



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING AGENDA
March 29, 2016
Municipal Center, Conference Room A
7:00 p.m.

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
GRAFTON, MA
2016 JUN 13 PM 11 57

CALL TO ORDER

A Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Present: Craig Dauphinais, Bruce Spinney, Dennis Flynn, Jennifer Thomas, Tim McInerney, Doug Willardson and Laura St. John-Dupuis

SCHEDULE

Lake Quinsigamond Water Commission – Weed Control - Peter Collins

Mr. Dauphinais introduced Peter Collins, Chair of the Lake Quinsigamond Water Commission.

Mr. Collins addressed the Board and provided some history of the Lake Quinsigamond Water Commission. The commission was created in 1916 to basically deal with safety issues on the lake. The commission started with three board members, one from Shrewsbury, Worcester and Grafton. The commission is now made up of 9 members including a member from each Conservation Commission from the Towns of Grafton, Shrewsbury and Grafton. Mr. Collins added that his seat is appointed by the three seats from the cities and towns.

Mr. Collins stated that in 1973 the scope of the commission increased to looking at water quality and pollution management with the ability to do studies. About a decade ago the commission did a study and found a weed problem which is spreading from one pond to the other. In the last 10 years the commission has been charging a permit fee, \$25 for residential and \$75 for commercial to cover costs of studies and treatment of weeds. The commission put together a five year plan that is more comprehensive. This paid for a survey of the bottom of the lake to be done. The survey cost \$5,000 To treat the lake it will cost \$207,000 the first year, after a year or two the cost will go down to approximately \$100,000 per year.

The commission is asking for \$35,000 from each community to manage an escalating invasive plant population, to provide for public education and awareness of the safe use and enjoyment of the lake, to maintain and upgrade safety navigational markers and to

enhance law enforcement efforts on the waterways. Additionally, the commission is looking to increase dock fees from \$25 to \$35 which will increase revenue to approximately \$21,000 annually.

Mr. Dauphinais asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Padgett asked, with Con-com are we in a consortium? Mr. Collins stated no, each commission acts independently. The conservation commissions have been very cooperative; it is still difficult they want people to do the right thing. Some of the residents say they never had weeds and they may take matters into their own hands. The environmental police do not have resources to station someone every few hundred yards.

Mr. Collins stated that Asian lotus is an incredibly invasive weed. It is currently in a channel, south of route 20 at Flint pond in Grafton. He stated the commission predicts this lotus will travel with the currents and it will go down to the Irish damn. The Irish damn is DCR controlled; it sprung a few leaks last year. They were very fortunate to find out about it. A new gate was installed and cost \$450,000.

Mr. McInerney asked Mr. Collins if every community is charged the same price as Worcester. Worcester would probably see the best benefit with the different events and probably the biggest contributor of the raw nutrients.

Mr. Dauphinais asked if the commission just decide on a flat rate it as it seems Grafton would be a smaller portion as it is not an active piece of the lake.

Mr. Collins stated that he asked for an equal part because he thought it would be a better sell. Additionally, Mr. Collins stated that if you look at the issues from above the lake, with Grafton, it is because of a fragmented base and it is on the Flint Pond side, chromium issues from Wyman Gordon and Hovey pond is part of this. If we don't stop those things now, those weeds will end up in Lake Ripple.

Ms. Thomas stated that it is tough because Worcester and Shrews have much larger budgets.

Mr. Padgett asked Mr. McInerney where in the budget, \$35,000 would come from. Mr. McInerney stated he was not sure. Mr. McInerney asked if the commission would take money from the top of our cherry sheet. Mr. Collins said no. Mr. McInerney stated we would have to find the money for this.

Mr. Padgett asked if Mr. Collins can show what would stop weed growth. Mr. Collins responded by saying the commission can certainly show the physical presentation and a slide show.

Mr. Flynn stated that he used to swim in the Irish damn and would like to make a motion to include \$35k in the Town Meeting warrant for the purpose of the weed resolution at Quinsigamond Lake.

Mr. Padgett seconded. Mr. Dauphinais asked Mr. McInerney what is the process for the vote of support. Mr. McInerney stated this requires an appropriation and that there is a place holder in the May Town meeting warrant.

APPOINTMENTS

Ruth T. Anderson – Affordable Housing Trust

Mr. Padgett made a motion to appoint Ruth T. Anderson to the Affordable Housing Trust. Mr. Spinney seconded. All were in favor.

Kris Koliss – Affordable Housing Trust

Mr. Padgett made a motion to appoint Kris Koliss to the Affordable Housing Trust. Mr. Spinney seconded. All were in favor.

