

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2009
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and read the appointments, announcements and minutes of the September 22 selectmen's meeting. Miles asked to make the following amendments:

- Page 1, paragraph 4: change "at the Board's request" to "at Miles' request"
- Page 1, paragraph 6: change "these properties" to "the list of all town properties"
- Page 2, paragraph 2: add "unless there is a specific line item" to the end of the 4th sentence.
- Page 2, paragraph 4: change "Miles" to "Mike"

Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion to sign the cease and desist letter for Sewall/Robertie and forward it to the appropriate people, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted. The letter will be sent by registered mail and regular mail. The Board does not feel the Mr. Robertie should continue to bring boats to the property for storage until he has received all the necessary permits.

The Board reviewed the generator propane hookup bids. They had a few questions about tank rental from Amerigas and whether or not they could have an option to buy in one year from now at the same price. **Miles made a motion to table the generator propane hookup bids until they hear back from Amerigas, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike read the response from the LGC regarding the donation to the Lorna White Benefit Fund. Bottom line is the issue of public funds for private uses. The attorney said giving a donation to a benefit fund could fall under a gray area as many people benefit from the fund and the town already contributes to other organizations such as Voices Against Violence, etc. Sending flowers is not so gray but it is very common for Select Boards to do this and use town funds. Another gray area is using tax dollars for an employee appreciation day. Is this considered private use or an ordinary and usual expense for employees? Both Mike and Kyle feel they should show respect and appreciation for Chief White by sending a donation to the Lorna White Benefit Fund. Miles feels they should use private funds as there is no line item for this. He is willing to make a private contribute. **Mike made a motion to forward \$100 to the Lorna White Benefit Fund, Kyle 2nd, so voted, Miles opposed.** This donation will be noted in the Town Report. The Board will reconcile which line to take it out of at the end of the year.

The Board reviewed the letter to the abutters of Province Road explaining the error made when the original notice letters were sent out. **Mike made a motion to sign all the letters and send to the appropriate owners, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike gave a brief update on the Police Chief search. Currently, the LGC has only one candidate that went before the oral board. This candidate has been recommended for the position. The Board would like to have more than one choice. There are 2 or 3 other candidates that did not make the original cut but could be considered. **Kyle made a motion to include these 3 candidates in the process, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Sawyer, Map 1 Lot 49, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

The Board reviewed the letter to John Gore in response to his complaint of overweight trucks speeding on Sculptured Rocks Road. They would like Pam to add a line letting Mr. Gore know that if he has any additional questions or concerns, he can contact the office. Letter will be ready for next week's meeting.

The Board counted the votes for the new lights for the Town Hall. **Mike made a motion to move forward with the lights the people have chosen for the Town Hall, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.** Pam will order the lights and solicit bids for the electrical work.

Miles reported that the Board addressed the issue of hiring cemetery workers. The final result is the trustees will continue to be responsible for hiring with the understanding that the Board would prefer to see them advertise the position.

The Board reviewed the Land Use Change Tax paperwork prepared by Avitar for 4 properties. Miles had a concern about the rounding of numbers as it appears that one property owner will be assessed an addition \$50 as a result of this. Pam will contact Avitar for an explanation.

The Board reviewed the treasurer's delegation of authority which allows the Town Clerk/Tax Collector the authority to make deposits. Currently, deposits must be made at least weekly or daily whenever receipts remitted total more than \$500. An amendment to RSA 41:29 changed this to at least weekly or more frequently as directed by the Board of Selectmen for those municipalities without a bank in their community. Town Clerk/Tax Collector Laura Hauser said there are blocks of time when she would only need to do a deposit weekly but she would like the option to do them more often at her discretion, especially during tax season. **Miles made a motion to table this until the language in the delegation of authority paperwork reflects what they want, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Green Acre Woodlands Map 1 Lots 29 & 33, and Map 10 Lot 25, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion to sign the supplemental Intent to Cut for Green Acre Woodlands, Map 9 Lot 2, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

In an email, Junkyard Dog Ken Knowlton asked the Board to respond to some questions about properties he has visited:

- Tolman: had begun the junkyard license process a few years ago. Pam will pull the file to determine what remains to be done.
- Bixby and Faucher: starting from scratch

- Newton: town cannot rent a demolition dumpster for him as this is tax payer dollars benefiting one individual.

Pam requested to close the office mid morning on Wednesday in order to accompany her son to the VA hospital in Boston. Board asked that she post something to the effect that due to unforeseen circumstances, the office will be closed.

Chuck Stata reported that he is 85% certain there will be public health clinics for administering the H1N1 vaccine. He will keep the Board posted.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07pm, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant