

Groveland Board of Selectmen
Meeting minutes
January 22, 2018

Present: Chairman Michael Wood, Vice Chair Lisa Dube-Carpenter, Selectman Ed Watson, Selectman Bill Dunn, and Selectman Bill O'Neil

Absent: None

Others present: Denise Dembkoski

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Chairman Wood announced the Fire Chief has been placed on administrative leave pending an investigation to be concluded on February 12th. If needed, Assistant Fire Chief Kurt Ruchala can be reached through dispatch.

RESIDENT/PUBLIC COMMENT

Tracy Gilford announced that this Sunday from 1-4pm at Veasey Memorial Park, the activities committee will be sponsoring the Winter Festival.

APPROVE WARRANTS

PW # 18-29 \$143,601.75

Chairman Wood made a motion to approve payroll warrant #18-29 in the amount of \$143,601.75; seconded by Selectmen O'Neil; voted 5-0-0; warrant approved.

BW # 18-29 \$729,191.98

Chairman Wood made a motion to approve bill warrant #18-29 in the amount of \$729,191.98; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; voted 5-0-0; warrant approved.

APPOINTMENTS

Appointment of Darcy Lepore of Amesbury as the Library Director effective January 22, 2018 with a salary of \$62,200.

Ms. Lepore has been serving as interim director since August 1, 2017 and she spoke to the Board about her interim appointment.

Selectman O'Neil inquired as to what took so long to make the appointment. Jamie Koulouras, one of the library trustees, stated that there were not a lot of responses and the trustees wanted to give Darcy a little time to see how she adjusted to the position.

Selectman Dunn asked about any new ideas or changes to make the library better. Ms. Lepore stated they are working together on some ideas but nothing set in stone as of yet.

Selectman Watson served on the search committee and stated that Ms. Lepore is well qualified for the position.

Selectmen O'Neil made a motion to appoint Darcy Lepore of Amesbury as the Library Director effective January 22, 2018 with a salary of \$62,200; seconded by Selectman Dunn; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

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Appointment of Rob Carbone to the Cable Advisory Committee effective January 22, 2018 through June 30, 2018.

This is an annual appointment and would be up for reappointment on July 1, 2018.

Mr. Carbone stated he has worked in public access television for about 20 years. Chairman Wood asked Mr. Carbone to find out what is causing the audio issues with the cable station. Selectman Watson asked about competition for Comcast. Mr. Carbone stated it doesn't necessarily drop the price but it is better for the customers.

Selectman O'Neil asked about the number of members. Ms. Dembkoski stated that with this appointment the group will have a quorum. In response to a question from Selectman O'Neill, Mr. Carbone stated it's not common practice to take cable funding for other purposes but in an emergency it may be necessary. Mr. O'Neil asked about possibility of a la carte channels. Mr. Carbone explained that being able to pick and choose channels is not something the board has control of.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to appoint Rob Carbone to the Cable Advisory Committee effective January 22, 2018 through June 30, 2018. This is an annual appointment and would be up for reappointment on July 1, 2018; seconded by Selectman Watson; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE

Sewell Street Reclamation project follow up discussion

Bill Daley of 7 Hemlock Street, provided the Board with a several versions of a document regarding conditions talked about at the last meeting. Selectman O'Neil asked about the entrance. Mr. Daley stated the entrance will be on Salem Street and the old entrance will be secured. Mr. Daley stated the entire site will not be fenced off but there will be postings.

Selectman Dunn asked about what the future use will be. Mr. Daley was unsure at this point. Mr. Daley confirmed he would have liability insurance for the property.

Selectman Watson asked about going before the planning and zoning boards and notice to neighbors. The zoning is by right but Mr. Daley will speak with neighbors. Mr. Daley stated he would go underground with any utilities.

Elaine Wozny, chair of the Board of Health, spoke about her concerns with the sewerage. Septic will not be allowed on that property so it will have to be public sewer. Mr. Daley stated the site is 28.5 acres and fill is only 5 acres so there is room to accommodate septic. Mr. Daley also indicated that depending on what goes there and the cost, they could bring sewer from Center Street.

Selectwoman Carpenter prefers not to sign any document as it is not her expertise. Selectman Dunn stated he believed the conditions are adequate, especially the bond amount. Ms. Dembkoski stated that the conditions are items the Board talked about at the last meeting and things the Board has asked Mr. Daley to comply with.

Mr. Daley stated any damage caused by the project will be repaired.

The engineer for the project stated that they will be going through the Planning Board process so paving, curbing, etc. will all be per the Planning Board requirements.

Selectwoman Carpenter made a motion to accept general conditions in Option 1 of the Sewell Street Reclamation project with the amendment to #2 adding "and/or Salem Street" and deleting #7; seconded by Selectman Dunn; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

Water & Sewer Department to discuss the recent water main breaks

Thomas Cusick, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, summarized the information provided in his email to the Board regarding the water main breaks on Christmas Eve and January 2nd.

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The water main was installed about seven feet deep and laid on ledge so it was a matter of poor installation in the sixties. In response to a question from Chairman Wood, the water pipes were not replaced in the eighties when work was done and replacement of the pipes was not part of the most recent Route 97 project done by the state.

Selectmen Dunn asked if it was possible the pipe broke because of the jackhammering during the Route 97 project. Mr. Cusick stated it's possible but couldn't say for sure that was the cause because the pipes were seven feet deep and not installed properly in the first place.

Selectman Watson asked about how far down they excavated when they did the Route 97 project and wanted to confirm this wasn't caused by that project. Mr. Cusick stated they wouldn't have dug that deep to do the road and he thought the fill might have been brought up sometime in the eighties but he didn't think this was caused by the Route 97 project.

