**Town of Grafton**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

**Members Present:** Cindy Kudlik, Chair, Leif Hogue, Sara Hogue (recorder)

**Others Present:** LeeWhay Pasek, Ryan Huff, Maureen O’Reilly, Jim Griffin, Gary Whitney, Dianne Burrington, Paul Vogt, Gretchen Renee, Steve Darrow, Andrew Cushing, Elaina Bergamini, Karen Johnson, Page Parrish, Joe Pasco

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

Leif motioned to approve minutes from December 20, 2022 Public meeting and December 27, 2022 Non-public meeting. Cindy second. Motion passed.

**Ex-Officio Reports**

Cindy let the public know that there was a report of a suspicious person knocking on doors requesting to take pictures of a home and property, falsely representing the Town of Grafton.

**Public Comment**

Gretchen Renee reported that she noticed a rainbow sheen on the road of Height of Land, wondering if the Town Truck was leaking.

**Appointments**

Library Trustees/FoGL met with the Selectmen to discuss a Warrant Article to allow the Library Trustees to begin a construction project at 2 Library Rd which will consist of a slab, barn frame, roof, and exterior envelope. $40,000 to come from Capital Reserve Fund, $170,000 will be accepted as a gift from FoGL. No monies for this project will come from taxation. Leif commented on the illegality of using the Library Capital Reserve Fund for a purpose other than what it was established for. Jennie commented that the Trustees ought to figure out how to keep a director before worrying about having a new building. Cindy pointed out that there were several steps in the Strategic Plan she was a part of putting together before any building might be done and also asked what the full plan was, including infrastructure. Gary Whitney would like the data to show progress, and would like to know what other alternatives there are. Dianne Burrington has not heard of any other options that were considered. Leif wanted to know about the possibility for moving the Library. Gretchen Renee said the wording for the Capital Reserve Fund would need to be changed if a new building was to be placed on the property. Andrew said they contacted the NHMA and were told the interpretation of the Capital Reserve Funds intended use was up to the Trustees of the Trust Funds. Elaina Bergamini stated that the full plans are still coming together. The selectmen stated they would not put the article on the warrant.

**New Business**

Selectmen scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, January 10,2023 at 4:30pm at the Town office to review petition warrant articles.

Review of 2023 Warrant Articles – The Selectmen reviewed the following Warrant Articles:

* To see if the Town of Grafton will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28b, All Veterans’ Tax Credit.
* To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $263,059 for the purchase of a 2023 Braun Ambulance, and to fund this appropriation with a $50,000 USDA grant anticipated to be received in April 2023, $30,000 from the Town’s unspent ARPA funds, $20,000 from the Ambulance Revolving Account, and by authorizing the withdrawal of $163,059 from the already established Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund.
* To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 41:14a to give the Select Board authority to acquire or sell land, buildings, or both, and to demolish or otherwise dispose of buildings after recommendation of the Planning Board and a Public Hearing.
* To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Trustees of the Trust Funds to have Three Bearings discontinue to the Rec Field Shelter Capital Reserve Fund and transfer the remaining two cent balance to the Town’s General Fund.
* To see if the Town will vote to establish a Historical Records Restoration Capital Reserve Fund and to raise and appropriate $5,000 for the restoration of the Town’s Historical Records and make the Selectmen Agents to Expend.
* To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $40,000 to be placed in the previously established Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund.
* To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $75,000 to be placed in the previously established Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund.
* To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $50,000 to be placed in the previously established Bridge Capital Reserve Fund.
* To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $60,000 for the purpose of paving town roads.
* To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000) to be placed in the previously established Recycling Capital Reserve Fund.
* To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $10,000 to be placed in the previously established Town Hall Repairs Capital Reserve Fund.
* To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $15,000 to be placed in the previously established Property Tax Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund.
* To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,000 to be placed in the previously established Veterans Park Capital Reserve Fund.
* To see if the Town will vote to change the Police Chief position to an appointed position effective 2024.

Fire Department Election of Officers – at the December 12, 2022 Fire Department meeting, the fire department made nominations and voted to elect the following positions:

 Chief – Roger Prentice

 Assistant Chief – Buddy McDow

 Captain – Geoff Joyce

 1st Lieutenant – Ken Bean

 2nd Lieutenant – Chris Liles

 Secretary – Lex Berezhny

According to their Bylaws, they can only hold the nominations in December, and elections are held in January. The Selectmen have concerns about Chris Liles not living in town, and they will still need to hold elections in January. This will be communicated to the Chief.

Jennie pointed out that a letter needs to be sent to Tyler Maxham to return his fire gear. Cindy stated that we need to know exactly what he has before we send a letter, Leif will ask at the next Fire Department meeting.

**Other Business**

* Computer Service Contract – The selectmen reviewed the service contract for Twin Bridges and the quotes for the equipment. The cost for the service agreement will need to be added to the 2023 budget and approved by the budget committee. The cost for the equipment will come from the ARPA funds.
* Fritz Building Notification – The Selectmen received a response from Mr. Fritz requesting an appeal to his building denial. The selectmen discussed the appeal, and sending out a second letter.

**Correspondence**

* Northeast Resource Recovery Association – Email notice that Member Benefits and Dues are going up 9%
* Jake Vogel email – Letter of interest for the Town Report. Sue had made a counter offer to do the Town Report again this year, Jennie motioned to accept Sue’s offer due to the tight timeline that we are in now to get the report done. Leif second. Motion passed.
* Avitar – notices for evaluations on three properties owned by the Town of Grafton – 935 Main St, 42 Public Works Rd, and 35 Turnpike Rd – We will contact them about these letters going out as if they are from the Selectboard.
* Jennifer Goodman from NH Preservation Alliance – Sent letter in regards to Town Hall Assessment Grant. A Response letter was sent back. Which they then responded with an extension of June 20th.
* NHDES – Letter requesting facility closing report from the Recycle Center
* City of Lebanon Department of Public Works – Letter stating that Lebanon landfill tip rate was set at a 3% increase to $78.80 a ton
* NHDES - Approval for Construction of Individual Sewage Disposal System on Map 7 Lot 934

**Public Comment**

* Gretchen Renee received letter from Avitar
* Steve Darrow wanted to know how much Sue had counter offered to do the Town Report
* Ryan Huff did some research on the allegations that Sharon Clark was targeted and found a comment made by Tom McGinty on a Facebook post
* Ryan Huff does not believe the Town followed the Junkyard ordinance
* Maureen O'Reilly asked about the template for the Town Report
* Jim Griffin wanted to hear the wording used for the Veteran Tax Warrant and also wondered if the reasoning for the warrant could be added
* Gary Whitney commented in regards to the legal action that it could have been avoided if the ordinance had been followed through
* LeeWhay Pasek noted that there seemed to be a lot of legal actions from the Selectboard

**Final Comments**

* Cindy reviewed request from Mitchell Briggs to roll over his 20hrs of remaining 2022 vacation time into his 2023 vacation time. Jennie motioned to approve. Leif second. Motion passed.

Jennie motioned to adjourn. Leif second. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Hogue