

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
May 6, 2014**

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the minutes of April 29 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

UPDATES

HB 1549

Christina reported that HB 1549 came out of committee with a 4 – 0 “ought to pass” recommendation.

Lot Across From the Transfer Station

Green Acre Woodlands has withdrawn their request for an easement on the lot across from the Transfer Station. The transfer of the lot should be finalized soon. Green Acre Woodlands will go before the Planning Board at the end of the month to show that all conditions have been met, the plan will be signed and recorded, and deeds drawn up. The Town will receive a 6 acre lot with no encumbrances directly across from the Transfer Station and Green Acre Woodlands will receive a 50 acre lot with some frontage on the class VI portion of Old Rumney Road.

Road Committee

Christina reported that the Road Committee meeting scheduled for May 7 has been cancelled. They will reschedule as soon as possible to draw up the recommended bid specs for the North Groton Road project.

APPOINTMENTS

Paul Neville from Old Mill Properties had listing paperwork for the Board to sign for the 4 Town properties that will be listed per 2014 Warrant Article 27. **Christina motioned to sign the paperwork, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

OLD BUSINESS

Bridgewater/Hebron Village School (BHVS)

Christina was able to secure a copy of the initial and current contracts between the BHVS (Village District) and the Newfound Area School District (NASD). The current contract states that the mandatory BHVS service area will be Hebron, Bridgewater and Groton. There is no specific agreement between the BHVS School and Groton. The agreement is between NASD and the Village District. Christina has some questions about what happens if BHVS withdraws such as whether or not Groton would have to withdraw in order to continue there. Derry Riddle, Terry Murphy, and Bill White make up the Village District Board and are willing to meet with the Groton Board. The Board directed Pam to arrange a meeting with them during a regular Board meeting, and to keep the agenda light.

Highway Equipment Needs

Glen submitted a spec sheet for rental of a grader and vibratory roller. He forgot to include his paving equipment but stated that this could be bid out later. He does not feel that Blanchette Lane, Spectacle Pond Road and Old Rumney Road need grader work this year. He can work on them with the Town equipment. Regarding using the Bristol grader, Glen stated that the Bristol Road Agent told him that he was not able to do it. Christina reported that Bristol has a new barter and exchange policy. She will talk to the Town Administrator to see if there is any possibility of working something out.

Groton All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Board has discovered that no date changes can be made to the plan prior to adoption but they can correct the typos, etc. Miles and Christina will have some changes to submit before next week. When the document is complete the Board will schedule a meeting to formally adopt the plan.

Groton's Final Equalization Value

Christina has suggested that the Board appeal the Department of Revenue's (DRA) final equalization value for the Town based upon their valuation of the Groton Wind Farm. Miles is in support of this if the Town is able to present evidence to show that the evaluation is flawed. It will be the Town's burden to prove. Iberdrola has appealed this valuation. Christina stated that the DRA does not supply their documents justifying their numbers. Pam will contact Iberdrola to ask if they have an assessment that they are willing to share. Christina will contact Scott Dickman at DRA for any information. If the Board can put together a good case we can go through with it.

Outdoor Light

Miles believes the ballast will need replacing as it is leaking oil. He will speak with his brother who has a better background in electric. The Board can also look at completely different options for the light.

NEW BUSINESS

Schedule Job Interviews

Job interviews for the highway laborer and maintenance position were scheduled for May 12 at 7:00 and 7:20 pm.

NCC Survey

The Board determined that they have bigger fish to fry and will not complete the survey.

Fan Installation Bids

The Board received no other bids for the fan installation project. Gary Easson submitted a quote for \$390 for materials and labor not to exceed \$250. As he has not yet completed the Transfer Station Lighting job the Board will wait to award this bid to him pending a successful and timely (by the end of the week) completion of the first project.

Junkyard Inspections

The Board reviewed the list of properties for potential visits by Ken Knowlton, the "Junkyard Dog", and determined that he will visit five properties (owners will receive letters with contact information for Mr. Knowlton to arrange an appointment) and do four drive-bys. Two properties were given to the Health Officer for review. **Christina motioned to sign the 5 introduction junkyard letters, Miles 2nd, so**

voted. Inspections will be conducted on May 23.

Hebron/Groton Perambulation bid letters

Miles motioned to sign the Hebron/Groton Perambulation bid letters, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Possible Building Permit Violation

Christina motioned to sign the notice of a possible building permit violation for Map 5, Lot 134, Miles 2nd, so voted. The property owner constructed a deck.

Michalski Inventory Penalty

Pam reported that the property owner, who normally sends in their inventory in a timely manner, did not this year. There was a house fire on April 1 that destroyed everything. The assessor recently visited the property to remove the building from the tax card. **Christina motioned to waive the inventory penalty and send a letter once the new assessment is received, Bob 2nd, so voted, Miles recusing as Michalski is his neighbor.**

Building Permits for Thompson, Map 1 Lot 98

The Board discussed whether or not the building projects require more than one permit. Bob believes that 4 permits should be required, but could go either way. Christina expressed that the Board needs to remain consistent. Miles believes that one permit for all projects is sufficient as the purpose of the permit is to give the Town notice that something is being constructed on the property. The Board acknowledged that this needs to be clarified in the Building Permit Guidelines as it is not addressed. Christina motioned to have four individual permits for the property owner, as there was no second to this first motion, she then **motioned to sign all permits as one permit for all 4 projects, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

National Grid Spraying

Miles motioned to sign the letter to National Grid, Bob 2nd, so voted. National Grid notified the Town of upcoming spraying, which is prohibited in Groton by Town Meeting vote.

Yield Tax Warrant for JH Treehouse

Bob motioned to sign the Yield Tax Warrant for JH Treehouse, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Class VI Road Maintenance

Pam will create a list of owners who abut the Town's Class VI roads. The Board will determine who to send letters to regarding improving/maintenance of the roads.

Christina motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 95:3-A II (a,c) at 9:00 pm, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to return to public session at 9:18 pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Bob motioned to adjourn at 9:19 pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant