

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 26, 2020
Groveland Fire Station
183 Main St, Groveland, MA 01834

TOWN OF GROVELAND

2021 JAN 26 PM 1:00

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place. This meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place without any public present, but we will make every effort to ensure the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time.

This meeting was broadcast live on Groveland Public Access, Channel 9, as well as through Zoom. Members of the public are asked to send written comments to kworden@grovelandma.com or submit questions through the Zoom chat window.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm. There was no public on Zoom wishing to speak.

APPROVE WARRANTS:

PW # 21-17 \$194,955.57

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve warrant PW # 21-17 in the amount of \$194,955.57. Voted: 5-0-0.

BW # 21-17 \$1,005,133.56

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Watson to approve warrant BW # 21-17 in the amount of \$1,005,133.56. Voted: 5-0-0.

21-17 Bills Warrant Breakdown:

Town:	\$	266,707.71
W/S:	\$	12,794.83
Payroll Withholding:	\$	8,334.17
Health Insurance:	\$	0
Light Bills:	\$	361,295.68
Grants & Revolving:	\$	21,983.17
Chapter 90:	\$	74,018.00
Pentucket Assessment:	\$	0
Whittier Assessment:	\$	0
Capital:	\$	0
ATM Article Transfers		
To other funds:	\$	260,000.00

APPROVE MINUTES: none

APPOINTMENTS:

- Appointment of Jonathan Riopelle, Main Street, Groveland MA to the Water and Sewer Commission effective 10/26/2020 thru the next annual election.
Colin Stokes, Superintendent was present and addressed the Board in support of this appointment.
A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman Naves to appoint Jonathan Riopelle, Main Street, Groveland MA to the Water and Sewer Commission effective 10/26/2020 thru the next annual election. Voted: 5-0-0.
- Appointment of Mali Lees of Newton NH to part-time position of part time Water and Sewer Administrative Assistant starting on 10/27/2020 for 19hours a week at \$18/hour.

Mali Lees was present and addressed the Board. This to fill a vacancy. Selectman Watson asked about office work and numbers background. Colin Stokes, Superintendent was present and explained this is more of a clerical position versus accounting/finance and Ms. Lees will be trained for the position.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Naves to appoint Mali Lees of Newton NH to part-time position of part time Water and Sewer Administrative Assistant starting on 10/27/2020 for 19hours a week at \$18/hour. Voted: 5-0-0.

- Appointment of Kevin Paicos of Easton MA to the contracted position of Interim Finance Director
A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Naves to appoint Kevin Paicos of Easton MA to the contracted position of Interim Finance Director according to the stipulations of the employment agreement. Voted: 5-0-0.

Mr. Paicos will be in the office starting tomorrow.

- Appointment of Bonnie Murray to the Board of Health effective October 26, 2020 until the next annual election.

Bonnie Murray was present and addressed the Board.

A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to appoint Bonnie Murray to the Board of Health effective October 26, 2020 until the next annual election. Voted: 5-0-0.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:

- COVID Discussion
- Any updates, discussion items

Claire Walsh, Public Health Nurse and Deborah Kadar-Hull, BOH Chair were present and addressed the Board. There are currently 4 active cases and three of them will be coming off in the next couple of days. There have been 58 cases total. Ms. Walsh is working on contact tracing which is taking a long time. Surrounding communities are in the red.

- Yard Sales – nothing has changed.
- Public opening of Town Buildings – recommendations remain as is.
- Consultative discussion with Former Health Nurse Anita Wright

Anita Wright was present and addressed the Board. Chair Wood explained that the Board is looking for guidance on how things should be done going forward specifically in regard to collaboration with contact tracing within the regional school district.

Ms. Wright provided her background which includes 27 years as the Public Health Nurse for Groveland. She was consulted to review and assess the current circumstances that led us to tonight (letter of criticism regarding non participation in the regional school COVID 19 planning and strategy efforts). She was contacted by Chair Wood and has also spoken with Selectman O'Neil and Deborah Kadar-Hull, BOH Chair. She watched the BOS meeting from October 13th.

Ms. Wright offered her assessment; both sides could have handled things differently; there were lots of conversations, but nobody was really communicating, and Ms. Wright saw there was a failure to act where there was a duty to act; she explained that pandemics are very fluid, and one needs to adapt and be proactive, not reactive, and also be able to think outside the box and use all resources available. The priority right now is to fix this, and Ms. Wright offered her suggestions. She requested that the BOS reach out to the superintendent of the West Newbury BOH and specifically Diane Dardeno to accept a contact tracer assigned to Groveland and set the terms, expectations, and salary. Ms. Wright suggested the BOH reach out to Diane Dardeno and secure Diane Dardeno and the assigned Contact Tracer if she is not it to access MAVEN for case tracing and input; Ms. Kadar-Hull stated that the BOH has already worked on this.

