

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
July 07, 2009
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and read the appointments, announcements and minutes of the June 30 Selectmen's meeting. Mike asked to change **Mile to Mike** in the first paragraph. **Mike made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike gave a brief update on his meeting with Ken Knowlton from MRI. After a drive by inspection, they narrowed down the original list of properties that could possibly be in violation of Groton's Junkyard Ordinance from 30 to 10. Mr. Knowlton will submit a formal report to the Board. At his request, Pam will compose an introductory letter to be sent to these 10 property owners letting them know the Town has retained Mr. Knowlton to assist in junkyard ordinance enforcement and compliance.

Senator Deb Reynolds addressed the Board. She discussed the difficulty the legislature had in finalizing the budget but believes they made some good choices. The Senator served on the committee of conference. Revenue declines began as early as 2006, and they spent considerable time trying to find new sources of revenue, including gaming. She felt that limiting gaming (Rockingham Park only) would be okay for the following reasons: in the southern part of the state, doesn't necessarily affect us here, near the Mass border, the people of Salem wanted it. The House voted this down. The last budget included a 17.5% increase. But once it was realized that the revenues to support this were not available, the Governor issued several executive orders cutting the 17.5% to about 3%. Miles pointed out that they had originally intended to spend the 17.5% and only reason it wasn't spent is because the money wasn't there. The 2010/2011 budget represents about a 5% increase. Miles replied that the current budget is in part funded by 38 different tax or fee increases. 23% is from one time money. Even with all the cuts the state claims it made, there is still an increase. The downshifting of the state's responsibility to the municipalities is not acceptable. Some of the highway projects that utilized stimulus money are unnecessary. Another unnecessary expenditure is mile markers every 2 tenths of a mile. These are some of the areas where the state could reduce spending. Included in the discussion was the role of government. Miles suggested that it is time to rethink that role.

The last topic discussed was the recent bill that was passed allowing same sex marriage. A question posed was how will the legislature respond to someone who claims the right to practice polygamy now that the definition of traditional marriage has been put aside? The majority of people in New Hampshire were opposed to same sex marriage yet it was voted in by the legislature. Senator Reynolds supported this bill.

The Board gave an update on Mr. Ethier's assertion that the Road Agent had purchased trailer tires for personal use on the Town's account. Belknap Tire was contacted. The associate said the

original mistake was his. When the tires were ordered he had assumed they were for the town but Mr. Hansen corrected him. The town has never been billed for these tires nor paid for them.

The Board discussed the ZBA's request to have the Administrative Assistant as their in house secretary. Mike feels the Board should be prepared to offer assistance when needed. Kyle and Miles are concerned over the amount of time this will take as Pam already earns comp time on a regular basis. They also feel they should take another look at the Administrative Assistant's job description as it is outdated. Miles would like more time to go over this before making a decision. Pam said she is always willing to help out and work with other committees and boards. However, she doesn't want to be in a position to have to do their work for them. **Mike made a motion to table this for further review. Miles made a motion to meet with the ZBA in order to ascertain their needs, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board confirmed their work session with Barry Cox from LGC.

Mike read a letter of interest from Susan Jayne for the vacant cemetery trustee position. **Miles made a motion to appoint Susan Jayne as a cemetery trustee, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board reviewed Mike Ethier's Intent to Excavate. Additional documentation from Mr. Ethier is needed before they can sign. Pam will research who is responsible to issue the permit to excavate: the Board of Selectmen or the Planning Board. **Mike made a motion to table this until the documentation is received and the research completed, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted**

Mike made a motion to continue using the Taxable Inventory Forms, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion that the Administrative Assistant be the contact for DRA in regards to the Inventory, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

The Cemetery Trustees will be working with the Road agent to get more sand/fill for the River Road and Bailey Hill Cemeteries.

Miles forwarded a recent article about the workforce housing required by state statues to the Planning Board for their review.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant