

Groveland Board of Selectmen
Meeting minutes
April 2, 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 6:31 PM.

RESIDENT/PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie, of the Friends of Greener Groveland announced they will be celebrating Earth Day at Veasey Park starting at 10.

Tracy Gilford of 4 Abbot Circle, stated the Fire Department is contemplating resurrecting Groveland Day and asked for it to be an item on an upcoming agenda for them to use the town facilities.

Valerie Osborn, 3 Pleasant Street, from the Friends of the Council on Aging stated that the town wide yard sale is on the 3rd Saturday in September and asked they avoid scheduling Groveland Day on that date.

APPROVE WARRANTS

PW # 18-39 \$151,106.33

Chairman Wood made a motion to approve payroll warrant #18-39 in the amount of \$151,106.33; seconded by Selectmen O'Neil; voted 5-0-0; warrant approved.

BW # 18-39 \$965,885.81

Chairman Wood made a motion to approve bill warrant #18-39 in the amount of \$965,885.81; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; voted 5-0-0; warrant approved.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE

Presentation of the Senior Center project (30 minutes)

John Osborne presented the final senior center project report (power point presentation). In order to pay for the construction of the senior center, they are suggesting 2.74% of taxes paid be allocated to this project. The building will be approximately 9000 square feet at a cost of \$3.65 million and they are looking to bond for 20 years which means the annual average increase in taxes is approximately \$109/year.

Chairman Wood asked how many people would actually use the Senior Center. Mr. Osborne responded that in other towns approximately one third of the seniors use their centers. Mr. Osborne also stated that the average cost of the building alone is approximately \$285 per square foot, but all in it is higher.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter asked where the data came from regarding the demographics. Lynne Stanton stated they got it from the 2010 Census, from their database and databases from other towns. Ms. Dube Carpenter was looking for how many seniors are in Groveland. Ms. Stanton stated they work with the town clerk. Ms. Dube-Carpenter asked if they polled other towns to see if they have senior centers. Ms. Stanton stated they looked at communities within Groveland's population range that built senior centers in the past five years, but they did not poll

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the communities in Essex County. Ms. Stanton stated that they provided 656 services last year, but Selectmen note it is not known if all those services were provided to only Groveland residents.

Selectman Watson asked if this would bring the meals program back to Groveland. Mr. Osborne stated it would be phased in over a 2-3 year period. Mr. Watson asked if other groups would be able to meet there. Anita Wright stated there is no reason why other groups could not use the building if it is not being used by seniors.

Selectman Dunn asked if they applied for any federal or state money to help finance it. Mr. Osborne indicated they looked into it but there is not funding available. Mr. Osborne stated he was looking to see if the Board supports the project. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Watson indicated they do support the project. Mr. Wood supports the project but is concerned about the cost.

Kim Jackson, 10 Park Street, stated that the group visited other senior centers to see what was needed and how they could keep costs down.

Valerie Osborne, 3 Pleasant Street, stated that back in 1973 they were asked by the Board of Selectmen to find out what senior citizens wanted in town. Within 10 years they provided almost everything requested, except for the Senior Center.

When asked by Mr. Osborne if Ms. Dube-Carpenter supports the project, she indicated she does not have a position as of yet.

Mr. O'Neil stated that he supports the project but the timing is bad.

Ms. Dube-Carpenter stated that there are infrastructure issues and school issues that may increase taxes and wonders if seniors are being priced out because they cannot afford the increase in taxes. Ms. Dube Carpenter also wanted to see it more of a multipurpose center and not something just for seniors.

Jim Logan of Washington Street stated he is on social security and his taxes are almost \$9,000 per year and any increase would be a burden.

Melissa Furtado of 882 Salem Street, stated that people in town work for companies that may be able to help bring the prices down. Ms. Demboski indicated that the town is required to go out to bid and pay prevailing wage.

Water Department to discuss dirty water complaints

Thomas Cusick, Water and Sewer Department Superintendent, gave a power point presentation describing the system. There is no filtration to the water. They use ground water which is prone to have Iron and Manganese contaminants in it. They are currently in compliance with all health standards. They are currently at .2 for Manganese and the limit is .3. Environmental Working Group found the number of contaminants in the water is lower than surrounding communities. Customers with older lines will experience discolored water. Flushing stirs up the water and discolors water.

Chairman Wood asked what would be the best avenue to fix the issue. Mr. Cusick stated that a filtration plant would cost \$10-15 million. Rates would double if they did this. The water is safe and discoloration is uncommon, on average there are 40-50 calls annually. Residents can purchase their own home filtration systems or water softeners.

Jeff Maniscalco of 6 Anne Street put a whole house filter in his house and he has to change the filter every month, according to the manufacturer, they are typically changed every six months. Selectman Dunn asked if they can shut down a line and clean it out. Mr. Cusick said you can do "ice pigging" but can only be applied in certain areas. If you scrape an unlined pipe, it could make it worse. Mr. Dunn asked if they could come up with a program to clean the pipes. Mr. Cusick stated that they have hired a consultant and they have determined that their current program is on track.

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Dave Edwards, 4 Brierwood Lane, stated that it may be safe according to the tests but it's not something that you want to drink or bathe your kids in. Mr. Cusick indicated that when you have a long water service, it doesn't flush out and acknowledged that the pipe does need to be replaced. Mr. Cusick stated that the town spent \$2 million last year replacing pipes and they are on the list to replace that pipe next year.

Inez Steel, 6 Union Street, asked if there are any other ways to get funding for a filtration system. Amy Gianacoples, 20 Carlida Road asked if they have mapped out which pipes need to be replaced. Mr. Cusick indicated they have and there is a plan that lists all the mains in order for replacement.

Rhonda St. Pierre, 22 Carlida Rd, brought water bottles showing the dirty water and water after flushing. This past year it seems to have gotten worse.

In response to a question from Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter, Mr. Cusick stated that to replace one mile of pipe was \$1.2 million.

Bill Lewis, 20 Ashcroft Terrace, asked if there was a plan to address the issues. Mr. Cusick stated they addressed low hanging fruit first and have an infrastructure plan but to accelerate the plan will mean a rate increase. There was a 15% increase this year due to the money spent last year replacing one mile of pipe.

Lenny Mirra, State Representative, stated that there are no other funding sources for filtration systems. Ratepayers will have to pay the costs.

Mr. Lewis stated that even if they replaced all the pipes, you would still need a filtration system.

Yolanda Bolen of 230 Center Street, asked about replacing the pipes leading to a filtration system. Mr. Cusick indicated that there are not pipes that lead to a filtration system. When asked when the pipes would be replaced, Mr. Cusick indicated that there is not enough money to replace everything all at once. Ms. Bolen asked if they can help in getting filters at cost.

Chairman Wood asked about cost of a filtration system. Resident Dick Hodges indicated approximately \$1000. Mr. Dunn asked about cost for ice pigging in 3 worst areas and would it improve the situation. Mr. Cusick indicated it is in the plan and it would improve the situation.

Jim Sheehan, Chair of the Water & Sewer Commissioners, stated it may make things worse for some residents and there will still be iron and manganese coming out; so do you look for another water source? A resident asked what would be the best way to spend the money. Mr. Sheehan indicated he would probably put another well in and put in a filtration system but it wouldn't help everyone. It was asked for the costs to be presented to the board so it could be place on the ballot. Mr. Sheehan stated he would absolutely write up a plan and present it to the Board of Selectmen, but they need to prioritize everything and the 50 year old main is the priority right now. Mr. Sheehan indicated if he knew the number of residents being affected regularly they could plan better. Chairman Wood asked for a survey to be put in the next water bill so they can find out how many are affected and figure out next steps.

Melissa Furtado, Salem Street, stated she has lived in Groveland for thirty years and does not drink the water. She wasn't aware they were supposed to call when the water is brown.

Diane Gobeil of 16 Carlida Road asked why is the water brown when you are not flushing and it smells. Mr. Cusick said they could come out and look at it to try to get an idea of what is going on at her house. They do not typically get calls about the water smelling. He also indicated the more feedback they get the better they can handle the problem.

