

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 7, 2023**

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

Others Present: Maureen O'Reilly, Gary Whitney, Paul Vogt, Jake Vogel, LeeWhay Pasek, Ryan Huff, Steve Darrow, Steve Kudlik, Bill Robinson, Geoff Joyce

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Acceptance of Minutes

Jennie motioned to approve January 17, 2023 public minutes, and January 21, 2023 Non-Public minutes. Leif seconded. Cindy Agreed. Motion passed.

Ex-Officio Reports

Leif reported that the Library met on January 26, 2023. The hiring of a new Library Director did not pass. The Library will be closed Wednesday mornings from February until March due to a staffing shortage. The Planning board also met on the same night so Leif was not able to attend.

Cindy reported that the Trustees of the Trust Fund canceled their scheduled meeting in January with no notice. This is a concern, they get paid a stipend to hold their meetings and Cindy does not believe they should get paid if they do not attend.

Cindy announced that Eileen DeLouchrey passed away. We are now in search of a housekeeper to clean the buildings. The job will be posted on the Town website.

Allan Tredwell from Twin Bridge is not responding to Sara's emails. Sara will move forward with looking into other Tech support companies by checking with the surrounding towns to see who they use.

Appointments

- Geoff Joyce – Road Agent Quarterly Meeting – 6:00pm; Geoff reported the following from the Highway Department:
 - Had a lot of Sander issues on one of the trucks so had to replace it.
 - He has ordered the other sander from Viking, just waiting for it to come in. Viking will do the install.
 - New Hires are doing good. He should have enough crew for the next snowstorm.
 - Geoff would like to request a Non-Public in the next couple of weeks to discuss wages. Leif suggested waiting until after deliberative. Non-Public will be scheduled for February 13, 2023, at 4:30pm.
 - Cindy asked if Height of Land was cleaned up from the accident. Geoff said very little fluid was lost from the truck and that was cleaned up immediately. The sand is still there and Geoff will be back to clean that up.
 - Geoff Contacted Primex, and they are leaning toward repairing over totaling the truck. A quote was sent to Primex for \$30,000. The frame where the wing attached was bent but is fixable. He is still waiting to get a quote on the Cab.
 - Leif asked about replacing the front tires on the trucks. Geoff purchased steel chains for the two-wheeler and is going to see if that helps first.
 - Leif noticed on Sunday that the board under the sander in the pick-up was loose and needs to be better secured. Geoff said he will secure it. They had to place boards under the sander because the bed is rotting out. He is looking at options to either build a flatbed or buy a bed.

- Steve Kudlik- Deliberative Session – 6:25pm; Steve inquired on the following warrant articles:
 - Article #9 for a new Capital Reserve Fund for Historical records. A capital reserve fund has to state a specific purpose. This article will need an amendment.
 - Article #19 for the Library asking to use the Capital Reserve Fund for a new Library. In 2021 a similar article failed. He will talk with Andrew but would like the Selectboard to check with Legal. Cindy will check in with Legal council.
 - Need to choose a date for Candidates Night. Steve and the Selectboard agreed to March 1, 2023, at 6:30pm. Sara will post to the website.
 - Cindy has written amendments for articles 3,5, and 9 per Matt Decker's suggestions.
 - The Selectboard reviewed who will be presenting which Articles at deliberative. Cindy will do 3, 5, 6, and 9; Jennie will do 8, 12, 14, and 18; Leif will do 7, 15, 16, and 17; Geoff will do 11, 12, and 13; Roger will do 10; Kathy will do 4. The petitions will be presented by the respective parties that submitted them.

Comments from the Selectmen

Cindy looked at the Eversource bill for the Town Common and noticed the usage was a bit high. She is wondering if the tree lights are still on which should have been shut off in January. Sara will contact Ed Grinley or Laurie Sullivan to make sure that the tree is unplugged.

Cindy reported that the Ambulance replacement computer was given back to David Hunter. Kathy Lund had purchased the original computer and the cost was reimbursed from the Town, when that computer was returned, her card was credited. Cindy will talk with Kathy to see if she is going to refund the Town or put that towards another computer.

Public Comment

Ryan Huff inquired how much the insurance will be going up due to the accident. Cindy said it is unknown.

Ryan wanted to know why a wage discussion is Non-Public. Cindy cited RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Steve Darrow commented that he has no confidence in the Trustees to manage the Library. Especially in the events from the last couple of weeks. He does not believe they can manage a long-term plan for the library. The petitioned article states that FoGL supplying \$150,000, how do we even know they have that to give? The last report filed to the state was in 2021 and it showed they only had around \$45,000. He also wanted to make it clear that the opposition to the construction of a new library does not mean that the Towns People are opposed to the Library as a Grafton institution. It has served the town very well. When the school tried to pass the upgrade project of the High School, they had architectural plans, estimates, and the phases already prepared and presented to the district.

Gary Whitney agreed with Steve's statement.

Leif also agreed that the Library Trustees have become dysfunctional. FoGL is designing a separate website for the library further removing the Library from the Town. Cindy stated that they hired two people at the end of the Workshop meeting.

Jennie stated that before any building is built on 2 Library Rd, someone should look into what was buried in the house fire.

Maureen added the Town should have DES come and evaluate that property.

Cindy said the site work plan for the Library talked about them having a well closer to the town offices. Maureen was appalled at what happened to the hiring of a New Director. She thinks Jeff Nunes was being an obstructionist.

Maureen wondered who lets FoGL into the library on Wednesday mornings to have cake when the Library is not open for business.

Steve Darrow commented that it is good that there are still plenty of people in town willing to donate their time.

Ryan Huff said he would be willing to volunteer at the library to keep it open. Unfortunately, State law said that volunteers cannot run the computer due to it holding sensitive information.

New Business

Abatement Application – Glick (Map 16 Lot 1033) – Jennie motioned to deny per Avitar's recommendation. Leif seconded. Motion passed.

Housekeeping Abatement – Megwood, LLC (Map 1 Lot 108) – Selectboard signed.

Land Use Change Tax – Gilbertson (Map 2 Lot 788-1) Jennie motioned to sign. Leif seconded. Motion passed.

Ambulance Billing Write-offs – Selectboard received the request for Ambulance billing write-offs. Per the contract with CAG, it should only have billing that is two years old and older. There is billing on there from this past year, and almost half have notes that say "too old to fix". Cindy will bring it to the Ambulance meeting to discuss.

Other Business

Sara typed up a letter to Avitar regarding the Assessing letters Avitar sends out. The Selectmen approved of it as is. Sara will mail it.

Correspondence

Cinde Warmington, Executive Councilor District 2 letter – Welcoming Grafton to the District.

USDA Grant Letter regarding the Ambulance Grant listing what is needed to complete eligibility.

Avitar letter regarding 2023 Utility Rates - Any updates to utility properties for new construction will be billed at an additional annual rate of \$185/hr.

NH Division of Historical Resources letter to Gretchen Renee regarding the Town Hall grant with a list of Moose Plate review panelists and overall comments.

Friends of Northern Rail trail email with information about the rail trail and links to their website.

Sager & Smith letter regarding Property Auctions - The proceeds to the Town for the three properties that sold at auction was \$40,280.49.

Jeff Nunes's email regarding the Library.

Jennifer Goodman's email regarding the NH Preservation Alliance planning grant for the Town Hall with a summary of comments from the committee on the draft report.

LeeWhay Pasek email on behalf of the Grafton Greeters requesting to place information pamphlets at the Town Office for the Community. Cindy noted a couple of corrections. Leif motioned to approve LeeWhay's request. Jennie seconded. Cindy agreed. Motion Passed.

Comments from the Selectmen

Jennie talked to Mr. Fritz and got an update on his progress to come into compliance with his property. He has reached out to DES who gave him a list of Septic designers but he wasn't sure who to use. Jennie gave him the contact information for Bob Senter of Razor Hill Excavation.

Public Comment

Ryan Huff suggested in the letter to Avitar to add that they should respect no trespassing signs. Jennie asked Sara to add "the Town of Grafton will not be responsible if the Assessor disobeys the No Trespassing signs".

Gary Whitney commented that he has had agents trespass also.

Maureen mentioned that the State will also come out from time to time.

Cindy reviewed an email from Roger regarding the Fire House cleanup before Deliberative on Saturday.

Paul Vogt inquired if there was a new Police officer in town. Cindy confirmed that Chief Briggs has hired Sam Frank as a part-time officer. Sam was the Police Chief of Canaan and had recently retired.

Leif motioned to adjourn. Cindy Seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Hogue