



APPROVED MARCH 25, 2024

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Groveland Town Hall 183 Main Street, Groveland, MA 01834

This meeting was held in-person and also broadcast live on Groveland Public Access, Channel 8, as well as through Zoom virtual meeting software for remote access.

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

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 P.M.:** Chair MacDonald opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and introduced the members of the BOS and as well as the Town Administrator.

**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:*

Lisa OConnor, School Committee Representative Whittier Tech. was present and addressed the Board to discuss the Whittier Tech School Building Project; Chair MacDonald explained that the subject is on the agenda tonight where discussion will take place and if any comments are made under open Public Comment there could be no discussion or deliberation. Chair MacDonald assured Lisa, that if anyone in the audience had questions or comments during the agenda item discussion, the BOS would allow them to speak.

### DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE:

1. Update from the Town Clerk, *Elizabeth Cunniff*

Elections, Street Census, etc.:

Beth Cunniff, Town Clerk was present and addressed the Board to provide an update on the Annual Census, dog licenses, upcoming elections (five this year), early voting, vote by mail postcards, advanced opening of ballots and the nomination papers for the Annual Town Election (there are fourteen open seats).

Selectman Watson asked about the budget for elections. Town Clerk Cunniff explained the budget looks okay, three elections will take place next year, so the budget will likely be increased.

2. Approve street light location on Pole 105 on School/Center Street, request from Corrin Kirmelewicz.

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Naves to approve the street light location on Pole 105 on School/Center Street, request from Corrin Kirmelewicz. Voted: 5-0.

Corrin Kirmelewicz was present and addressed the Board to explain her concerns; the area is very dark and there is a lot of foot traffic.

3. Approve the field use permit for the use of Washington Park by the Groveland Youth Baseball League, Mark Ringuette, for March 1, 2024 through September 19, 2024 to accommodate the Spring, Summer and Fall Season. Time of use varies.

Mark Ringuette, joined the meeting remotely and explained the request.

A motion was moved by Chair MacDonald and seconded by Selectman Naves to approve the field use permit for the use of Washington Park by the Groveland Youth Baseball League, Mark Ringuette, for March 1, 2024 through September 19, 2024 to accommodate the Spring, Summer and Fall Season. Time of use varies. Voted: 5-0.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

4. Pursuant to the Groveland General Bylaw Section 142-6 the Groveland Board of Selectmen with the authority to propose new, amended or revised policies are holding a Public Hearing on January 16, 2024 at 7PM to review the proposed amendments to the Personnel Policies & Procedures as drafted and posted.

Chair MacDonald opened the hearing at 7:00 pm.

TA Oldham explained that this was one of the TA goals. This was last updated in 2005. Alyssa Lee, COA Director, was present and addressed the Board and asked for an accountable, visible and transparent process. Alyssa expressed concern with the Police Chief being the alternate person to go to report Sexual Harassment – the other being the Town Administrator.

Sam Joselin, Building Commissioner joined the meeting virtually and stated that he felt there was an open process.

Chair MacDonald noted that this has been in the works for quite a while, and this is really a starting point and is a living document that will continue to evolve.

Joe D'Amour was present and addressed the Board to talk about the Town Administrator bylaw which will adequately empower the Town Administrator to be the person to manage the town. This will be discussed at a separate meeting.

Fire Chief Valentine noted that the document before the board is to start the process and every department head was given ample time to review the document.

A motion was moved by Chair MacDonald and seconded by Selectman Naves to close the Public Hearing. Voted: 5-0

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Naves to approve the Personnel Policies & Procedures as presented tonight with the redlines included that are reflective of changes that have already been asked for.

Voted: 5-0.

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

5. Regionalization of Fire & EMS Services, *Selectman Kastrinelis:*

A motion was moved by Selectman Kastrinelis and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to table the Regionalization of Fire & EMS Services. Voted: 5-0.

6. Whittier Vocational Technical School Building Project, *Selectman Watson:*

Selectman Kastrinelis recused herself and left the meeting room.

Selectman Watson explained that he attended a meeting in Newburyport and shared what he learned.

Diane, Mill Street was present and addressed the Board and discussed the poor conditions that she saw during a tour of the school last weekend.

Lee Borgeau, 5 Pinewood Lane was present and addressed the Board and stated that she will vote yes to replace the building because it is the best option. This process started in 2019.

Robert Valentine, Fire Chief noted this project scares him because the project will cost Groveland \$800,000 that will come from cutting services at the Fire Department amongst other services. Chair MacDonald responded that he was not looking to make cuts at the Fire Department.

Joe D'Amour, 9 Cherry Hill Lane was present and addressed the Board and explained he is voting against this project but reminded the Board that it will take years to get back onto the MSBA list of projects. Joe encouraged the Board to vote against this project, adopt a position and issue a statement regarding the that position.

The Campaign Manager for the Whittier yes vote was present and introduced herself and explained where the project was at with the MSBA. The MSBA approval is not to do renovations. This project has been being discussed for quite a while; there were a number of public meetings; the process has been transparent. Inflation is driving up all building costs.

Stephanie, 18 Chestnut Street was present and addressed the Board and asked if the Board remembered the Whittier Project being presented by the Town Administrator in 2022 and how many meetings with Whittier were missed and asked if the BOS has been to Whittier to see the school. Reminded everyone that the vote is up to the voters. When asked about the cost per household, TA Oldham reported that there is a calculator online that will calculate the cost per household per year based on residential addresses in town; these are assumptions.

Max Beuregard, 44 Service Star Road was present and addressed the Board; Max teaches Chemistry and Physics at the school and reported on the poor conditions at the school. Max talked about the number of businesses that use Whittier kids on Co-Op.

Lisa O'Connor, Whittier School Building Committee was present and addressed the Board and talked about the cost associated with bringing the building up to code if the vote does not pass; the school will also lose out on the \$180 million coming from the MSBA.

Jacob Cross, thanked the Board for this conversation tonight. Jacob is a 2014 graduate of Whittier and talked about his experience while at the school and the condition the building was in at that time.

COA Director let the voters know that the COA offers rides to the polls on election day.

TA Oldham asked for the plan for Capital Projects if this vote fails.

Selectman Kastrinelis returned to the meeting.

7. Change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board, *Selectman Kastrinelis*:

Selectman Kastrinelis noted that many communities have changed this and would like to see the Board sponsor this; use of the gender name shows bias.

Selectman Watson would like to stay the course, does not think we need this. This will have to go to a Home Rule Petition. The Town Meeting would have to vote and then it will go to the State Representative or State Senator.

Selectman Naves was for the change.

Chair MacDonald felt it was up to the Town Meeting to decide.

8. Accept the resignation of Sophie Petit from the Recreation Committee effective January 16, 2024.

A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to accept the resignation of Sophie Petit from the Recreation Committee effective January 16, 2024. Voted: 5-0.

**APPOINTMENTS OF THE BOARD:**

9. Appoint Mark Hubbard, Pinewood Lane, to the Finance Board effective January 17, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

A motion was moved by Selectman Parenteau and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to appoint Mark Hubbard, Pinewood Lane, to the Finance Board effective January 17, 2024 through June 30, 2026. Voted: 5-0.

10. Appoint Anthony Corricelli, North Street Georgetown, to Public Grounds and Cemetery Supervisor for the Groveland Highway Department effective January 19, 2024. This is a non-exempt 40 hour/week position at an hourly rate of \$31/hour.

A motion was moved by Selectman Watson and seconded by Selectman Parenteau to appoint Anthony Corricelli, North Street Georgetown, to Public Grounds and Cemetery Supervisor for the Groveland Highway Department effective January 19, 2024. This is a non-exempt 40 hour/week position at an hourly rate of \$31/hour. Voted: 4-0. Selectman Kastrinelis recused.

11. Appoint John Mey, Bigg Ave Epping, NH to the position of Full-Time Dispatcher for a probationary period effective January 16, 2024, through January 16, 2025.

A motion was moved by Selectman Parenteau and seconded by Selectman Kastrinelis to appoint John Mey, Bigg Ave Epping, NH to the position of Full-Time Dispatcher for a probationary period effective January 16, 2024, through January 16, 2025. Voted: 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

- None.

**OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Selectman Parenteau asked about the Elm Park trees. TA Oldham responded that there is a CPC application for a comprehensive report on trees and a state grant being sought.

Chair MacDonald asked about previous discussions regarding removing the town dam being designated as a dam. TA Oldham responded that she did not have an update but proposed this being a future agenda item.

Selectman Kastrinelis: the Trash and Recycling Committee is meeting on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. This will be added to the next agenda. The Regional Agreement Committee will be meeting to review changes that were voted on by the BOS months ago on January 30<sup>th</sup>. This will be added to the next agenda.

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

- None.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S TIME:**

- None.

**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 Naves apologized for causing any misunderstanding his comments may have caused regarding the Town Clerks choosing the time for the vote on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also, thanked the Highway Department for the incredible job they did around town during the storms. Chair MacDonald welcomed everyone to come to the BOS meetings or request an agenda item to be on the BOS agenda and to get involved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was moved by the Chair MacDonald and seconded by Selectman Naves to adjourn the meeting. Voted: 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Monday, January 29, 2024, at 6:30PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Katherine T. Ingram*