Inez Steel asked how often the water is tested. Mr. Cusick indicated the water is tested 24/7.

Bacteria testing is done twice a month and they do quarterly testing. They have 3 years of testing results online.

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Fred Hull, 35 Broad Street, thanked the Board for allowing this topic to be discussed and stated at least they know the options to fix range from \$1,000-\$6000 per family that they didn't have before.

Selectman Watson asked about the white spots on the cars. Mr. Cusick stated it is calcium. Mr. Watson also asked for more transparency from the Water Department, suggesting the meetings be televised. Mr. Watson asked for them to hold the public hearing for the increase in rates again. Mr. Cusick stated that it was advertised and the budget has been set.

Mr. O'Neil asked of the 15 towns listed on the slide, how many have filtration systems. Mr. Cusick stated that everyone except Boxford, Byfield and Groveland have filtration systems.

ZBA appointment for upcoming application

Chairman Wood stated that ZBA Chair, Kacy Bailey, asked the Board to appoint an alternate for the May 2, 2018 meeting because she has a conflict and will need to abstain from voting on the matter.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to appoint Selectman Dunn as the alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the May 2, 2018 meeting; seconded by Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter; motion approved 5-0-0.

The Board took a five minute recess.

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget discussion and vote

Ms. Dembkoski indicated that the Finance Board has voted on all the budgets and their recommendations are included. Finance Board did support a full time facilities person.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter asked about the cemetery budget. Ms. Dembkoski stated that the total budget only changed by \$585 since the first request and that they decided to go with a full time laborer, a part time clerical person and part time summer help. Ms. Dube-Carpenter asked about the increase in public relations. Ms. Dembkoski stated that police and fire wanted to keep it in their budget but the Finance Board felt they should be under one contract and now all town departments, except the Board of Health can use the service. The Board of Health is in a consortium for public relations.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to accept the Finance Board's recommendation for the total general government budget of \$1,520,578.00; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion approved 5-0-0.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter asked about the difference in clothing allowance for police. Ms. Dembkoski stated that the chief requested a clothing allowance for the reserve officers. She also stated that the fire expenses are based on the current situation. Ms. Dube-Carpenter stated that it doesn't appear to allow the Board to increase the number of hours for the Fire Chief. Ms. Dembkoski stated that at the last meeting, the Board did not want to add the additional funds to the budget. Ms. Dube-Carpenter is concerned about a deficit because they haven't accounted for the acting fire chief's wages if they want to hire someone this fiscal year. Selectman Dunn stated that by the time they are in a position to hire someone, they will be well into next year. Chairman Wood indicated they tried to guess what the timeline would be in making the decision.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to approve the public safety budget as recommended by the Finance Board in the amount of \$1,794,697.00; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion approved 5-0-0.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made motion to approve the Finance Board recommended total education budget of \$10,654,932.00; seconded by Selectman Watson; motion approved 5-0-0. Selectman O'Neil stated that sixty-three cents of every tax dollar collected goes to education.

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Ms. Dembkoski indicated in the Public Works budget they did increase snow and ice and the tree warden.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to approve \$1,360,482.00 as the total public works budget as recommended by the Finance Board; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion approved 5-0-0.

Ms. Dembkoski stated that in the Human Services budget, the Finance Board did not support the requested hour increase from the Health Department.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to approve the Finance Board recommended human services budget for \$221,854.00; seconded by Selectmen Watson; motion approved 5-0-0.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to approve the total library budget of \$256,292.00 as recommended by the Finance Board; seconded by Selectman Watson; motion approved 5-0-0.

Ms. Dembkoski explained the debt service is for the Center Street purchase, fire truck and police dispatch center.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to approve \$392,000.00 as recommended by the Finance Board with respect to the total debt service; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion approved 5-0-0.

Ms. Dembkoski stated that in the unclassified line item there is a Medicare tax decrease and for OPEB they are waiting for the free cash number.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to approve \$678,813.00 as part of the unclassified budget as recommended by the Finance Board; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion approved 5-0-0.

