



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 14, 2022

Groveland Town Hall

183 Main Street, Groveland, MA 01834

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

PRESENT: Acting Chair Kathleen Kastrinelis, Selectmen, Jason Naves, Bill O'Neil, Dan MacDonald.
Rebecca Oldham, Town Administrator

ABSENT: Selectman Ed Watson

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPOINTMENTS:

Appointment of Max Stokes, 42 Kelsey Road Lee NH, to the position of Cable Technician effective March 14, 2022, at a rate of \$23/hour and subject to a successful CORI.

A letter of support from Chris Liquori was included with the BOS packet.

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to appoint Max Stokes, 42 Kelsey Road Lee NH, to the position of Cable Technician effective March 14, 2022, at a rate of \$23/hour and subject to a successful CORI. Voted: 4-0-0.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE

A. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 2022 Boat Ramp Permit, Fee Waiver:

TA Oldham explained that USGS is working with DEP on water quality testing on the river; this waiver was approved last year, and the work has not been completed so they are looking for a new 2022 waiver.

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve the waiver of the Boat Ramp Permit, Fee for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Voted: 4-0-0.

B. One Day Liquor License for a Birthday at Veasey Park on April 9, 2022, between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. Detail officer required:

TA Oldham confirmed all documents are in order.

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve the One Day Liquor License for a Birthday at Veasey Park on April 9, 2022, between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. with a detail officer in attendance. Voted: 4-0-0.

C. Discuss and Approve Compensatory Time Policy:

TA Oldham reported that Town Counsel responded to the question raised at the last BOS meeting regarding offering compensatory time versus overtime for additional hours worked; Town Counsel stated that the town can offer comp time instead of pay as long as it is not mandatory. The time has to be authorized by the Town Administrator. TA Oldham highlighted the changes to the policy.

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman O'Neil to approve the Compensatory Time Policy. Voted: 4-0-0.

D. ARPA: Additional Request for Premium Pay per request of the Highway Department and Water & Sewer Commission:

Acting Chair Kastrinelis noted that this discussion is outside the purview of current negotiations.

Jaimie, a department member asked to be compensated using ARPA funds in the amount of \$2,000 per

employee in the Water and Sewer and Highway Departments for a total of \$10,000. The Teamster Attorney for the Collective Bargaining Unit for both departments was present and talked about the rotation of employees and talked about specific exposure the employees were subjected to. The BOS will take this under consideration.

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman MacDonald to table this. Voted: 4-0-0.

E. MBTA Communities Zoning Compliance Presentation:

The Environmental Program Coordinator/Town Planner, Annie Schindler and Building Inspector, Sam Joslin were present and addressed the Board. Sam Joslin noted that this is not the time for a lot of questions – there are not currently a lot of answers; the town has an obligation to submit public comments to the DHCD by the end of the month and this presentation is another part of the requirements. Sam Joslin reviewed a slide presentation that included a timeline for implementation. Selectman O'Neil asked if the State has a funding source for the towns to improve and update their infrastructure to meet the increased demands of the population. The information will be placed on the town website for public comment.

F. Comcast Contract Approval and Endorsement:

Selectman O'Neil summarized the contract.

A motion was moved by Selectman O'Neil and seconded by Selectman Naves to approve the Comcast 10 Year Contract as negotiated by Town Counsel. Voted: 4-0-0.

Selectman O'Neil asked for a cost breakdown for the work Town Counsel did on this contract.

G. Discuss Auditors Report:

The Board has the full report and will invite the Auditor to the next meeting to discuss.

H. ARPA: Selected Project Review:

TA Oldham noted the second amount of funding has not been received yet. TA Oldham worked with Departments to prioritize the list of items and reported which items have been identified to move forward with purchase and procurement if necessary.

Selectman Kastrinelis recused herself from the lawnmower discussion and turned it over to Selectman O'Neil who led the discussion.

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman MacDonald to move forward with the lawnmower for the cemetery. Voted: 3-0-0. Selectman Kastrinelis recused.

Selectman Kastrinelis returned and the Board discussed the front loader, the shared back hoe; this is half the money towards one back hoe to be shared by Highway and Water and Sewer – the Water and Sewer Department already has funds allocated. The Board also discussed funding the engineering study for lead in the water that no one is drinking and is coming from the old pipes at Bagnall School. The Board discussed the HVAC system for the Town Hall. The total amount of ARPA funding to be approved tonight is \$612,969; this will be contingent on receiving the rest of the funds. Selectman MacDonald would like to keep money aside to fix the lead in the water at Bagnall School; there is money earmarked for other projects but fixing the lead in the water at Bagnall School is identified by the BOS as a priority depending on what the cost of remediation looks like.

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman MacDonald to move forward with the \$612,969 for the projects as stated contingent on the funding arriving. Voted: 4-0-0.

I. FY2023 Pentucket School Budget:

The Board took a brief break prior to this discussion.

Acting Chair Kastrinelis introduced Superintendent Dr. Justin Bartholomew, Assistant Superintendent Brent Conway and Business Manager Greg Labrecque. Dr. Bartholomew reviewed a slide presentation on the PRSD school budget which included information on state aide. This year's budget is driven by transportation costs according to Dr. Bartholomew; the total additional burden due to transportation is \$583,000; the state does not cover 100% of regional transportation, instead it is more like 78-79% right now; this is dependent on appropriation and the amount received from the state is not consistent. Every increase in the budget was prioritized in terms of need. Greg Labrecque discussed the policy in the district regarding unspent end of year balances that were added to stabilization. Selectman O'Neil asked

for a copy of the budget in Excel and a copy of the school policy regarding the unspent money being added to stabilization. The assessment increase for Groveland will be \$582,767. Selectman MacDonald asked if bus ridership had been analyzed to see if there are any savings and was told by Dr. Bartholomew this is regularly reviewed. There will likely be an override on the ballot, though that number is not known tonight.

J. Discuss Annual Town Meeting Date:

Acting Chair Kastrinelis discussed holding the Annual Town Meeting for May 23, 2022.

A motion was moved by Selectman MacDonald and seconded by Selectman Naves to hold the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 23, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

Voted: 4-0-0.

TOWN ADMINSTRATOR’S TIME:

TA Oldham reported: The FY23 Budget binders have been prepared.

SELECTMEN’S TIME & REPORTS:

Selectman O’Neil: the new high school is on target and budget.

Selectman MacDonald: urged everyone to contact their state officials in regards to Ukraine.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OTHER ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING:

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Joseph D’Amore Editorial dated March 6, 2022
- Invitation to Lt. McDonald Retirement Luncheon

APPROVE WARRANTS:

PW # 22-37 \$247,428.74

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman O’Neil to approve Warrant PW # 22-37 in the amount of \$247,428.74. Voted: 4-0-0.

BW # 22-37 \$462,670.95

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman O’Neil to approve Warrant BW # 22-37 in the amount of \$462,670.95. Voted: 4-0-0.

22-37 BILLS WARRANT BREAKDOWN:

Town:	\$ 219,725.79
W/S:	\$ 11,615.07
Payroll Withholding:	\$ 5,020.93
Health Insurance:	\$
Light Bills:	\$ 181,963.19
Grants & Revolving:	\$ 44,345.97
Chapter 90:	\$
Pentucket Assessment:	\$
Whittier Assessment:	\$
Capital:	\$

APPROVE MINUTES:

- February 28, 2022, Meeting Minutes:

A motion was moved by Selectman O’Neil and seconded by Selectman Naves to approve the minutes of February 28, 2022. Voted: 4-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

If time allows, Town Hall 183 Main Street, Selectmen Conference Room – expected to return to open session.

- MGL Ch. 30A §21(a)2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparations for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Fire Chief).

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman O’Neil to enter Executive Session to return to Open Session.

Roll call vote to enter Executive Session: MacDonald, opposed; O’Neil, yes, Naves, yes; Kastrinelis; yes.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman O’Neil to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 pm. Voted: 4-0-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, March 28, 2022, at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine T. Ingram