

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

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

Others Present: Denise Smith, Paul Vogt, Maureen O'Reilly, Nicole Fosse, Gary Whitney, Rich Angel, John Babiarz, Russell Poitras, Dave Nasco, Ed Grinley, Bob Bassett

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

The selectmen signed the following with John Babiarz notarizing their signatures:

- Cemetery Deed
- Deeds With No Covenants for Map 5 Lot 712 and Map 2 Lot 1062-2.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Jennie motioned to approve the minutes of August 17, 2021. Tom second. Motion passed.

Ex-Officio Reports:

Cindy announced that the Town received the first half ARPA payment, \$69,566.27. The selectmen have not made any decisions on how to use the funds per the parameters set by the U.S. Treasury and do not plan to spend any of the monies at this time.

Public Comment:

Maureen O'Reilly commented that she has been having issues with her internet and was informed that she needs to contact the Town as they brought in the Internet years ago. Jennie stated that she was not aware that the Town did this and recommended to contact Consolidated Communications about her internet connection.

Appointments:

Russell Poitras, Police Chief, met with the selectmen and gave the following updates:

- Mitchell resigned his full-time position and is still on the roster as a part-time as needed position. Russell stated that he hired a person as a part-time position. This new hire will be attending police academy in January.
- Huff Beach – there have been some vandalism issues with the new dock. These issues occurred during the daytime hours by teenagers that do not live in the area. Russell recommends that the selectmen come up with a solution by either making an age restriction on unsupervised children, possible beach permit stickers for the residents, member/guest, etc. Russell also stated that the police cannot be present at the beach all day long. The selectmen stated that they will work on a sign during the winter to be ready for the 2022 summer season.
- Dog Warrant – Russell will be talking to people who have not registered their dogs. He stated that he would like to look over the process with the selectmen to review the steps of dog licensing/warrant to see if anything needs to be changed.

Bob Bassett, Road Agent, met with the selectmen and gave the following updates:

- 2021 Budget – Bob stated that he will be able to make it through the year with the current budget. He stated that the road side mower needs a clutch rebuild that is an estimated \$7,000 repair; a month or so to get the repair done. The back-hoe had another breakdown. The pin broke but Bob was able to get it repaired. The cab needs to be repaired as well. Jennie recommends an open house to the public so they can see how old the highway equipment is and what needs to be repaired.
- Culverts – the highway department is in the process of replacing culverts. Those that need replacing are on Tunnel Road, Gifford Hill Road, Williams Hill Road, Slab City Road, Grafton Pond Road, Kinsman Road, Height of Land Road and Spectacle Pond Road. The culverts on Turnpike Road will be taken care of once the aforementioned ones are completed.
- Barney Hill Road – Bob measured out the road and the highway department will do the repairs as it will be more cost effective to the Town. Driveway sealer will be placed on the road where the logger damaged it last year..
- Town Hall Playground Equipment – the equipment will be removed on a rainy day and all of it will be placed in the metals container.
- Tree on Town Hall Property – a tree on the Town Hall property is leaning towards Jessie Wilson's house and Bob would like permission to have this removed. The selectmen gave their permission.
- Accumulated Vacation Time – Bob inquired as to how his accumulated vacation time will be paid and if it will be paid at all. The selectmen will pay him the vacation time but will look into weekly payments vs one lump sum.

New Business:

2021 MS-1 Summary Inventory of Valuation – the selectmen reviewed and signed the document.

Review of Broadband RFP's – The Town received two RFP's from the following: Matrix Design Group and Consolidated Communications. Tom gave a brief overview of the RFP's and stated that he had several questions and contacted both companies; he is waiting for their responses. There will be an informational meeting for the public; a date and time has yet to be determined.

Tax Deed Auction – Cindy stated that she and Sue met with Rick Sager from NH Tax Deed & Property Auctions to discuss a potential auction at the end of October. Cindy stated that once a contract is signed with the Town, Rick will handle everything from the advertising to the closings. Jennie commented that James R. St. Jeans Auction has been used in the past with positive results, why make a change. Cindy stated that with St. Jeans Auction, the Town handled the closings and tracking down previous property owners if monies are due to them. Rick would take care of this step as long as the selectmen grant him power of attorney. There is no cost to the Town as Rick will be paid via the buyer's premium which is 10% of the sale. After a brief discussion, Tom motioned to have Rick Sager do the tax deed auction this year. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed. Date and time of the auction will be announced soon.

Town Credit Card – Sue updated the selectmen about procuring a Town credit card. After a few phone calls and speaking to the financial officer at the Town of Tilton, a commercial credit card would be the best route for the Town. The local bank and credit unions in the area do not offer this card. Tom suggested American Express and Jennie suggested Bar Harbor Bank. These two possibilities will be looked into and an update will be given at the next meeting.

Other Business/Correspondence:

The selectmen reviewed the following building notifications:

- Deuse (Map 15C Lot 510) – after a brief discussion, the selectmen tabled their decision for further information and a signed waiver.
- Carter (Map 13 Lot 830) – the selectmen approved and signed the notification.

Jennie recommended to add an addendum to the building notification about private roads and the Town not being responsible for maintaining them. Both Cindy and Tom agreed with Jennie's recommendation.

The selectmen reviewed and discussed the following correspondence:

- Letter from Sue Jukosky regarding a Planning Board meeting held on July 23, 2021.
- Letter from Senator Guida giving a brief overview of what took place in the last legislative session.
- Public Hearing Notice from HealthTrust for rate settings. The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21st at either 9:30am or 3pm.
- Approval for Operation – Map 6 Lot 842-2

Public Comment:

Gary Whitney inquired as to the date of the letter from Sue Jukosky. The letter is dated August 10, 2021 but the selectmen did not receive it until August 23, 2021.

Ed Grinley commented that there are two big stumps that were left from a downed tree on Huff Beach. He is asking to have the highway department help with removing them.

Ed also inquired if it would be alright for the recreation committee to remove and sell the old raft from Huff Beach and to put the proceeds into the recreation revolving account. After a brief discussion, the selectmen gave their permission to sell the old raft and have the proceeds placed into the recreation revolving account.

Final Comments from the Selectmen:

Cindy commented that the annual review for Sue is coming up and would like to have it scheduled as a non-public meeting prior to the next selectmen meeting. Both Jennie and Tom agreed with Cindy.

Tom motioned to adjourn. Jennie second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, Administrative Assistant