

TOWN OF GROVELAND

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING minutes

Monday, September 16, 2019 – 6:30 pm

Groveland Town Hall

183 Main St, Groveland, MA 01834

2019 OCT 24 AM 11:49

TOWN CLERK

5:30 P.M. Town Building Site Visits  
Veasey Park, 199 Washington Street  
Veasey Park, 201 Washington Street

**ATTENDANCE:** Chair William Dunn, Selectmen Michael Wood, Bill O’Neil, Ed Watson and Kathleen Kastrinelis

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

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Chair Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Chair Dunn noted that some members had already met at Veasey Park to tour the buildings this evening.

**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:**

Selectman Watson read the following warrants:

- PW # 20-11                 \$ 165,022.98  
    A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O’Neil to approve PW # 20-11 in the amount of \$165,022.98. Voted 5-0-0.
- BW # 20-10                 \$ 3,291.50  
    A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O’Neil to approve BW # 20-10 in the amount of \$3,291.50. Voted 5-0-0.
- BW # 20-11                 \$ 253,433.67  
    A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman O’Neil to approve BW # 20-11 in the amount of \$ 253,433.67. Voted 5-0-0.

**20-11 Bills Warrant Breakdown:**

Town:	\$ 88,074.59
W/S:	\$ 40,824.51
Payroll Withholding:	\$ 5,382.73
Light Bills:	\$ 90,888.10
Grants, Special Rev, Revolving:	\$ 28,263.74

**APPROVE MINUTES:** None.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

In accordance with M.G. L. Ch. 41, §11, recommendation by the Electric Light Commissioners to appoint Michael Cloutier, 15 Byfield Rd., Groveland, to the Electric Light Commission effective September 16, 2019. Appointment is made as a joint appointment between the Board of Selectmen and the Electric Light Commissioners until the next annual election (May 4, 2020). At that time there will be an election to fill the remainder of the term vacant due to resignation. (Roll call vote of both boards, required)

The Electric Light Commissioners were present for the appointment.

A motion was moved by Commissioner Cross and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to appoint Michael Cloutier, 15 Byfield Rd., Groveland, to the Electric Light Commission effective September 16, 2019.

Board of Selectman Roll Call Vote: Kastrinelis; Yes, Watson; Yes, Dunn; Yes, O'Neil; Yes, Wood; Yes.  
Electric Light Commissioners Roll Call Vote: Cross; Yes, LaBelle; Yes  
Mr. Cloutier was present and addressed the Board.

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

- Meet with members of the Groveland Firefighter's Association regarding the possible donation of a boat.

The Fire Fighters Association was represented by Brian Belfiore who addressed the Board and provided background on the Association and what they do. The Association has been discussing purchasing a boat to donate to the Fire Department and before they voted wanted to make sure the BOS would accept it and if the Town could contribute money or equipment for the boat.

According to Brian Belfiore Equipment (life vests, helmets, wet suits) would cost approximately \$3,500. This will be a fifteen-and-a-half-foot brand new boat that the Association would pay around \$16,000 to purchase. The boat would be used in water rescues on ponds and capable of going in the river. The boat would be stored at either central or south station. The Fire Fighters will have to have swift water rescue and boat training. Training is free and the only cost would be sending personnel to the training; it is approximately 24 hours of training for the swift water training. There is no urgency to get this done. Ms. Demboski would have to look into insurance costs.

Selectman Kastrinelis suggested this should wait until the new Fire Chief is hired to discuss having a budget for this.

Selectman Watson suggested perhaps an article at Town Meeting for the equipment and funding the training through the budget.

- Community Preservation (CPA) Tax Discussion:

Selectman Wood reviewed a document that Ms. Demboski provided. Selectman Wood wanted to know everything there is to know about CPA.

Mike Dempsey from the CPC addressed the Board and reviewed. There have been approximately \$2.3 million dollars in matching funds from the State over the 14 years that the Town has had the CPA Tax. The matching funds from the State have gone down in recent years. The Town has contributed approximately \$4.5 million dollars. Last year the Town was matched 44.6%; the Town received the 24<sup>th</sup> highest amount in the State out of 175 communities partly due to contributing 3% which makes the Town eligible for additional funding. All the taxpayers will receive a handout with the breakdown of the fund and how much is in each of the categories with the next tax bill. Mr. Dempsey reviewed the balances in each category; open space, affordable housing, historic preservation and the general fund (which includes administrative costs). Five percent of the voters would have to sign a petition to get this on the ballot to reduce the percentage that is collected.

Selectman Wood wanted this on the agenda tonight to discuss as a possible way to mitigate the amount of taxes the residents are paying. He does agree that the money has done very good things for the Town, however, he is concerned about the money that is sitting in the accounts.

Mr. Dempsey reviewed how projects are proposed and approved. The committee begins to meet this time of year and they open it up to anyone who wants to bring a project to them. Proposals are submitted and are reviewed for compliance with the law and after the review the CPC votes to approve projects to move forward to the Town Meeting Warrant for Town approval. The Town has tried twice before to eliminate and/or reduce the CPA tax at Town Meeting, and both failed to be approved.

Ms. Demboski reported that the CPA funds are invested and receive interest.

A discussion regarding using some of the money to fund certain positions under these categories took place and Mr. Dempsey stated that administrative money could be used to pay part of someone's salary to monitor the projects. However, he would have to check on using recreation funds to fund part of someone's salary as a recreation director. He will also come back with information regarding an exemption that exists under affordable housing.

Ms. Dembkoski suggested hiring a project manager who also has procurement background and could help with all the projects.

Selectman O'Neil was concerned with the diminishing returns on the Town's investment.

- Update on Fire Chief position

Ms. Dembkoski reported that the Fire Chief Committee met with candidates last week and the Committee has narrowed it down to two and would like to bring them back for a more rigorous assessment type interview with more targeted questions to test their knowledge of Groveland. The Committee asked if the Board wants a single recommendation or a recommendation on both candidates to move them forward.

Selectman Watson wanted to meet both candidates; he is okay with the Committee making a recommendation.

The other Board members feel the Committee should meet again and then make a recommendation to the BOS.

Ms. Dembkoski noted that the Interim Fire Chief appointment was only for thirty days and will expire at the end of September. The BOS will have to decide if they want to make another appointment until the permanent Chief is hired. Selectman Kastrinelis discussed three options; 1. Do nothing; 2. Hire an Administrative person; 3. Continue with the Interim position.

Ms. Dembkoski estimated that it could take approximately 60 days for someone to be in the position; she is hoping to have the interviews done next week and perhaps bring a candidate to the next BOS meeting.

Interim Fire Chief Joseph Santapaola was present and addressed the Board and he discussed how things were going at the Fire Department. Staffing (short) during the day is troublesome to him and the paperwork takes a lot of time to work on, however he does feel comfortable with the work and is willing to continue if necessary.

The BOS will vote to appoint Joseph Santapaola with a term limit at the next meeting.

Chair Dunn asked to be made aware of any concerns that come up with the staffing issues.

- Cable Contract continued discussion

Selectman Kastrinelis asked about item #26 which represented one of the most significant changes.

Ms. Dembkoski responded that the Town received \$100,000 over ten years for capital support which would be decreased to \$6,700 per year over ten years in the new contract. Counsel indicated the Town should negotiate the current amount. Comcast has been in touch with Ms. Dembkoski to see if Public Hearings have been completed. The current contract expires November 28<sup>th</sup>. The Cable TV Advisory Committee has not held a meeting to discuss a counterproposal and Ms. Kastrinelis suggested that the BOS take matters into their own hands in order to negotiate this.

Chair Dunn would like to send a letter to the Chair of the Cable TV Advisory Committee asking them to meet and work on completing this contract or the BOS will have to act.

Selectman Wood wants to see the same amount negotiated (\$100,000).

Selectman O'Neil supports asking for an increase in the amount negotiated previously.

Chair Dunn does not wish to see a penny less, he would like to see a dollar amount locked in versus the percentage and he would like to get the contract locked in as long as possible and if percentages are to remain perhaps increase them over a period of time.

Selectman Kastrinelis agrees with Selectman O'Neil and on top of that a Cost of Living percentage and would like the buildings added in on page #41.

Ms. Dembkoski will share the BOS comments with the Cable Advisory Committee and have them follow up.

- Follow-up on 46 Washington Street building  
Chair Dunn reported that he spoke to Renny Carroll about the conditions and Mr. Carroll stated he would take care of weed whacking and cleaning up the outside of the building before the next meeting; any equipment that belongs to the Highway Dept. will be removed. They talked about storage on the third floor and Chair Dunn was told whatever was needed would be taken care of. Chair Dunn also talked to Colin Stokes, the Water and Sewer Superintendent who will clean out the fenced in area and he will clean out the third floor in the next week or so. Selectman Kastrianelis would like to make the outside area into a green space in the future; maybe a CPA project.  
Selectman O'Neil inquired about shelving and Ms. Dembkoski reported that arrangements will be made.  
A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrianelis and seconded by Selectman Watson to use the third floor for storage. Voted 5-0-0.

**VOTES OF THE BOARD:** None.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME:**

Ms. Dembkoski reported:

- Thanked the members of the Groveland Day Committee for all of their hard work. Residents made positive comments and there is discussion already taking place about planning for next year. The BOS is being asked to reduce the number of members from nine to seven which will allow them to make a quorum easier; there have been difficulties. They would like four alternate members.
- Received a follow up from the Attorney handling 157 Main Street to see if the Town has any interest.
- The Pines Playground is closed as of today and will be removed beginning Wednesday and the installation is scheduled for the beginning of October and should be done by the end of October.
- Road work has begun on Seven Starr.
- This weekend there will be water main work done at the Middle School exit.
- Starting this week on I 13-line painting has begun. Milling is expected to start on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Pavement is expected to take place October 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be detours in place during milling and paving. Mass DOT will make some changes to the detour schedule. All work will take place 7:00 am – 4:00 pm and will work around the schools.
- Touch a Truck on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Liquor License for Veasey Park – Counsel does not recommend that the BOS approve this. The Liability, Conflict of Interest and Insurance are items to consider. It would require special act of legislation.
- Ms. Dembkoski will be out of the office for most of November due to another surgery.

**SELECTMEN'S TIME & REPORTS:**

- Selectman Kastrianelis: attended the Municipal Light Meeting and shared information from the meeting with the BOS. They talked about the power outage and about the generator they are installing at their building. She mentioned a payment in lieu of taxes to them. Also attended the ZBA where they discussed the Sewell Street project.
- Selectman Watson: Toured Veasey Park with Selectman Kastrianelis and feels it is important to have information available regarding maintenance to the buildings.
- Selectman Dunn: The shed at the Pines has been finished. Strawberry Fields is getting ready for next year.
- Selectman O'Neil: Groveland Day was a success and thanked community members for their contributions. Touch a Truck ending at 7:00 pm; worried about the mosquitos and wondered if the time could be moved up to avoid them. Ms. Dembkoski will reach out to see if it could end earlier. The lights on the display board are out. High School Building Committee met last week, and the main

discussion was on LEED; they are shooting for a silver standard; water and sewer will be supplied by the Town of Groveland; the first of three reconciliations will be done next month; they also talked about electric car charging stations – there will be five to begin with infrastructure being added to accommodate more in the future.

- Selectman Wood: Received an update on the Valley Screw EPA meeting, they are trying to schedule something in October.

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

#### **OTHER ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING:**

1. Vote to decrease the Groveland Day Committee from 9 members to 7.  
A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to decrease the Groveland Day Committee from 9 members to 7. Voted 4-0-1. Selectman O'Neil abstained.
2. Library Trustees: Laurel Puchalski addressed the BOS regarding a letter regarding the Library doors. The door wouldn't open, and the facilities manager was called; the doors are deteriorating and Ms. Puchalski is concerned that someone might be hurt on the door and is worried mice may come in with cold weather coming and she stated that it would be nice to have a new door that is handicapped accessible. The BOS will discuss at a future meeting.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Minutes from August 19, 2019
- Veasey Park Report for June – August 2019
- Letter from the Library Trustees regarding the Library doors
- Response from former W/S Superintendent, Tom Cusick, regarding unauthorized purchases  
Selectman Watson asked for a future agenda item to discuss this. Ms. Dembkoski will check into whether or not this should take place in Executive Session.
- Letter from Firefighter Jeffrey Dalton offering his services as Interim Chief, should they be needed
- Minutes from September 3, 2019

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Wood to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 pm. Voted 5-0-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, September 30, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. However, there is a special Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, September 23, 2019.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Katherine T. Ingram*

**\*\*\* Approved unanimously on October 15, 2019 \*\*\***