



**TOWN OF GRAFTON**  
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER  
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
January 19, 2016  
Municipal Center, Conference Room A

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK  
GRAFTON, MA  
2016 FEB 3 PM 3 16

X

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Craig Dauphinais, Jennifer Thomas, Bruce Spinney, Dennis Flynn, Brook Padgett, Doug Willardson and Laura St. John-Dupuis. Absent: Tim McInerney

**South Grafton Fisherville Mill Update and South Grafton Library Memorandum of Understanding –Gene Bernat**

Mr. Willardson introduced Mr. Gene Bernat to address the Board and provide an update on Fisherville Mill and the Green House and Living Lab.

Mr. Bernat addressed the Board and stated that this project has been in the works for the last 10 years at a cost of around \$7M. The project is coming to an end from a remediation perspective. Mr. Bernat advised that the drinking water well is still contaminated and is about 20ft below the surface. It will never be able to be fixed. However, this will be in an area where parking will be. Mr. Bernat also stated that the asbestos has been encapsulated.

Mr. Bernat stated that the vision of a massive 240 unit building cannot be built with the current market conditions. There are four developers that are interested but have their reservations about the development of Grafton. Mr. Bernat stated that he has been working with the Town Planner and Town Administrator talking about how to adjust the zoning to accomplish the same goals in a phased approach and that the Town has been very supportive. The underlying land value doesn't pay for the remediation that has been spent to date. There are some things that are so special about Grafton and Blackstone; there is a story there that is compelling to a lot of people. The potential is fabulous and is very recognizable by everyone. The Living Systems Lab has an informal agreement with Tufts, Brown University and WPI because it teaches the lessons of the past and the challenges it puts into our laps are the challenges that are happening all over the world.

South Grafton Library- Mr. Bernat stated that he would like to use the South Grafton Library as a place where people can gather and come up with new concepts on how to improve the environment we live in. Mr. Bernat stated that he also needs an office and

that he is trying to rally people to make South Grafton a unique space in terms of lessons and recreation opportunities for the community such as the bikeway routed through the site, and the expansion of the bird watching area. Drawing as many people to South Grafton to think about it as a cultural legacy and use it in the future as a positive change.

Mr. Willardson stated that the Town is interested in allowing Mr. Bernat use this space, the Town will maintain the cash flow that we were getting from the thrift shop that left a few months ago. This will be the visitor's center for the bike path.

Mr. Padgett stated that Mr. Bernat has done a tremendous amount of work, the more we can help them the better off the Town will be.

Mr. Flynn stated to Mr. Bernat that he had mentioned mixed use and in his own estimate what will happen there and how will the building be used. Mr. Bernat stated an Assisted Living/ Independent/ Memory Care facility would work well. The Boston based nonprofit Building Work Force for Affordable Housing is highly recommended to be located on the north side. We can get the commercial component we want, that would be at the waterfall. We need to have special activities that differentiate us from others Microbreweries are hot right now as well as hospital groups. Milford Hospital would be good. The Town needs adult care facilities. Mr. Bernat further stated that he will continue to need help from the Town. The delta between what markets will pay and the cost to do the work is just not there. If we can interest the Affordable Housing Trust to help that would be beneficial. This is no longer about profit.

Mr. Flynn asked if there would be some state and federal funding. Mr. Bernat stated yes, there is some competition for affordable housing tax credit. We need to work on a plan that is viable in terms of finding state assistance. Mr. Flynn asked how we can help. Mr. Bernat responded by stating that when the time comes, we will need the Town Planner to work with the state and the Affordable Housing Trust. The state will want to see that there is commitment from the Town. Putting a bus stop at that site will help out as well as working with South Grafton Water commission to see about lowering the cost of hook up. There needs to be a sustained commitment from the community to try to find resolutions. Mr. Bernat added that he will keep the Town Administrator informed with progression. Mr. Flynn stated that he would like to see a 3-5 year plan. Mr. Bernat stated that the new streetscape that was proposed, will help tremendously and that he will try to bring leverage to the DCR with issues around the damn. Mr. Bernat stated that he wants to come to Town Meeting to build the Riverwalk that the Conway School helped us design last year. Mr. Bernat would like to be able to bring Grafton the most dramatic and fun stuff at the beginning of the project. If people could access the Riverwalk, there would be a constant flow of walkers up there, if we can get this done. There is your 1 year plan that will do wonders in marketing that site. Mr. Flynn stated that he would like to see the plans. Mr. Willardson stated that this is going to CPC. Mr. Bernat can bring the plans to another Board meeting.

Mr. Dauphinais asked if there is a close date on the lease. Mr. Willardson said 30 days. Mr. Bernat stated he would like to be there for at least 3 years.

Mr. Padgett made a motion to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Gene Bernat at a payment of \$2,000 per month. Ms. Thomas seconded. All were in favor.

### **Waste Water Treatment Plant –Update-Paul Cournoyer**

Mr. Paul Cournoyer, Superintendent of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and Mr. Dana Green of CDM Smith address the Board with an update. Mr. Cournoyer stated that this process started in 2012 by educating the public with the need to update the treatment plant.

Mr. Green stated that GIS was required and the study of the nutrient loading to the Blackstone River and Narragansett Bay. It was determined that the treatment plant needed some maintenance repairs. As of today, CDM Smith is putting together a final design that was awarded to Walsh Construction, a national construction company. The construction will take at about 28 months. The completion of the nutrient facility should be done by 2018. There will be a third tank, a phosphorus removal system, disinfection building and a generator installed. The DEP and EPA will review this project and construction is expected to be completed by March 2018.

Mr. Cournoyer stated that he went to Town Meeting with \$49M as the max we would need for this project. Mr. Smith stated that as we move to finish the project the probable construction cost would be approximately \$35M. The normal SRF interest rate is 2%, portions of the project that are dedicated to nutrient removal qualified for 0%. \$22.5M will be at 0% interest. They will borrow with SRF Loans (2) and with Unibank.

Mr. Flynn asked if the \$49M is now \$45M. Mr. Green stated that construction contingency captures the fluctuation of construction items and if our projections are too light the NPDES from the EPA could change things. Mr. Green stated that his was designed as a single project done all at once and there is a very detailed sequence.

Mr. Spinney, asked if this will be presented to the Town at all, maybe see at Town Meeting in May. Mr. Cournoyer stated that if Board want them there, they will be there.

Mr. Spinney stated that they have done a very good job.

### **Recreation Department- Beach & Camp Fees- Jen Anderson**

Jen Anderson addressed the Board stating that Camp fees have been all over the place over the years and that the program numbers have dwindled over the years and had to cancel one of their programs last year. Therefore she has decided to merge the ½ day with the full day and would like to continue down that path. Once the numbers go up we will break out the ½ day from full day. Ms. Anderson stated that she would like the fee to be at \$150 (not including a field trip) as the entry point would be a little more accessible to people. They will also add a pre-care with early drop off and late pick up will be added to increase those hours.



2016 anticipated revenue for silver lake, within at \$1000 of last year. There will be earlier passes and more marketing that will increase patronage. There will be birthday party packages, group rates to get different revenue streams.

Ms. Anderson provided the following charges that will be implemented this Beach Season:

**Daily Resident:**

\$3/senior  
\$5/person  
\$14/car

**Daily Non-Resident:**

\$5/senior  
\$7/person  
\$18/car

**Season Pass - Resident**

\$10 Senior  
\$20 Individual  
\$45 Family

**Season Pass Non-resident**

\$20 Senior Up to 2 people  
\$40 individual  
\$75 Family

**Additional Sticker**

\$20 Resident  
\$40 Non Resident

**Replacement Fee \$20**

Mr. Flynn asked Ms. Anderson if she has any plans to connect with the School Department and their extended program and if there is any kind of aid or scholarships available for parents who have need for it. Ms. Anderson responded by stating that there are scholarships in place. Recreation has a 50/50 share, the resident pays 50% and the Town covers the other 50%. She added that the scholarship fund is very healthy and encourages people to apply. Ms. Anderson spoke to the question about connecting with the School Department by stating that the Schools have their own programs, however, Recreation is working with the schools on an adult education program. They launched last year with minimal success, the program will now be run through the Recreation Department. Mr. Flynn asked if there is an interest in mainstreaming and looking at integration for more challenged youngster. Ms. Anderson stated she is looking at the state for other programs.

Mr. Flynn made a motion to accept the Beach fees presented. Ms. Thomas seconded all were in favor.

