

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, March 15, 2022**

Members Present: Cindy Kudlik, Chairman, Tom McGinty, Leif Hogue, Sue Smith (recorder)

Others Present: Bonnie Haubrich, Shannon Poitras, Sandra Griffin, George Curran, Maureen O'Reilly, Gary Whitney, Catherine Mulholland, Paul Vogt, Denise Smith, Mary Gasiorowski, Andrew Cushing, Karen Johnson, Sarah Racine, Susan Fienberg, Penny Leveille, Steve Kudlik

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Oaths of Office:

Shannon Poitras, Treasurer (appointed), Sarah Racine, Deputy Treasurer (appointed), Karen Johnson, Library Trustee and Catherine Mulholland, Trustee of the Trust Funds took oaths of their respective office.

Selection of Chair and Ex-Officio's for the Board of Selectmen:

Cindy nominated Tom to become chairman. Leif second. Tom accepted.
Tom nominated Leif for Planning Board ex-officio. Cindy second. Leif accepted.
Tom nominated Cindy for Budget Committee ex-officio. Leif second. Cindy accepted.

Tom will continue to be the liaison for the following departments: Fire Dept., Police Dept, and Highway Dept.

Cindy will continue to be the liaison for the Ambulance Dept. and Cemetery Trustees.

Leif will be the liaison for the Library Trustees.

RSA 31:105 – Indemnification of Damages:

Cindy motioned to adopt RSA 31:105 Indemnification of Damages. Leif second. Tom agreed. Motion passed.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Cindy motioned to accept the minutes of March 1, 2022. Leif second. Motion passed.

Ex-Officio Reports/Selectmen Announcements:

Cindy gave the following reports from the Ambulance Department and Cemetery Trustees:

- Ambulance Dept – There have been 29 calls as of Wednesday, March 9th. John and Kathy have been re-certified for AEMT. New tires have been put on the ambulance due to a couple of flat tires that occurred during calls.
- Cemetery Trustees – The trustees discussed goals for 2022, posting for the seasonal workers and are trying to resolve the Grafton Center Cemetery stone wall issue.

Tom gave the following reports from the Fire Department and Highway Department:

- Fire Department – Due to some donations that were received, every volunteer now has a turn-out suit.
- Highway Department – Wheeler's 1 and 2 are in the process of being repaired. The Road Agent plans on attending a culvert placement class in order to become licensed and is also planning to attend a class about maintaining gravel roads. The road agent would like to have at least one of the highway employees to attend both classes if possible.

Public Comment: None

Appointments:

George Curran, Library Trustee met with the selectmen and presented handouts to discuss the following items:

- Old Memorandum of Understanding between the Library Trustees and the Board of Selectmen dated 2015. George stated that he would like a more cooperative agreement than what is stated in the memorandum.
- Library Road Property – George would like clarification on who is in charge of the library road property. According to the documents presented, there are a few items that contradict each other.

Tom stated that he would like to read over the information that George presented before discussing with the board and making any decisions. Both Cindy and Leif agreed with Tom. George thanked the selectmen for their time and looks forward to working with the board to establish a better relationship with the library trustees.

Bonnie Haubrich, Town Clerk, met with the selectmen to discuss wages for the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Bonnie stated that she would like to start the pay at \$16 per hour for training and then once fully trained to increase the wages to \$20 per hour. The selectmen stated that as long as there is enough in both the Town Clerk and Tax Collector budgets to cover the wages, Bonnie can determine the amount of pay.

Bonnie introduced Penny Leveille as the Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Tax Collector. After a brief discussion, Cindy motioned to approved the appointment of Penny Leveille as Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Tax Collector. Leif second. Tom agreed. Motion passed.

New Business:

2022 Budget – There was a brief discussion on where to apply the \$500 increase of the budget that was voted in during the March 8, 2022 Town Meeting. Cindy motioned to apply the \$500 to the contingency line item. There was no second. Tom stated that he will go along with the voters from the deliberative session to increase the Town Clerk's stipend. Leif concurred with Tom. Leif motioned to apply the \$500 to the Town Clerk's budget to increase the stipend. Tom second. Cindy disagreed. Motion passed.

There was a brief discussion about the police wage increases for the Police Chief and F/T Patrol Officer and that were not presented to the selectmen but presented to the Budget Committee during the 2022 budget cycle. The selectmen feel this sets a dangerous precedent and would like to make sure that during the 2023 budget cycle a standard is set for all departments when it comes to wage increases.

Other Business/Correspondence:

Abatement Application – Eversource (UTL-3) – Avitar Associates is seeking more information regarding the application and has not make a recommendation.

Veterans' Credit Applications – Leif motioned to approve the Veterans' Credit Applications per the information presented. Cindy second. Tom agreed. Motion passed.

Reconsideration of Building Notification – Cindy motioned to grant the request for reconsideration of the building notification for 91 LBD Trust. Leif second. Motion passed. The Board reconsidered and discussed the building notification that was submitted by 91 LBD Trust (Map 15C Lot 458). Tom motioned to deny the building notification due to the lack of septic approval, lack of a liability waiver, and the 2-acre minimum lot size requirement. Cindy second. Leif agreed. Motion passed. The selectmen signed a letter that will be mailed to 91 LBD Trust of their decision.

Public Comment:

Catherine Mulholland commented it is difficult to hear in the Town Hall and has brought up this issue in a previous meeting. The selectmen stated that they will work on getting this resolved in the near future.

Steve Kudlik stated that he will need to discuss an urgent issue that pertains to the Fire Department Volunteers and will need to have a non-public to have the discussion. The selectmen granted his request and they will go into non-public immediately after the final comments from the selectmen.

Gary Whitney inquired as to what the non-public meeting was about prior to tonight's meeting. Cindy stated that the selectmen met with the Town Clerk to discuss the relationship between both offices and that the decision was to wipe the slate clean and work on a better relationship.

Final Comments from the Selectmen:

Cindy announced that there are two workshops for new local officials; April 5th and May 17th. These workshops are free. There is also a Right to Know workshop on April 18th; \$55 to watch the webinar and \$65 to attend.

Cindy motioned to go into non-public session with Steve Kudlik in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(a) re: Fire Department Volunteers at 7:28pm. Tom second. Leif agreed. Motion passed.

Cindy motioned to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes. Tom second. Leif agreed. Motion passed.

Public session resumed at 8:02pm.

Tom announced that the Fire Department will be handling the internal situation.

Cindy motioned to adjourn. Tom second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.