2018 Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrant discussion and vote

Ms. Dembkoski stated that Town Counsel is still reviewing the language so the wording may change in the articles but the context will not. For the Special Town Meeting there are 5 articles. The first two articles deal with compliance with Municipal Modernization Act, Articles 3 and 4 are to extend CPA projects and Article 5 are transfers to make the budget more in line with how the town is spending.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to approve Articles 1-5 as outlined in Special Town Meeting Warrant; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion approved 5-0-0.

Selectman Watson asked why the articles are not on the annual town meeting warrant. Ms. Dembkoski stated that it is so they can take effect in the current fiscal year.

Ms. Dembkoski stated that Article 7 is to petition the general court as a special legislative act to make the road commissioner position an appointed position. The Court is more likely to approve if there is a non-binding ballot question. Selectman Watson stated that if it fails at the ballot, they should not petition the court and let the will of the people stand. Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter stated she would want to wait to decide on that after the vote.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion that the note be removed from Article 7 in order to have the ability to discuss at a later date; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion denied 2-3-0; Selectmen Watson, Dunn and Wood opposed.

Selectman O'Neil asked about the senior tax exemption in Article 9. Ms. Dembkoski stated that Articles 9, 10 and 11 all deal with senior tax exemptions.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to accept Articles 1-11 as written; seconded by Selectman Watson; motion approved 5-0-0.

Articles 12-16 are zoning bylaw changes. Ms. Dembkoski stated that in Article 12, section 7.5.2, was amended to add recreation but that does not comply with state law, so it had to be removed.

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Selectman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to approve Articles 12-16 as written; seconded by Selectman Dunn; motion approved 5-0-0.

Articles 17-21 are Community Preservation Articles. The first four are for specific projects and fifth is the annual appropriation article. Ms. Dube-Carpenter stated that Article 20 should stay as is. It doesn't mean they will spend the money, it just means it will be available. The Elm Square Committee has all the documentation to give to Town Counsel so they can determine the appropriate offer to make.

Mike Dempsey spoke on behalf of Community Preservation Committee, and stated that the article approves up to the dollar amount and he believes that if it is going to be purchased the Board would need to approve and it would also need to be approved at Town Meeting.

Chairman Wood stated that the committee should make sure the land is clean. Ms. Dube-Carpenter stated that they will not move forward without a 21E certificate.

Selectman Watson asked about the total cost of the property of \$500,000. Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter stated that the figure is the worst case scenario. Mr. Dempsey indicated that CPA funds would only be used for 50% of the purchase price.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to accept articles 17-21 as written. There was no second.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to accept Articles 17-19 as written; seconded by Selectman Watson; motion approved 5-0-0.

Selectman O'Neil questioned why the town would want the parcel of land in Article 20.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter stated it would be open space. Mr. Dempsey asked for it to remain on the warrant and let people decide whether to purchase.

Selectman Dunn made a motion to remove it from the warrant; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion denied 2-3-0. Chairman Wood, Selectmen Watson and Dube-Carpenter opposed.

Chairman Wood indicated that if they allow it to go forward, they can present their arguments at Town Meeting. Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter stated that the Board still has the final say on whether to purchase.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to leave Article 20 on the warrant but make no recommendation; seconded by Selectman Watson; motion approved 3-2-0; Selectmen Dunn and O'Neil opposed.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to approve Article 21 as written; seconded by Selectman Watson; motion approved 5-0-0.

Ms. Demboski stated that Article 22 is the senior center at a cost of \$3,649,580.00. This will be a binding debt exclusion question so taxes would increase until it is paid off.

Selectman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to vote unfavorable action on Article 22. There was no second.

Selectman Dunn made a motion to vote favorable action on Article 22; seconded by Selectman Watson; motion approved 4-1-0; Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter opposed.

Selectman O'Neil asked about the dollar figure being stated as "more or less". Ms. Demboski indicated that it is legally required to be worded like that because you can only borrow the actual cost. Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter felt that the town cannot afford it.

