastrinelis stated that Selectman Naves is honest and trustworthy, and she thinks he will be a fantastic Vice-Chairman.
(Discussion moved so that it followed the motion but preceded the vote)

Motion passed 3-2-0. Watson and voted against.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPROVE WARRANTS:

PW # 22-45 \$180,960

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to approve Warrant PW#22-45 in the amount of \$180,960. Voted: 5-0-0.

BW # 22-45 \$1,377,718.82:

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to approve Warrant BW # 22-45 in the amount of \$1,377,718.82. Voted: 5-0-0.

22-45 BILLS WARRANT BREAKDOWN:

Town:	\$ 44,371.17
W/S:	\$ 15,586.00
Payroll Withholding:	\$ 36,192.09
Health Insurance:	\$
Light Bills:	\$ 150,207.40
Grants & Revolving:	\$ 113,609.83
Chapter 90:	\$
Pentucket Assessment:	\$ 1,017,752.33
Whittier Assessment:	\$
Capital:	\$

APPROVE MINUTES:

1) April 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes:

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Naves to approve the April 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes. Motion passed: 3-2-0. MacDonald and Parenteau abstained.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

2) Accept the resignation of Jamie Koulouras from the Library Board of Trustees effective February 17, 2022.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Naves to accept the resignation of Jamie Koulouras from the Library Board of Trustees effective February 17, 2022. Voted: 5-0-0.

3) Approve Town Administrator as signatory for the 22-47 payroll warrant:

TA Oldham reported that this is only a one-time situation due to the Accountant being on vacation.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Naves to approve the Town Administrator as signatory for the 22-47 payroll warrant. Voted: 5-0-0.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:

4) ARPA Discussion

○ Garden Club Request

Diane Plantamura member of the Garden Club to explain what the Garden Club does for the Town. The Garden Club is asking for \$6,000; money was lost due to not being able to hold two big fundraising events. Selectman Kastrinelis spoke in support of this request. Selectman MacDonald would like to wait on this to see what the result of the cost will be to remove the lead in the water at the Bagnall School. Selectman Kastrinelis asked if there was a lesser amount the Board might be in favor of supporting. Selectman MacDonald asked if Selectman Kastrinelis felt \$2,000 would be acceptable for now and if there is money left, additional funds could be allocated. Selectman Kastrinelis agreed to this, and Selectman MacDonald stated he supported \$2,000. Diane Plantamura agreed with the amount.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Parenteau for \$2,000 of the ARPA funds to be given to the Groveland Garden Club. Voted: 5-0-0.

○ Premium Pay:

Selectman Naves has taken the lead on this and reported that he used the formula that was used for the Police Department and adjusted it and the BOS now has the draft report in front of them tonight. Some Department Heads have opted out. It looks like it could cost \$28,000 - \$32,000; the report is not complete this is for information tonight. Selectman Kastrinelis stated that she didn't support giving out bonuses to everyone, perhaps an extra personal day and a letter of appreciation in their file. The Board discussed asking the Department Heads to come in to speak to the Board to explain the risks their departments endured.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman MacDonald to table this discussion until we see the study of the lead at the Bagnall School because that is what was just discussed with the Garden Club. Voted: 4-1-0. Naves voted against.

5) Pentucket School / Groveland Cable TV: proposed collaboration:

Chris Liquori, Director of the Cable Department was present and addressed the Board and explained that there is an opportunity to install a state-of-the-art video production system at the Pentucket HS. There have been many requests to expand programming and expansion will be necessary. There is one shot to do this before the deal is off the table. There is unspent money in the PEG Access Account from last year, so the proposal is to take about \$50,000 from this year and \$100,000 from the stabilization account and there would be a great system in place. There is about \$300,000 in the stabilization fund. There are things that need to be determined, so costs are

estimated on the higher end. There is potential to add Merrimac and West Newbury at a later date. Selectman Kastrinelis felt this was very rushed. Selectman MacDonald stated that if the other towns were not interested right now, and if this could be exclusively for Groveland, he would consider this; if the other towns want to join later, they will have to “buy in”. Another option to consider might be to just install the conduits now for future use. There is already an article on the Town Warrant allowing up to \$250,000 on cable expenses beginning July 1, 2022, to be expended at the direction of the BOS.

A motion was moved by Selectman MacDonald and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to approve \$15,000 for running the conduits at the Pentucket Regional School out of the current budget subject to approval by the school district and all other compliance requirements. Voted: 5-0-0.

6) COA Program & Transportation Coordinator: job reclassification:

TA Oldham reported this is not a new position but rather the position that has evolved to take on additional responsibilities over the years.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Naves to reclassify the job title and description of the Groveland COA Assistant Director. Voted: 5-0-0.

7) Review lease option for 46 Washington

Mike Dempsey representing Groveland Community Preservation Committee. The BOS has a copy of the proposed lease to review, and Town Counsel has approved the leasing of the building out. A local artist is planning to lease the first floor for an art studio. The building is currently vacant, but the town still incurs costs. The lease is for one year and the tenant will pay rent and cover heating costs which will save the town money. This will require a change of occupancy permit to be issued by the Building Inspector. Mike requested the Board review this proposal and vote either tonight or at the next meeting. Selectman MacDonald asked for language to be added that the tenant will be responsible for the heat.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to approve the proposed lease with the amendment that wording be added under Utilities and Services would read that the Landlord shall be responsible for electric and water utilities in services in connection with the premises. For the term of the lease the Tenant shall be responsible for the use of natural gas for heating and shall not use electrical services for heating and cooling purposes. Selectman Naves felt this was a bit premature because the town would have to wait to find out about the sewer.

Voted: 4-1-0. Chair Watson abstained.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S TIME:

TA Oldham reported that the wage and classification as begun; the Collins Center came in last week. The HVAC contract has been awarded and the contractor has begun work.

SELECTMEN’S TIME & REPORTS:

Selectman MacDonald: reported that he looked at the town audit budget and asked if the town could solicit bids periodically to find a cheaper option to save the town money. This will be an agenda item after the town meeting. TA Oldham will investigate if there is currently a contract in place and report back.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Selectman Kastrinelis: The School Committee is meeting tomorrow, and she drafted a statement that she would like to read at that meeting. Selectman Kastrinelis read the draft statement. Selectman MacDonald offered an amendment to the statement to which Selectman Kastrinelis agreed to amend. The BOS had previously voted to allow Selectman Kastrinelis to draft the statement.

OTHER ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING:

TA Oldham commended the Fire and Police Department for the tremendous job they did handling three fires and two other emergency situations were handled by the Police Department.

The School Building Committee needs a BOS Representative; there is a meeting tomorrow.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to appoint TA Oldham to represent the BOS on the School Building Committee. Voted: 5-0-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lt. Dwight McDonald Resignation from Reserve Officers and Dispatch
American Legion Invitation for Memorials Day service
AMVETS Invitation to Memorial Day Parade and Service

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was moved and seconded by Selectman MacDonald to adjourn the meeting.
Voted: 5-0-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, May 23, 2022, at 6:00PM at the Bagnall School.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine T. Ingram