

TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
September 2, 2014

**In Attendance: Christina Goodwin, Kyle Andrews, Robert Ferriere, Sara Moores  
(Administrative Assistant)**

**Audience Members Present**

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

9/16/14 Village District Commissioner and Village District Treasurer 7:00 pm

9/9/14 Primary Election Voting 8am-7pm

9/9/14 No Select Board meeting

Select Board Work Sessions at the Town House

- Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 6:00 pm

Planning board meeting at the Town House

- Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Conservation Commission meeting at that Town House

- Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 7:00 pm

**MINUTE APPROVAL:**

**Christina motioned to approve the minutes for August 26th as written, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup> so voted.**

**APPOINTMENTS**

*Christina welcomed Senator Forestor*

Senator Forestor thanked us for having her Explaining that she likes to give updates on what she has been up to and then answer any questions we might have. Over the last 6 months there have been 30 session days which have heard about 700 bills; 242 have passed which are either being vetoed by the governor or signed into law. The big issues are Energy, Health Care and Infrastructure gas tax, along with some municipal issues as well. She was a Town Administrator prior so she feels it is important to stay involved and keep the communication line open with the 27 communities she represents.

She mentioned the two biggest issues that affected the town of Groton are the 4.2 cent increase for the gas tax and FEMA funding. For the 4.2 cent gas tax for Groton, starting in 2016 Groton

will get \$3,029.00 which will go until 2033 with decreases over time to about \$2,883.00. Over the 18 year period it would be \$53,000.00 which goes to the municipal block grant money for towns. She mentioned that she voted against gas tax. She feels the funding needs to be more concentrated on rural roads. She feels the roads north of Concord get shorted. Bob asked if this has to do with the 93 extension. Senator Forestor confirmed that a portion does go toward the 93 expansion.

As far as FEMA, she said Groton applied for disaster relief of about \$152,000 for the period of 2010-2013. She said the state is going to be giving Groton back \$18,993, Glen confirmed this was damage from Irene.

Senator Forestor mentioned that she is running again for Senate. She is working on the rainy day fund. The towns have to put money aside for emergencies so she feels the State of NH needs to do the same. Right now we have 9 million in this fund. According to the Treasurer, 9 million dollars would run State government for 2.2 days. The Treasurer is recommending at the minimum it should be 140 million

She also wanted to create a State emergency plan with everything that happened on the federal level, with the gridlock and the debt that keeps going up, she feels only a matter of time that the State of NH sees reduction in money that comes from federal funding and 30% of our budget is made up of federal funds.

She mentioned that she sits on the newly created committee to look at NH DOT and how it gets funded. They had their second meeting today and met with commissioner about efficiency and effectiveness and what can we do to make that department more efficient and effective.

Finally, she would like to see that the money from liquor sales goes to the fund that was created in 2001 for drug and alcohol prevention and treatment. It was stated that a percentage of the funds from liquor sales was supposed to go into this fund for drug and alcohol prevention and treatment. We have a real problem in the state and we need to put money towards this to help with the problem. She wants to make sure this money is getting applied to this. Kyle mentioned he saw on TV that NH is #2 in county for binge drinking from ages 12-20. She confirmed. It is also an economic issue as well and we need to address the problem.

Bob asked where she stands on legalization of marijuana. She doesn't support it. She said she is not making a moral decision. She feels medicinal purposes is fine as long as the doctor prescribes it. However, recreational is a problem. She feels marijuana is a gateway drug for heroin and heroin is cheaper than marijuana which is why we have a heroin problem.

Joe Koslow mentioned that the big issue is with the DOT. He feels that every year they are doing the same stretch of 93 but there are many other roads that need the concentration. Senator Forestor agreed and thinks we need a new strategy for what the DOT does. We need to fix what we have before building new stuff. Some roads are in dangerous shape. She said they say "keep the good roads good" but the bad roads are getting worse. Glen said his issue is that engineers that are on the DOT do not look at the road conditions they just design it. She mentioned they also are not doing the summer maintenance that is needed but there is not enough money. They are cutting the man power and not replacing it.

Jo O'Connor talked about when she did reporting for a paper in New York she did research on an organization called Team Challenge. While doing the research she came of the opinion that she would not trust any government to help with these kids on drugs. These kids really need help but she doesn't trust government programs. Senator Forestor mentioned that she isn't saying government programs should be used. She mentioned nonprofit organizations do good work.

Chuck Stata mentioned his concerns with public Health. He said he took their staffing projections, which is about 12 million a year in salaries. They want more expertise and better data. However the collected data could go directly to Concord but they need to use technology to save the money. He states they are applying the funds bureaucratically.

Christina was reading articles during the Groton Wind debate and wanted to know how the Senator currently feels about Groton Wind. She said that she feels if that is what Groton wants than it is a local issue. She is not against Wind but we need to be intentional about what we want as a State for energy plans whether that be Northern Pass or wind turbines. We need to decide if this is what we want as a State or not. Chuck Stata stated that we didn't have a say and once it does over 30 megawatts we lose control to the State. Christina explained we did have a say and attended plenty of public hearings on this. Senator Forestor is concerned that the Site Evaluation Committee were just rubber stamping and not taking the public interest into consideration. She gets concerned if they would have come if it wasn't for the subsidy.

Joe Koslow mentioned this State does have natural gas. She mentioned that years ago she had a conversation about natural gas and how do we make this happen in NH? At the time Portland Natural Gas was willing to do a build out of the infrastructure if they knew they had businesses that would commit to using natural gas. The push back and bureaucracy in Concord is frustrating. These six biomass plants that we have around the state produced good paying jobs, are involved in the community, etc. She wonders if we are looking at renewable energy, why wouldn't we look at more biomass.

Christina thanked Senator Forestor for meeting with the Town.

### **UPDATES:**

#### *Deadline*

Christina reminded everyone that our deadline for the agenda for the meetings is by noon on Friday. We haven't been enforcing it but will be going forward.

#### *North Groton Road Project*

The Board provided an update on this project. Bob went up today and they said they are doing the last 100 ft. They still need to put crushed rocks on it and then it will probably be paved next week. Glen didn't think this would happen next week. Glen explained that they hit ledge and had to hammer a ditch line, both were not planned so it added time on the project but we are still under budget with this project. Glen took down the road closed sign since the road isn't closed and one lane is open through the day.

Glen made arrangements with Bristol to get chipper and a couple of trucks for the paving of Sculptured Rocks Road.

Christina asked if Glen can come next week at 6pm for a work session. Glen confirmed he could.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### *Kirk Junkyard License Renewal*

Christina presented the Kirk Junkyard license renewal. It was discussed at last week's meeting with no concerns and now they have the license renewal to sign. **Christina motioned to sign the Kirk Junkyard License renewal, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Spectacle Pond Concerns*

Christina asked the Board if they had the chance to read the email from Spectacle Pond Association. The Association is going to send us a list of those that have boats and we will send letter. They have also noticed the abandoned boats and they pointed out ones that are not involved in their group. Christina mentioned we do not need to send the letters out yet. Kyle asked the Chief what he thinks about taking the boats out of there and how we can find out who owns them. The Chief's concern is where we store the boats once we take them. We are obligated to notify the owner of the boat and once it is in our custody if something happens to them it is our issue. Kyle asked if we can put up a notice now on kiosk that states non land owners remove their boats by a certain date (October 1<sup>st</sup> or October 30<sup>th</sup>) or it will be removed at the owner's expense. The Chief said we need to know which ones we can remove. Kyle asked Sara to contact the Circle Program to see if they have boats there as they also own property and allow boats to be put there. Christina mentioned there is a State statute about abandoned boats that pertains to Spectacle Pond and a statute pertaining to abandoned boats. Chuck Stata said it is about the private property vs public that we need to resolve. Christina stated that we should post that any non-permitted boats must be removed by a certain date. It was agreed we will wait on the letters and just do the posting for now and then go from there. Kyle asked Sara to reach out to Spectacle Pond Association again about a boat with a motor that isn't registered and asked Sara to reach out to them to let them know and see if they can take care of it. Sara will create a notice for next week to post.

#### *Memo to Department Heads/Committees about budget*

Christina presented the Memo to go out to Department Heads and Committees about the budget that gives deadline of September 26<sup>th</sup>. The Board had no issues with this. Joe Koslow asked about the budget worksheets. Christina explained that Sara created these and will have them ready in a few days.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### *Road Damage*

Jeff Sharon did not come to the meeting as he stated in an email communication. Christina asked Glen if the \$1800.00 that he had quoted is a set price. Glen said yes. Christina asked if we are okay with sending an invoice since Mr. Sharon wasn't at the meeting. Kyle and Bob agreed and Kyle stated that Glen should help Sara with the invoice to send to Jeff Sharon. Glen will

assist with the invoice but stated the repair will not be done this year due to weather, other projects, etc. The Board agreed we will still send the invoice now.

Glen wanted to make sure we know it will be one-lane traffic for a few days. The Board understands. Christina asked if it would be seal coating the entire road or just the damaged side. Glen confirmed just the damaged side.

#### *HealthTrust change form to sign*

The Board signed the letter to change the waiting period for health benefits from 60 days to 30 days. This is the form from HealthTrust confirming the changes. **Kyle motioned to sign the HealthTrust change form, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Peter Smith - Septic Plans*

Peter Smith presented the septic plans for Map 1-48-2 for 138 Bailey Hill Road as he bought the property at the end of July. He explained it is all complete just needs to be inspected and back filled. The Board reviewed the plans and they had wrong lot number on them so the Board was not able to sign. Christina does remember this happened before with this property and they had to sign two sets of plans then. Peter Smith will go back to Deb Hinds to have this corrected.

**Kyle motioned that when Peter comes in with the corrected plans, Sara will contact the Board to come in and sign right away instead of waiting for the next meeting, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Shinn, Faucher and Carroll Disposal agreements*

Christina reviewed the three disposal agreements for Shinn, Faucher and Carroll. **Bob motioned to sign all three disposal agreements, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Doorbell*

Christina explained the new doorbell on the door is a test. It is intended to be used if the police door is closed. They do not want people barging in. The Chief came in and explained it has a doorbell with a camera on the outside of the door. When the button is pressed it sends an alarm and then the picture comes on the screen and you can talk back and forth. If it is not an emergency the police can get the information and contact them later. This will give some protection while arrests and such are taking place.

#### *Issue with Intent to Cut off Goddard Rd*

There have been two complaints about this intent to cut. Beaver Pond Rd residents have complained about this because they heard that there was clear cutting being done. We confirmed there is an intent to cut on file and we cannot do anything if they are not doing anything illegal. Christina asked if the Board agreed that Sara can give them the contact information for their complaints. *Door Knob replacement*

Sara will get quote to change the front door lock with 20 new keys. Sara will email 123 Lock and Key.

#### *Panic button*

Christina asked when these have been tested. Sara will ask 123 Lock and Key and see when they came out last and if these have been tested. She will ask to test them if they have not.

#### *NHEC inspection*

Glen and Sara will be doing the tour for inspection of the Town House with NHEC 9/8 at 9am.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

*Tractor and Equipment show*

Glen mentioned he has done this in the past and has had people showing interest in this. He would like to target October to do this show again. Kyle suggested Glen put the request in writing with the potential date and present this to the Board.

*Water test results*

Chuck Stata wanted to see if results are back for water test. Sara hasn't received anything back yet so Chuck will follow up on this.

**Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:14 pm, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Moores  
Administrative Assistant