Ms. Demboski stated that Article 23 has been changed to borrow funds for the projects. There would be no free cash used for capital projects. The total debt highest annual payment would be \$43,000 and decrease every year. Payments would start in FY20.

Chairman Wood was concerned that they are buying a vehicle that in three years is going to be replaced with a full time ambulance. Mr. Wood suggested they repurpose the existing chief's vehicle as Squad 1, and buy another vehicle as the chief's car, then use the savings to fund the radio system. Ms. Demboski stated that in the initial report they referenced regionalizing

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communications with West Newbury and Jeff Pappas was going to recommend that the item be removed from the capital plan because there are opportunities for grant funding. Selectman Dunn believed they should remove the radios and give the fire department what they need as far as the vehicle is concerned.

Selectman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to accept Article 23 as written without a Board of Selectman recommendation; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion approved 5-0-0.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to accept Article 24 as written; seconded by Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter; motion approved 5-0-0.

Article 25 and 26 are departments requesting available funds to purchase items. The Finance Board is recommending not purchasing the sign for the library (Article 26).

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to accept Article 25 with favorable action; seconded by Selectman Watson; motion approved 5-0-0.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to accept Article 26 as written; seconded by Selectman Watson; motion denied 2-3-0. Selectmen Dunn, Wood and O'Neil opposed.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to withdraw Article 26; seconded by Selectman Dunn; motion approved 3-2-0; Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter and Selectman Watson opposed.

Ms. Dembkoski explained that Articles 27 and 28 are to transfer from Conservation Commission fees to the salary of conservation agent and conservation expense account. Article 29 is to establish limits on annual revolving funds and Article 30 is to transfer from overlay surplus account into the general fund budget. Article 31 is transferring to OPEB from free cash and Articles 32 and 33 are transfers from fee cash to stabilization funds. Article 34 is a transfer from free cash for grant. Article 35 is to pay off sidewalk plow from free cash. Articles 36-39 are water and sewer retained earnings. Articles 40 and 41 are water and sewer budgets and Finance Board recommended favorable action.

Selectman O'Neil move to accept Articles 27-44 as amended; seconded by Selectman Dunn; motion approved 5-0-0.

VOTES OF THE BOARD

Executive Session Minutes from March 5, 2018

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to accept the Executive Session minutes of March 5, 2018; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion approved 4-0-1. Selectman Dunn abstained.

Reserve Fund Transfer Request for \$12,180 for Computer Hardware Maintenance

Ms. Dembkoski stated that the Finance Board did approve this.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to approve the reserve fund transfer request for \$12,180 for computer hardware maintenance; seconded by Selectman O'Neil; motion approved 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Wood stated that he is going to the meeting tomorrow morning at Sewell Street

SELECTMEN REPORTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Minutes from March 5, 2018

Minutes from March 19, 2018

Executive Session Minutes from March 19, 2018

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Special Meeting Minutes from March 26, 2018

Fire Radio Communications Information, provided by All-Comm, submitted by Kathy Kastrinelis

Support for a Strong Chief – by Acting Fire Chief Kurt Ruchala

Fire Department Structure Report – by Acting Fire Chief Kurt Ruchala

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME

Ms. Dembkoski stated that the School Building Committee will not be prepared for a fall town meeting. They are looking to submit the next phase to MSBA in December, so town meeting would not be until February/March. The Committee was wondering if the Board would be interested in a Saturday town election. Selectman O'Neil stated that it's important that all three towns have the election on the same day.

Ms. Dembkoski indicated that the town is starting to get requests for using the fields behind the Bagnell School. Mr. O'Neil asked if the grass is ready to be played upon. Selectman Dunn indicated it should be fine but they should rotate areas.

SELECTMEN'S TIME

Selectman O'Neil asked if the Bagnell will be multiuse and not the same group.

Selectman Dunn thanked Al Seavey for his 21 years as the electrical inspector and wished him well in retirement.

Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Selectman Dunn; voted 5-0-0; meeting adjourned at 10:48 PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 17, 2018** at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Laurie Burzlaff, minutes clerk.

*** Unanimously Approved on May 14, 2018 ***