

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
November 25, 2014

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Clerk and Select Board Offices Closed

- Thursday, November 27, 2014
- Friday, November 28, 2014

Select Board Office Closed

- Wednesday, November 26, 2014 from 8:00am to 9:00am; will be open 9:00am to 4:00pm
- Tuesday, December 2, 2014 from 8:00am to 1:00pm; will be open 1:00pm to 4:00pm

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Bob motioned to approve the minutes of November 18, 2014 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

APPOINTMENTS

Duane Brown

Duane Brown is the newly elected Representative from District 16, which covers eight Towns. He lives in Wentworth. He is an airline pilot and being a pilot allows him to live anywhere in the world but he chose NH. He ran for office because he would like his children to be able to stay in this state and live how they choose but he doesn't see that happening with the way things are going right now.

His focus is on the following items:

- Business climate in New Hampshire which would be lowering the business taxes. We have the third highest corporate tax rate in the country.
- Business regulations are prohibiting. There are businesses leaving the state and we need to encourage them to stay and new businesses to come. In the last four months, 7000 jobs left NH and that needs to stop.
- Education- we need good education which should be controlled locally.
- Energy- NH has some of the highest energy costs in the country.

Basically he is about less government, less taxes, and local control. He will be sworn in December 3rd and they start the session on January 7th.

Questions:

Mark Watson asked if he has been assigned to a committee. He explained he will be sworn in December 3rd and after that the committee assignments will take place which will probably be the end of December. He was allowed to put in for three assignments which were election law, fish and game and transportation.

Lou Lieto mentioned that very few say they would like to increase the taxes and everyone says they would like to decrease them. Duane gave numbers from a meeting last week and they want to increase the budget by 1.9 billion dollars which is 18%. The University System wants to raise theirs 34%, Corrections wants to raise theirs 24% and Health and Human Services wants to raise theirs 44%. He wants to vote no on all of these.

Paul asked what his plan is to lower the energy costs. Duane said he doesn't know exactly what he can do. He feels he will get a better idea when he gets in there.

UPDATES:

Flag Pole Lights

Sara received an email from Gary Easson. He wants to know if the Board wants him to replace the flood lamps, upgrade to LED or add a flag pole light. The Board would like him to first find the switch to turn this light on and off and then provide a quote on upgrading to LED or a solar light.

Flag at Park

Glen has removed the flag and the flag pole from Hobart Park. It will remain in storage until spring; the pole at the garage and the flag in the Board's Office.

Sewer pipe at Town House

The Highway Department covered the sewer pipe at the Town House with foam board and dirt.

Preliminary Tax Rate

Christina explained that we have a preliminary tax rate, which has not been approved by the Department of Revenue (DRA). It will increase by \$0.69 to about \$11.64. The Town will only be about \$0.45. The tax bills should be calculated and sent out next but won't be due until January.

OLD BUSINESS:

Edgar Albert Rd – Logger letter and invoice, landowner letter

The letter and invoice to the logger were amended to reflect the correct due date and amount.

Kyle motioned to sign the letter to the logger for damage to Edgar Albert Road, Christina 2nd, so voted.

The letter to the landowner on Edgar Albert Road was amended with the corrected date and wording asking the landowner to make updates to his property to eliminate further damage to the road. **Christina motioned to sign the letter to the landowner on Edgar Albert Road, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Spectacle Pond - abandoned boat issue

Christina motioned to table this since the Board hasn't reviewed the location yet, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Septic Plan for Map 6 Lot 15

The septic plan for Erik Ljunggren's property on North Groton Road was amended. **Kyle motioned to sign the Amended Septic Plan for Map 6 Lot 15, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Septic Plan for Map 6 Lot 26

The septic plan for Kevin Baron's property at 19 Blanchette Lane was amended. **Christina motioned to sign the Amended Septic Plan for Map 6 Lot 26, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permits for Leone Map 2 Lot 81-3

David Leone submitted three building permits for the Board to consider:

A 14' x 24' storage room, which will not be heated or cooled. **Bob motioned to sign the Leone building permit for the 14x24 storage room, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

A 10' x 30' barn, which will not be heated or cooled. **Christina motioned to sign the Leone building permit for the 10x30 barn, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

A 20' x 28' garage, which will not be heated or cooled. **Kyle motioned to sign the Leone building permit for the 20x28 garage, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Timber Complaint - Beaver Pond Rd/Sculptured Rocks Rd

Christina explained we received a complaint a few weeks ago regarding a timber cut on Goddard Rd. At this time, the property owners have installed a log landing with an approved timber cut. The Board reviewed the questions of concern and the feedback provided by Jesse Bushaw at the DRA. Kyle requested that Sara also get feedback from the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) and draft a response letter for the Board's next meeting.