Ms. Wright felt this has exposed internal weaknesses and thought this would be a good time to do a critical incident debriefing of what happened with this delay and misunderstanding despite the requests that were coming in. Ms. Wright strongly suggested the intake of information requests and general business be looked at and tightened up; a formal request should be made because there needs to be a paper trail.

Chair Wood thanked Ms. Wright and stated this needed to be addressed and is happy that progress is already taking place; asked about the amount of time it would take for a contracted person to work on contact tracing; Ms. Wright thought initially it could take longer to catch up and familiarize with the cases and could require additional hours as cases rise as anticipated.

Ms. Wright commended the people in town for doing a great job and following guidelines which helped in mitigating the cases in town and urged them to keep up the good work.

The Board appreciated the information and thanked Ms. Wright. Selectman Kastrinelis asked about contact tracers that were hired by the State; Ms. Wright noted that the tracers were used in institutions where there were larger numbers of cases. Chair Wood asked Ms. Kadar-Hull what else might be needed. Selectman O'Neil suggested an action plan so everyone is on the same page.

- Land donation
Sign papers for Wood Street donation
Mike Dempsey was present and addressed the Board.
Chair Wood has to have his signature notarized on the document and it will then be sent to Town Counsel who will then file it with the Registry.
- Conditions for Additional Fill for Sewell St Development Permit
Mike Dempsey addressed the Board; he came up with a list of recommended requirements, he took out anything that will be addressed by the ZBA permit and the additional recommendations specifically speak to the fill only nothing to do with the building of the 40b project. Mr. Dempsey believes the BOS can issue a permit with these conditions to the applicant due to past precedent but is unsure that everyone thinks the same thing. Mr. Dempsey recommended the Board issue a permit with the additional conditions he presented. These conditions are on top of state regulations. Selectman Watson asked who complaints should be given to if there are potential violations and Mr. Dempsey thought it would be the BOS; Selectman Watson thanked Mr. Dempsey for his work keeping the aquifer and drinking water safe.
- Town Hall Employee hours on Election Day
Employees will work remotely
A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis that on Election Day, November 3, 2020 all town employees not required to be in the building for election services be allowed to work remotely. Voted: 5-0-0.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

- Liquor License fees discussion
Chair Wood shared the recommendations by Denise Dembkoski. Businesses were hit hard during COVID and fees are being waived or reduced. The Board felt this was the right thing to do.
A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Naves that for year 2021 we grant the liquor license and Common Victualler license to the Fairways and to Cedardale at no cost and further we discount the liquor licenses for Tea Garden and Pub 97 to 50%.
Voted: 5-0-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Resignation letter from Michael Meagher of the Board of Health effective 10/13/2020.

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Watson to accept the resignation letter from Michael Meagher of the Board of Health effective 10/13/2020. Voted: 5-0-0.

SELECTMEN TIME & REPORTS:

Selectman O'Neil: read the opening paragraph of the Declaration of Independence. Encouraged everyone to participate and vote in the upcoming election.

Selectman Kastrinelis: completed the Cares Act project she took on and asked if there were any objections to her taking on another project having to do with applying for possible CPC funds to obtain the water rights and the parcel of land where the former Haverhill pumping station is near Johnson Pond; it could provide additional parking and better access to the pond; she would like to start a dialog with Haverhill. The other project is working on Mill Pond. Selectman Kastrinelis asked if Denise Dembkoski could provide an explanation about this year's free cash.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none.

ITEMS NOT ANTICIPATED AT THE TIME OF POSTING:

- Town Government Study Committee correspondence
- Update on the equipment needed at Town Hall

Chris joined the meeting and addressed the Board and reported that the company he was hoping to work with is not on the state bid list so he is now working with a different company who provided a quote that is coming in at a higher amount, but the equipment will be newer and will last longer and he would like to move forward but wanted to make sure the Board is comfortable with moving forward at a higher cost. This is the main equipment that is used for broadcasting meetings, so it is important. It is hopeful this will be done before the end of the year.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Naves to pay up to \$53,000 to purchase what is necessary to repair/replace the recording equipment at the Town Hall meeting room. Voted: 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Watson to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm. Voted: 5-0-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, November 9, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine T. Ingram