### **Village Dairy – Liquor License Renewal**

Mr. Willardson stated that we are here to ask the Board if they will approve, deny or do nothing about Village Dairy's Liquor License. If the Board denies the renewal, Village Dairy can go back to the ABCC. Town Council recommends that the Board approves under protest.

Mr. Willardson stated that the Superior Court decided that this is in the ABCC's hands. Ms. Thomas asked if the license comes from town or the state does the ABCC give the Board the same authority? Mr. Will stated that the town will have the same authority even if the Town does not issue the license the Town can revoke it.

Mr. Flynn asked if the Town has appealed to the superior court. Mr. Willardson stated no, Town Council does not feel appealing it will go anywhere. Mr. Dauphinais asked if there is any part of this process that will get the Town in front of the ABCC. Mr. Willardson stated that the Board can request to meet with the ABCC and added that the license that was issued had expired on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Village Dairy is currently not selling alcohol. Mr. Dauphinais stated that the Board would like to sit with the ABCC as we are about to release a letter. Mr. Willardson stated that he can set up a meeting with the ABCC and the Chair with anyone else from the Board that can make it.

Mr. Flynn asked if the Board could instruct the Town Administrator to send a letter to change the law with the understanding that if the law changes. This license would be subject to the changes. Mr. Flynn stated he would like to make a motion to approve what Town Council is proposing with a statement under protest. Mr. Dauphinais stated that he does not see that filing under process is worth it.

Mr. Flynn stated that he spoke with Town Council and that the Superior Court judge agreed with us, but has to live by the law.

Mr. Padgett asked why does Town Council have to defend it and why do we have to go and argue it. I don't want to do anything that will cost money.

Mr. Willardson stated that we can work with Town Council to draft legislation. If we do nothing tonight, The ABCC can kick it back. Mr. Dauphinais suggested that maybe we could have our State representatives come to the meeting with the ABCC.

Mr. Flynn made a motion that the board follow Town Councils recommendation and grant the liquor license in accordance to the directive that she issued with the understanding that the Board is constrained to issue this license while it pursues, through its state legislative delegation, a change to the language of G.L. c. 138 to the Board--not two unelected state employees--the final say over who should have the privilege of holding a license to sell alcohol within the borders of this Town. Motion failed.

This item was tabled. Mr. Dauphinais would like to have a meeting with the ABCC. Mr. Willardson stated he will get a meeting set up with the ABCC.

## **RESIGNATIONS**

### **Patricia Fay – Town Accountant**

Mr. Spinney made a motion to accept the resignation of Patricia Fay, Town Accountant. Ms. Thomas seconded. All were in favor.

### **Philip F. Holahan – Economic Development Commission**

Mr. Spinney made a motion accept the resignation of Philip F. Holahan from the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Mark Alves – “Together We Can”**

Mr. Spinney made a motion to appoint Mark Alves to the “Together We Can” committee. Mr. Flynn seconded. All were in favor.

### **Patrick Mahoney – Part-Time Snow Plow Driver**

Mr. Spinney made a motion to appoint Patrick Mahoney as a part -time Snow Plow Driver. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

### **Vote to Waive the “110” Inspection Fees for the Grafton Housing Authority**

Mr. Padgett made a motion to waive the 110 Inspection Fees for the Grafton Housing Authority. Ms. Thomas seconded. All were in favor.

### **Vote to Sign Chapter 90 Paperwork – Pavement Analysis**

Mr. Spinney made a motion to sign Chapter 90 paperwork for pavement Analysis. Ms. Thomas seconded. All were in favor.

### **Vote to Approve the Grafton Hill Street Light Location Layout**

The Board had questions about putting up the lights and if they will all be lit, Mr. Dauphinais stated we will not light them all. Mr. Padgett stated that he did not approve of the light layout. Mr. Willardson stated that the town will be paying for the lights and stated further that moving forward the rules and regulations could be changed and that he could go back to Planning to tell them that the Board wants fewer lights.

Mr. Flynn made a motion to approve the street lights to be placed at lot 1 and lot 16. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

**Vote to Sign Page Contracting Inc. – South Grafton Community House Damaged Wall Repair**

Mr. Willardson stated that this is to repair the back door at the SGCH. Quotes were received and Page Contracting Inc. was the lowest. Mr. Willardson added that the Finance Committee is willing to appropriate from the reserve fund if the Board approves this.

Mr. Padgett made a motion to sign Page Contracting Inc. for the South Grafton Community House wall repair for \$19,750.00. Ms. Thomas seconded. All were in favor.

**Vote to name one-way road between One Beacon and Jordan's Garage "George Jordan, Jr. Road."**

Mr. Padgett made a motion to name the road that is currently known as the Boulevard to "George Jordan Jr. Boulevard" Mr. Spinney seconded. All were in favor.

**SELECTMEN REPORTS / TA REPORTS**

Mr. Willardson stated that the MMA conference is this Friday and Saturday, the Governor will be announcing how much will be given out in State aid.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Spectra Energy Mr. Willardson stated that Spectra have contacted FERC to start the process of the Algonquin Gas projects. They will be submitting an environmental report as required by the State.

Open houses for anyone in the community will be on Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30 - 7:30 PM for at the Country Club at 42 Magill Dr.

Mr. Flynn, will there be invitations. Mr. Willardson said we can send letters but will check with Spectra first and if they are not sending letters he will.

**Language for Initiative to Take the Police Department Out of Civil Service**

Mr. Willardson stated that in 2000 Grafton became part of Civil Service; this required the Town to hire people that are not always the best candidate. In most recent contract negotiations the Police Association agreed to come out of Civil Service and will write a letter stating they are in agreement. The Chief would like to have a ballot question at May Town Meeting to take Grafton out of Civil Service. The Police Association agreed to come out of Civil Service the Board of Selectmen can set policies for hiring. The problem with Civil Service is the statutory requirements, if you have a disabled veteran applying for a position, the Town absolutely has to hire that person.

We would be fine if a veteran is qualified, but we don't want to be required to hire someone if there is a better candidate.

Mr. Padgett made a motion to place this on a May ballot an article removed Police Department from Civil Service at their request. Mr. Spinney seconded. All were in favor.

### **Proposed Committee Appointment Administrative Policy for Multiple Applicants**

Mr. Willardson stated if there are two applicants applying for 1 vacancy we would propose that 2 members from the Board of Selectmen plus the Chair of the committee meet and interview that candidates then select the candidate to be appointed. The purpose of this is to avoid candidates from having to come in to interview, this is a probably a better process as the current procedure is an uncomfortable way to interview as it's hard to be interviewed in public.

Mr. Spinney stated that this is part of the job as the Selectmen to interview candidates the way we currently do.

Mr. Dauphinais stated that the Board can kick this around some more and come up with something different if the Board wishes to do so. This agenda item has been tabled.

### **Schedule Joint Meeting to Appoint School Committee Vacancy**

There are two applicants, the dates Thurs Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, Monday Feb 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Spinney, Mr. Dauphinais and Ms. Thomas can make the, Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6:30 PM in Conference Room F.

### **Early Voting Recommendations – Letter from Resident**

Mr. Willardson stated that MGL requires voting to be done during business hours. The Town Clerk suggests a pole to be set up in the gym for voters to vote 10 days before elections. There will be two workers for all precincts. The absolute worst case scenario cost wise would be \$3,500.00 this will only be required for state and federal elections. Mr. Flynn asks why we need to do anything if you can do absentee ballot. Mr. Willardson stated that we have to comply with state regulations. Mr. Padgett suggests that we do the reverse start on the 10<sup>th</sup> day and see if the Clerk's office can handle it and if not get the election workers. Mr. Dauphinais stated that if the Town Clerk wants to come in to talk this, she can come to a meeting and discuss it with us.

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Spinney made a motion to accept the 12/15/15 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Spinney made a motion to accept the 1/5/16 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MGL Chapter 30A, Sec. 21(3)  
Litigation Update  
Litigation Strategy  
Union Negotiations  
Land Negotiation  
Non Union Negotiations  
Strategy for Negotiations  
Minutes

**ADJOURN**

At 9:27 PM Mr. Spinney made a motion adjourn. Ms. Thomas seconded. All were in favor.

For more information, this and other meetings can be viewed on Grafton Television.  
[www.Graftontv.org](http://www.Graftontv.org)

  
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Craig Dauphinais, Chairman

  
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Laura St. John-Dupuis, Recording Secretary

2-2-16  
Date