

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 18, 2020  
Groveland Town Hall  
183 Main St, Groveland, MA 01834

TOWN OF GROVELAND  
2020 MAR 18 AM 10:07  
TOWN CLERK  
RECEIVED/POSTED

**ATTENDANCE:** Chair Bill Dunn, Selectmen Bill O'Neil and Ed Watson.

**ABSENT:** Selectmen Michael Wood and Kathleen Kastrinelis

**ALSO PRESENT:** Denise Dembkoski, Finance Director

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

**RESIDENT/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Written submissions for public comment must be made before the start of the meeting per the Board of Selectmen's Public Comment Policy amended November 13, 2017.

Jane Dempsey was present and announced plans to celebrate Arbor Day, Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. There is plans to plant 100 trees in Groveland and the first 100 residents who sign up will be given a seedling to plant in their yard on Arbor Day. To Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day there are plans to offer a nature walk at Meadow Pond Reservation on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. April 24<sup>th</sup> there will be an Earth Day cleanup; meet at the Library at 3:00 pm. There will be a nature walk at Town Forest on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Anyone interested can view information on [www.GrovelandGreen.org](http://www.GrovelandGreen.org). Ms. Dempsey shared the dates and times with Board members.

Mike Dempsey was present and announced a Mardi Gras Night event at Veasey Park on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets are \$10.00 and available at the door or at [www.veaseypark.org](http://www.veaseypark.org).

**APPROVE WARRANTS:**

PW # 20-33                      \$ 168,829.18

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Watson to approve warrant PW # 20-33 in the amount of \$ 168,829.18. Voted: 3-0-0.

BW # 20-33                      \$ 1,034,339.29

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Watson to approve warrant BW # 20-33 in the amount of \$ 1,034,339.29. Voted: 3-0-0.

**20-33 Bills Warrant Breakdown:**

Town:	\$ 90,029.37
Water/Sewer:	\$ 15,064.73
Payroll Withholding:	\$ 3,732.53
Light Bills:	\$ 68,220.99
Grants & Revolving:	\$ 33,256.89
Pentucket Assessment:	\$ 822,041.75
Capital:	\$ 1,993.00

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

- Minutes from January 21, 2020

A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve the minutes from January 21, 2020. Voted: 3-0-0.

## **APPOINTMENTS:**

Re-appoint Barbara Bilo, 25 Moody St, Haverhill, as a Reserve Dispatcher/Lockup Keeper effective March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to Re-appoint Barbara Bilo, 25 Moody St, Haverhill, as a Reserve Dispatcher/Lockup Keeper effective March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Voted: 3-0-0.

## **DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:**

- Beth Cunniff, Town Clerk, to discuss her FY21 budget request  
Ms. Cunniff was present and addressed the Board; she asked if the SB had any questions about her budget. She explained that there are increases due to three elections in FY 2021. Early voting will be February 24<sup>th</sup> – February 28<sup>th</sup>. The new voting machines will be used on March 3<sup>rd</sup>; preliminary numbers should be available shortly after the close of polls.
- Rebecca Oldham, Town Planner, to discuss her FY21 budget and salary increase request  
Ms. Oldham was present and addressed the Board; she reviewed the salary increase request, she feels she has developed the office and become a resource for residents and developers, she has streamlined the application process and has received over \$98,000 in grants with another \$15,000 pending. She is requesting a 5% increase over her base salary. The Planning Board has approved the increase. Selectman O'Neil praised Ms. Oldham for the work she has done and her ability to get things done. Selectman Watson and Chair Dunn both agreed and there were no issues supporting her salary increase request.
- FY21 Budget Discussion  
Ms. Dembkoski asked for questions and comments on the budget. She reported that she has preliminary state numbers and the retirement appropriation. Health Insurance and Liability Insurance numbers are not yet known. Waiting to see how Recycling is going to pan out, costs keep increasing. FY20 is doing pretty good with the snow and ice budget. The Board spent time discussing the recycling issues and wondered about options; every city and town is facing this same issue. Water and Sewer are voting their final budget on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Whittier Assessment is usually towards the end of March.
- Disclosure from Colin Stokes regarding a financial interest in 106 King Street
  - Approve and provide any commentsMs. Dembkoski reported that Mr. Stokes filled out the form and the SB is required to vote to accept this. She recommended that if the SB accepts this it should be with the understanding that Mr. Stokes recuse himself from any conversations pertaining to 106 King Street and he should not participate in the Planning preconstruction meetings. The Board agreed.  
A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to accept the Disclosure from Colin Stokes regarding a financial interest in 106 King Street with the condition that he does not participate in any discussions pertaining to 106 King Street. Voted: 3-0-0.
- Finance Director proposed General Bylaw Amendment (Division II Personnel Policy Plan Non-Contractual Employees)  
Ms. Dembkoski reported that this goes back to a question from Selectman Kastrinelis about the Personnel Policy. The proposal is to strike the Personnel Advisory Board and replace it with the Board of Selectman in the General Bylaws. No one has stepped forward to be part of the current advisory board. The Board discussed approving sections that have already been reviewed.  
A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Watson to adopt the changes as amended in the Division II Personnel Policy Plan Non-Contractual Employees in Sections 2.92, 2.93, 2.94, 2.96 and 2.8. Voted: 3-0-0.

## **VOTES OF THE BOARD:**

- Approve election warrant for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary

A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve and sign the election warrant for the March 3, 2020, Presidential Primary. Voted: 3-0-0.

- Approve the 2020 Permit for the Hoysala Social and Sports Club d/b/a Sportsplex Operators and Developers Association, 4 April Lane, #31, Lexington, MA for use of Strawberry Field, for a Cricket Club from April 2020 to October 2020.

The Board discussed removal items after the season is over. There were concerns that the trash dumpster be emptied once a week due to wildlife out there, Ms. Dembkoski will reach out to them regarding the dumpster.

A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to Approve the 2020 Permit for the Hoysala Social and Sports Club d/b/a Sportsplex Operators and Developers Association, 4 April Lane, #31, Lexington, MA for use of Strawberry Field, for a Cricket Club from April 2020 to October 2020. Voted: 3-0-0.

#### **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME:**

Ms. Dembkoski reported that she has spoken with the Fire Chief and the boat is on the back burner and the utility fields at the Pines will not be available for permits until September.

#### **SELECTMEN'S TIME & REPORTS:**

**Selectman Watson:** Welcomed the new Camera/Cable Technician, Brett Carlson.

**Chair Dunn:** Reviewed projects; the Water Department Building upstairs has been cleaned up and the stairway has been repaired and is just about ready to start using it for storage. The gun range is coming along, they were waiting for the fence which was delivered today. Following up with Senator Tarr and Mike Wood on the Washington Street project and will be holding a conference call tomorrow at 2:00 pm.

#### **OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Selectman O'Neil asked about the Cable Contract and if there was any progress. Ms. Dembkoski responded that the Town Attorney has spoken to Comcast and progress is being made.

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

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Form 500 for 2019 from Comcast containing information on customer video service-related issues
- Information from the Police Chief regarding a police matter involving Fadi Issa, a Class II Auto License holder
- Responses from Water/Sewer Questions that arose at the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting
- Minutes from February 3, 2020

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm. Voted: 3-0-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, March 2, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Katherine T. Ingram*

\*\*\* Approved on March 16, 2020 by a vote of 3-0-1 with Selectman Wood abstaining \*\*\*