

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

Members Present: Steve Darrow, Chairman, Jennie Joyce, Cindy Kudlik, Sue Smith (recorder)

Others Present: Jon Bautel, Gary Whitney, Ed Grinley, Sheryl Senter, Andrew Cushing, Shawn McCadden

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Jennie motioned to accept the public and non-public minutes of September 15, 2020. Cindy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Selectmen Announcements:

Jennie inquired if the surveyor has visited the Halford property. Steve stated that he will follow-up with Scott Sanborn.

Cindy commented that the perambulation of the Wilmot/Grafton line was to be done this fall and inquired if it has been scheduled. At this time the perambulation has not been scheduled and the Town of Wilmot will be contacted.

Cindy followed-up with Russell regarding junkyard violations at Vulkan Metals and 23 Beard Lane properties. According to Russell, these properties are no longer in violation and letters were sent to the property owners to inform them. Cindy will be following up on 140 Kinsman Rd, 17 Johnson Lane and 1150 Main Street; properties that are currently in violation of the junkyard ordinance.

Cindy informed both Jennie and Steve that she sent a copy of the MVRSD letter to Dorchester, Orange and Canaan. The Town of Canaan informed Cindy that they will be sending a letter to MVRSD as well.

Steve commented that the outdoor sign is finished and will be ordering another set of letters as one set is not enough.

Ex-Officio Reports:

Steve stated that the Planning Board met on September 24, 2020 and approved a boundary line adjustment. The Planning Board also named an alternate to the board.

Cindy attended the Grafton Volunteer Ambulance meeting on September 15, 2020 and stated that only 4 members showed up to the meeting. During that meeting it was announced that Canaan Ambulance has not been used all year.

Public Comment:

Ed Grinley made a complaint about the responders of the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department. On a recent fire call, Ed stated that he witnessed a few of the responders driving excessive speeds to get to the scene of the fire. He also stated that he witnessed a few of the responders at the scene without fire gear. There were a couple of the responders directing traffic without reflective gear which caused the Andover Fire Department to miss the street where the fire was located. Jennie also stated that she received a complaint about responders driving in excessive speeds to get to calls. Steve will attend the next Volunteer Fire Department meeting to discuss the complaints.

Gary inquired as to what perambulation means. Steve stated that every seven years, abutting towns get together to walk the boundary lines to make sure the lines have not changed.

Sheryl Senter commented that the outdoor sign looks good and is much easier to read the messages. Sheryl also inquired as to why the basketball court was not paved after the selectmen made a motion to have it paved. Steve stated that the paving could not be completed as the basketball court was not prepped for the paving.

Sheryl inquired if face masks are available to those who are in need of some. Cindy stated that at this time the town does not have any on hand but if someone is in need of one to have them contact the Town Office.

Shawn McCadden commented about the condition of the upper end of Riddle Hill Rd. He thanked the selectmen for the quick response to have the road graded.

Appointments:

Jon Bautel met with the selectmen to discuss the speed limit change and stop sign recommendations for Williams Hill Road/Riddle Hill Road. The speed limit change from 35 to 25 was approved in 2017 and again a couple of months ago. Jon stated that he has not seen the speed limit change posted. Jon stated that he can assist with posting the signs if needed. Jon inquired as to why the selectmen did not agree to the recommendation of posting stop signs at the intersections of Williams Hill Rd/Riddle Hill Rd and Riddle Hill Rd/Davis Rd. The selectmen stated that the yield signs in those locations are working and do not feel the need for the stop signs at this time.

Andrew Cushing met with the selectmen to discuss looking at the town holistically as to the needs of working spaces for various departments including the library. Andrew would like to see something in place within the next couple of few years as the Friends of Grafton Library have a grant that has a 5 year time frame to use towards a new library. An option that Andrew suggested, once a plan has been put in place, is to possibly get a combined bond to use minus grant monies and donations for a municipal building project that includes a new library. After a brief discussion, Andrew will follow-up with Cindy to discuss starting a committee to look at a municipal/library building.

New Business:

2021 Budget Review – The selectmen briefly reviewed and discussed the Town Clerk and Tax Collector budgets. Jennie motioned to table both budgets until the next meeting and to have Bonnie attend the meeting to answer questions that were raised. Steve second. Motion passed.

Other Business/Correspondence:

The Selectmen reviewed and approved the following building notifications:

- McCadden (Map 15C Lot 1091 and Map 15C Lot 1094)
- Kenyon (Map 16 Lot 771)
- Pittman (Map 15C Lot 36)

The Selectmen reviewed and discussed the following correspondence:

- Resignation letter from Janet Sullivan. Steve motioned to accept Janet's resignation as welfare director with regret. Jennie second. Motion passed. A letter will be sent to Janet thanking her for her time as Welfare Director. The position of Welfare Director will be posted immediately. Until a new director is found, Cindy will act as the Welfare Director and Jennie will continue as the Deputy Welfare Director.
- Approvals of Operation for Map 7 Lot 289-03-5 and Map12 Lot 1027
- Letter from Plodzik & Sanderson regarding the 2019 Audit

It was decided to have the Health Officer position posted and Russell will be informed of the posting as he has been the acting Health Officer for the last couple of years.

The three leases with the Historical Society have expired and will need to be renewed.

Public Comment:

Ed Grinley inquired as to why the property on Rt 4A was not auctioned through a sealed bid. Steve stated that the wording in the warrant article prohibited the selectmen to sell the property through a sealed bid process.

Ed also commented that a mobile home was moved from 300 Hardy Hill Road to a property on Church Rd. Ed inquired if the selectmen received a building notification with regards to this move. At this time, a building notification has not been received.

Shawn McCadden inquired about the building notification process and why his could not be signed off prior to a privy being approved. The Selectmen informed Shawn that building notifications are usually submitted after a privy or septic design has been approved. The Selectmen wait until all information needed is submitted prior to approving building notifications.

Final Comments From Selectmen:

Jennie inquired if the exercise equipment returned to the Fire Station after the State Primary. Cindy stated that it has not returned but there is some equipment that has been donated in the past in the Fire Station.

Jennie suggested that the selectmen put a warrant article on the 2021 Warrant to pave the basketball court.

Jennie commented about the condition of a portion of Hardy Hill Rd that was recently reclaimed. This portion has wash-boarded due to recent storms. Steve stated that he has spoken to the Road Agent about this issue and reviewed the following quote from BlakTop with Jennie and Cindy: \$78,000+ to have the base coat be placed on Hardy Hill Rd this year and to have the invoice paid 2021. Steve stated

that the Road Agent is hesitant to spend almost 80K at the beginning of the year, especially if the warrant article for paving does not pass. Jennie recommended to have Steve get legal advice to see what the Town can possibly do to pay for the paving.

Steve informed the Board that MVP paid off the mortgage to 860 Main Street and has contacted the Town Attorney to start the process to release the mortgage.

Cindy commented that several months ago John Babiarz stated that the septic tanks at the Town Office complex and Town Shed needed to be pumped out this year. Cindy inquired if this has been taken care of. At this time, the septic tanks have not been pumped out.

Jennie motioned to adjourn. Cindy second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, Administrative Assistant