



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 15, 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 Dan MacDonald, Mark Parenteau, Jason Naves, Kathleen Kastrinelis.

Rebecca Oldham, Town Administrator

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

APPROVE WARRANTS:

PW # 23-07 \$208,438.61

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve Warrant PW #23-07 in the amount of \$208,438.61. Voted: 5-0.

BW# 23-07 \$519,874.94

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve Warrant BW #23-07 in the amount of \$519,874.94. Voted: 5-0.

23-07 BILLS WARRANT BREAKDOWN:

Town:	\$162,647.94
W/S:	\$ 13,256.19
Payroll Withholding:	\$ 35,961.31
Light Bills:	\$225,582.67
Grants & Revolving:	\$ 82,426.83

APPROVE MINUTES:

1) July 5, 2022, Meeting Minutes:

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve the July 5, 2022, Meeting Minutes. Voted: 5-0.

2) July 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes:

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve the July 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes. Voted: 4-0-1. Selectman Parenteau abstained.

3) November 4, 2021, Executive Session Minutes:

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve the November 4, 2021, Executive Session Minutes. Voted: 4-0-1. Selectman Parenteau abstained.

4) November 9, 2021, Executive Session Minutes:

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman to approve the November 9, 2021, Executive Session Minutes. Voted: 4-0-1. Selectman Parenteau abstained.

- 5) November 15, 2021, Executive Session Minutes:
A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve the November 15, 2021, Executive Session Minutes. Voted: 3-0-2. Selectmen Parenteau and MacDonald abstained.
- 6) November 22, 2021, Executive Session Minutes
A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve the November 22, 2021, Executive Session Minutes. Voted: 4-0-1. Selectman Parenteau abstained.

APPOINTMENTS OF THE BOARD:

- 1) Appointment of Bill O'Neil of 45 Elm Park Groveland to the Finance Board as the alternate member effective August 15, 2022, until June 23, 2023.
A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis who amended the motion to appoint Bill O'Neil of 45 Elm Park, Groveland to the Recreation Committee effective August 15, 2022, until June 23, 2023, and as an alternate to the Finance Board effective August 15, 2022, until June 23, 2023. Voted: 3-2.
Selectman Kastrinelis explained that she missed the last meeting where the motion failed to appoint Bill O'Neil to the Recreation Committee, and it is her understanding that the Recreation Committee needs another member.

Chair Watson spoke against appointing Bill O'Neil to both of these, because when he votes he votes in the best interest of the Town. Selectman Kastrinelis asked for an explanation for voting against to which Chair Watson reiterated that he felt it was in the best interest of the Town, personalities aside.

- 2) Appointment of Danielle Albright 41 Taylor River Estates Hampton NH to the position of Economic Development Planning and Conservation Administrative Assistance effective July 29, 2022. This is a 10hr/week position at a rate of \$21/hr.
Mike Dempsey, Conservation Chair was present and addressed the Board. Two and a half years ago Conservation was consolidated with other departments including Planning and Economic Development for efficiency purposes because there is a lot of inter-communication between those departments. Currently, there is one time person doing all of the work and previously there was an eighteen-hour position that is currently vacant. The Citizens voted to approve this part-time position and felt they were being "cheated" and urged the Board to approve this.
Chris Goodwin, Chair of the Zoning Board was present and addressed the Board to support of the position.
Stephanie Bartelt, Conservation Commission was present and addressed the Board in support of the position and spoke in favor of aiding Annie Schindler.

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to appoint Danielle Albright 41 Taylor River Estates Hampton NH to the position of Economic Development Planning and Conservation Administrative Assistance effective July 29, 2022. This is a 10hr/week position at a rate of \$21/hr. Voted: 4-1. Selectman MacDonald voted against.

Selectman MacDonald asked what the need for a new position was for when last year there were many budget limitations and concerns; he encouraged a hiring freeze until things are stabilized. Selectman Kastrinelis explained that this was duly brought through the budget process and through Town Meeting. Selectman MacDonald responded that if he does not like something, he speaks up; it is not his duty to simply rubber stamp things. Chair Watson noted that Danielle also works in the Treasurer's Office and felt other departments could use the help, and this would boost her up to a benefited position and he was not sure they could sustain this. Selectman

Kastrinelis clarified that this person is already a 30 hour a week benefitted employee, there would be no additional benefit cost.

- 3) Appointment of Bergen Daley of 202 Country Cub Way Ipswich to the position of Youth Services Librarian at the Langley Adams Library effective August 23, 2022. This is a full-time position at 37 hours/week at a rate of \$21.47/hour.

Chair Watson noted there was a letter of recommendation from the Library Director.

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to appoint Bergen Daley of 202 Country Cub Way Ipswich to the position of Youth Services Librarian at the Langley Adams Library effective August 23, 2022. This is a full-time position at 37 hours/week at a rate of \$21.47/hour. Voted: 5-0.

VOTES:

- 4) Special Event Permit: North Shore Cyclist Inc., Ray Best, Bike Ride and Picnic on September 25th from 8AM to 2PM at the Pines Recreation Area.

TA Oldham explained that this was already voted on at the last meeting, but the date has been changed. Selectman Parenteau asked if the Board could charge for cleaning up the restrooms and trash. The Board discussed charging \$50.00.

A motion was moved by Selectman Parenteau and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve the Special Event Permit: North Shore Cyclist Inc., Ray Best, Bike Ride and Picnic on September 25th from 8AM to 2PM at the Pines Recreation Area and add a \$50.00 User Fee to offset the cost of cleaning up restrooms and trash. Voted: 4-1.

Selectman MacDonald voted against.

- 5) Accept the resignation of Amanda Fisher as the COA Director effective August 19, 2022.

Chair Watson noted that there is a letter of resignation in the packet.

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to accept the resignation of Amanda Fisher as the COA Director effective August 19, 2022. Voted: 5-0.

- 6) Accept the resignation of Brett Carlson as a cable technician effective August 20, 2022.

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to accept the resignation of Brett Carlson as a cable technician effective August 20, 2022. Voted: 5-0.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:

- 7) Water and Sewer Union request to discuss premium pay update:

Chair Watson noted there was letter from the Water and Sewer workers.

Matt, Water and Sewer spoke to the Board and asked for the Board to approve the ARPA Federal Funding for COVID; the request is for \$6,000, \$2,000 for each employee and the Police and Fire have already received bonuses. Selectman Kastrinelis wanted to see updated information of what has been allocated so far. Selectman Parenteau spoke in favor of taking care of their employees and it is only \$6,000. TA Oldham explained that bonuses based on hours worked would equate to \$5,600. The Board will add this to the next agenda.

A motion was moved by Selectman Parenteau and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to table the Water and Sewer Union request to discuss premium pay. Voted: 5-0.

- 8) State Election discussion- Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022 known as the Votes Act of 2022
- Police Officer Assignments
Town Clerk, Beth Cunniff was present and addressed the Board; she reached out to the Police Chief, and he was comfortable using Constables.
A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Parenteau that in compliance with Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022, known as the Votes Act of 2022, that Constables will be assigned to work at the polling location both inside and outside for the September 6th, State Primary Election. Voted: 5-0.
- 9) Town Counsel RFP:
TA Oldham asked for direction from the Board; there have been discussions on looking elsewhere for legal services. Selectman MacDonald would like to see if a smaller firm might be willing to work on a retainer and felt it does not hurt to bid on this. TA Oldham stated there currently is no contract with KP.
A motion was moved by Selectman MacDonald and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to authorize TA Oldham to post an RFP for Town legal services. Voted:5-0.
- 10) Town Water Ban Discussion:
Chair Watson reported that he has been receiving feedback regarding Town water use and the Town setting the example and conserving water. Selectman MacDonald asked how this is measured. Selectman Kastrinelis supported using the wells to water the fields unless the Water Superintendent recommends against this. The Board will have the Water Superintendent at the next meeting to discuss.
Colin, Water Superintendent showed up at the end of the meeting to address the Town Water Ban. He cautioned against banning well-owners from using water because the town bylaw does not address this. The groundwater levels are extremely low right now. Groveland has not had a water ban for quite a while; but there is no end in sight for this drought. The fine is \$50.00 per day and the Town would have to take them to court to collect it. Warning letters have been issued.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S TIME:

TA Oldham reported: the Fairy House Festival will be back at Veasey park on September 17th and 18th and alerted the Board to a situation at 150 Center St. - The Cricket League had their permit revoked because they again cut the lock and did not comply with rules for the facilities, they brought in. The League was notified that the permit was revoked, and they showed up and played anyway. Police were called and they were allowed to finish the game but were told they could not return.

SELECTMEN'S TIME & REPORTS:

Selectman Kastrinelis thanked TA Oldham for getting the rain barrels.

Selectman MacDonald will be attending the Pentucket Building Committee Meeting tomorrow.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OTHER ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING:

Groveland Congregational Church: Special Event Permit for an annual yard sale on September 10, 2022, between 7:00 am – 2:00 pm. This will be on the agenda next time for a formal vote, but they would like to be able to begin to advertise.

A motion was moved by Chair Watson and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to allow advertising for the event on September 10, 2022. Voted: 5-0.

Anita Wright, COA was present and addressed the Board regarding a COA salary discussion that was supposed to be on the agenda.

Anita explained that the COA has the funding right now through December; this is COA funding, and it is appropriate to use grant money towards salary. Another grant is expected but not guaranteed.

Selectman Kastrinelis felt this discussion was improper because it was not on the agenda. Anita felt the COA did not need the vote of the BOS.

Sarah McGrath, Vice Chair of the Finance Board was present and addressed the Board and expressed concern that if the grant money does not come in will the Town be on the hook and would like to hear from Town Council.

TA Oldham reminded the Board that Town Council recommended waiting until the grant comes in, in order not to open the Town to Liability.

Selectman MacDonald noted guidance would be necessary from Town Council and a follow up meeting with the COA Board.

CORRESPONDENCE:

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, August 29, 2022, at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine T. Ingram