

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

Members Present: Leif Hogue, Chair, Ed Grinley, Steve Darrow, Sara Hogue (Recorder)

Others Present: Chris Fournier, Heather Hunter, Dan Moore, Ryan Huff, Lee Way Pasek

The Meeting was called to order at 6 pm

Oath of Office

Dan Moore was sworn in as elected Cemetery Trustee for the 3-year term

Ryan Huff was recommended to fill the vacant one-year Cemetery Trustee seat. Leif motioned to appoint Ryan. Ed seconded. Steve agreed. Motion passed. Ryan was sworn in.

Dianne Burrington was recommended to be a Cemetery Trustee alternate. Steve Motion to approve. Ed seconded. Leif agreed. Motion passed. Dianne was not present and will still need to be sworn in.

Selection of Chair, Ex Officio, and Liaisons:

Chair - Steve made a motion to appoint Leif as chair. Ed seconded. Leif accepted. Motion passed.

Ex Officio

Ed accepted to be the Budget Committee Ex Officio

Steve accepted to be the Planning Board Ex Officio

Liaisons

Leif agreed to be a liaison to the Library, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and Highway Department.

Steve agreed to be a liaison to the Ambulance Department, Fire Department, and Recycle Center.

Ed agreed to be a liaison to the Police Department.

RSA 31:105 – Indemnification of Damages

Steve motioned to accept RSA 31:105. Leif seconded. Ed Agreed. Motion passed.

Acceptance of Minutes

Steve motioned to accept the March 5, 2024, public minutes. Leif seconded. Motion passed.

Ex-Officio Reports

Leif reported that the new ambulance is projected to arrive at the end of June. When they get the new ambulance, the current one will be down two to three months as they transfer over equipment. Heather will talk to Kathy to see if she wants to check with Autotronics for a loaner.

Other Business

Wild Meadow Culvert - Chris Fournier from HEB Engineering came to talk about the Wild Meadow culvert FEMA Grant - Chris has been working with Grafton since around 2008. This is the second Grant he has helped the Town obtain for this project. The first was in 2019 which was a 75% to 25% match. However, the grant was underfunded so the Town had to back out. This second FEMA grant is a 90% to 10% match. Chris reviewed the project plans with the board and has not changed. He did let the board know that there will be a 60-day road closure for the replacement of the culvert. At the March 5th

meeting, the Selectmen were not able to agree to match funds because they were unsure if they would have access to them. At the March 12 meeting, it was voted in favor of allowing the Selectmen to be agents to expend from the Bridge Capital Reserve Funds, so they can now move forward. Chris was able to get a two-week extension to submit the signed RFI to FEMA. The 60-day road closure when the project starts. Chris reviewed a checklist of things that we need to progress with the grant:

Hazard Mitigation Plan renewal – Sara has submitted the RFI

Match commitment letter

SF 424 (application form)

Sub Recipient Management Cost letter

After some discussion, Steve motioned to accept the proposal and have Leif be the liaison to sign the paperwork. Ed seconded. Leif agreed. Motion passed.

Ryan Huff asked what the plan was for the Road closure. The board clarified that motorists will be able to detour around it.

New Business

Article 20 - Capital Improvement Committee – this article passed; now the Selectmen will need to decide what they want to do. Leif will send an email to department heads to see if they want to join. Steve will talk with the Planning Board.

Other Business

Action Items –

Museum Drainage - There is a lot of projects for Highway Department right now and Steve doesn't want to add to their workload so he is going to look around to see who would be able to help. Leif suggested Bob Senter.

Pole Barn – Ed will take a look at it.

Parsonage – this has been removed from the project list due to outcome of voting.

Maintenance Man – Sara updated the Job description, and posting. Leif motioned to accept. Steve seconded. Ed agreed. Motion passed. Sara will get posted to the Town website.

Avitar – no updates

Johnson Lane Turn Around - Leif needs to talk with the Johnsons to get permission to make turn around on their property. Leif will also go up and see owners of the Farm as well.

Timber Tax warrant – Map 16 Lot 258 – Signed

Meeting location - Leif would like to move the meeting back to the Fire Station, especially with the Town Hall construction that is coming up as it will close off the access ramp. Steve commented that he likes meeting at the Town Hall but it is hard to have non-publics. Steve motioned to move to the Fire Station until further notice. Ed seconded. Leif agreed. Motion passed.

Building notification extension -Map 14 Lot 172-2- Leif motioned to approve the request for extension. Steve seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence

Primex's letter regarding the Recycling Center Glass Shed – Statement of Loss was approved for \$28,362.14 for repairs. This was based on a quote for around \$30,000. Rick will take additional costs that the settlement does not cover from the Recycle Center Revolving Account. Rick will also need to look for someone to do the work.

Avitar letter regarding an abatement recommendation – due to a lack of access to the property and buildings Avitar is not able to do a property evaluation it is recommended that the abatement request be denied. After some discussion, Steve would like to look at the affidavit before making any decisions.

Public Comment

Ryan Huff Inquired if there were other opportunities for the town to make the library better. He would like to see the board work with the Library Trustees to fix and improve the current Library. Leif commented that when he first got elected, he went to a Library Trustee meeting to talk about plans for how they could add a bathroom. Their meeting was the same night as the Planning Board so Leif had to leave early. After Leif had left, they discussed his plans and decided not to go with his idea.

Dan Moore commented that knows the guy that did the Danbury Library's incinerator toilet and he believes there is room to expand on the existing library.

Closing Comments from the Selectboard

Steve welcomed Ed to the board and is looking forward to working with Leif and Ed to get things done.

Ed noted that during the budget process, it was discovered that the Recycle Center is collecting money for furniture which goes into the Revolving Account, but is paying for the disposal out of the Operating Budget. It should come out of the Revolving Account. Steve will talk with Rick.

Leif motioned to adjourn. Ed seconded. Steve agreed. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Hogue, Administrative Assistant