

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Grafton, New Hampshire
Minutes of January 16, 2024*

Present: Leif Hogue, Chair; Steve Darrow

Absent: Jennie Joyce

Others present: Sandi Pierson (recording minutes), Donna Homen, Jerry Whritenour, Paul Voyt, Jake V., Andrew Cushing.

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m. by the Chair.

Leif motioned to accept the minutes of January 2, 2024 and January 11, 2024 as written. Steve seconded. Unanimous in favor.

A cemetery deed was signed by the Board and notarized by Sandi.

Ex-officio reports:

- Budget Committee: Steve stated the town's budget and warrant articles were reviewed at the Budget Committee public hearing and that no changes were made. No department heads attended the public hearing.
- Steve said the Planning Board will be meeting on the January 25.
- Leif said the Library Trustees will be meeting on January 18.

East Grafton Church parsonage: The Board met with Andrew Cushing to discuss the parsonage. Leif said he has thought about the Select Board offering a lease of the property, thus be eligible for grants to improve the building, and in the future be used for town offices if needed. Andrew did not think a leasing plan was economically feasible. After discussion, the Board and Andrew agreed to revisit the idea if the petitioned warrant article does not pass at town meeting. Andrew asked if a lease agreement needed to be approved by the voters. Steve said he did not think it did. The petitioned warrant article is to annex abutting land to meet the minimum acreage in order to create two 2-acre lots, the church and the parsonage. After a subdivision is complete, the town would sell the parsonage. Leif noted that the Board was not recommending the petitioned warrant article.

Building notification: The Board reviewed a building notification for Andrea Bernard/Northwood Estates/Map 6, Lot 575-6. Leif motioned to approve and sign the notification. Steve seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Answering a question from Donna Homen, Steve stated that it was a procedural error that the structure was built before the notification was signed but that all regulations had been met including a State-approved septic.

Public comment:

- Jake V. stated there was a clerical error on the budget regarding a town truck. The figure was supposed be \$50,000 not the \$5,000 as printed.
- Paul Voyt asked if the petitioned warrant article to sell the parsonage was legally binding. The Board noted they would be meeting with the town's attorney to review all articles to determine their legal status. The timeline of finalizing and posting the warrant will be done

as required by State statutes. They will also be posted on the town's website. Leif said the meeting with the attorney to review the warrant will be done in nonpublic session.

- Paul Voyt asked about the cruiser no longer being used by the police department. Leif stated that it was transferred to the fire department for their use and would save money when used to travel to trainings (instead of paying for mileage reimbursement).

Final Selectmen comments: The fire department is all set for presidential primary voting on January 23. The Select Board will attend. Steve said they can probably expect to be hand counting a lot of write-in votes.

Meeting adjourned 6:27 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'LH' followed by a stylized flourish.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Pierson