

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 25, 2019
Groveland Town Hall
183 Main St, Groveland, MA 01834

TOWN OF GROVELAND

2020 JAN -8 AM 9:01

ATTENDANCE: Chair Bill Dunn, Selectmen Michael Wood, Bill O'Neil, Ed Watson
ABSENT: Kathleen Kastrinelis
ALSO PRESENT: Kaitlin Gilbert, Assistant Treasurer/Collector

TOWN CLERK
RECEIVED/POSTED

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.

APPROVE WARRANTS:

PW # 20-23 \$181,543.50

A motion was moved by Selectman Wood and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve Warrant PW # 20-23 in the amount of \$181,543.50. Voted: 4-0-0.

BW # 20-23 \$510,109.80

A motion was moved by Selectman Wood and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve Warrant BW # 20-23 in the amount of \$510,109.80. Voted: 4-0-0.

20-23 Bills Warrant Breakdown:

Town:	\$ 65,381.44
W/S:	\$ 50,066.04
Payroll Withholding:	\$ 7,845.59
Health Insurance:	\$
Light Bills:	\$ 286,513.77
Grants & Revolving:	\$ 32,886.96
Chapter 90:	\$
Pentucket Assessment:	\$
Essex N. S. Assessment:	\$ 67,416.00
Capital:	\$

APPROVE MINUTES:

- Minutes from October 28, 2019 Executive Session
A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman Wood to approve the minutes from October 28, 2019 Executive Session. Voted: 4-0-0.
- Minutes from October 28, 2019
A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman Wood to approve the minutes from October 28, 2019 with an amendment. Voted: 4-0-0.

APPOINTMENTS:

- Appointment of Stephanie Bartelt, 18 Chestnut St, to the Conservation Commission through June 30, 2020.
Ms. Bartelt was present and addressed the Board. She has a strong interest in environmental issues. The Board welcomed her and thanked her.
A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectmen Wood to appoint Stephanie Bartelt, 18 Chestnut St, to the Conservation Commission through June 30, 2020.
Voted: 4-0-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

7:00 P.M. – FY2020 Tax Classification Hearing - The Board of Assessors and Board of Selectmen will hold a classification hearing at 7:00pm on Monday, November 25th. The Board of Selectmen, upon hearing data relevant to the fiscal effects of the available alternatives and upon recommendations made by the Assessors, will decide whether the town will continue with one tax rate for all classes of property or adopt multiple tax rates. The public is welcome to attend and give comments.

A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to open the FY2020 Tax Classification Hearing at 7:00 on Monday, November 25th. The Public Hearing Notice was read.

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

Debbie Webster, Assessing Manager for the Board of Assessors explained that this is the last part of the tax rate setting process to determine whether there will be a single tax rate for all classes of property in town. As long as there are no changes the proposed Tax Rate will be \$14.05. Last years rate was \$14.35. Property values did increase so even though the rate is going down tax bills will not likely decrease. Ms. Webster noted that it doesn't make sense to have a split rate due to not having enough commercial businesses in town. Selectman Watson would like to see more business development in town.

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Watson to approve a single tax rate for FY20 as recommend by the Board of Assessors.

Roll Call: Wood; Yes, O'Neil; Yes, Dunn; Yes, Watson; Yes.

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Wood on the recommendation of the Board of Assessors to recommend no small commercial exemption and no residential exemptions for FY20.

Roll Call: Wood; Yes, O'Neil; Yes, Dunn; Yes, Watson; Yes.

The hearing was closed at 7:19 pm.

7:30 P.M. - The Groveland Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. at Town Hall, 183 Main Street, Groveland, MA on the application for an Alteration of Premises on the Club – All Alcohol License for Nichols Village, Inc, 1 Nichols Way, Groveland, MA. Jim Dinges is Manager.

A motion was moved by Selectman Wood and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to open the public hearing on Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. at Town Hall, 183 Main Street, Groveland, MA on the application for an Alteration of Premises on the Club – All Alcohol License for Nichols Village, Inc, 1 Nichols Way, Groveland, MA. Jim Dinges is Manager.

Alteration of Premises from:

A 78 dwelling unit Senior Living Congregate multi-level building with Dining Room, Lobbies, Offices, and related spaces with one main entrance and exit and six secondary entrances and exits

To:

A senior living community consisting of approximately 208,000 square feet of residential living and common area space. This includes 99 residential apartments, two dining areas, a wellness center, pool, and auditorium. Two covered parking areas, three total floors, a patio area adjacent to the bar will be included in the licensed area.

Roll Call Vote: Wood; Yes, O'Neil; Yes, Dunn; Yes, Watson; Yes

Public comment:

John Viel, 44 Main Street is an abutter and stated that he went to Town Hall a couple of weeks ago seeking information and no one had any information. He would have liked to be notified as an Abutter and would like more detail due to the expansion of alcohol.

Jared Stuart, representing Nichols Village and Jim Dinges were present and addressed the Board. Mr. Stuart explained that this an amendment to their current license due to expansion of the premises. This will not affect the Abutters. This is limited to the residents and their guests. They have notified their insurance company and will increase the liability insurance if recommended. The hours are planned to go until 9:00 pm but that has not yet been determined. There have been no issues with the Police or violations at this location due to alcohol.

A motion was moved by Selectman Wood and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve the application for an Alteration of Premises on the Club – All Alcohol License for Nichols Village, Inc, 1 Nichols Way, Groveland, MA with the new premises description to be: A senior living community consisting of approximately 208,000 square feet of residential living and common area space. This includes 99 residential apartments, two dining areas, a wellness center, pool, and auditorium. Two covered parking areas, three total floors, a patio area adjacent to the bar will be included in the licensed area subject to the approval by the Alcoholic Beverage Controls of Boston, Massachusetts. Voted: 4-0-0.

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

The Board signed the license.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:

- Daniel Vienneau - Dog park discussion - Discussion of new location and design for a new dog park Jason Naves and Daniel Vienneau were present and addressed the Board regarding a new dog park proposal that they put together and presented to the Board. This will move the park from its current location where there have recently been some concerns. It is anticipated there being a cost of approximately \$300,000; it was discussed that some of the cost may be paid by a grant, donations and/or CPC Funds and this would need a location on Town land which at this time is unknown where that would be. The Board discussed potential locations including Strawberry Fields, the old salt shed and the old Highway Department on Washington Street. Mike Dempsey was present and addressed some EPA concerns that were brought up regarding the Washington Street property; there are about six acres there and Johnson Creek runs along it and as long as they stayed away from the Creek it would be okay. The Board was receptive to the idea of moving the dog park and would like to see additional information. Selectman O'Neil felt forming a committee would be appropriate.

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Wood to form a new Dog Park Committee with a minimum of five members and a maximum of seven members and their charge will be to explore sights within the town and bring back proposals and designs of the new dog park to the Board of Selectman for further consideration. Voted: 4-0-0.

- Meet with the Cable TV Advisory Board

Discuss Cable Contract renewal

Chair Dunn explained that he spoke with Tracey Guilford the other night and Mr. Guilford expressed concern that he had been working on this however has reached some road blocks. Chair Dunn spoke with Town Counsel and asked him to layout what the town needs to do.

Selectman O'Neil read an email that Chair Dunn received from Town Counsel today regarding his opinion of the current status of the Towns Cable TV License Renewal strategy:

- Timeline: determine what the future cable related needs will be for 2019-2029, assuming a ten-year license.

To determine needs there will need to be:

- a. A proposed annual budget for 2020.

- b. A list of anticipated Capital equipment needs for the upcoming 10-year contract; a sample budget and equipment list from another town that just finished was attached.

