

Groveland Board of Selectmen  
Meeting minutes  
October 1, 2018

Present: Chairman Bill O'Neil, Selectman Bill Dunn, Selectman Michael Wood and Selectman Ed Watson

Others present: Denise Dembkoski

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM.

**RESIDENT/PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**APPROVE WARRANTS**

PW # 19-13    \$ 158,127.08

Selectman Wood made a motion to approve payroll warrant #19-13 in the amount of \$158,127.08; seconded by Chairman O'Neil; voted 4-0-0; warrant approved.

BW # 19-12    \$59,384.67

Bill Warrant Breakdown:

Group Insurance Commission \$59,384.67

Town – General Fund                \$ 30,297.74

Light -                                        \$ 8,132.20

Water/Sewer                                \$ 3,949.96

Withholdings                                \$ 17,004.77

Selectman Wood made a motion to approve bill warrant #19-12 in the amount of \$59,384.67; seconded by Chairman O'Neil; voted 4-0-0; warrant approved.

BW # 19-13    \$ 1,104,302.33

Bill Warrant Breakdown:

Town:                                        \$ 29,098.80

W/S:                                         \$ 10,648.92

Payroll Withholding:                    \$ 31,597.90

Light Bills:                                \$ 154,332.71

Capital, Grants & Revolving: \$ 83,651.34

Pentucket Assessment:                 \$ 794,972.66

Selectman Wood made a motion to approve bill warrant #19-13 in the amount of \$1,104,302.33; seconded by Chairman O'Neil; voted 4-0-0; warrant approved.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE**

Christopher Shramko, 488 Main Street, Groveland, requesting to use the firing range for the Central Massachusetts Spacemodeling Society's monthly testing

Mr. Shramko was present to answer questions from the Board. Chairman O'Neil asked if Mr. Shramko spoke with the Chief of Police. Mr. Shramko stated he had. In response to a question from Selectman Wood, Mr. Shramko indicated they would be testing once a month on a Saturday from approximately 10-4 and they would be testing hobby rocket motors. Mr. Shramko stated they would not start until the spring. Selectman Watson confirmed with Mr. Shramko that the noise would not be louder than what goes on there now.

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Selectman Watson made a motion; seconded by Selectman Wood to approve the request of Christopher Shramko to use the firing range for the Central Massachusetts Spacemodeling Society's monthly testing; motion approved 4-0-0.

Mike Davis, Chair, Open Space and Trails Committee & Engineers from Stantec to discuss the following:

Community Trail Update

Mike Davis explained that the trail is to begin at King Street and end at Main Street. The design has been funded from CPA funds and construction costs will be paid by MassDOT. The trail will connect to Georgetown at one end and Bradford at the other. Mr. Davis presented a power point with the map and list of accomplishments. The Town will have a 99 year lease agreement with National Grid. Ms. Dembkoski indicated the lease could be renewed at the end of the lease. In response to a question from Selectman Dunn, Ms. Dembkoski indicated it would be insured as Open Space.

Required Turtle Mitigation

Aleece D'Onofrio, from Stantec, presented the design which is an eight foot wide paved surface. Natural Heritage has agreed to the design. They will need to get Environmental Permits. The majority of the trail falls within the habitat. Natural Heritage has identified town owned land that is suitable for mitigation. The trail will impact 2.5 acres of turtle habitat and the town needs to give up 8 acres somewhere else in town as conservation land in order for Natural Heritage to approve. Ms. Dembkoski stated that they never mitigated for the firing range so that is included in the 8 acres. They are going to restrict a part of town owned property that is 62 acres at Center Street and abuts land that has a current conservation restriction. Selectmen Dunn and Wood were concerned about continuing to conserve land and limiting development of the parcel. Chairman O'Neil asked if residents were informed that a portion of the property was turtle habitat when it was purchased. Selectman Dunn stated that they did tell them. Mike Dempsey stated the main reason they purchased the property was because of the aquifer. If they did not purchase, the developer was proposing to build 350 houses on the property. Selectman Watson asked if they have to do a bicycle lane on Route 97 when they do that project. Ms. D'Onofrio stated they will likely explore doing that. Selectman Watson asked why some properties are marked turtle habitat. Mike Dempsey explained that Natural Heritage excludes most parcels that have homes or buildings on them. In response to a question from Selectman Wood, Mr. Davis stated there would be a rapid flashing pedestrian warning device at the crossing at School Street. Selectman Watson made a motion to move forward with 8 acres of mitigation; seconded by Selectman Wood; motion approved 4-0-0.

Ms. D'Onofrio explained that they submitted the design to National Grid in order to get the 99 year lease. National Grid will be doing an engineering review. Ms. Dembkoski stated that KP Law is working on the lease.

Water & Sewer Superintendent, Tom Cusick to discuss sewer expansion as it relates to the trail project

Mr. Cusick explained that the Town has a sewer master plan that dates back to the 1960's. If the town wanted to extend sewer to Center Street, they would have to cross the rail trail. Selectman Wood asked if this would bring sewer to the Washington Street area. Mr. Cusick stated that the cost to bring to that area is so great that it's not viable. Selectman Watson asked if Mr. Cusick approached Atwood Estates about running sewer to that development. Mr. Cusick stated that he did but it would cost the developer less to do septic. Selectman Watson asked about Georgetown connecting to Haverhill sewer pump station. Mr. Cusick said they have been in touch but nothing

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has been formally discussed. In response to a question from Selectman Wood, Mr. Cusick stated the cost to extend the sewer before the rail trail is put in is around \$100,000. Selectman Dunn asked what capital projects have been done with the sewer fees. Mr. Cusick stated they did the Main Street project and the pump station and there is approximately \$200,000 in the sewer capital budget.

#### The Board of Health to discuss the Public Nurse Position

Elaine Wozney, Chair of the Board of Health, stated that the disclosure statement for the public health nurse requires signatures of the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Wozney stated that the nurse was asked to complete the form and record with the Town Clerk. Chairman O'Neil asked how they plan on getting through the numerous conflicts of interest cited by the Ethics Board. Ms. Dembkoski stated that there are several steps that need to be done before the written disclosure should be signed. Chairman O'Neil asked about the process and what meeting minutes covered the interviews. Selectman Wood asked why others were not considered. Ms. Wozney stated they wanted someone that was familiar with the town and 2 applicants were not able to attend interviews so it came down to the current hire and one other applicant. Selectman Dunn stated that the person hired needs to resign from certain boards before the Board can sign. Selectman Watson stated the Board of Health had the right to review applications and choose not to interview some. Chairman O'Neil and Selectman Wood felt there were other qualified candidates that were overlooked.

Selectman Dunn made a motion to table the matter until conflicts under M.G. L. 17, 19, 20 and 23 are resolved; seconded by Chairman O'Neil; motion approved 3-1-0. Selectman Watson opposed.

#### Discussion of the Groveland Day Committee

Ms. Dembkoski stated that eight people were interested in being on the committee. Chairman O'Neil asked for the applicants to come in and meet with the Board. Selectman Wood volunteered to be a liaison to the committee. Selectman Watson asked for more versatility on the committee and representation from other groups such as the little league and fire department.

#### Future of the Elm Square Committee

Mike Dempsey, who is a member of the committee, stated that the building has been sold and asked the Board to give to them until the end of the year before dissolving the committee. They would like to meet one more time to review some other potential ideas they were discussing. Ms. Dembkoski read the charge for the committee which was specific to the building. Chairman O'Neil stated that with the building sold, there is no reason for the committee to continue to meet.

Selectman Dunn made a motion to dissolve the Elm Square Committee as of November 1, 2018; seconded by Selectman Wood; motion approved 4-0-0.

#### **VOTES OF THE BOARD**

One Day Liquor License for a Shower at Veasey Park on October 27, 2018 between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. Detail officer required

Selectman Watson made a motion to approve the one day liquor license for a shower at Veasey Park on October 27, 2018 between the hours of 12:00PM and 4:00PM; seconded by Selectman Dunn; motion approved 4-0-0.

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One Day Liquor License for the Art Festival at Veasey Park on November 3, 2018 between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. Detail officer required

Selectman Watson made a motion to approve the one day liquor license for the Art Festival at Veasey Park on November 3, 2018 between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M; seconded by Selectman Wood; motion approved 4-0-0.

Request by the Finance Director, to temporarily increase the hourly rate and hours for Admin. Asst-Treasury/Collections clerk, Kaitlin Gilbert

Ms. Dembkoski explained that the Assistant Treasurer Collector is on extended leave and then will retire and Katilin has agreed to work additional hours and additional tasks.

Selectman Wood made a motion to temporarily increase the hourly rate and hours for Admin. Asst-Treasury/Collections clerk, Kaitlin Gilbert; seconded by Selectman Dunn; motion approved 4-0-0.

**OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Selectman Dunn asked if there is anything on the website for the Pines project. Selectman Dunn made a motion to form a Pines Committee; seconded by Selectman Wood. After discussion, Selectman Dunn withdrew his motion and suggested they do a survey so they can set the charge of the committee.

**OTHER ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING**

Selectman Dunn stated that a resident informed him that a Washington Street building has become unsafe and toxic chemicals could potentially absorb into the ground. Ms. Dembkoski stated that the DEP cleaned it and then put a lien on the property but Valley Screw Products still owns it. Selectman Watson stated the building should be looked at by the Fire Department, Building Inspector and Board of Health.

**SELECTMEN REPORTS**

Selectman Watson met with the road commissioner and contractor on the Route 97 project and indicated they should have everything finished by the end of the year. Selectman Watson met with the Council on Aging about the Senior Center. Mr. Watson stated the Board should move forward with a committee.

Chairman O'Neil stated that no individual member of the Board can act on behalf of the Board and asked Selectman Watson if he had provided any letters to any employees. Selectman Watson said that since his office hours are held in Town Hall, some employees come in and it doesn't have to do with town business and he has not provided any letters.

Ms. Dembkoski stated that the school building committee used a 40% net reimbursement rate. MSBA wanted them to use the up to 53% reimbursement rate and also told them that they would reimburse renovation projects. The school building committee had a meeting and sent out a survey to see if this would matter and 92.7% said they wanted to move forward with the new building project.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Minutes from September 10, 2018

Minutes from September 17, 2018

Highway Superintendent draft job description

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Response from the Board of Health pertaining to a public records request by the Finance Director for documents and information relating to the public health nurse position and hiring process

#### **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME**

Ms. Dembkoski asked the Board to review the Highway Superintendent job description. The salary is higher than what the current incumbent is making. The Road Commissioner is retiring in November but he has agreed to stay on for one or two days a week until someone is hired.

Ms. Dembkoski met with the fire department consultants and they also met with some members of the fire department. They would like to meet with the Board.

Pumpkinfest 2018 will be Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 with a rain date of Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **SELECTMEN'S TIME**

Selectman Dunn asked about the land sales. Ms. Dembkoski indicated the attorneys are finishing up the deeds.

Selectman Wood made a motion to adjourn at 9:23PM; seconded by Selectman Dunn; motion approved 4-0-0.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Monday, October 15, 2018** at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Laurie Burzlaff, minutes clerk.

\* Approved on October 29, 2018 with a vote of 3-0-1 with Selectwoman Carpenter abstaining \*