

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
August 3, 2021
Approved as Amended on August 17, 2021**

Members Present: Cindy Kudlik, Chairman, Jennie Joyce, Tom McGinty, Sue Smith (recorder)

Others Present: Paul Vogt, Denise Smith, Shawn McCadden, Joe Houle, Lex Berezhny, Rich Angel, Gary Whitney, Deb Clough, Sharon Kahkonen, John Babiarz, Brewster Gove, Nancy Carr Roberston

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Cemetery Deed: The selectmen signed a cemetery deed with John Babiarz notarizing their signatures.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Jennie motioned to accept the minutes of July 20, 2021. Tom second. Motion passed.

Selectmen Announcements: None

Ex-Officio Reports:

Tom reported the following from the Planning Board – A letter was composed by the Planning Board with the intention to resolve a letter that was previously mailed regarding an MVP grant application. The Planning Board also discussed the subdivision application.

Cindy reported the following from the Library Strategic Planning Committee – The meeting was productive in that there was an agreement to change the vision statement of the library. There was a debate/discussion about the library staying traditional vs community center like feel. There were no decisions from that discussion.

Cindy reminded the selectmen that there is a relay race on Saturday, August 14. The race starts and ends in Lebanon. Some of the route is through Grafton (rails to trails and Wild Meadow Rd, Turnpike Rd, Razor Hill Rd and Orange Pond Rd ~~Tunnel Rd~~). More information about the race can be found at 100on100relay.com.

Cindy stated that she was approached by the Road Agent asking if he could use the fencing that is in the Pole Barn. He would like to place the fencing material in front of culvert openings to prevent the beavers from building dams in the culverts near spectacle pond road. Jennie stated that she is unaware as to who owns the fencing and sees no harm in allowing the road agent to use it. Both Cindy and Tom were in agreement with Jennie.

Public Comment:

Deb Clough inquired if the selectmen were aware of the vandalism that took place at Huff Beach. The selectmen stated that Russell informed them.

Brewster Gove shared his concerns of the lack of upkeep of the cemeteries and the emergency crews driving in excessive speeds to get to emergencies.

Appointments:

Lex Berezhny, State Representative met with the selectmen to give a brief update on what took place during the previous session. The budget passed, with a little give and take on a few issues. Lex also shared the following: the interest and dividend taxes will be eliminated over the next 5 years, the threshold at which small businesses have to pay tax on profits was increased to \$92K, the prohibition on carrying guns while on an ATV as lifted, the handgun purchasing process will be the same as purchasing a long gun and the medical freedom law passed which eliminates discrimination based on whether or not you've been vaccinated.

Joe Houle met with the selectmen to discuss the maintenance of the town roadways to get to private road ways; Kinsman Rd to Boat Launch Rd, Riddle Hill Rd to Halfmoon Pond Rd. Joe stated that he is aware of the agreement that was made last year for winter parking at the top of Riddle Hill Rd and thanked the road agent and police chief for working with the Halfmoon Pond rd residents. Joe presented the selectmen with an overview of what he would like to see happen with some of the roads; maintain Riddle Hill Road all the way through to allow residents and emergency services to get to Halfmoon Pond roadways and Kinsman Road be plowed wider to allow winter parking near the Boat Launch Road entrance. After a brief discussion, Cindy stated that she will speak with the Road Agent and Police Chief about the presented material and will inform Joe of any updates.

New Business:

ARPA Funding Acceptance – Cindy informed the Board that Grafton will be receiving \$139,133 of the ARPA funds. She stated that no plan is needed but that the Town will have to keep track of what the monies are spent on. The funds must be spend by 2026. The payment will be broken into two installments: the first installment will be \$69,566.27 and the second installment will be the difference owed. After a brief discussion, Tom motioned to accept the ARPA funding. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.

Road Agent Search – Job Description – The selectmen briefly reviewed the road agent job description and will add more information to it. The job description will be reviewed again at the next selectmen meeting. Cindy also informed the board that she reviewed the wages and found that what is paid in Grafton is comparable to the surrounding towns.

Other Business/Correspondence:

Building Notification – KSJ Family LLC (Map 7 Lot 889-1). Tabled for further information.

The selectmen reviewed and discussed the following correspondence:

- A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Library Trustees and Friends of Grafton Library
- A letter from Sharon Kahkonen regarding a possible sign for Huff Beach to be painted by Sandy Griffin. After a brief discussion, the selectmen will look into getting a metal sign, with the wording provided by Sharon, to be placed at Huff Beach. A sign for boat parking may also be posted at the same time.

- Copy of a letter from the Planning Board that was mailed to Northern Border Regional Commission
- Email from Grafton County Broadband Committee asking for support of the committee to improve broadband internet throughout the county.
- Approval of Operation for Map 5 Lots 736 and 737
- Letter from NHDOT regarding the Highway Block Grant for FY2022
- Letter from David Kopacz stating that he is willing and able to purchase back his property. A response will be sent to David explaining the the situation with dual ownership.
- Grafton County New Hampshire Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Public Comment:

Deb Clough inquired if a public hearing for the E. Grafton Parsonage has been scheduled. The selectmen stated that it has not.

Final Comments from Selectmen:

Cindy stated that new hire packets will be put together for both part-time and full-time employees.

Jennie inquired if the Cindy and Tom were aware that fire department volunteers are able to drive the fire trucks to the scene but are unable to drive back to the station unless they have a CDL. Jennie stated that insurance may only cover to the scene. Primex will be contacted to verify.

Jennie motioned to adjourn. Tom second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, Administrative Assistant