Per Town Counsel; It is up to us to offer a proposal to Comcast first; Selectman O'Neil noted that we already have a proposal from Comcast dated July 30, 2019 and the Board is unsure if Town Counsel knows about it; Ms. Gilbert will follow up and find out if it will matter. Once we have the budget and capital needs, we can meet with Comcast and begin negotiations. The Town will have to hold a Public Hearing and the timing is not that important, it could happen before, during or after meeting with Comcast; a sample public hearing notice is attached.

Per Mr. Guilford; There is a hearing already scheduled on Saturday, December 14th at 11:00 am here in this meeting room. This needs to be posted for 14 days and published in the Newspaper. Mr. Guilford noted that Selectman Kastrinelis sat down with him to start working on a budget; he shared a document that was worked on. The Capital equipment needs are also being worked on. Selectman Wood expressed frustration in how long this has taken and doesn't feel anything has been finished. Selectman O'Neil asked who tracks the finances and Mr. Guilford responded that the Town keeps track of them; one of the documents has that information for the past five years. Chair Dunn would like to give Town Counsel what we have and let him negotiate the contract. Selectman O'Neil expressed concern about the Capital equipment needs and felt we should be looking at future needs; he feels this list is only replacing current equipment. Mr. Guilford defended the work of the Cable TV Advisory Board; he does not have budget experience and appreciates the help he has received from Selectman Kastrinelis. Selectman Wood felt there were plenty of opportunities to ask for help and we still don't have anything. Selectman O'Neil noted that this goes back to last November and it took all this time to ask for help. Chair Dunn stated that this is where we are now, and we know what we need to give to Town Counsel and would like to know what we are giving to Town Counsel in order to move forward. Chair Dunn asked Mr. Guilford to take the samples that Town Counsel provided and plug in the information needed. Selectman O'Neil is willing to help with the budget if needed.

- o Survey: this is optional, and Town Counsel suggests forgetting about it.
- o Extension: not necessary to file for an extension of the expiration date of November 28, 2019; many licenses run over their term while contracts are still being negotiated. The current license will continue and remain in effect as long as good faith efforts are being done to work on the contract.

- **Town Manager continued discussion:**

Selectman O'Neil stated that he felt the next logical steps would be to discuss the qualifications of what we would look for in a Town Manager. The Board will do their own due diligence and come up with a list of qualifications to discuss at the next meeting. Ms. Gilbert will notify Selectman Kastrinelis since she is not here tonight.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME: None.

SELECTMEN'S TIME & REPORTS:

Selectman Wood: reported that the line painting on Main Street was done. Still working on a meeting with the State EPA and Senator Tarr regarding Washington Street. Met with Chief Gillan today to talk about a couple of things and reminded residents that there have been a lot of break-ins lately and urged them to lock up their cars and homes.

Selectman O'Neil: the Rec. Committee meeting was postponed because it was not posted. The High School Building Committee met, and things are going well, changes were approved to bring it back within the budget and things are on schedule.

Chair Dunn: thanked the Crane Neck Christmas Tree Farm and the Bill Latham Christmas Tree Farm for the two Christmas trees that were donated to the Town. There will be a pinning ceremony for the new Fire Chief on December 1st from 1:00 – 3:00 pm; the Board has been invited. The playground grading that has been getting complaints: Renny Carroll will get there as soon as he can. The Board

would like to see if the contractor will come back in to see if they can fix the problem and Chair Dunn will reach out to the contractor. The irrigation system at the Pines has been installed and it was up and running and has been blown out for the season to be ready for winter; it was also over seeded.
Selectman Watson: None.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OTHER ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING:

Selectman O'Neil: asked for a future agenda item to start having a discussion regarding term limits.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Minutes from November 12, 2019

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Wood to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm. Voted: 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine T. Ingram

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, December 9, 2019 at 6:30 P.M.

*** Approved on January 6, 2020 with a vote of 4-0-1, with Selectwoman Kastrinelis abstaining ***