

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, May 16, 2023**

Members Present: Leif Hogue, Chairman, Jennie Joyce, Russelll Poitras, Cindy Kudlik, (recorder)

Others Present: Maureen O'Reilly, Steve Kudlik, Paul Vogt, Cheryl Senter, LeeWhay Pasek, Ryan Huff, Jean Mitchell, Catherine Mulholland, Jake Vogel

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Acceptance of Minutes

Russell motioned to approve the May 2, 2023 minutes; Jennie seconded; Leif Agreed. Motion passed.

Ex-Officio Reports

Jennie reported that the Budget Committee met and reviewed all department budgets and will meet again on July 20th.

Russell reported that there's nothing to report from the Planning Board. The Highway Department has started grading and are still having difficulty finding new employees. There is one full time employee in training, one part time employee plus the road agent, so he would appreciate any help with recruiting anyone could offer.

Leif reported that he didn't attend the Fire Department meeting. The GVA has a new member.

Public Comment

Cindy asked what the Charitable exemption was that is in the last meeting minutes but wasn't on the agenda. The Selectmen replied that it was the two MVP properties.

Appointments

Jean Mitchell met with the board to discuss her concerns regarding the town Composting Toilet Ordinance. The Health Officer clarified several misconceptions she had. Russelll said he would look into it.

Cheryl Senter met with the board seeking permission to plant a 12' drought and salt resistant Norway Spruce on the Town Common. She has raised the funds necessary to purchase the tree and have Clint Williams plant it. Russelll moved to allow Cheryl, Ed and Clint to plant the tree, Leif seconded and Jennie agreed. Motion passed. No decision was made regarding removing the old tree.

New Business

The Trustees of Trust Funds are requesting training funds for \$270 for all 3 of them to attend NHMA Trustees Training. After some discussion regarding the funds being available in the Selectmen's Budget Russell moved to pay for the training, Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

The Selectmen signed Timber Tax Warrants for Lowder, \$947.04 & Grafton Pond Land Trust, \$4666.15.

Leif moved to approve the Building Notification for John Dodge, Russell seconded and Jennie agreed. Motion passed. Notification was signed.

Russell had questions about whether or not the old septic system approval is ok for the new home on the Building Notification for French on Hardy Hill Rd. Jennie moved to table until next meeting.

Other Business

A Religious Exemption Application for Mill Brook Church was discussed. Concerns were raised regarding the lot numbers and which is the Parsonage or Caretaker Cottage. Russell moved to table.

Two proposals were received for the Town Hall Drainage Work – Razor Hill Excavation at \$10,720 & Phelps for \$12,000. Russell moved to hire Razor Hill, Jennie seconded and Leif agreed. Motion passed.

An Elderly Exemption was signed by the board after Leif moved to approve it, Russell seconded and Jennie agreed.

Correspondence

A letter from Deb Clough asking permission for FoGL to use the metal town hall chairs for the townwide yard sale barbeque and also notifying the Board that they've placed a porta potty on 2 library road & staked out concrete covers over well for safety. Russell moved to allow them use of the chairs, Jennie seconded and Leif agreed. Motion passed. Leif stated that the MOU states that FoGL will ask permission first before placing things on the land and this is the 3rd or 4th time they haven't asked first. Leif will mention it to them at their next meeting.

Septic approvals from DES for 5 properties – Riordan on Mill Brook Rd, Pushee on Williams Hill Rd, McBean on Cherry Hill Rd, Leva on Kilton Pond Rd, Bartoldus on Wild Meadow Rd

A Dredge & Fill Wetlands Permit application notification from DES for Smith on 4A.

Public Comment

Ryan Huff stated that he knows someone getting rid of shelving he can get if the Selectmen want it. He also said that he & LeeWhay have studied composting toilets & would be willing to meet with the Health Officer and Jean and anyone else interested to share what they know.

Maureen O'Reilly reminded that Board that they can make rules that make state regulations stronger. She also commented that years ago Jennie suggested that the Safety Committee prior to meetings, send a letter out to department heads asking for safety issues they'd like to see addressed.

Jake Vogl asked if there is a specific issue the Composting Toilet Ordinance is looking to address.

Russell told him there is not.

Cindy Kudlik reminded everyone about the stone repairing workshop on Thursday.

Final Comments From Selectmen

Russell would like to give the Treasurer an answer regarding credit or debit cards for department heads. Her plan is to have a debit card which would require a separate account for debits to be drawn from. This will require replenishment from the General Fund each time it's used. Russell moved to allow the Treasurer to follow through with her plan for a debit card, Leif seconded and Jennie agreed. Motion passed.

Leif stated that the Board had promised money to the Library Trustees for a toilet but they've already gone out and gotten one.

Russell stated that he thinks issues ought to be addressed with department heads in safety committee meetings.

Russell moved to have Sara to schedule a safety meeting with department heads a month out, Leif seconded. Motion passed. He also stated that he thinks upstairs at the town office needs to be cleaned out & have shelves built to keep things off the floor.

Russell motioned to adjourn; Leif seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Kudlik