



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 31, 2022

Groveland Town Hall

183 Main Street, Groveland, MA 01834

This meeting was in-person and also broadcast live on Groveland Public Access, Channel 9, as well as through Zoom virtual meeting software for remote access.

PRESENT: Chair Ed Watson, Selectmen Dan MacDonald, Bill O'Neil, Kathleen Kastrinelis, Rebecca Oldham, Town Administrator

ABSENT: Selectman Jason Naves

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPROVE WARRANTS:

PW # 22-31 \$191,776.24

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve PW #22-31 in the amount of \$191,776.24. Voted: 4-0-0. One absent.

BW # 22-31 \$1,437,480.62

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve BW #22-31 in the amount of \$1,437,480.62. Voted: 4-0-0. One absent.

22-31 BILLS WARRANT BREAKDOWN:

Town:	\$ 92,937.06
W/S:	\$ 36,561.14
Payroll Withholding:	\$ 7,144.85
Health Insurance:	\$
Light Bills:	\$ 245,044.43
Grants & Revolving:	\$ 37,600.81
Chapter 90:	\$
Pentucket Assessment:	\$ 1,017,752.38
Whittier Assessment:	\$
Capital:	\$

APPROVE MINUTES:

- January 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve the January 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes. Voted: 4-0-0. One absent.

APPOINTMENTS:

- Appointment of Julie Fabri, 2 Nora Lane Groveland, to the position of Assistant Clerk effective February 1, 2022. This is a part-time position of 10 hours per week at a rate of \$21/hour and subject to a successful CORI.

A motion was moved by Selectman MacDonald and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to appoint Julie Fabri, 2 Nora Lane Groveland, to the position of Assistant Clerk effective February 1, 2022. This is a part-time position of 10 hours per week at a rate of \$21/hour and subject to a successful CORI. Voted: 4-0-0. One absent.

Presentation by Rosalyn Delequexe with Northern Essex Community College: “health and wellness” survey conducted in Groveland. No one was present.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:

1) American Recuse Plan Act Funding: Project Review

- Chair Watson read the list of requests. TA Oldham noted a list of departmental requests with backup documentation was created and is in the packet tonight. The Town has until 2024 to allocate the funds and until 2026 to expend the funds. Selectman O’Neil has been working on a computer model with TA Oldham to figure out how to fairly distribute potential premium pay funds. Selectman O’Neil asked to split the replacement items between “needs” and “wants.” Selectman Kastrinelis asked for prioritization of items that will provide the greatest benefit to the tax payers. TA Oldham noted the list represents “needs” for each department. TA Oldham will work with the Departments to determine if there is anything that can be reduced.

The Board invited members of the audience to speak in regards to the ARPA requests.

- Diane, 22 Mill Street spoke on behalf of the Garden Club and discussed their request for \$6,000 for lost revenues in 2020. There were expenses at the Little Red Schoolhouse during that time period.
- Adam, Groveland Police, spoke on behalf of the premium pay for first responders in the Police Department. Adam noted that Officers and Dispatchers have been committed to the Town and have shown up to their jobs during the pandemic and Adam asked for support from the Board. The Board generally supports this but would like to know more details.
- Fire Chief Valentine spoke to the Board regarding premium pay for the Fire Department and explained the information that he had previously provided.

2) Building Inspector to discuss Fee Increase: Electrical and Plumbing/Gas Fees

Sam Joslin, Building Inspector was present and addressed the Board to explain the increase he is requesting. Sam is looking to increase the line items by \$4,000 each to pay the inspectors more by increasing the Electrical and Plumbing/Gas Fees; the amounts are based on historic permit counts; this is meant to cover the inspection costs. Groveland is below average compared to comparable size nearby communities. The request asks for this to go into effect, July 1, 2022.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman O’Neil to approve the inspection fees as presented tonight. Voted: 4-0-0. One absent.

3) 46 Washington Street: Update on property and CPA Project Phase 1

Mike Dempsey, Community Preservation Committee was present and addressed the Board and reviewed the CPA funds that were awarded last year. Town items that were stored there have been removed. This year Mike expects work to be done on the landscaping, the outside of the building, getting a survey done and work on potential uses of the building and requirements to improve and maintain it. In the meantime, there will be a request coming before the BOS for temporary usage of a portion of the building by a local artist to lease the space.

4) Community Compact Commitment Letter: Review and vote to endorse

TA Oldham reported that another round of grants is coming up in March and she has been working with Chris Liquori in the Cable Department to apply for the fiber optics grant to expand fiber optics and the BOS will have to vote to endorse the draft commitment letter in the packet. The Town already has the Community Compact designation which was approved in 2016; this

letter is a reaffirmation that the town will follow through with the necessary requirements to receive grants.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve the letter with a correction (typo). Voted: 4-0-0. One absent.

- 5) Board of Selectmen Policies and Procedures: Current Board Policies for the Board of Selectmen Selectman Kastrinelis provided materials that she researched from other communities for the Board to review and asked for the Board to create policies to establish procedures and policies to guide BOS meetings. Selectman O'Neil agreed that structure and decorum will help the Board be more efficient. Selectman MacDonald likes structure but does not want to become too rigid. The Board will review the materials.

TOWN ADMINSTRATOR'S TIME:

TA Oldham acknowledged the Highway Department for their efforts with the weekend storm. The first monthly Department Head meeting took place this morning and there will be biweekly meetings with individual departments. The Planning Board will be meeting tomorrow to select their Master Plan Steering Committee; if any BOS members are interested, they should let TA Oldham know and she will submit their name for approval. The local election schedule has been posted on the website along with available seats. The Governor released State Aide numbers and Cherry Sheet preliminary numbers have been released. Departmental budgets have been submitted; the Finance Board has begun to meet.

SELECTMEN'S TIME & REPORTS:

Selectman Kastrinelis noted that she is grateful for the residents of the town.

Selectman O'Neil thanked the Highway Department for the fantastic job they did with the weekend storm and addressed a comment by Selectman MacDonald calling others 'Nervous Nellies' at the last meeting; at first he was upset but then felt it was a misunderstanding and doesn't believe Selectman MacDonald meant it the way it sounded, but wanted Selectman MacDonald to understand his perspective that he will do whatever he needs to do to keep his family and himself safe from the virus and feels others feel the same way; maybe people are being overly cautious but it is because they care about others and asked Selectman MacDonald to try and see things from the other side.

Selectman MacDonald stated he does care about people but worries about excluding people and taking away a parents right to make decisions regarding their children; he does not want to negatively impact children.

Chair Watson thanked the Highway Department for the excellent job with the storm.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Selectman MacDonald thanked the Cable Department for airing a couple of local sports programs on the Cable Access Channel and would like to expand this.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Veasey Quarterly Reports

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm. Voted: 4-0-0. One absent.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, February 7, 2022, at 6:30PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Katherine T. Ingram*