



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 26, 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 Microsoft Teams 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:

1. Inga Burger, 5 Pinewood Lane was present and addressed the Board regarding BOS Policies and Procedures. Inga encouraged a review and update of the BOS Policies and Procedure to create a more comprehensive and complete document; Inga felt this would be beneficial to the BOS, other town boards and to the community.
2. Dianne Plantamura, Mill Street was present and addressed the Board regarding BOS Policies and Procedures. Diane would like to see Policies and Procedures created to assist not only this Board but other Boards as well as future board members.
3. Elizabeth Greenhagen, 28 Seven Star Road was present and addressed the Board to expand on what the two previous speakers said. Elizabeth encouraged the BOS to create Policies and Procedures to provide transparency to the work of the Board. Policies and procedures will provide a clear understanding of how the Board operates and what guidelines they are following which would give a positive and professional impression to the people of Groveland.

APPROVE WARRANTS:

PW # 23-13 \$202,655.03

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve Warrant PW# 23-13 in the amount of \$202,655.03. Voted: 5-0.

BW# 23-13 \$864,769.50

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve Warrant BW# 23-13 in the amount of \$864,769.50. Voted: 5-0.

23-13 BILLS WARRANT BREAKDOWN:

Town:	\$ 315,850.55
W/S:	\$ 63,908.86
Payroll Withholding:	\$ 31,262.22
Light Bills:	\$ 420,046.00
Grants & Revolving:	\$ 33,701.87

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- None

APPOINTMENTS OF THE BOARD:

- None

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

- 1) Accept the resignation of Anita Wright from the Council on Aging
A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to accept the resignation of Anita Wright from the Council on Aging effective September 1, 2022. Voted: 5-0.
- 2) Accept the resignation of Peter Danforth as a Senior Laborer/Operator from the Highway Department
A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to accept the resignation of Peter Danforth as a Senior Laborer/Operator from the Highway Department effective September 30, 2022. Voted: 5-0.

Selectman Parenteau commented on what a loss this is for the Town and noted that something needs to be done; the Town keeps losing good employees.

Selectman Kastrinelis asked if the Board would allow the Town Administrator to do an exit interview when employees leave to gather information on why people are leaving. Chair Watson responded that this was an excellent idea. TA Oldham will follow up.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:

- 3) State Election Discussion - Election Schedule and Constable Vote:
Paperwork was in the packet from the Town Clerk. Chair Watson read the recommendation for hours for the upcoming In Person Early Voting and the request for the BOS to vote to accept reduced hours for the first week of In Person Early Voting for the November 8, 2022, election. Participation was low in the State Primary.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman MacDonald to approve the schedule for In Person Early Voting ahead of the November 8, 2022, election as presented.
Voted: 5-0.

Town Clerk, Elizabeth Cunniff joined the meeting and explained the Early Voting hours to the Board. Selectman Kastrinelis asked for clarification regarding the hours and about the budget to pay for this; Town Clerk Cunniff responded that there is not enough money in the budget; this was recently voted on by the Legislature. Town Clerk Cunniff did not have a total cost at this time. There are enough poll workers according to Town Clerk Cunniff. Selectman MacDonald was frustrated with the Town having to pay for another unfunded mandate.

Sarah McGrath, 427 Main Street was present and addressed the Board. Sarah clarified that the Finance Board is not solely responsible for the budget that is put forth; it goes to the BOS and to the Town Administrator; if anyone at that time did not think this budget was sufficient, that was the time to speak up or at Town Meeting.

Constables:

Chair Watson read the recommendation by Town Clerk Cunniff that the Board appoint a sufficient number of constables for each polling location but not less than one per precinct.

A motion was moved by Chair Watson and seconded by Selectman Naves to appoint constables as recommended by the Town Clerk. Voted: 5-0.

Selectman MacDonald asked if Constables are required during In Person Early Voting and was informed no by Town Clerk Cunniff.

- 4) ARPA Project Discussion

- PRSD Bagnall School - Plumbing Evaluation

TA Oldham reviewed the updated evaluation with the Board. This was revised based on suggestions from Selectman MacDonald and Selectman Parenteau at previous meetings. The new quote is \$85,997 compared to the previous quote of \$414,000 for the entire re-piping of the entire school. This will provide clean, safe drinking water. Selectman Kastrinelis expressed concern that

there are items that will still need to be addressed in the future. Selectman MacDonald would like to save the money and feels this will accomplish providing clean, safe drinking water; asked if this project would go out to bid and TA Oldham replied yes. Selectman Kastrinelis asked if a separate list could be provided to show what was not in this proposal.

A motion was moved by Selectman MacDonald and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to accept the proposal and put it out to bid for \$85,000. Voted: 5-0.

5) Premium Pay for Water and Sewer Union:

Selectman Parenteau spoke in support of this; earlier tonight we accepted the resignation of an employee at the Highway Department due to not taking care of workers; this request is fair and deserved. TA Oldham asked about the formula to be used. Selectman Naves stood by what he initially stated that once this was given to the Fire Department and the Police Department, they should have given it to all employees. Selectman Kastrinelis agreed with Selectman Naves and felt that before this went any further it should include all of the rest of the Town Employees. TA Oldham reported that the Town did receive another round of ARPA funding. Selectman MacDonald stood by what he said once a final cost was known for Bagnall School – if there was money left, he would support this; the workers deserve this, and he supported what was initially requested (\$2,000 each).

A motion was moved by Selectman MacDonald and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to approve \$2,000 each for three employees for a total of \$6,000. Voted: 3-2. Selectman Kastrinelis and Selectman Naves voted against.

Selectman Kastrinelis felt that Selectman Parenteau should not vote on this because he was a member of the Water and Sewer Department during the pandemic. Selectman Parenteau waived receiving any money. Selectman MacDonald felt the waiver resolves the issue of recusal, to which Selectman Naves agreed.

6) Water Enforcement During Drought:

Chair Watson had asked for a list of residents that have not complied with the water restriction. Colin Stokes, Water Superintendent was present and addressed the Board. Colin did research and the town bylaw makes the water ban more difficult to enforce versus if the Town used the MGL which gives the Board the authority to set rates, enforce, etc. The bylaw requires the Town to take them to court which costs money and is not worth the towns resources and effort. Colin noted that eighty-four warnings were issued – most people are complying. Recent rain has helped, another couple of feet of rain is needed – the levels are still pretty low. Colin would like to propose a change in the bylaw. DEP has model bylaws that could be used.

7) Water Treatment Facility Discussion:

Selectman MacDonald asked for this to be added to the agenda because residents in town have had clean water issues. TA noted that Groveland recently received a \$15,000 earmark to continue planning work on a Water Treatment Facility; initial investigative work has already taken place with other grant monies that were awarded. Initial estimates are in the \$20,000,000 range.

8) Pentucket School Budget:

Selectman MacDonald asked for this to be added to the agenda because he is concerned that there may be another Prop. 2 ½ request coming and would like to be prepared. Selectman Kastrinelis spoke to the Regional Agreement. Ruth Rivard, Finance Board was present and addressed the Board to discuss what the process is; Ruth encouraged anyone concerned to reach out to the Groveland School Committee members.

9) Recording of Board/Committee Meetings

Selectman MacDonald asked for this to be added to the agenda because he would like a policy that requires all Board/Committee Meetings to be recorded. Selectman MacDonald asked for the law on this. TA Oldham responded that the Attorney General has ruled that if someone shows up at a meeting and announces they are recording, they cannot be prevented from recording the meeting. Selectman MacDonald stated that he heard that this happened with a Board. Jason DeJesus, Cable Access was present

and addressed the Board to confirm that he arrived at a meeting to set up to record a meeting and he was prevented from doing so. Selectman MacDonald wanted to ensure this never happened again and apologized to Jason DeJesus. Meetings are not required to be recorded; however, they cannot be prohibited from doing so if they want to according to Selectman MacDonald. Chair Watson felt all meetings should be held in this building and recorded for transparency.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S TIME:

TA Oldham reported:

1. Boston Sound Systems Solutions have rolled out the new computers at Town Hall and will be going to the Police Station next.
2. The municipal fiber project is semi-completed; thank you to the light department for their help.
3. An email will be going out regarding FY24 Capital Requests and will be due November 1st and will be reviewed in early November.
4. Preliminary Free Cash numbers are looking favorable.

SELECTMEN'S TIME & REPORTS:

Chair Watson: reminded everyone that the Pine Speedway Reunion is this weekend.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Selectman Kastrinelis would like to discuss Policies and Procedures on the next agenda so the BOS can lead the way on decorum and rules of conduct.

OTHER ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from the Police Chief regarding a grant that was received.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Voted: 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, October 10, 2022, at 6:30PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Katherine T. Ingram*