

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
October 7, 2014

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Select Board Work Sessions at the Town House

- Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 6:00pm
- Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 6:00pm

Planning Board meeting at the Town House

- Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 7:00pm

Conservation Commission meeting at the Town House

- Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 6:00pm

Public Library meeting held by the Library Trustees at the Town House

- Monday, October 20, 2014 at 7:00pm

Select boards BW and Hebron will be holding a public hearing

- Thursday October 9, 2014 at 6:30pm

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Christina motioned to approve the minutes of September 30th, 2014 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

MVSB change form

Sara explained the changes on the form and the reason for one signature on some of the pages. The Board reviewed and was okay with signing. Sara will contact the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to sign the form. **Bob motioned to sign the MVSB change form, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Decking Estimate

The Board decided to still hold off on this until budget to either consider a warrant article for next year, budget it for next year, or see if there is any money left at the end of the year.

Kyle also raised a concern about the carpet being included in the specifications for the emergency egress. Christina thought it was. Sara will double check the specs.

Dispatch Line issue

The Chief reviewed the email from Fairpoint regarding what was believed to be Groton’s dispatch line for the past few years. He is concerned that we are going to be charged monthly to take over the line and also each time a call is forwarded. The Board and the Chief agreed it would be cheaper to just use the existing number for Grafton County of 787-6911 and update the magnets and business cards

Christina asked Jo O’Connor to put this in her article for the next few weeks so the Groton residents are aware of the correct number.

Christina also explained that towns used to have a stand-alone line that would automatically trip over to a dedicated local number in the event that the 911 system went down. The State has chosen to eliminate this feature as of last month.

Christina mentioned we will have to remember to add the correct dispatch number in the town report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Building Permit - 1758 North Groton Rd

This building permit is to replace a 8x32 lean to off of the garage with a 12x32 lean to. **Kyle motioned to sign the building permit for 1758 N Groton Rd, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Letter about building permit - 18 Hammerhead Road

Hammerhead road is a private road that has a mobile home but is submitting a permit to build a larger house. We are requesting the home owners to fill out the private road form per RSA 674:41 as it has never been signed before. They also do not have Public Utilities Committee (PUC) approval for the Energy Code, which they know about and are working on. The last item required is a new septic plan as the current septic plan is only for a 2 bedroom home and the new building is going to be a 3 bedroom home. **Christina motioned to sign the letter to 18 Hammerhead Road requesting the additional information, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Memo to Trustees of Trust Fund

Christina reviewed the memo to transfer the funds from Meredith Village Savings Bank to the Capital Reserve Funds as voted at Town Meeting in the following amounts:

Article 14:	Public Works CRF	\$10,000
Article 15:	Assessing Revaluation CRF	\$6,500
Article 16:	Police Cruiser CRF	\$5,000
Article 17:	Heavy Equipment CRF	\$5,000
Article 18:	Disaster Relief CRF	\$5,000
Article 19:	Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge CRF	\$5,000
Article 20:	Perambulation Non CRF	\$5,000
Article 21:	Town House CRF	\$2,000
Total CRF Transfer Amount:		\$43,500

Bob motioned to sign the memo to trustees of Trust fund to transfer the above listed amounts, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Christina also mentioned we will have to do another Memo for the Truck to transfer those funds to cover the truck purchase.

Septic Plan - 422 North Groton Rd

Christina explained this is the septic plan the Board approved last week but it has been revised due to the location. **Kyle motioned to sign the septic plan for 422 North Groton Rd, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Laconia Monument Signs

Sara explained that Frank from Laconia Monument called again to see what the status is with the signs. Kyle mentioned that he talked to Glen about this and he is waiting to hear from the Board as to where they want the signs located so he can dig. Glen did say that he is planning on doing it this week.

The Board stated the sign here should go where the Old Home Day sign was. Sara will let Glen know. As far as the park location, they originally discussed putting it in front of the wood sign. Kyle will go there tomorrow and pick out a spot and let Glen know. Glen will then contact Frank at Laconia Monument to coordinate this.

The Board would like Glen to have a deadline of the end of next week but preferably this week. Sara will let Glen know.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Chinook NH State Dog Meeting

Jo O'Connor mentioned that the meeting for the Chinook NH State Dog went great. There was even more information than last year. She said it was packed and refreshments were terrific.

Meeting Room

Betty mentioned that she saw in last week's meeting minutes that it was asked what the name of the big meeting room is. She mentioned that this was brought up about 9 years ago and they were going to let Town decide but this was never done. Christina agreed that we will discuss it at the Town meeting this year.

Building

Helen asked how close to the road can you build. The Board explained there is no restriction on a private road but on a state road you cannot build on the right of way, which depends on location as some areas have a larger State right-of-way than others. The only other issue for people to keep in mind is when you are building close to the road, damage done by plows etc will be the responsibility of the owner.

County tax question

Tom Caldwell, who is a writer for Laconia Daily Sun, was present at the Board meeting and inquired on the information presented by the Grafton County Commissioner, Martha Richards, at Alexandria's meeting last week, about Groton's county tax increasing. He wanted to know if the Town has any more information on this. Christina explained they have not received any final numbers but are researching this issue. The Town is not ready to comment any more than that but they have had conversations with the Department of Revenue (DRA), with the sponsor of the house bill and the Town's attorney. Kyle explained that we have known since day one that there would be an increase and that the Town informed the taxpayers of this at Town Meeting. However, at this time we don't know if the 190% increase is accurate.

Tom asked the Board to confirm if the DRA has final say. Christina said DRA equalizes the value of the town as of May 1st and has said that they wouldn't go back to readjust after the bill was adopted; whether that is correct or not is to be determined.

Tom asked if the Town is still anticipating that the PILOT will cover this so the Town will still come out ahead. Christina said the Town will not comment on this at this time.

Betty mentioned that she wasn't aware of the increase. It was mentioned at Select Board meetings and former Select Board member, Miles Sinclair, also discussed this at Town Meeting.

Christina elaborated a little further about the assessment and how it works. When the DRA sets the Wind Farm value, they don't take into consideration that the Town is getting a PILOT. The county uses the assessed value of the Town which includes the full value of the wind farm. The House Bill that was passed in July changed this process moving forward so that they take the PILOT into consideration. Kyle mentioned that the Town was valued at approximately 77 million and the Wind Farm is valued at approximately 126 million. The Town cannot dispute the Wind Farm assessment, only the Wind Farm can, which they did. Miles, Christina and Bob testified in front of Senate and House Committees regarding this bill in question, which was signed by the governor and went into effect July 28, 2014, but there is some discrepancy as to what tax year it will cover and that is what we are trying to resolve.

Tom asked for the value of the PILOT. Christina explained that last year was \$528,000.00 but it would be more this year but she doesn't have the exact figure. Kyle explained that there is 2.5% increase each year. The Board explained that is all they know right now but will hopefully have more information in the future.

Tom asked for the number of the House Bill. Christina explained that it is House Bill 1549.

Kyle motioned to adjourn at 752pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Moores
Administrative Assistant