

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2009
7:00pm**

In Attendance: Michael Brogna, Miles Sinclair, Kyle Andrews, Pamela Hamel (AA)

Audience Members Present

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:07pm and read the appointments and announcements.

Steve Iacuzzi and Elena Van Zandt from Catelina Consulting and Grant Services addressed the Board. They provide assistance to municipalities and non-profit organizations in the area of program analysis, data collection, grant writing, grant administration, etc. They can search for various types of grants: matching funds, no matching funds, mitigation grants, etc. Compensation is either hourly, at a flat rate or through commission. Commission rates are negotiable and based upon the amount of effort/time to secure the grant. Their current success rate for securing grants is about 83%. Grants are available for Police, Fire, Library, Roads, Transfer Stations etc. When asked about securing a grant to move the old Library Building out of the flood zone they suggested contacting FEMA to have a representative come out as this could fall under FEMA mitigation and not require a grant.

Mike read the minutes of the June 2 selectmen's meeting to the audience. **Mike made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Miles 2nd, all favor, so voted.**

The following updates were given:

- The Board's letter to Governor Lynch was also sent to our local representatives as well as the Union Leader and Record Enterprise. Union Leader is unable to publish it as they only publish letters addressed to the Editor and length is limited to 200 words.
- Newfound School District Business Manager Dan Rossner will be getting back to the Board this week with answers to their questions about the school budget increase.
- Currently, the Town has 3 part-time Police employees: Chief White and Officers Austin and Thompson.
- While looking over Province Road during a work session with the Road Agent, the Board noticed that there were several old culverts that had been left on the side of the road over the years. Gordon Coursey asked the Board if he could have them and the Board agreed.

Mike made a motion to sign the Kennedy elderly tax exemption denial letter, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so vote. Miles would like the Board to review the current income and asset limits to determine if they should put a change of limits before the voters at the next town meeting.

The Health Officer reported that the refrigerator and more junk have been removed from Map 7 Lot 40. He no longer considers the property to be junky.

Mike made a motion to table the Cross Veteran's Credit denial letter so they can add a reconsideration sentence to it, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Miles made a motion to sign the letter to Ray Bradbury denying his request to exceed the weight limit for the Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Miles made a motion to table the All-Ways Accessible contract in order to have a few questions answered first, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted. Questions include:

- Is labor covered for repairs under the premier plan?
- What is the annual certification fee?
- What are the differences in services covered under the basic and premier plans?
- If they choose the basic plan in order to save money this year can they return to the premier plan next year or in the future?

Miles made a motion to table the Plymouth Village Water & Sewer contract in order to review the previous contract first, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Pam reported that Bill Roberti has picked up a building permit application for Mr. Sewall and Mr. Friend, owners of Map 5 Lot 46. He plans to attend the selectmen's meeting when this application is reviewed in order to answer any questions. He did say that a permit had been issued several years ago and the owners thought it was still good.

Representative Phil Preston told the Board he had received their letter which was addressed to the Governor. He will be meeting with the Chairman of the finance committee and asked if there was anything else that he could convey on behalf of the town. The Board re-emphasized the importance of the legislature:

- not taking revenues that have been traditionally awarded to the municipalities
- not putting an additional tax burden on the town through the retirement system
- not decide what they want to spend and then determine how to fund it
- instead, determine what they have to expend and how best to spend it
- cut all unnecessary and all wasteful spending
- don't count on 'possible' revenues from sources that don't yet exist

They also feel that the county should not move forward with the new jail. Miles asked Mr. Preston what his position on HB 239 is. If passed, this bill will allow the governing body to call a special legislative meeting to consider reducing the appropriations voted on at Town Meeting. Many budgets were set counting upon the usual revenues awarded to the municipality. Now they are in danger of losing a portion of these revenues thus counting more on tax dollars for funding. Since the tax rate is set on how much is appropriated, not how much is spent, the bill would allow towns to lower that appropriation. Mr. Preston said upon initial review he would support this.

The GRC requested \$200 from their revolving fund to purchase supplies in preparation for the Spring into Summer event on June 20. **Mike made a motion to grant the GRC \$200 for this event, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.** Proceeds of the event will be re-deposited in the revolving fund.

Anne Tobine reported that Don Merrill has purchased the lime and fertilizer and is waiting for a little rain before spreading it. They hope to have it done by the weekend. They are still waiting on the reimbursement check for the stone dust.

The Old Home Day Committee would like to put together a softball game for Old Home Day; the selectmen against the various committees. They are looking for volunteers to fill in the teams.

The Board reviewed the building permit for Leone. Their septic plans had an error on them thus were not ready for the Board's review. **Miles made a motion to table the building permit until the septic plans come before the Board for approval, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.** The Board is willing to come up to the office during the week in order to sign the plans.

The Board reviewed the trucking quotes for hauling gravel to Province Road. One was for \$68 and two came in at \$65 per hour. The Road Agent is looking to move on this project by the end of June. Once out there with the excavator, he will need to have 2 trucks running. He would like to award the bid to the 2 lowest and split the work. **Miles made a motion to have Glen determine if either of the 2 low bids has the ability to supply 2 trucks, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.** The Board is looking to award this bid to someone local if they can supply the need at the best price.

Glen Hansen has requested to take the broken up asphalt pavement generated from culvert replacement on North Groton Road. He said it could be used in a deep fill on town roads if needed but has determined that at this time the town doesn't have any spots that would meet the criteria. He is concerned about storing it at the garage as they are in a flood zone. Also, asphalt can be costly to dispose of. He would be taking it for personal use for a job he has on Bailey Hill Road. The removal of the asphalt would be at no cost to the town. Miles expressed a concern on how this might look to town residents as it could be construed that he is benefiting from something because of his position as road agent, and that the town is subsidizing private work by supplying the materials.

Miles made a motion to deny the request for reasons stated, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion to store the asphalt at the town garage, smash it up as much as possible and mix it with other materials with a hope to use it in the future, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion to authorize the GHS to use 20 chairs for the weekend, Miles 2nd with the condition that should something happen to the chairs they would make good on them, all in favor, so voted.

Miles made a motion to table the Timber Tax Warrants until Mr. Coursey reviews them, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike read a letter from Representative Margie Maybeck acknowledging receipt of a copy of the Board's letter to the Governor. She agrees that the reduction in the rooms and meals tax

allocation to the towns and the reduction in the state's contribution to the Retirement System is a gross case of the state shirking its financial obligation. She will vote against any new tax or fee and any budget that shifts monies from the cities and towns.

The Board set up a work session for 5:30pm Tuesday, June 16 with Chief White followed by a session with Joe Mitchell, the police chief candidate.

Pam Yinger requested that a second railing be added to the stairway leading to the offices upstairs. The Board will look into whether or not there is sufficient room to do so.

Mike made a motion to go into a non public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), (b), Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Miles made a motion to return to public session at 10:20 pm, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike would like a non public session for next week.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant