

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, January 6, 2020  
Groveland Town Hall  
183 Main St, Groveland, MA 01834

TOWN OF GROVELAND

2020 FEB 12 PM 4:14

TOWN CLERK

RECEIVED/POSTED

**ATTENDANCE:** Chair Bill Dunn, Selectmen Michael Wood, Bill O'Neil, Ed Watson, 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. NONE.

**RECAP OF WARRANTS:**

Selectman Wood read:

PW#20-25; BW#20-25 – Signed by Bill Dunn

**APPROVE WARRANTS:**

PW # 20-27               \$ 155,182.35

A motion was moved by Selectman Wood and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve warrant PW # 20-27 in the amount of \$155,182.35. Voted: 5-0-0.

BW # 20-27               \$1,399,090.85

A motion was moved by Selectman Wood and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve warrant BW # 20-27 in the amount of \$1,399,090.85. Voted: 5-0-0.

**20-27 Bills Warrant Breakdown:**

Town:	\$ 80,259.41
Water/Sewer:	\$ 193,933.24
Payroll Withholding:	\$ 48,500.28
Light Bills:	\$ 240,528.97
Grants & Revolving:	\$ 13,827.20
Pentucket Assessment:	\$ 822,041.75

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

- Minutes from November 25, 2019

A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve the minutes from November 25, 2019. Voted: 5-0-0.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- To appoint the following residents to the newly formed Dog Park Committee effective through June 30, 2020.

Chair Dunn provided a recap of the discussion that took place at a previous meeting. A charge for the committee has already been established. Selectman Kastrinelis asked to leave all options open for the Dog Park Committee to explore a new location and Chair Dunn stated that all options are open.

- o Carole Funchion, 5 Governors Road
- o Inez Steele, 6 Union Street
- o Joanna Smart, 25 Balch Avenue
- o Jason Naves, 150 Main Street



- o Daniel Vienneau, 18 Cranton Avenue

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Wood to appoint the five aforementioned residents as read to the Dog Park Committee effective through June 30, 2020.

Voted: 5-0-0.

**7:30 P.M.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Comcast had a representative and a stenographer present.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Wood to open the Public Hearing at 7:31 pm.

Roll call vote: Wood; Yes, O'Neil; Yes, Dunn; Yes, Watson; Yes, Kastrinelis; Yes

Selectman Kastrinelis read the posted notice:

Please take notice that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Groveland, Massachusetts, as Issuing Authority for a cable television license under M.G.L. c.166A, will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

The public hearing will be held in the main meeting room of Town Hall, 183 Main Street. The purpose of the public hearing will be to determine whether to issue a cable television license to Comcast. All applications, reports, statements and license drafts to be considered at the hearing that constitute public records under state law are available for public inspection during regular business hours and for reproduction at a reasonable fee.

Members of the public are invited to attend and be heard on the topic: (a) whether the current cable operator is in full compliance with its currently existing cable license; and (b) what are the Town's future community cable-related needs.

**Public Comment:**

- o Jennifer O'Malley, 23 Pandora Drive, asked if Comcast is the only option. Selectman Wood responded that he did research on this and yes, it is the only option.
- o Mike Dempsey, 33 Uptack Road as a member of the Conservation Commission asked the Board to consider requiring Comcast to provide fee free connectivity of all Comcast services at all Municipal Buildings requested by the Town. As a resident he is requesting that the Town ask Comcast to consider unbundling cable TV channels, packages and services.
- o Clemente O'Malley, 23 Pandora Drive, does not have complaints with service or outages, however, agrees with Mr. Dempsey about being able to select the channels he wants without bundling with channels he doesn't want.
- o Elizabeth Rose, 792 Salem Street; has weather related issues – outages and quality. She left Comcast service due to price and went to the dish service and ended up returning to Comcast. Agrees about being able to select the channels she wants. Price is a factor in this as well.
- o Inez Steele, 6 Union Street is concerned with prices that keep on rising and wonders if there is a way to control this through the town.
- o Mary Wood, 89 Gardner Street; noted that the pricing disparity is happening within Town as well and feels it could be addressed during this negotiation.

**Board Discussion:**

- o Selectman Wood: thought that he understood that FCC regulates the bundling but is in support of bringing it forward for further review. Prices cannot be regulated by the Board of Selectman.
- o Selectman O'Neil: takes issue with the fact that Comcast does more for new customers versus longtime customers; loyalty is not rewarded.
- o Selectman Watson: takes issue with renting the boxes and would like an option to buy them versus renting. Agrees with unbundling of packages and being able to choose what we want. Also the public access channel goes out quite often and when checked out it is generally Comcasts problem and can take a few days to straighten out.



- Selectman Kastrinelis: felt that requesting unbundling options is a valid option and she plans to look into pricing disparity between towns.
- Chair Dunn: thanked everyone for coming in and promised to move forward and try to negotiate the best contract on behalf of the Town.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Watson to close the Public Hearing at 7:50 pm.

Roll call vote: Wood; Yes, O'Neil; Yes, Dunn; Yes, Watson; Yes, Kastrinelis; Yes.

The Board took a five-minute recess. The meeting restarted at 7:55 pm.

#### **DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:**

- **FY2021 Capital Improvement Submissions**

The Board reviewed submissions asked questions and will vote on this at a future meeting after all requests have been reviewed. The Board also reviewed the five-year capital plan for each department. Selectmen O'Neil and Kastrinelis urged looking and applying for available grants.

- Discuss the following requests:

- **Council on Aging:**

Lynne Stanton, Director was present and addressed the Board. Her only request is for a new COA van. (\$58,000) There are currently two grant funding opportunities available and they will be applied for, however Ms. Stanton wanted to keep this on the Capital Improvement list in case the grant(s) do not pan out. There have been few issues with the van this year. The direction last year to have the van looked over by the Highway Department has not happened. Renny Carroll, Highway Superintendent was present, and Chair Dunn requested that his department take a look at the vehicle as time permits.

- **Police Department:**

Police Chief Gillen was present and addressed the Board. His only request is for a new line cruiser. (\$50,936.47) This will be the first hybrid vehicle and will save on gas.

- **Highway Department:**

Renny Carroll, Superintendent was present and addressed the Board. He is requesting a 1-Ton Dump Truck (\$85,000); the current vehicle is in poor shape; repairs are expensive, and the vehicle is only being used minimally for backup. The request is for a heavier duty truck than the one being replaced. Mr. Carroll is also requesting a replacement 8-Ton Truck (\$240,200); this truck was down after the first storm for a period of two weeks. The mileage is low however, the frame and body rust will need roughly \$20,000 of restoration. The majority of time, this vehicle is housed outside. This vehicle has the potential to add-on equipment in the future at a lesser cost than replacing a whole vehicle; one add-on piece of equipment can replace the separate vehicle that cleans the catch basins for example. Mr. Carroll reviewed previous replacement vehicles. The Board reviewed the five-year plan. Chair Dunn was concerned with the length of time (only 13 years) that this vehicle has lasted; he knows that the vehicles are being maintained but is concerned with the cost and wondered if there was an option to do the repairs necessary to prolong the life of the current vehicle at a significant cost reduction. Mr. Carroll felt that with these repairs this could extend the life of the vehicle another 5-7 years. There is also a request for \$15,000 for a Used Street Sweeper (shared with Georgetown). This will allow for the department to do the sweeping inhouse versus hiring an outside vendor to perform this service.

- **Cable Contract Budget & Business Plan Update**

- **Review Draft Business Plan**

Selectman Kastrinelis shared the 10-year budget forecast that Ms. Dembkoski created. Ms. Dembkoski suggested reviewing this and voting at the next meeting on talking points from tonight before submitting to Attorney Hewig. Ms. Dembkoski will add suggestions/requests that were discussed during the Public Hearing tonight into the narrative for review at the next meeting.



- Review Draft 10-year Budget – Chair Dunn talked with Attorney Hewig who stated that a ten-year plan is the way to go. Chair Dunn suggested sending Attorney Hewig to do the negotiating on behalf of the town.

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

##### **Ms. Dembkoski reported:**

- Thanked everyone for their support while she was out of the office.
- Union negotiations are coming up and she plans to meet with the Unions and bring the proposals to the BOS to discuss.

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

**Selectman Kastrinelis:** received email/phone calls regarding water and sewer rates and asked if the BOS could have a meeting with the Water and Sewer Commissioners to discuss rate increases. Ms. Dembkoski noted that the increase was necessary because costs were not met over the last few years; she has asked for the documentation on the vote for the rate increase to share with the BOS. Chair Dunn felt the Water and Sewer Commissioners should be invited to meet with the BOS to explain their reasoning to the public. Selectman Watson would like to know if water consumption is down.

**Selectman O'Neil:** Noted that Veasey Park is a great place to have an affordable gathering for under one hundred people.

**Selectman Wood:** Meeting with Senator Tarr and EPA next Tuesday.

**OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** NONE.

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

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 18 Hillview Drive drainage issue – The Board was emailed regarding this.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Wood to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm. Voted: 5-0-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Katherine T. Ingram*

\*\*\* Unanimously Approved on February 3, 2020 \*\*\*

