



Joann Duncan <duncanj@grafton-ma.gov>

[Town of Grafton MA] Superintendent Salary and pay freezes (Sent by Laura Often, oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us)

1 message

Contact form at Town of Grafton MA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Sun, May 31, 2020 at 7:10 PM

Reply-To: oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us

To: BOS@grafton-ma.gov

Hello Select Board,

Laura Often (oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.grafton-ma.gov/user/14856/contact>) at Town of Grafton MA.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.grafton-ma.gov/user/14856/edit>.

Message:

On behalf of the School Committee, I'd like to clarify a few things that have been discussed in recent weeks regarding the FY21 budget, and we ask that this letter be read into the record. During your meetings on both May 19 and May 26 it was stated that the superintendent intended to take a 2% salary increase. It was also stated that there was an agreement between Dr. Cummings and Mr. McInerney that unrepresented personnel in both the municipal unit and school department would receive 0% pay increases, but that Dr. Cummings backed out of that agreement.

In the Select Board Q&A on the 19th, Amy Marr clarified that Dr. Cummings' contract negotiations were not yet complete, so any information regarding his pay increase/freeze was not public information and should not have been shared in a public meeting. It was also incorrect - Dr. Cummings had no intention of taking a 2% raise, as publicly discussed at our School Committee meeting on May 26. His intent is to take a 0% raise in FY21.

There was never any formalized agreement regarding a salary freeze for unrepresented staff, which comprise 7% of the school department, including some 40 secretaries, maintenance, support and administrative staff. The idea was first floated at the last tri-committee meeting by Mr. McInerney, and Dr. Cummings indicated that he would be open to the idea and would discuss the possibility with the School Committee. Once it was revealed that some individuals would be receiving one-year pay freezes, followed by substantial increases in following years, Dr. Cummings cited this inequity and let Mr. McInerney know that he would move to reduce the school budget in a different manner.

It's unfortunate that some staff and Select Board members continue to propagate the idea that the school department and municipal functions of the town are separate, competing entities, and that "the school side" is being properly funded while "the municipal side" is not. Neither "side" is being adequately funded, but it isn't about "sides" - we're one town, one Grafton, and we need to work together for the common good.

The cost of education in Massachusetts increases by 5-6% annually, and this is an enormous challenge for a minimally-funded district like Grafton. Still, we are confident that we can continue to rise to this challenge and get on with the important work of educating the children of our town.

6/2/2020

Town of Grafton Mail - [Town of Grafton MA] Superintendent Salary and pay freezes (Sent by Laura Often, oftenl@grafton.k12.ma.us)

As always, if you ever have any questions about our spending or process, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or Dr. Cummings. Thank you.

Regards

Laura Often

Chair Grafton School Committee



Joann Duncan <duncanj@grafton-ma.gov>

[Town of Grafton MA] Submitted change orders for library expansion proj (Sent by Mark Johnson, mpj220@gmail.com)

1 message

Contact form at Town of Grafton MA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Reply-To: mpj220@gmail.com
To: BOS@grafton-ma.gov

Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 11:50 AM

Hello Select Board,

Mark Johnson (mpj220@gmail.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.grafton-ma.gov/user/14856/contact>) at Town of Grafton MA.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.grafton-ma.gov/user/14856/edit>.

Message:

Members of the Select Board and office of the Town Administrator,

I was reviewing tonight's Select Board packet and have concerns regarding the Library expansion project and the currently submitted change orders associated with that project.

For simplicity of this correspondence, I will use rounded numbers.

It is my understanding that the previous change orders signed by the Select Board last month has now exceeded the budget of ~\$1.39M that was allocated for change orders. It was also disclosed at that time that remaining change orders would be funded through the construction contingency budget (approx. the same amount).

Tonight's documentation now reveals that the latest change order for contaminated soil removal has more than doubled. This now places the allocated change order budget more than 30% in the red.

The submitted change order also includes a statement from the Construction Management firm " *CTA reserves its rights to additional time and direct and indirect costs associated with this change order. CTA does not waive its rights to an additional extension of time or to recover additional costs by signing this change order. The Awarding Authority, in executing this change order, agrees that CTA has properly reserved its rights for additional time and compensation."

Considering that the last change order included over \$300K for extended general conditions for half of the amount of soil removal, it will be safe to assume that the Construction Management (CTA) will be submitting another sizable change order for additional management/extended general conditions very soon.

Please be aware that, in public construction projects, most change orders are generated during final phases of the project. The old saying "the devil is in the details" often applies. If the drawings/specifications are not crystal clear (beyond a shadow of any doubt), the subcontractor does not own the work and will be submitting a change order.

The fact that the change order budget is now greater than 30% in the red during the beginning civil phase should be very alarming.

Something else that should be of concern to the Select Board is that the

Library Board of Trustees appear to believe that the project contract has a "not to exceed" value. Please review comments made at a previous meeting:

<https://youtu.be/Pr-mbht5NDE?t=1277>

Such clauses as forbidden under MGL Ch149A. I do believe this project is subject to this. I would urge the board to have the town's council review this.

I would also urge the board to consider a more pro-active role with this project. The current trend reflects this project is likely to go way over the allotted budget.

Regards,
Mark Johnson



Joann Duncan <duncanj@grafton-ma.gov>

[Town of Grafton MA] Federal Coronavirus relief (Sent by Mark Johnson, mpj220@gmail.com)

1 message

Contact form at Town of Grafton MA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 5:55 AM

Reply-To: mpj220@gmail.com

To: BOS@grafton-ma.gov

Hello Select Board,

Mark Johnson (mpj220@gmail.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.grafton-ma.gov/user/14856/contact>) at Town of Grafton MA.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.grafton-ma.gov/user/14856/edit>.

Message:

Members of the Select Board and Office of the Town Administrator,

Can you please include discussion on any efforts by the Town of Grafton to secure aid for COVID 19 related expenses?

It is my understanding that the Town of Grafton qualifies for relief funds outlined in the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "CARES Act"). The Commonwealth has conducted an analysis of all municipalities in the state identifying values that each municipality is eligible to receive. Per this document published by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance, it appears that Grafton is eligible for \$1,665,047 in Federal Aid.

https://www.mass.gov/doc/anf-guidance-to-municipalities-on-federal-coronavirus-relief-fund/download?fbclid=IwAR0Xo-eJNYiOcm3ulqEsji4eSAkDEqC8hmzdpxiZDkQ_MM4rPrszCeNBo

Document also attached.

ANFGuidancetoMunicipalitiesonFederalCoronavirusReliefFund.pdf

Regards,
Mark Johnson

 anfguidancetomunicipalitiesonfederalcoronavirusrelieffund.pdf
298K



Joann Duncan <duncanj@grafton-ma.gov>

Correspondence regarding CPC Appointment

Justin Wood (Callek) <callek@gmail.com>

Fri, May 29, 2020 at 4:20 PM

To: bos@grafton-ma.gov, Ed Prisby <prisbye@grafton-ma.gov>, Jennifer Thomas <thomasj@grafton-ma.gov>, carlsonp@grafton-ma.gov, defaziod@grafton-ma.gov, stockd@grafton-ma.gov

Cc: jennifer@graftoncommon.com

Hello Select Board,

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I would appreciate if this correspondence was read aloud during the June 2'nd meeting, at some point prior to any vote on the appointment of Brook Padgett to the CPC.

Should I be allowed to attend the meeting as a panelist (so I can speak) I'm more than willing to read my prepared words aloud myself, should the board not wish to repeat them. I do not wish them to be summarized.

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As you know there is currently a vacancy on the CPC by the abrupt and sad passing of longtime Grafton resident, Richard Shultze, whom just recently passed away due to complications from COVID-19.

Rick's membership as a member-at-large has been the subject of more than a handful of my private conversations over the past year, in part due to him not having attended one CPC meeting since I was appointed to there on behalf of the Planning Board. I have repeatedly told people how much I admired Rick and after I heard from a CPC meeting how Rick was communicating with board members and suffering from other illness also informed those same people of that situation. Many of those residents had approached me with an interest of "If there is an opening I may want to ask to be on it."

When I heard of Rick's passing due to COVID those same residents were among my thoughts, though I felt it would have been disrespectful to Rick's legacy were I to tell anyone, "We have a vacancy, send in a letter that you want to be on CPC" so shortly after that tragedy. We in fact had a meeting of the CPC last night (May 28th), which opened with a moment of silence for Rick (this was our first CPC meeting since he passed) and had no further discussion or mention of the vacant seat, which I thought was quite appropriate.