RESIGNATIONS

William Kuck – Retirement from Grafton Police Department

Mr. Flynn made a motion to accept the resignation of William Kuck-Retiring from the Grafton Police Department. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

Jonathan Lincoln – Mill Villages Advisory Committee

Mr. Padgett made a motion to accept the resignation of Jonathan Lincoln from the Mill Villages Advisory Committee. Ms. Thomas seconded. All were in favor.

Kathleen A. Theoharides – Conservation Commission

Mr. Spinney made a motion to accept the resignation of Kathleen A. Theoharides from the conservation commission. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote to Approve Road Closure For Grafton Little League- Sunday, April 24th 11:30-12:30PM

Mr. Flynn made a motion to approve road closure for the Grafton Little League on Sunday, April 24th from 11:30AM – 12:30 PM. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

Vote to Authorize the Town Administrator to Purchase Mini Plus Wireless Response System from Audience Response Systems, Inc.

Mr. Willardson stated that Grafton will be splitting the cost of this response system with two other communities, Uxbridge and Leicester. There will be a two day training period.

Mr. Dauphinais asked if there is a warranty. Mr. Willardson said there is a 1 year warrant. Mr. Dauphinais stated that he would like to lease this equipment as he has concerns. Mr. McInerney stated this will be our system and we coordinated with the other towns to make sure the dates of Town meetings do not conflict.

Mr. Padgett asked who is going to be in charge. Mr. Willardson stated that Dave Robbins, Deputy Moderator and the IT staff with School Department will be trained. Mr. Dauphinais asked if there be a monitor that shows the vote. Mr. McInerney stated that we will buy a monitor. Mr. Willardson stated that we can use a projector if needed.

Ms. Thomas feels this is a good time to have a protocol.

Mrs. Thomas made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to purchase Mini Plus Wireless Response system from Audience Response Systems, Inc. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

Vote to Sign EL Harvey Contract Extension

Mr. Willardson stated that the Town negotiated to keep FY 16- FY 17 the same rate in exchange for making FY 19 & FY 20 optional years.

Ms. Thomas made a motion to sign the EL Harvey Contract Extension. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Mr. Dauphinais stated that CIPC will be meeting tomorrow to finalize the numbers and plan on being before the BOS on April 5th.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

Electricity Aggregation

Mr. McInerney stated that the Energy Committee met last. They are recommending Board of Selectmen to go with Peregrine Energy Group for electricity aggregation. They are the best suited to represent us. We would like to have them in for the April 5th Board of Selectmen meeting

Mr. Flynn asked if the RFP is available. Mr. McInerney stated it is on the web. Mr. Willardson will send all 3 proposals and the RFP to Board.

Mr. Flynn asked if Peregrine will be the prime provided of services and if there a track record saying this one is better than others. Mr. McInerney stated that when you look at the proposals you will see who has done better.

Mr. Flynn asked about selection. Mr. Willardson stated Peregrine will be bidding out and National Grid will not change. Mr. Flynn asked how the service will change. Mr. McInerney stated there will be no change in service.

Mr. Dauphinais asked will the negotiated rate come to the Board for a vote. Mr. McInerney stated yes.

Mr. Flynn asked how with this process will go for the tax payer. Mr. McInerney stated that Peregrine has a strategy and marketing team and customer service. They have every all laid out and there is not heavy lift for us to do.

Mr. Flynn asked if there will there be any issue for the homeowner. Mr. McInerney stated the customer will deal with National Grid.

Mr. Flynn asked if people opt in and out at any time. Mr. McInerney stated that residents can opt out by using a post card going online or calling a phone number and they can go back to National Grid.

Solar Program

Direct Solar Energy is the only company who responded to the RFP. Grafton is going to work with Sutton to try to pre-qualify.

TIP Program

An outreach meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 31st at South Grafton Elementary School at 7pm. If residents have feedback this is the time to get them out there.

Mr. Dauphinais asked if there was an update on Browns Road. Mr. McInerney stated he does not have one other than going there weekly or biweekly. No hard update.

Mr. Willardson stated that in December Jeff at Graves was before the Board, he will be in for the April 5th Board of Selectmen meeting with a presentation of a layout for the common. The cost estimate is just over \$200k.

Adjourn

At 7:53 PM. Mr. Flynn made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

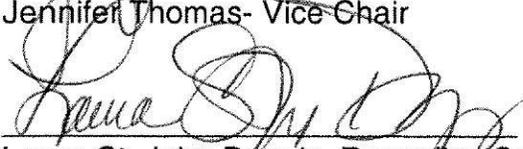
For more information, this and other meetings can be viewed on Grafton Television.
www.Graftontv.org



Jennifer Thomas- Vice Chair



Date



Laura St. John-Dupuis, Recording Secretary