

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
December 16, 2014

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Santa's Village in Bristol

Christina reported that the Santa's Village event at the Tapply-Thompson Community Center in Bristol was well attended; Friday 350 people, Saturday just over 500, and Sunday around 525. She also reported that Groton's very own Ron Madan played Santa Claus on Sunday, sharing a picture of him with the audience.

Chief Pivorotto

The Chief presented a request to the Board to spend approximately \$900.00 of his budget for three items as there is an unnecessary spending freeze in place. The three include a shotgun for the unmarked car (\$499.00); a medical kit for the unmarked car (around \$200); a metal detector wand for searching subjects (around \$200.00). The Board approved the expense.

The Chief also mentioned that there was an issue with Dorchester and the treatment of River Road. There were mailboxes being removed last year, which have been replaced and this year there have been instances where sand from the sander was thrown so far that it went all over cars parked in driveways. The Chief called Glen. Once Glen spoke with the Road Agent for Dorchester, the next day he didn't sand. He was consistently sanding until last Sunday. Kyle felt that this should be handled Road Agent to Road Agent but does not want this to cause any safety issues. The Board agreed to see if Glen handled and if it is not taken care of for the next storm then the Select Board will send a letter to the Dorchester Board.

The Chief also updated the Board that he is looking at moving dispatch services to Plymouth. The Town is currently locked in with Grafton until June 2015. Christina asked the Chief to get a number as soon as possible so we can add to the budget preparations. He will have this information by the 2nd week in January.

Joe Koslow mentioned that it would be nice for the Chief to present numbers and explain the different increases at Town meeting. The Chief explained that the number is up because we actually have guys out policing.

Christina explained she is going to apply to be a bail commissioner. She explained that she is a Justice of the Peace and a Notary and inquired if the Board had any concerns with this. The Board does not.

Memo from Sara

Sara presented a Memo to the Board asking for the day after New Year's off. The Board approved.

Also, the Memo explained that Sara will not be able to attend any meetings on Tuesday, January 13th. The Board is okay with this and will determine as the date gets closer if they will still hold a meeting.

Transfer Station hours during storm

Jim Joyce explained that on Thanksgiving Eve there was a storm and no one came after 3:00pm. He said he was getting paid to do nothing. He thinks that there should be a policy in place for closures such as this day.

The Board decided that if it is before 4:00pm on a weekday, then the Transfer Station can reach out to Sara, who will in turn get in touch with the Select Board members. If it is after 4:00pm or a weekend then the Transfer Station, should reach out to at least two Select Board members. If only one Board member is available, then then that Board member can make the decision, but if no members are available, then the Transfer Station should make the final decision and call the Select Board office to leave a message.

Jim Joyce also mentioned there was a power outage that happened one time and they were told to stay at work. The Board explained to follow the same process as the storm with power outages.

Joe asked Christina about the sign for the Transfer Station. Christina explained that she got a call back about this so she should have more information soon.

Holiday Hours

Kyle mentioned that since the Transfer Station doesn't open until 1pm that it shouldn't be open at all on Christmas Eve. Also, on New Year's Eve they should close at 4pm. The Board agreed and requested that Sara post notification.

Christina asked how the other Board members feel about closing the Town Offices early on Christmas Eve and New Year's. Christina feels Christmas Eve should definitely be closed at noon. The Board agreed to both days being closed at noon. Hours will be adjusted accordingly to accommodate the time off.

2015 Fire Warden/Deputy Reappointment Form

The Board reviewed the 2015 Fire Warden/Deputy reappointment form for Roger Thompson. **Kyle motioned to sign the Fire Warden/Deputy Reappointment Form, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

SAU 4 Joint Board Meeting

During the SAU 4 Joint Board Meeting, it was agreed upon to send a letter to the School Board addressing certain items. Christina explained the letter that was created did explain the Joint

Board's support but pointed out specific areas to address. She would like the Board to review and provide suggestions on possible changes.

Schedule budget public hearing

Christina explained we have to meet by February 13th and the last day to post would be February 6th. The Board usually tries to schedule a public budget hearing with time to spare should any changes be required. The Board agreed on February 3rd with a snow date of the 4th which means Sara would post it 2 weeks prior by Jan 20th. This public hearing will be at 6:00pm with the Select Board meeting to follow.

The last day to post the Warrant is February 23rd.

Health Officer Resignation

Christina read the resignation letter from Chuck Stata which means the Town needs a Health Officer. This position can be appointed by the Select Board but has to be approved by the State. Effective Jan 1st the Select Board will be the Health Officers until this position is filled. Sara will advertise this position in the newspaper and on our website. Sara will post this until filled.

Septic Plan - Map 6 Lot 26

Sara explained this is an amended plan to remove the word failed from the plan. **Kyle motioned to sign the amended septic plan, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Quotes for Lighting

Christina went over the quote from Gary Easson for the overhang lights and the flagpole lighting. He is giving two different options on the flag poles. Option 1 is installing solar lighting and Option 2 is installing a 120 volt LED lighting.

Gary didn't include what his labor would be for the flag pole lighting for LED. Sara will contact Gary Easson to find out what that cost is as the Board would prefer the LED.

The Board doesn't think that the overhang lights are necessary at this time.

Response to Timber complaint - Beaver Pond Rd/Sculptured Rocks Rd

There are a few changes that still need to be made to the letter in response to the timber complaint. Sara will make these changes and the Board will come in and sign it when the letter is ready. **Christina motioned to sign the letter responding to the timber complaint when it is ready, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Spectacle Pond Boats

This will be tabled for the next meeting.

Ron mentioned there are still two boats there but they are covered with snow so the Board will have trouble viewing. The Board will discuss this at the December 30th meeting.

Bids for items

The Board reviewed the bids received for items to dispose of at the Highway Department. One person put in a bid on items #1 and #2 and another person put in a bid on items #3 and #4. Both bids were accepted by the Board. Glen Hansen with G.R. Hansen was granted the bid for item #1 at \$400.00 and item #2 at \$350.00. Rick and Cindy Belanger were granted the bid for item #3 at \$50 and item #4 at \$75. Sara will update the bidders and advise that these items need to be paid for and picked up by December 30th.

We will do the next round of items in January.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Printer for Supervisors of the Checklist

Bob mentioned the only thing he had was a printer for Supervisors of the Checklist. Christina explained it was agreed that the printer from the Select Board Office will be moved into hall but will be password protected to allow Departments as well as the Supervisors access when the Select Board office is closed.

Santa Fund

Christina explained that the Turkey Trot hosted by the Newfound Grocery, usually funds a Santa Fund for area children, but since we had the storm on Thanksgiving, there were not as many people in attendance. Thus, lower funding. The Santa Fund group reached out to Christina to determine if Groton would be able to sponsor the 9 kids whose families had applied for assistance. Christina then reached out to some people within the town. All kids were provided for and Christina just wanted to share that Groton has some really great people living in the Town.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Property Transfer

Ron Madan wanted to know the status of the pending property transfer across from the Transfer Station. Christina explained there is a response from the attorney that needs to be reviewed before the Board can determine their next step.

Electricity at the Park

Ron Madan asked if the Town would be installing electricity at the park and burying it. Christina mentioned it was talked about but we never quoted it. Christina explained she will quote it. Right now we use generators. Bob agrees that we should look into getting a quote on the electricity.

Gate at Town Pond

Joe Koslow stated that they are going to be putting up a gate where the sign is at the Town Pond. Bob spoke up and explained that the Conservation Committee got advice from New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) as to what should be used and were advised not to use chains and wires due to law suits. NHMA recommended a barrier that has a gate that you can swing open for emergency vehicles but allows room for people to walk by Christina mentioned adding a sign that states emergency vehicles only.

Kimball Hill Property

Mark Watson asked if there was any feedback regarding Kimball Hill. Christina explained that Timbervest sent a letter with what they felt was an acceptable offer. The Kimball Hill Negotiation Committee will be meeting January 6th to decide what we want to do since the committee didn't think the request or timeframes that were given were feasible. Christina explained since it is negotiations it is not public information until it is finalized and this meeting would be a non-public work session.

Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:25pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant