

**TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
April 8, 2014**

**In Attendance: Christina Goodwin, Miles Sinclair, Robert Ferriere, Pamela Hamel (Administrative Assistant)**

**Audience Members Present**

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

**Bob motioned to approve the minutes of March 31 as written, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Jon Martin spoke with the Board about the Mourning Dove logging operation and the concerns regarding the damage to the road. He has talked with his client and the logger about the recent job. One of the logger's subcontractors made a mistake and left his chains on when the road was bare. They have talked with the contractor about this and told him to not do it again. Jon apologized for this. These operations are his and he wants to have a good relationship with the Town. He has the subcontractor's name and contact information for the Board. Christina showed Jon the photo of the overloaded truck. He agreed that the truck is overloaded and should not have gone out like that. It is not good business practice. Additionally, he told his truck drivers that they were not to go out over the hill toward Route 118. However, there were loads that did go from the lower landing to the upper landing and Christina agreed that this might have been what the truck driver was doing. Glen Hansen has contacted the paving contractor who is going to look at the pavement and make comments, suggestions, etc. regarding repair. Jon stated that his client will be logging next year as well. Their planned access to the property will be via Campbell Lane. Glen will discuss the construction entrance onto North Groton Road with Jon prior to commencing cutting. Jon asked that if the Road Agent or the Board have any future concerns to feel free to contact him via phone or email as soon as possible.

Rumney EMS Contract

The Board reviewed the RSA cited in the new contract and compared this year's proposal to last year's. **Christina motioned to approve and sign the 2014/2015 EMS contract with Rumney, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Pole License

The Board discussed the number of poles allowed per pole license. They will continue with the current policy which allows multiple poles per license. The remainder of license application is tabled until the Board has an opportunity to review it.

Town Sign

Pam explained that she sent the design file to the wrong email. This was corrected today. In addition, the person doing the engraving asked about a clearer picture of Edgar Albert. The Board advised that this is the photo that the family wants to use. The Board also discussed putting the year the Town was incorporated on the sign but chose to stay with the design as was presented.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Rental Bids

The Road Agent is offering his personal equipment for the Town to use, but before moving forward with any bids, the Board would like some guidance regarding the Statute about a Town official offering services valued at over \$200, which require a bid. They directed Pam to contact the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

### New Truck

Glen got an additional bid for a Dodge 5500 from Foster Motors. He explained that during a recent seminar he sat near the Canaan Road Agent. The Town of Canaan has a Dodge 5500, and their Road Agent suggested that Glen contact Foster Motors. Glen did not get apples to apples bids from the other companies. The Board still wants this, and would also like to know if any down payment will be required when the truck is ordered. Glen will have all this information ready for next week. The deadline to order a 2014 is April 15.

### Quote for Fan Installation

Gary Easson has submitted a quote for installing 2 fans at the garage. Because the cost exceeds \$500 the Board would like to get 2 additional quotes.

### RSA 195 Committee

The School Board must establish a committee to determine if the withdrawal of the Bridgewater/Hebron School from the school district is feasible. Christina is willing to be the Board's representative on the committee. Bob will serve as a back up.

### Minimum Wage Panel Discussion

Senator Forrester is hosting a panel discussion on the minimum wage law and changes to it. Christina asked the Board members if they feel anyone needs to attend on behalf of the Town. They feel that this is mostly a state issue.

### Groton Wind

Christina was disappointed in Senator's Forrester letter to the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). The Senator is supposed to be representing all her constituents and Christina she does not feel that she is. She is also making some assertions that are not correct. She would like to know if the Board feels that they should submit a letter to the SEC. Miles stated all these issues are already before the SEC and Senator Forrester's letter is addressed to them. Groton is already involved in the process, Miles has attended a number of the sessions, and he will be going to the next one. The Town has a place as an intervener and could submit something in the future if the need arises. The Board agreed.

There is also the issue of potential false alarms after the installation of the fire suppression systems in the nacelles of the wind turbines which will trigger a call to both the Rumney and Hebron Fire Departments. The Board would like to meet with someone from Iberdrola to learn more about this and have a discussion.

### Letter of Appreciation

The Board read a letter of appreciation for the Administrative Assistant submitted by Jo O'Connor.

### New Bullet: Select Board Items

Christina suggested that the Board add a new bullet for items that have not made it to the agenda that they wish to discuss. Miles and Bob feel that they can continue in the current manner and Christina is fine with this.

### Municipal Services Professional Services Agreement

**Miles motioned to sign the Municipal Services Professional Services Agreement, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** The contract is for Junk Yard Dog services and is exactly the same as last year's.

### Volunteer Office Assistance

The Administrative Assistant (AA) explained that she has a couple of large projects that Pamela Ferriere has offered to help with. The AA has been working with Pam as a Supervisor of the Checklist and believes that she is very thorough and conscientious. Miles and Christina are fine with Pamela assisting. Bob recused himself from the discussion.

### Old Computer and other Electronics

The office computer which had Windows XP as the operating system has been replaced. Pam asked what the Board would like to do with the old computer. Groton's I.T. guy (David Switaj) can wipe the hard drive. The Town could try to sell the computer but since all the programs are licensed to the Town they would all have to be removed as well. In addition, the reason it was replaced would still exist; Microsoft is no longer supporting XP (including security updates). The Board agreed to give the computer to David Switaj and have him wipe the hard drive and dispose of it. In addition, he can have all of the Town's old electronics equipment that is in storage and slated for removal on electronics disposal day. This will save the Town the disposal fees. David donates these electronics to Goodwill, who has an agreement with Dell to take all electronic equipment that they cannot sell.

### Old Water Cooler

James Joyce will dispose of the old water cooler at the Transfer Station.

### SB 228

Senate Bill 228 refers to zoning changes and the requirements for posting notices and sending notice to all affected property owners. The amount of expense and work involved is burdensome to the municipality. The Board would like to draft a letter to their legislators opposing this bill. In addition, SB 237 changes the definition of "abutter" as it relates to condominiums and is equally as burdensome to municipalities. Although Groton has no condominiums, the Board will include their opposition to this bill in the letter as well.

### Michalski/Williams House, Map 6 Lot 61

The Michalski/Williams house burned on April 1<sup>st</sup>. As the tax year runs April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, there is the potential for the house to remain on the property tax card. However, State Statute allows the Board to remove the building from the tax card with an application from the property owner. Bob and Christina

agreed that it is not necessary to make them apply and to have Avitar remove the house from the property card. Miles recused himself from the discussion as this is his neighbor.

Christina also asked if there was anything the family needs. Miles' belief is that they would graciously accept any gifts. They have 2 boys and one girl. The family lost everything in the fire. They do have insurance coverage.

**Christina motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 95-1:3 II (b, c) at 9:16 pm, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup> so voted.**

**Miles motioned to return to public session at 9:56 pm Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Miles motioned to adjourn at 9:57 pm, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Hamel  
Administrative Assistant