

Groveland Board of Selectmen
Meeting minutes
March 19, 2018

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

Others present: Denise Dembkoski

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

RESIDENT/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Greg Stark of 1 Off King Way stated that with the weather problems the elm trees in Elm Park have taken a beating and asked who was in charge of Elm Park. Ms. Dembkoski stated that the highway department is in charge but there are no funds allocated to replace trees. The Board asked if the Tree Warden could give them a report on what is needed. Mr. Stark also stated that he received an email from Merrimack Valley Planning Commission asking him to participate in a forum for economic development. He is willing to participate if the Board would like him to.

APPROVE WARRANTS

PW # 18-37 \$155,960.74

Chairman Wood made a motion to approve payroll warrant #18-37 in the amount of \$155,960.74; seconded by Selectmen O'Neil; voted 5-0-0; warrant approved.

BW # 18-37 \$560,401.27

Chairman Wood made a motion to approve bill warrant #18-37 in the amount of \$560,401.27; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; voted 5-0-0; warrant approved.

When asked about snow and ice, Ms. Dembkoski stated they were hoping FEMA would declare a State of Emergency so the Town can get additional funds.

APPOINTMENTS

Appointment of Zaven Gostanian of Bradford, to the position of Electrical Inspector effective March 20, 2018 through June 30, 2018 at a rate of \$750/month.

Ms. Dembkoski indicated there were 9 candidates for the position and Mr. Gostanian has experience as an inspector.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to appoint Zaven Gostanian of Bradford, to the position of Electrical Inspector effective March 20, 2018 through June 30, 2018 at a rate of \$750/month; seconded by Selectman Watson; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE

Discussion about the fire department, interim Fire Chief position, and plans for the chief position
Appointment of an Acting Fire Chief

Chairman Wood indicated they had to appoint an interim Chief by April 1st. Acting Chief, Kurt Ruchala, explained for the department to do their work they need the delegation of authority. He stated the delegation of authority has to be an interim position, not acting. Mr. Ruchala wants more information on the interim position prior to accepting it. Chairman Wood suggested an appointment for a month to meet the April 1st deadline and then they can discuss further.

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Selectwoman Lisa Dube-Carpenter made a motion to appoint Kurt Ruchala as interim Fire Chief from April 1, 2018 to April 30, 2018; seconded by Selectman Watson; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter asked if Mr. Ruchala has an update on the proposals from the Fire Department about the structure of the department and the weak chief/strong chief. Mr. Ruchala indicated they should have a document for them next week. Chairman Wood asked for information on equipment and vehicles to be included.

VOTES OF THE BOARD (taken out of order)

Minutes from February 20, 2018

Selectmen Watson made a motion to accept the minutes from February 20, 2018, as amended, seconded by Selectman O'Neil; voted 4-0-1; minutes approved. Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter abstained.

Executive Session Minutes from February 5, 2018

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to accept the Executive Session Minutes from February 5, 2018; seconded by Selectman Dunn; voted 3-0-2; Selectmen O'Neil and Watson abstained.

Accept the resignation of James Greenberg, custodian, effective March 12, 2018

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to accept the resignation of James Greenberg effective March 12, 2018; seconded by Selectman Watson; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

Vote to terminate the local state of emergency declared by Chairman Mike Wood on Thursday, March 8, 2018

Selectwoman Carpenter made a motion to terminate the local state of emergency declared by Chairman Mike Wood on Thursday, March 8, 2018; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

Chairman Wood indicated all departments in town did a great job of working together and keeping everyone informed.

Road Commissioner's request dated 3/19/18 to deficit spend the FY18 Snow & Ice line item by an additional \$65,000

Selectman Watson made motion to approve the Road Commissioner's request dated 3/19/18 to deficit spend the FY18 Snow and Ice line item by an additional \$65,000; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE (continued)

Capital Improvement Plan Discussion with CIC Chair, Jeff Pappas

Capital Improvement Committee Chair, Jeff Pappas, reviewed the projects that were requested and not approved to be part of the plan for this year. They did approve to purchase for the Fire Department of the Squad One vehicle for \$85,000. Chairman Wood asked what would happen to the old vehicle. Acting Chief Ruchala indicated the vehicle would be surplus and put out to bid. Selectman Watson asked if any equipment from the old vehicle could be used in the new vehicle. Mr. Ruchala stated they will put the equipment on the Engine One. Selectman Dunn asked about keeping the old vehicle. Mr. Ruchala stated there would not be anywhere to store it. Mr. Pappas indicated that any equipment not installed in the vehicle was removed from the funding because it is not capital.

