

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

Members Present: Leon Dugan, Chairman, Steve Darrow, Jennie Joyce, Sue Smith (recorder)

Others Present: Bonnie Haubrich, Cindy Kudlik, Deb Clough, Scott Smith, Ed Grinley, Andrew Cushing, Elaina Bergamini

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Jennie motioned to accept the public and non-public minutes of February 18, 2020. Steve second. Motion passed.

Selectmen Announcements:

Steve shared a response from Primex, the Town's liability insurance, regarding Warrant Article #20. Primex informed the Town that the liability risk will increase should the warrant article pass.

Jennie, referring to an email from the Ambulance Captain, stated that the selectmen never made a decision to have another account made on Quick Books for the Ambulance Revolving Account. Jennie also stated that the administrative assistant should not be involved with any bookkeeping for the ambulance revolving account per the request of the Ambulance Captain. Both Leon and Steve agreed with Jennie.

Ex-Officio Reports:

Steve gave the following report from the Planning Board: There were 4 pieces of business during the Planning Board meeting on February 27; one voluntary lot merger and three proposed subdivisions. A possible public hearing could be scheduled for March 26, 2020. Steve also mentioned that there will be a vacancy on the Planning Board as of March 10, 2020.

Steve stated that Lori Fisher, Assistant State Librarian, gave an informational meeting on February 25, 2020. She covered the roles and responsibilities of the Library Trustees, Library Director and Friends of Grafton Library. Steve thanked Stacey Glazier, Grafton Library Director, for setting up the meeting.

Safety Committee met on March 2, 2020 and discussed the following: Town Hall (repairing of the side entrance), the town office front door (placing a door opener) and future needs of space in the town office.

Public Comment:

Cindy Kudlik commented that there are wasps at the Town Hall; possibly in the ceiling. Cindy also stated that the back ramp was unable to be used at the Town Office due to ice.

Deb Clough commented about the March Newsletter . She didn't appreciate the opinions of the selectmen on the warrant articles.

Ed Grinley stated that Old Home Day planning has started and the first meeting was held on February 29th. There were 8 people in attendance. The next meeting will be March 21, 2020.

Appointments:

Elaina Bergamini, Mascoma Valley Preservation, presented the selectmen Forms A-9 and A-12 for charitable exemption. The selectmen will submit the forms to the assessor for review and recommendation before a decision is made.

Bonnie Haubrich, Town Clerk met with the selectmen to discuss support for the town clerk computer. According to Bonnie, the contract with Twin Bridge Services, software support for both the Police Department and Town Clerk, expired in 2019. The portion of the contract, \$607, covered the Town Clerk computer. Bonnie did speak with Allen Treadwell, Twin Bridge Services, to see if the Tax Collector computer can also be covered for support. Allen did say there will be an additional \$250 to the contract. Steve stated that he will speak with Allen Treadwell to verify if the contract was paid for 2020. After a brief discussion, Steve motioned to add the tax collector's computer to the Twin Bridge Services contract for an additional \$250. Jennie second. Motion passed. Steve stated that there will be a memorandum of understanding between Twin Bridge Services and Scott Smith. Scott will no longer provide computer support for the tax collector's computer but will continue computer support for the computers in the selectmen office and the supervisors of the checklist computer.

Bonnie inquired about three properties that have outstanding taxes due. The selectmen informed Bonnie that one of the properties in question was being resolved, the second property will be revisited after mud season and the third will be revisited when it is time to deed properties due to arrears in taxes.

New Business:

Board of Selectmen Questionnaire for FY 2019 Audit – the Selectmen completed and signed the questionnaire.

Timber Tax Inquiry re: Op #19-181-09-T – the Selectmen reviewed and discussed a request for an abatement on a timber tax bill for Op #19-181-09-T. According to the property owner, the logger did not pay the fair amount for the wood cut, hence the abatement request. The selectmen were informed that Rick Evans, NH DRA Timber Tax Appraiser, reviewed the Report of Cut Wood against the mill slips with the assessed value of wood and determined that the Timber Tax Warrant reflected the correct information. After a brief discussion, the selectmen denied the abatement request.

Other Business/Correspondence:

Abatement applications – Whitney (Map 7 Lot 864) – Jennie motioned to approve the abatement application per the recommendation of the assessor. Steve second. Motion passed. Stageman (Map 13 Lot 99) – Steve motioned to deny the abatement application per the recommendation of the assessor. Jennie second. Motion passed.

The selectmen reviewed and discussed the following correspondence:

- Biennial Inspection Reports of the bridges in Grafton
- Letter from Dept of Army Corps of Engineers denying a wetland permit for Wild Meadow Rd culvert project.

- NH DOT letter regarding Road Postings for Weight Restrictions for District 02
- Letter from Gov. Sununu
- Resignation letter from Scott Smith – Scott is resigning as the computer support person for the tax collector and town clerk computers. The selectmen accepted the resignation.
- Public Hearing Notice from HealthTrust on rate settings. The Public Hearing is March 5, 2020.
- Letter from Supervisors of the Checklist regarding best practices for Voter Registration.
- Letter from George E. Sansoucy regarding the Eversource Case

Public Comment:

Ed Grinley commented about information not included in the February 8, 2020 deliberative session minutes. Steve stated that he would like specifics on the minutes prior to speaking with the Town Clerk.

Cindy Kudlik thanked Leon for his two terms of service as a selectman.

Final Comments from the Selectmen:

Jennie commented that she would like to dis-ban the newsletter. This will be further discussed at the next selectmen meeting.

Steve motioned to go into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(e) regarding Chaise Caiden Way at 7:33pm. Jennie second. Motion passed.

Jennie motioned to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes. Steve second. Motion passed.

Public session resumed at 7:40pm.

Leon announced that a date will be scheduled to have an agreement signed between Mr. Champney and the Town regarding a property on Chaise Caiden Way.

Steve motioned to adjourn. Jennie second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, Administrative Assistant