However when I saw Brook Padgett on the agenda for an appointment to the CPC I was shocked. I feel that appointing him this suddenly would be a disservice to Rick's legacy. We should advertise this vacancy to the town and allow a few weeks for responses to come in to allow the public to declare their interest to be appointed to this wonderful committee.

The summer months are slower for CPC membership needs, last year we didn't even start the process of discussing CPC projects for Fall meeting until July, while votes didn't take place until several months later. Our next CPC meeting also is not until June 25'th, so there is time to delay this.

Brook has served our town well in various roles through the years, but I suspect he would agree with my belief that his wish is not to deprive others from participating in municipal government whom may have a desire to, as such I urge the Select Board to table the vote of appointment until at least June 16th to give a few weeks for the public to decide they would like to serve on CPC, or even better until the first Select Board Meeting in July so that the public may have a full month.

I ask this out of respect for our residents and out of my memory and respect of Rick Shultze.

Thank You,
~Justin Wood



Joann Duncan <duncanj@grafton-ma.gov>

CPC opening

1 message

Rich Whitney <cindyscountrycup@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 1, 2020 at 2:47 PM

To: bos@grafton-ma.gov, "clerks@grafton-ma.gov and/or Kandy Lavallee" <lavalleek@grafton-ma.gov>, Peter Carlson <carlsonp@grafton.k12.ma.us>, prisbye@grafton-ma.gov, Jennifer Thomas <Thomasj@grafton-ma.gov>, Doreen Defazio <defazioid@grafton-ma.gov>, Stockd@grafton-ma.gov

6-1-2020

My name is Richard Whitney of [13 greany Dr, North Grafton, MA 01536](#).

I'm writing you today about the opening in the CPC commission. I am very interested in joining and participating with this group. As a lifelong resident of the town I feel it's my responsibility as a resident to stand up and help out the town as being on this board. I feel like I could bring a lot of new ideas and old ones to the table.

As I see on your agenda (selectboard) for Tuesday night that you are going to nominate somebody for this position but I would like to have the chance to be on this too. I have tried to be on this commission for 2 years now and have been told it was full no openings. Now I understand there's an opening and I would like to be a candidate for this position.

I would ask you if you would please give me a chance to be on this board and let me do a part to help out my town.

Please read this during public comments.

I also would like to have this read into the record at the select board meeting Tuesday night that I am interested and this position before there is any votes taken to confirm anyone else.

Sincerely yours Richard Whitney



Joann Duncan <duncanj@grafton-ma.gov>

CPC opening

john_stephens1@verizon.net <john_stephens1@verizon.net>

Mon, Jun 1, 2020 at 7:14 PM

Reply-To: john_stephens1@verizon.net

To: "cindyscountrycup@gmail.com" <cindyscountrycup@gmail.com>, "lavalleek@grafton-ma.gov" <lavalleek@grafton-ma.gov>

Cc: "duncanj@grafton-ma.gov" <duncanj@grafton-ma.gov>, "bos@grafton-ma.gov" <bos@grafton-ma.gov>

Monday, June 1, 2020

To the Members of the Grafton Select Board:

I received an email this afternoon inquiring about a vacancy on the Community Preservation Committee. (See email message at the end of my email.) It is my understanding that this vacancy was advertised during May and that there was only one applicant (Brook Padgett) and that the application period closed on May 27, 2020. I recommend appointing Brook Padgett at your meeting on June 2, 2020. CPC is currently in the middle of a 6-month process to update Grafton's Community Preservation Plan. In fact, there are three community forums planned during the next 10 days to solicit public input which will be incorporated into the plan. It promises to be a busy summer, both with updating the plan and with soliciting and reviewing grant proposals during July and August. The committee needs an individual who is well-versed in the Community Preservation Act and can hit the ground running on day one. Brook has extensive experience volunteering for the Town, including serving as a member of Finance Committee and serving as Selectman for over 15 years. While Selectman, he was an early proponent of CPA, was instrumental in advocating for the adoption of CPA in Grafton, and successfully shepherded the warrant article through Town Meeting in 2001. If appointed, I believe Brook's background and experience will make him a great asset to the committee.

Thank you for your consideration of my recommendation for this appointment.

John R. Stephens, Chairman
Community Preservation Committee

[Quoted text hidden]