Purchase of radio equipment was also approved. Mr. Pappas indicated it is a safety issue as the firefighters cannot communicate after entering a building. The microwave feature was removed that allows both repeaters to be on and allows repeaters to communicate with each other. They hope to add that to next year's plan. In response to a question from Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter, Ms. Dembkoski indicated it would take a large investment to put Fire, Police and

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Highway on the same system. In response to a question from Selectman O'Neil, Mr. Ruchala stated the company makes no guarantees that they will work in buildings and you would need a bidirectional amplifier in the building in order to correct the communication issue. Selectman Watson stated next year's plan already spends more money than this year so why not add microwave this year. Mr. Pappas explained that several items will most like be removed from next year's plan and adding back the microwave did not come up until after they already accepted they plan. Resident, Jim Logan asked if other municipalities have the same communication problem. Mr. Ruchala indicated it is not uncommon. Selectman O'Neil asked if they could find a company to do an assessment at no charge if they are spending \$150,000 on the equipment.

Mr. Pappas stated that the Highway Department has also requested radios. Their system is from the 1970's. They are looking for a system that will allow the trucks could communicate with each other and the cost is \$19,966.

Mr. Pappas stated the Police Department is also requesting radios. They would be replacing radios that are seven years old and the cost is \$20,000.

Mr. Pappas stated that the last item in the plan is the purchase of a police cruiser. They are on a rotating schedule so that only one vehicle needs to be replaced each year. Mr. Pappas explained that for the last few years they would replace the vehicle after 5 years and are now looking to replace every four years. Chief Gillen explained that they are now purchasing Fords instead of Chargers which appear to be more reliable so they may be able to go back to the five year rotation.

Mr. Pappas explained that at the time they needed to finalize the plan, there were no numbers for the Senior Center so they voted to support it in concept only. Selectman O'Neil thanked Mr. Pappas and the committee for all their hard work.

Kathy Kastrinelis, Finance Board Chair, explained that the Finance Board is concerned that when they get the Capital Plan, they don't get a finance plan. They voted to support a reasonable amount of borrowing within the operating budget in order to manager the capital plan. Ms. Kastrinelis explained the plan would be to withdraw from the Capital Stabilization Fund to pay toward capital debt. Ms. Dembkoski explained that if they were to borrow, they would need initial funds to establish the plan and then every year would have roll off and capacity so the debt payment would be relatively the same.

Town Manager discussion

Selectman Dunn suggested that the Board put a survey out to the community to see if they want a Town Manager. Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter stated that the Board should provide an explanation as to why the Board thinks it is important to have a Town Manager.

Jim Logan asked for the survey to provide a list of pros and cons of having a Town Manager.

Creation of a Business Development Committee

Selectman Dunn explained that he was trying to get a group of business people together to try to help bring businesses to Groveland. The Board discussed having members of town boards on the committee-planning, zoning and conservation. Ms. Dembkoski explained that zoning regulations and infrastructure limit businesses from coming to town. Selectman O'Neil suggested speaking

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to Chesterton about why they like being in Groveland and use that as a way to attract other businesses.

Close the Town Meeting Warrant

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to close the Town Meeting Warrant; seconded by Selectman Watson; voted 5-0-0; motion approved.

FY19 Budget and Town Meeting Warrant Article Discussion

Ms. Dembkoski stated that the Board needs to vote on the budget at the next meeting. Selectman O'Neil suggested they have another meeting to discuss just the budget. The Board agreed to schedule a meeting for March 26th.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectman O'Neil asked if the streetlight on Center Street was done. Ms. Dembkoski indicated that she has not received any written request from the resident. Mr. O'Neil also asked about the Town Planner. Ms. Dembkoski indicated that the Planning Board submitted a budget request to increase the salary. Mr. O'Neil asked about preparing for upcoming storm. Ms. Dembkoski stated that the highway department is still removing dangerous trees from the last storm. She has spoken with departments and they have discussed plans if they were to lose power for an extended period of time.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Session Minutes from March 5, 2018

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME

Ms. Dembkoski thanked the light department, highway department, water and sewer, police and fire departments for the outstanding job during the storms. Ms. Dembkoski announced that today was last day for candidates to turn in papers for the town election and last day to withdraw is April 9th. On April 18th at 7:00PM there will be a presentation on the proposed Senior Center. April 25th is candidate's night, Town Meeting is April 30th and the election is May 7th.

SELECTMEN'S TIME

Selectman Watson asked if someone could contact the water department about the hole on School Street. Ms. Dembkoski indicated they are aware of it but cannot patch it in this weather. She will see if a temporary patch can be done.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter thanked Ms. Dembkoski for her outstanding job during the storm. Selectmen O'Neil thanked all the departments and residents for their work during the storm.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; voted 5-0-0; meeting adjourned at 8:57PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Monday, April 2, 2018** at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Laurie Burzlaff, minutes clerk.

*** Unanimously Approved on April 17, 2018 ***