

Groveland Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2017

Present: Chair Dunn, Selectman Ed Watson, Selectman Michael Wood, Selectman O'Neil

Absent: Selectman Daniel MacDonald

Others Present: Denise Dembkoski (Finance Director)

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

RESIDENT/PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Selectman Wood made a motion to approve PW#17-41 in the amount of \$145,096.86; Selectman Watson seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

Selectman Wood made a motion to approve DW#17-39A in the amount of \$28,436.56; Selectman Watson seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

Selectman Wood made a motion to approve BW#17-41 in the amount of \$274,873.50; Selectman Watson seconded; all voted in favor; warrant approved.

APPOINTMENTS:

Selectman Watson made a motion to appoint Steve Sargent to the position of Emergency Management Director effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Wood made a motion to appoint the following individuals to the position of Assistant Emergency Management Directors effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018: Robert P. Arakelian, Edwin L. Fournier and Jeffrey T. Gillen; Selectman Watson seconded. Discussion: Selectman Watson said there should be a representative from the Fire Department and felt that appointments should take place in June, not now. Selectman Watson made a motion to table to the regular annual appointments; no second; motion did not carry. Vote on Selectman Wood's motion: 3-1-0 with Selectman Watson against. Ms. Dembkoski will contact the Emergency Management Director.

RECOGNITION:

The March 2017 Volunteer of the Month, Bob Guptil, will not be attending tonight due to an illness.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

Rob Eckholt (to discuss a drainage easement in relation to his property and renovations) – 2 Ashcroft Circle. When he hired a surveyor to do proposed renovations, he found there was a 20' easement which had to be approved before he could move forward. Sam Joslin researched and found the easement was owned by J.P. Construction in 1958-1960. Documents found said that after a 30-year period it was dissolved but did not say who would have the rights to it; they assume it is the Town of Groveland. Neither Mr. Joslin or Bob Arakelian had a problem with it. Mr. Eckholt asked Mr. Arakelian if he would have enough room to get in there if a pipe broke; he said he would. Mr. Joslin strongly recommended getting approval in writing from the Selectmen. Chair Dunn asked how far past the wall did his land go towards the pipe; 17'; the setback in Groveland is 15'. The pipe is a storm drain in the street that runs on an angle to the brook. Selectman Wood asked if there is any documentation that the town does own it? Ms. Dembkoski provided the board

paperwork on the easement. The telephone company/telegraph company, Haverhill Gas Company as well as the town and the Light Department all have the right-of-way to the easement. Selectman Wood asked what would happen if one of the companies wanted to put in telephone cables, pipes, e.g. Ms. Dembkoski said on the 20' wide easement the parties have the right to add conduits, poles, cables, wires. She said in the 1961 recorded document, there is not a "comma" between Town of Groveland and Municipal Light Department; she thinks it's with the Town of Groveland Municipal Light Department and not the town. Ms. Dembkoski said he should contact the Planning Board regarding the Protective Covenant of the Planning Board since it is on his deed. Mr. Eckholt will come back to the board after checking with all parties involved; if he gets the ok from everyone; the board will approve it. He will contact National Grid, Verizon, the Light Department and the Planning Board Chair.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

Selectman Watson made a motion to approve the March 8, 2017 Executive Session Meeting Minutes; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to approve the March 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to approve the March 30, 2017 Executive Session Meeting Minutes; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Groveland and Mass C.O.P. Local 420-Groveland Patrolmen's Association effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Groveland and Teamsters Union Local 170-Highway Department effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to ratify the Employment Agreement between the Town of Groveland and the Finance Director, Denise Dembkoski, effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to approve a One-Day Liquor License for a vow renewal at Veasey Park on May 13, 2017 between the hours of 4PM and 9PM, Detail Officer required on premises; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

Selectman Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Tom Wakefield from the Zoning Board of Appeals; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Unfinished Business):

Selectman O'Neil asked about the cloud-based file storage and if we got quotes on costs? Ms. Dembkoski reached out to other communities but did not find many who use scanning and archiving systems because of the expense. It's difficult trying to figure out where to start; there is so much data and paperwork; everything is a different format. The machine and labor to scan it is expensive; the storage is not expensive. She will continue to work on it.

Chair Dunn said the firetruck was delivered this afternoon. The Fire Department plans to train on it for the next month. It is hoped to be on the road within the next month or so.

Bagnall School – Waiting for the sprinkler company to come on the 26th; the ball fields, power raking and seeding will be done the first week in May. Chair Dunn made it publicly known that it is not his company that will be doing it. He has been criticized for making money on the project, but has donated his time; not made any money. The expectation is that by the beginning of June there will be grass that needs to be cut. The Chair is meeting with the Chair of the Rec Department regarding the well at the Pines on the 27th to discuss the plan to get the project moving. Once the well is in, they will work on grading, the sprinkler system and hopefully seeding. Ms. Dembkoski said there are some complications around the well because there is no power; they need a transformer; she is working with the Light Department to get quotes for it. Once the well is drilled, they will need a pump; it will be put out to bid separately.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. April 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes.
2. April 4, 2017 Meeting Minutes.
3. Letter of support for 441 Main Street from Geoffrey Sirr.
4. Letter from Light Department declaring the 23 School Street building as surplus.
5. Invitation to take part in the City of Haverhill Memorial Day Parade.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME:

Ms. Dembkoski is receiving complaints again about the dog park (not keeping them in the dog park, not cleaning up after them). She talked to Bob Arakelian about moving the gate to the dog park further down to change where the parking is. Chair Dunn said there is no one in charge of the dog park; it needs management; it needs to be policed. Selectman Watson suggested the Animal Control Officer. Ms. Dembkoski said we need to move the gate and increase signage. Chair Dunn will talk to Mike Houghton on the 27th. Selectman O'Neil said the same thing happens at Washington Park; it is a ballfield; please stop letting the dogs run on the ballfield. Shanahan is also having a problem.

SELECTMEN'S TIME:

Selectman O'Neil said there is a lot of construction going on in town and asked how is it affecting the morning & evening travel. Ms. Dembkoski said the Water Department has talked with the School Department about the busses because of street closures; they will adjust their schedule. A town wide call will go out once there are more closures.

Selectman O'Neil talked about the Gardner Street stop signs and possibly reversing them; it's very hard to see the traffic coming down Main Street. Ms. Dembkoski will talk to the Police and Highway Departments. Selectman Watson said it doesn't follow the Uniform Traffic Code for stopping traffic on a through street. He said to ask for some accident stats for that area.

Selectman O'Neil said opening day for the Groveland Baseball League is this Saturday at Washington Park. The parade starts at 10:30AM behind South Fire Station. Thanks to the Fire and Police Departments on behalf of the GBL for assisting in the annual parade; it is much appreciated.

Selectman O'Neil said the Town Meeting is next Monday; get involved; be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. 7PM is the Special Town Meeting; 7:30PM is the Annual Town Meeting.

Selectman O'Neil said there are a lot of groups using the Pines. Are they taking out permits; yes.

Selectman O'Neil said there was an episode involving the Town Clerk's office and the lack of keys in the building to get into the office. Has that issue been solved and do we have a key to get into the office that the town owns? No. Chair Dunn said the Town Clerk is an elected official; Selectman Wood said the

Groveland Board of Selectmen Meeting – April 18, 2017

elected official does not own the office. Selectman Watson felt it was premature to discuss it further without the Town Clerk being present. It will be an agenda item.

The next regular meeting will be held **Tuesday, May 2, 2017** at 6:30 p.m.

Selectman Watson made a motion to adjourn; Selectman Wood seconded; voted 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

*** Approved on May 15, 2017 with a vote of 4-0-1, with Selectwoman Dube-Carpenter abstaining. ***