Mr. O'Neil asked about looking at pipes in the next phase of the Route 97 project. Ms. Dembkoski stated that phase 2 of the project is not planned anytime soon.

Mr. Cusick said the break on School Street involved bolts on a hydrant that failed and that is not something that normally happens. He is going to contact the manufacturer of the piece that broke to see if there was any kind of recall. In response to a question from Selectmen Dunn, Mr. Cusick stated they would use infared in the area in the spring. Selectman O'Neil asked if the cold could have been a factor. Mr. Cusick stated that has been an issue with other breaks but he didn't think it was on this one.

Request for a Street Light to be added at the corner of Uptack Road and Berrywood Lane

Ms. Dembkoski stated that she spoke with the light department and they believe there is a need for a light there. Selectman Dunn made a motion to add a light at the corner of Uptack Road and Berrywood Lane; seconded by Selectman Watson; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

MOU for FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for SCBA equipment

Ms. Dembkoski explained that regional grants are very big when it comes to FEMA and the other two communities have approved it. If the board takes no action tonight they will have to withdraw from the application because it has to be submitted by the end of the month. If approved, an article would be placed on the Town Meeting warrant to appropriate \$31,000 from free cash to replace equipment in the event the grant is award. The grant would get the town approximately \$331,000 worth of equipment for \$31,000.

Selectwoman Carpenter made a motion to move forward in collaborating with Georgetown and Newbury on the 2017/2018 regional grant for FEMA assistance; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

Discussion of temporary dispatch protocol

Chairman Wood stated that this matter has already been addressed and rectified. Selectman O'Neil asked for an explanation. Chairman Wood stated that the fire department will be called on all medical calls.

VOTES OF THE BOARD

Executive Session Minutes from November 27, 2017

Selectwoman Carpenter made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of November 27, 2017, seconded by Selectman Watson; voted 5-0-0; minutes approved.

Minutes from December 11, 2017

Selectwoman Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2017, seconded by Selectman Watson; voted 5-0-0; minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman O'Neil asked about progress with Town Planner. Ms. Dembkoski stated it is still posted and there has been no interest. The Board asked for it to be posted on the MMA website one more time. Mr. O'Neil asked about volunteers for the personnel bylaw committee. Ms. Dembkoski stated that three volunteers have come forward and it is still posted. Mr. O'Neil asked about appointing an employee. Ms. Dembkoski stated that the makeup of the committee is four residents and one employee. Mr. O'Neil stated he would serve on the board if they needed a fourth resident. Mr. O'Neil asked about insurance for Veasey Park and if the gap has been closed and about repair of the boiler. Ms. Dembkoski stated the town is still paying the monthly premium. Mike Dempsey stated that by the end of the fiscal year they should be able to contribute something toward the premium. Mr. Dempsey explained that last month the furnace failed and it cost \$8,000. Selectman Dunn asked if there is anything that Veasey Park gives back to the Town. Mr. Dempsey stated they could give a report explaining what community events they have.

Selectwoman Carpenter was concerned with reports that people are being told what they should and should not say to the Board as it relates to the Fire Department investigation and asked Ms. Dembkoski to draft a letter to be sent to the Fire Department stating censorship and coercion will not be tolerated.

Selectman Watson asked about Greenwood Auto Body's class II license. Ms. Dembkoski stated he has complied with all the conditions so he has received his license.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Selectwoman Carpenter stated the Elm Square Committee had a meeting that Senator Tarr, Essex County Greenbelt and Merrimack Valley Planning attended and had a discussion about putting forth a request for CPA funds to be used for the purchase of the property. The Committee is trying to develop a dialogue with the seller.

Selectman O'Neil said there was a presentation of the School Building Committee that went well. There will be another presentation on February 7th at 6:30pm at Merrimack Town Hall. The next meeting is next Tuesday and will have a meeting almost every week in order to try to meet some deadlines.

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Session Minutes from December 11, 2017

Minutes from January 8, 2018-Selectman Watson asked that page 2, Sewell Street Reclamation Project, be reworked to include information that was discussed but not put in the minutes. Also on page 4, fire department grants, Mr. Watson asked for the total amount of the grant to be listed and that it is in cooperation with other towns.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME

Ms. Dembkoski stated that budget requests have been given to the Board and will have the summaries at the next meeting. Also, she will add on every agenda a 2019 Budget Discussion in case the Board has questions as they move through the budget process.

SELECTMEN'S TIME

Selectman O'Neil stated that the D.A.R.E. program has successfully been started. Asked residents to come and share their thoughts about the program as he has heard some people are

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stating it is a waste of funding. Selectwoman Carpenter stated a new trend has been “jeweling” and wanted to know if our program covered it. Mr. Watson stated his office hours are 10-11am on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Mr. O’Neil stated he will begin having office hours every other Saturday starting February 3rd from 10-11am; however the time may vary.

Selectman Dunn asked for a discussion about a new town manager or administrator to be placed on a future agenda. Mr. Dunn also asked for an agenda item to talk about making the Road Commissioner position an appointed position.

Selectman Watson stated that it has been twelve months and the fence between the Groveland Commons and the Fire Station still has not been fixed. Ms. Dembkoski stated she is having trouble getting the fence company to come out. Selectman Watson stated he will reach out to the vendor.

Selectwoman Carpenter made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Selectman O’Neil; voted 5-0-0; meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Monday, February 5, 2018** at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Laurie Burzlaff, minutes clerk.

*** Unanimously Approved February 20, 2018 ***