

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

Members Present: Leif Hogue, Chair, Jennie Joyce, Russell Poitras, Sara Hogue (Recorder)

Others Present: Gary Whitney, Paul Vogt, Mitchell Briggs, Merl Kenyon, LeeWay Pasek, Ryan Huff, Maureen O'Reilly, Jake Vogel, Ed Grinley

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Acceptance of Minutes

Leif motioned to accept the August 1, 2023, public minutes. Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

Ex-Officio Reports

Leif Reported that the A/C compressor for the Ambulance was fixed. Russell asked about the fuel gauge and Leif responded that it is still not working. Russell Motioned to type up a letter to Kathy encouraging her to get the fuel gauge fixed. Jennie seconded. Leif agreed. Motion passed.

Appointments

Leeway Pasek and Ryan Huff - Property Assessment - 6:15 pm – Leeway and Ryan presented as Representatives for Ambitious Acres to discuss Avitar's assessment. They believe it was over assessed and inaccurate. They then provided affidavits for the evidence. Russell had inquired if they had spoken to Avitar so that they could address it. They had not, and requested that the Selectboard make the corrections. After some discussion, Russell motioned to send the information Ryan and Leeway provided to Avitar and have Avitar review it for another assessment. Leif seconded. Jennie agreed. Motion passed.

Ed Grinley – Recreation Department Request for Funds - 6:45 pm – The compressor on the donated fridge for the Cook shake died. Ed is not able to find one used or new to repair it. Someone came forward and offered a brand-new fridge to the Rec Department for \$3000 (a \$9000 value). He would like to use funds from the General Government buildings. Leif stated that there are still ARPA funds, too. After some discussion, Russell motioned to allow Ed to use the remainder of ARPA funds and, if needed, pull from general Government buildings. Leif seconded. Jennie agreed. Motion passed.

Chief Briggs - Security Cameras - 6:45 pm – Mitchell received quotes from Twin Bridges (\$8,000), Tasco (\$13000), and Mason (\$6000 - \$7000) for a security camera system. He would like to cover the four corners of the outside of the building, have one inside the Police Detriment, and one for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Hallway. The system would connect back to Hanover dispatch. After some discussion, Russell motioned to go with Twin Bridges and use the warrant article for the Insurance settlement money. Leif seconded. Motion passed.

Mitchell also gave an update on the 2020 Cruiser. He went to a commissioners meeting and they voted to allow The Grafton Police Department to purchase the cruiser for \$12,000 to come mostly equipped (no cam or radio). A new radio install will be around \$3500. The money will come from the Police Department budget.

New Business

Building Notification - Inglin Map 12 Lot 769-4 - Leif Motion to accept. Russell seconded. Motion passed.

Building Notification - Descoteau Map 11 Lot 735 - Leif motioned to accept. Russell seconded. Motion passed.

QuickBooks Upgrade – The current desktop version of QuickBooks will no longer be supported soon. The online version is \$2400 a year, but they can give us a 50% discount for the first year. Russell motioned to accept the proposal to move to QuickBooks online. Leif seconded. Jennie agreed. Motion passed.

Other Business

Leif reported that the Town Hall water heater had died. Steve turned off the water to the heater, but it is not repairable. He quoted a tankless heater at around \$500. Russell motioned to let Steve hire a plumber and replace the heater with the tankless. Jennie seconded. Leif agreed. Motion passed.

Correspondence

DOT - Highway block grant aid letter listing the 2024 Fiscal Year funds that the Town will receive.
FEMA letter notifying of final flood determination maps.

Public Comment

Jake Vogel inquired if QuickBooks is used for the Operating Budget. It is used for both the Operating Budget and Revolving Accounts.

Merl Kenyon commented that the Selectmen used to do the property assessments up until the early 80s, but they weren't even close to being fair. It was decided to hire someone to do it properly.

Maureen O'Reilly commented that even though the Town hired Avitar to do assessments, the state also comes out periodically to check. Russell commented that this may be a good time to have them come out again. He inquired about who the Town would contact. Maureen will find out.

Maureen commented that Prescott Hill Rd had a pile of logs from six weeks ago that was still there. Leif will run up there again to see if it was picked up.

Leif commented that the Board will need to have a non-public with the Road Agent to address the complaints.

Maureen inquired about how many works the Highway currently has. Leif answered they only have four. She also inquired as to what happens when equipment goes done. Jennie responded that the crew has to fix it.

Ryan inquired why the road issues need to be addressed in a non-public - Russell responded that the non-public is employee related.

Final Comments from the Selectboard

Jennie would like to know if Leif is going to give an exit interview for every person that leaves. Leif said yes and that the one he did was not posted because it was not an official meeting and no decisions were made.

Jennie motioned to adjourn. Leif seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Hogue, Administrative Assistant