

## Selectboard Meeting

April 11, 2022

Granville Town Hall, 707 Main Rd, Granville, MA 01034

Selectboard members in attendance: Nicole Berndt, David Ripley, Ted Sussmann

Other attendees: Gina Placek

7:05 pm            Call to order

DPW report, Doug Roberts

- Road/tree work update and progress including plan for hazard tree removal on Granville Hill where tree branch brought down power lines that created a very rough spot. Eversource has agreed to remove the trees. Need to work with the landowners to seek permission.
- Flying ants at Village School – recommendation to use pest control. Agreed by consensus.
- Doors at Village School – alignment and pushbar testing recommended by building inspector. Recommendation: identify a contractor for this effort. Endorsed by the consensus of the board.
- State Forest road drainage on the north end is being addressed along with challenges of the driveways added to the road since the last major road work in that area.
- Provencher driveway crossing drainage pipe is blocked and will be changed this week.
- Emerald Ash Borer was discussed relative to the large numbers of trees affected and the impact on the budget. Recommendation: \$25k budget item on the warrant to highlight this problem and the town's efforts to address it. Accepted by consensus of the board.
- Heavy rains over the last week have highlighted the drainage improvements where previous flood zones are now not as problematic.
- Old Meeting house has peeling paint on some of the plaster. Plan to repair with the help of Amos Carpenter who works with plaster.
- Project plan decision timeline: Paving bids open end of April requiring decisions by early May to ensure crews get scheduled this construction season. Bridge bids open early May.
- Over 40 candidates applied for the highway department position. Plan: have the applications ranked by a couple DPW employees and then the top candidates to be reviewed by the Selectboard.
- The Barnard road property discussed as a possible future site for the DPW garage will be assessed to make a recommendation for adding as a ballot item during next meeting.

7:37 Police Chief Report, Rick Rindels

- State Officials and Rep. Boldyga's office have secured \$1M grant to offset costs related to training officers under the Police Reform Act. At \$3k per officer, this would train roughly 333 officers. A good start, but likely would need more money added to ensure coverage for small towns. No Granville officers to be trained in first year. Work to support additional funding in future years.
  - Police reform will require officer psych eval and the costs and funding for this are unknown.
- Police Dept searching for grants to upgrade Town Hall security system including adding cameras for each corner of building facing the parking lot and internal at each entry to Police Dept and building. Rear door to Police dept is deteriorating and needs to be replaced.

7:45 pm Fire Chief, Matt Ripley along with Police Chief, Rick Rindels

- Discussed security system with the possibility of key fobs for entry which will be easier for officers and fire fighters entering with equipment. Fobs will be part of the new system in addition to the codes currently used. Security management software for firehouse could be used for Town Hall. User lists on keypads not available at library. Systems need replacement.
- The Police Department building to house cruisers adjacent to the Police Department is scheduled with plans for the building and foundation being completed. Building would arrive a few months after the completion of the concrete.

7:50 pm Fire Chief, Matt Ripley

- Lifepack 500 Automated External Defibrillators that are no longer supported by manufacturer and not suited for deployment on emergency vehicles could be repurposed for use in the Town Hall or other town buildings with a new \$200 battery (not from manufacturer) and a \$125 AED box to be mounted on the wall to hold the AED. Consensus of the board was that this was a good idea and it would be good opportunity for Fire Department to offer AED training as well as CPR certification. Fire budget can cover the needed battery and boxes.
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have final ruling regarding acceptable uses that include procurement of ambulances and appurtenances like the stretcher and loader. Motion made by Ted Sussmann and seconded by David Ripley to use ARPA funds to purchase the ambulance and all associated items. Board voted 3-0 to use ARPA funds for the ambulance purchase. Chief to discuss with Matt Streeter prior to placing order to ensure proper procedures are followed. ARPA budget ~480k. Ambulance estimate ~\$350k. Radios and telecommunications could also be paid for with ARPA funds. To be discussed later with better budget estimate.

8:05 Selectboard discussion

- Town meeting scheduled for May 9. Monday April 18 is a holiday. Need a budget review meeting with Finance Committee prior to April 25 which is date to finalize budget/warrant. Finance committee available April 20 at 7 pm. Need to have meeting posted.
- Leon Ripley stopped by to drop off 3 PILOT agreements that were placed on the Selectboard meeting table.
- Town wide salary discussion with second discussion of proposal from Nicole Berndt to increase salaries 10% to improve retention. Ted Sussmann indicated that this would not address people leaving town employment for different positions and that individual cases might be better handled on a case by case basis. David Ripley agreed. Board consensus for 3% raise with all 3 agreeing although Nicole Berndt did continue to press for the 10% increase during Police budget discussion.
- Police Budget discussion including training budget and the salary plan. Nicole Berndt indicated that the training budget only increased 3% which would not be adequate to cover expenses with salary increase of 22%. Further, Nicole Berndt continued that officers that work details should not be paid for training. Ted Sussmann indicated that officers working details are a benefit to the town as these officers can leave their detail for emergencies. Nicole Berndt contested the validity of this statement. Ted Sussmann also indicated that these officers also fill other roles for the department. The cruiser account was discussed by Nicole Berndt relative to whether detail related fees for the cruiser or the officers cover town expenses. Ted Sussmann stated that the cruiser account is used

for cruiser maintenance and has grown adequately to cover other expenses for the department including the building and the Ludlow cruiser including outfitting with lights/radios. Ted Sussmann stated that this indicates cruiser fees are at least covering costs to the town. Nicole Berndt went through the pay slips for details indicating that these activities brought little benefit to the town. When reviewed further one detail for each officer was identified to be in Granville. Ted Sussmann indicated that this is a benefit to the town since these officers would respond to an emergency like the runaway child in the meadow years ago where no Granville Police responded to help State Police with the search. Nicole disputed whether officers could leave a detail to assist in emergencies. Ted Sussmann proposed that perhaps each officer should work a shift in Town a few times per year to qualify for paid training. This seemed to address the concern. Keep topic on agenda for future discussion with Police Chief.

- Leon Ripley came in to state that the Overlay Reserve account had a balance of \$250k and that he was seeking to move \$100k from Overlay Research back to the Town General Fund, which will help the budget.
  - Grasshopper project had recent erosion problem which has been addressed and interested parties notified. Pole agreement is in place, easement with neighbor finalized, trees cut along right of way for pole and line installation. Possible the solar project could be on-line May 9.

9:15 pm Motion to Adjourn by Nicole Berndt, Second by David Ripley. Vote 3-0 to adjourn.