

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

Members Present: Leif Hogue, Chair, Jennie Joyce, Steve Darrow, Sara Hogue (Recorder)

Others Present: Gary Whitney, Steve Kudlik, Gretchen Renee, Deb Clough, Carol Colburn, Rick Jackson, Jake Vogel, Mary Gasiorowski

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Acceptance of Minutes

Leif motioned to accept the amended November 21, 2023 public minutes. Steve seconded. Jennie agreed. Motion passed.

Ex-Officio Reports

Steve Darrow let Jennie and Leif know he will attend the next Budget committee meeting.

Appointments

- Steve Kudlik – Health Officer matter and dates for Primary and Deliberative – 6:00 pm.
 - Health Officer - Steve received a Health Officer complaint from a renter about conditions of a rental property that they have moved out of. He drafted up a letter that is advisory only he would like to send. The Selectmen agreed that Steve should mail it.
 - Moderator – Steve reviewed upcoming election and deliberative dates. Primary Elections are January 23, 2024. School Deliberative is February 3, 2024. Town Deliberative is February 10, 2024 10:00 am. Town Elections are March 12, 2024. Leif will communicate with the Fire Department to ensure trucks get moved for the Deliberative and Elections.
- Gretchen Renee – Town Hall Sill Work – 6:15 pm – Gretchen came to discuss the next phase for repair work on the Town Hall's sill work. Gretchen wants to do another RFP and submit to get other quotes from contractors in town. The money for the repairs to come from Town Hall Capital Reserve Funds. Leif gave Gretchen permission to get the quotes. Steve Agreed.
- Gretchen also provided information about the Tewksbury Pond Rd right of way, confirming that it is owned by the state. She also has a map from 1963 that show all the culverts from around town and wanted to know if the board wanted a copy of it. Leif motion to get price and give information to sara and they will revisit. Steve seconded. Motion passed.
- Deb Clough – Library Updates – 6:30 pm – Deb updated the Board that the Grant was submitted last Wednesday by FOGL. She also updated the Warrant Article to include the overall cost of \$996239. Deb shared the new building design from the architect in Danbury. She has also asked the Selectmen to sign off on the Septic Design. Steve inquired on the program partners. Deb said they will do a program like food pantry boxes pick up, school staffing an afterschool program. Steve asked for clarification on the letter sent out requesting donations and wondering if the cost has gone up. Deb said it was lower but they did not have the final numbers at the time and cost has since gone up. She feels that they have met the 15% guidelines. Steve wanted to know why there is not a building committee for the New Library and why is it being done by a private organization. Deb responded that they had tried but didn't get enough participants. Jennie

commented on the expenses that the New Library will have once it is completed. Deb responded that it is an energy efficient building with zero net cost. Jennie concerned about legal ramifications because the Town owns the property yet it is a private entity that is putting in the building. The entire packet should go to the attorney.

- Rick Jackson – Landfill fees – 6:45 pm – Rick would like to close the Demo Station. The Town spent almost \$11,000 so far this year on Demo and next year it will cost almost \$14,000. Leif motioned to cancel demo after December 31, 2023. Jennie seconded. Steve agreed. Motion passed.

Other Business

- Updated quote received for additional updates to be done at the Police Department and to replace the broken window on the door to the Selectmen's office. Jennie motioned to accept the quote provided we have enough money in the Building and Complex funds. Leif seconded. Steve agreed. Motion passed.

Correspondence

NH votes notifying of upcoming presidential primary training classes

The Bridge letter house asking for \$2000

Public Comment

Gary Whitney commented that there should be a more open process for construction of the New Library especially when going to some of the trustees meeting asking for details and still have not received anything.

Deb Clough inquired if there could be a warrant article for \$14000 to see if town wants to keep the Demo Station open.

Jake Vogel inquired if anything has happened to boulders on Farnham Road. Leif did not know.

Jake inquired what the cost of new Library would be. Deb commented that it is a Zero net building offset by solar. Everything else will be maintained the same. Jake also inquired who would be responsible for the overall cost of the build. Deb responded that it would be FOGL.

Jake inquired what happens if they pass the two years timeline given by the Grant and it's not finished. Deb responded that she doesn't know.

Gary commented that it's not the library that are making the people upset, it's the lack of transparency of what is being done.

Leif motioned to adjourn. Jennie seconded. Steve agreed. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Hogue, Administrative Assistant