Request for follow up with Senator Forrester regarding last year's Warrant Article on Citizen's United.

Lou Lieto requested that the Board issue an additional response in support of the petitioned warrant article approved at last year's Town Meeting. This article asked that state representatives endorse actions at federal level to citizens united. Lou reported that NH will be the pivotal state if reps vote for this, but he is concerned that in our legislature, Senator Forrester has yet to make up her mind. He is requesting that the Select Board contact Senator Forester that we had the vote and everyone voted in favor of this so we would like her to seriously consider this. Christina said we can send the letter again. Lou asked if someone from the Board would call and at least leave a message on the machine. Christina said that she will call. Lou provided Christina with the phone number.

Discussion of next steps regarding Timbervest's renewed interest in the sale of the Kimball Hill property.

Lou Lieto asked what steps the Board would like take with regard to the recent inquiry by Timbervest trying to determine if the Kimball Hill Property Acquisition Committee (KHPAC) was still intact. Chuck Stata spoke with Dave Dout who indicated that they are interested in negotiating again. They feel that they are close to the numbers that had previously been discussed. The Board agreed that the negotiation committee should be involved again.

The committee would meet as a group to see what negotiations would be acceptable but the act of negotiating would be left to the Select Board to respond. Miles stated the initial offer was two separate proposals. Lou doesn't feel that KHPAC needs to meet since there have not been any changes. Miles said they played games before and no one wants to play again. He thinks the entire committee should meet to see where they are at and if they are serious so it can be decided what the next step would be. Deb Johnson said that as a member of KHPAC she agrees that the entire committee doesn't need to meet. Deb would like to expedite it as we are getting close to the point where we could do anything.

Bill Jolly mentioned that Timbervest is active in the press lately so we should look into this to protect ourselves. Lou read out loud that on 8/20/14 a judge ruled that Timbervest violated terms of the Investment Advisor's Act and was fined 1.9 million dollars. It states that they misled people to a fee structure and added fees by selling property to themselves. Currently this is under appeal.

The original negotiation committee consisted of Miles Sinclair, Lou Lieto, Chuck Stata, Bob Ferriere, Christina Goodwin and Brian Hotz and Kyle Andrews would also be added. Christina asked if they would be willing to meet again. They all agreed and set the first meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 4pm. Sara will get in touch with Brian Hotz but the meeting will move forward even if he can't attend.

Letter - Concern from Bill Jolly/FAA filing by EDP Renewables

Mark and Nancy Watson submitted information to the Board at last week's meeting that showed EDP Renewables has filed for 29 towers with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Mark mentioned it is on the FAA's website and they do appear to be on KHPAC land. These are proposed sites, but the application means that EDP is reserving air space with the FAA. They first file with the FAA as they know where the towers will be. They are in five towns. On FAA they listed it as Hebron but a good chunk of them are actually in Groton.

Christina mentioned that they talked about the next steps and how to get the input from the public. Slim Spafford, Planning Board Chair, updated that at the last Planning Board meeting this was a topic of discussion and they voted to send out a survey to all registered voters, which will only address the wind tower issue. Deb Johnson, Planning Board member, said a date was picked and the survey will be due 12/15/14 with the hopes to have the questionnaire in the mail by Friday 11/28/14. The Board agreed that this was a great idea.

Anne Joyce asked if the survey is being mailed to just registered voters or all who own properties. It is just registered voters as they wanted to capture the opinion of the registered voters and also this was due to a cost issue. After much discussion on options for sending the survey to more townspeople, the Planning Board agreed that they will meet to approve a second mailing.

Bill Jolly inquired about his letter submitted to the Select Board last week. He wants the Board to say they would lobby for Bill and Sara Jolly and wants an answer from Select Board stating if they will protect his and his family's rights. Bill would also like something back in writing responding to his letter. Christina will discuss with Board at next week's work session.

Library Trustees

Christina mentioned that the Library Trustees would like the board to consider moving the Board's table to the opposite side of the room. This would allow those that enter after the meeting started to enter without having to walk all the way around. The Board is willing to give it a try. Lou will let the Library Trustees know.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Bill Jolly - Boats at Spectacle Pond

Bill asked if anything has happened with the boats at Spectacle Pond. The Board has not removed any boats at this time and has not made a final determination. Bill mentioned that his boat is missing so he will talk to Police Chief.

Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:50pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant