



Approved March 27, 2023

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2023

Groveland Town Hall

183 Main Street, Groveland, MA 01834

**PRESENT:** Chair Ed Watson, Selectmen Jason Naves, Daniel MacDonald, Kathleen Kastrinelis  
Rebecca Oldham, Town Administrator

**ABSENT:** Selectman Mark Parenteau

This meeting was in-person and also broadcast live on Groveland Public Access, Channel 9, as well as through Microsoft Teams virtual meeting software for remote access.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30PM** – Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** *Written submissions for public comment must be made before the start of the meeting per the Board of Selectmen's Public Comment Policy amended November 13, 2017.*

- None.

#### **APPROVE WARRANTS:**

*PW # 23-33 \$177,451.10*

*A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve Warrant PW #23-33 in the amount of \$177,451.10. Voted: 4-0. One absent.*

*BW# 23-33 \$731,737.52*

*A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve Warrant BW #23-33 in the amount of \$731,737.52. Voted: 4-0. One absent.*

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

1. Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes December 19, 2022

*A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes from December 19, 2022, with an amendment. Voted: 4-0. One absent.*

#### **APPOINTMENTS OF THE BOARD:**

2. Appoint Mead Tallerman and Costa as Town Counsel thru June 30, 2023:

*TA Oldham explained that this is a formality, the new legal counsel has not been formally voted on and appointed by the BOS.*

*A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Naves to appoint Mead Tallerman and Costa as Town Counsel thru June 30, 2023. Voted: 4-0. One absent.*

#### **DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:**

3. Approval of the Groveland Youth Baseball League use of Washington Park for the 2023 Season  
Mark Ringuette joined the meeting virtually and explained that registration numbers are some of the best since before COVID and will include around 140-150 kids from K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Naves to approve the Groveland Youth Baseball League use of Washington Park for the 2023 Season as presented. Voted: 4-0. *One absent.*

4. Discussion concerning Open Space Plans for 2023-2024 – Michael Dempsey:  
Mike Dempsey, Conservation Commission was present and addressed the Board. Mike shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board. The total amount of open space is about 1/3 of Groveland's total 6,016 acres; some of this is State owned land. The Open Space & Recreation Plan was approved in 2019 and runs from 2020-2027; this plan enables the Town to qualify for several types of future grants through the State. Mike discussed some ways to protect additional parcels of land; donations, 3<sup>rd</sup> party purchases, CPA funds, easements, conservation restrictions. Mike noted that support from the BOS is important in moving these initiatives forward.
5. Appoint Temporary Alternate Member to the Planning Board  
TA Oldham explained that there are two PB members that are unable to attend the next meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> and a temporary alternate will allow the Board to vote to continue the matter.  
A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman MacDonald to appoint Selectman Naves as a Temporary Alternate Member to the Planning Board effective February 13, 2023. Voted: 3-0-1. Selectman Naves abstained and one absent.
6. KP Law Whittier School Representation Form – Vote to Sign:  
TA Oldham explained that KP Law is looking to represent Whittier Regional Vocational Tech School and they have asked all the municipalities that they represent to sign the disclosure form. Even though the Town of Groveland has gone a different direction the Town still has existing legal matters that KP Law is representing them on. Selectman MacDonald asked for further information regarding potential conflicts and TA Oldham responded there is paperwork in the packet that provides an explanation. Selectman Naves felt this was just a formality. Selectman MacDonald was opposed to this noting that if no one signed this it might force the School to seek alternate legal representation at a reduced cost. Selectman Kastrinelis recused herself.  
A motion was moved by Selectman Naves and seconded by Chair Watson to table this until the next meeting. Voted: 3-0-1. Selectman Kastrinelis recused, one absent.
7. FY24 Budget Discussion:  
TA Oldham provided information to the Board. Chair Watson noted the recommendations from the Finance Committee have not been completed yet, they are meeting with the Department Heads. Selectman MacDonald asked to stay within Prop. 2 ½ and respect the tax payers that are on fixed incomes, especially seniors in town; noted the School needs to keep this in mind and be more disciplined and make their budget work. Selectman Kastrinelis noted the problem began a couple of years ago with using the ESSR funds that was recommended by the Interim Finance Director at the time and unfortunately the use of the funds changed and we were unable to use the \$250,000 we thought we could; this caused \$100,000 of stabilization funds to be used; this has caused us to be further and further behind combined with escalating trash costs and retirement costs etc. and at some point this needs to be addressed. Selectman Naves noted that he reached out to Senator Tarr regarding the Senior Circuit Breaker; there is a bill (and support) to increase the amount. Selectman Naves noted he is not in favor of increasing fees at the school because not everyone can afford to pay them, and it is important to support the Schools and the elected School Committee. Chair Watson noted the residents in Groveland have always been very generous and supported the Town when they could, but they don't want to be taken advantage of; worried about the senior citizens on fixed incomes – we need to support them; agreed with keeping within the confines 2 1/2 – it is a good start.

**VOTES OF THE BOARD:**

- None.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S TIME:**

TA Oldham: clarified that the official Town Seal building was not a building in Rowley, it was the Second Academy which was a historic school and then it became the Town Hall which burned down in 1901. Confirmed that there are no agendas and/or minutes that have a logo somewhere on them, that are *not* using the official Town Seal – this is the protocol that has been used and will continue to be used. Moody's rating has been increased from an AA3 to AA2 – this is a positive move forward. There are now blue textile bins around Town. Received a Recycling Dividends Program Grant in the amount of \$1,200 – this was reinvested into recycling efforts and have purchased home composting kits; there has been a lot of support for this; more information to come. The School Committee is having their Public Hearing on their proposed budget tomorrow at 6:00 pm at the middle/high school.

**SELECTMEN'S TIME & REPORTS** *Time to be used to make statements, propose future agenda items, or congratulate residents/teams on accomplishments; this time should not be used to initiate a discussion.*

**Selectman MacDonald:** a resident asked him for an agenda item to discuss business development to help with revenue sources. This will be added to a March meeting agenda.

**Selectman Kastrinelis:** noted there were Master Plan meetings that address Selectman MacDonald's request to discuss business development. Encouraged discussions with State Representatives.

**Chair Watson:** attended a service at the Congregational Church a week ago Sunday for the four Chaplains who died on a Naval Vessel in WWII – it was a shame it wasn't on the TV.

**OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- None.

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

- None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman MacDonald to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Voted: 4-0. One absent.*

*The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, February 27, 2023, at 6:30PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Katherine T. Ingram*

*Groveland Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:30PM  
Page 3 of 4*

**23-33 BILLS WARRANT BREAKDOWN:**

<i>Town:</i>	<i>\$ 213,921.06</i>
<i>W/S:</i>	<i>\$ 117,170.59</i>
<i>Payroll Withholding:</i>	<i>\$ 28,300.15</i>
<i>Health Insurance:</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>Light Bills:</i>	<i>\$ 115,292.89</i>
<i>Grants &amp; Revolving:</i>	<i>\$ 161,465.83</i>
<i>Chapter 90:</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>Pentucket Assessment:</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>Essex Tech Assessment:</i>	<i>\$ 95,587.00</i>
<i>Whittier Assessment:</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>Capital:</i>	<i>\$</i>