

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2010
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Appointments, announcements and minutes of the January 12 selectmen's meeting were read. **Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Pam provided the Board with the minutes referring to the 1999, 2000 and 2002 Town House Capital Reserve Fund warrant articles. There were a few other articles to add funds to the account. Mike feels certain there were articles that set limits on the fund. He would like to see all the articles that refer to the Town House CR Fund, 2003 and 2004 in particular. **Miles made a motion to table this until they look at all the minutes dealing with the Town House Capital Reserve Fund, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike made a motion to sign the GRC alcohol permit, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion to accept Bruce Jones' amended letter of resignation, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted. The Board would like Pam to draft a letter thanking Mr. Jones for his service.

Miles gave a brief update on the school budget hearing. The budget committee had submitted a recommended budget which reflected a 1.4 million dollar increase over last year. The school board was able to reduce that by 1 million. The difference between last year's budget amount and this year's proposed budget amount will be verified.

Lewis Albert reported that the Hebron-Groton Athletic Association had \$1,700 in a bank account. It was money they had raised to pay taxes on the ball field many years ago. He would like to see the money donated to help in Haiti. Mike counseled him to be in touch with any remaining members of the association to decide what to do with the money. Miles told Mr. Albert to contact the Attorney General's office, division of charitable trusts, for assistance. He is willing to get the contact information for him.

Mr. Albert requested a copy of the last 4 time sheets for the Road Agent. He feels the Road Agent's paychecks reflect more money than was actually earned. The Board told him copies would be available the next day in their office.

Mr. Albert would like a portion of Sculptured Rocks Road rebuilt, not repaired, for next year instead of doing any paving. He is particularly interested in a portion of road near the Hardy Country Road intersection. Mike responded that the prudent thing would be to start a capital reserve fund for road repair. The Board is willing to discuss this. Glen Hansen said he had wanted to require Maxam to change that intersection to a T intersection as part of receiving their special exception from the Zoning Board, but was told the ZBA could not require this. This is something that could be required under site plan review. He did say that this was not a dead issue as Maxam would like to fix that intersection but, like other companies, they are just holding their own in this economy.

Mr. Albert asked if the Board had considered replacing the Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge with 2 very large culverts. Glen Hansen reported that he had made that suggestion a few years ago but some members of the Board at that time wanted to see a covered bridge placed there. He said it is possible to use culverts and have the project designed to accommodate the river at flood stage. This would be a significant savings over putting in

a new bridge. The Board is willing to discuss this for the future. Currently, there is about \$20,000 in the Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge Capital Reserve Fund.

The Board is still researching all aspects of the Road Agent using his personal vehicle to maintain town roads. They should have an answer shortly.

Mike made a motion to sign the septic design for Gallant, Map 1 Lot 78, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion to schedule a budget work session for Thursday, January 21 at 7:00pm, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Lewis Albert expressed concern over the road conditions during the most recent snow fall. He felt the roads were not well kept. Mrs. Chase responded that she has had no problems with the roads this winter. Mrs. Joyce commented that the roads throughout the state were slippery today. The Board's position is there is no such thing as perfectly clear roadways during a storm. They are satisfied with the overall performance of the Highway Department.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant