

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
December 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. Appointments, announcements and minutes of the December 22 selectmen's meeting were read. **Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

RSA 669:61 states that town office vacancies which occur after the beginning of the filling period cannot be placed on the ballot. As there is currently no ZBA business, the Board discussed asking Bruce Jones to consider making his resignation from the ZBA effective prior to the filing period. This would allow the voters the opportunity to choose his replacement. **Mike made a motion to contact Bruce Jones to ask for another letter of resignation effective immediately and to explain the Board's reasons for requesting this change, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

The Local Government Center and the DRA both confirmed the \$10,000 received from Groton Wind LLC for legal and professional expenses does not need to be encumbered as this money is not appropriated funds or a part of the general budget. This money will be carried into 2010 and beyond as needed.

Mike made a motion to set January 15 as the cut off date for paying expenses from the 2009 budget, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

The Board acknowledged that the balance of the contract with LGC for the police chief search and the 2009 Andover Geologic Contract amount are encumbered. Because there is no legally binding contract for the radios/repeater the Board is not able to encumber these funds. This will have to be a warrant article again this year.

Pam will try to set up interviews for the cleaning position for Tuesday, January 5 beginning at 5pm.

Due to extenuating circumstances, the Board agreed to abate the \$18 inventory penalty for Robert Allen. **Mike made a motion to grant Mr. Allen the abatement, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to seal the non public minutes from the afternoon meeting with Chief White, Kyle 2nd, so voted, Mike abstaining as he had been unable to attend that meeting.

Kyle reported that Gary Miller had come in prior to the selectmen's meeting to ask why the road agent was plowing on the wrong side of the road on Bailey Hill Road. He also asked about a trailer on Bailey Hill Road that is being stripped. Miles believes there is state statute granting those involved in state and town snow removal this right. Glen Hansen said plowing on the wrong side of the road allows the driver to keep the trucks out of the ditch as they push back the snow. As far as he knows, snow removal is always considered an emergency type operation and operators have the right of way. He said Mr. Miller had made a few cut outs before Betty's Lane in the town's right of way on Bailey Hill Road. Mr. Miller was hoping the snow would naturally fall into these cut outs as the Road Agent was plowing thus keeping it from piling up in front of Betty's Lane which he maintains. When the road agent plows on the wrong side of the road he is coming from the other direction thus the snow ends up in front of Betty's Lane as it would any other road or driveway. Glen wanted to know if Mr. Miller had permission to make these cut outs. The Board said they had not been

approached by Mr. Miller and would have deferred to the Road Agent in any case. Glen will contact LGC to verify the state statute giving him the right of way when plowing.

Concerning the trailer, Pam will contact LGC as this trailer has a lien on it.

Police Chief up-date: the police chief candidate is still in the process of completing the background check. The Board will meet in a non public next week to discuss his hire date. The new chief will have to attend the Police Academy.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant