

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2010
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. Appointments, announcements and minutes of the January 26 selectmen's meeting were read. **Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board scheduled the Administrative Assistant's annual review for February 16.

The Board heard back from Thomas Bentley and John Faucher concerning the Bentley's trailer on Bailey Hill Road. Currently this trailer is in lien for back taxes. It was recently stripped of all metal and wiring, and has no value. Mr. Bentley said that since he feels a prior board did not treat him fairly on an issue dealing with the transfer station he will not be doing anything with that trailer. John Faucher contacted Miles at his home. He threatened to hook the trailer to his skidder and leave it at the Town House. Miles tried to reason with Mr. Faucher but ended up asking Chief White to talk with him. The Board is convinced they will never get any back taxes from the Bentleys and they do not want to penalize John Faucher who was just trying to help the Bentleys out by allowing them to park their mobile home on his lot. They would like to abate the back taxes and let Mr. Faucher remove the trailer from the property. The Board does not want to set a precedent of abating back taxes. These situations need to be reviewed on a case by case basis, and rise and fall on their own merits. They believe this action is for the benefit of the community. Glen Hansen responded that although the town does not want to be giving away tax money, the demolition and removal costs the town would incur to take care of this trailer would be higher than the taxes due. The Board would like to schedule a meeting with Mr. Faucher to discuss this. **Miles made a motion to table this until they meet with Mr. Faucher, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.** They will try to arrange a meeting for Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30pm.

Glen Hansen reported that if he receives payment for the use of his personal vehicle for plowing/sanding, his insurance company will require him to include a snow plowing rider on his policy for an additional \$2,100. Because the use of his truck is on an if/maybe basis he cannot afford to add this rider. However, if the truck is not 'hired' out, the rider is not necessary. He would like to have fuel reimbursement only. In order to avoid any appearance of impropriety, the Board stipulated that Mr. Hansen will use his personal vehicle for plowing/sanding under the following conditions only:

- When the town vehicles are down
- After he has attempted to contact all three board members
- He will submit a fuel slip for reimbursement and will not take fuel from the town's supply

His other specialty equipment (backhoe etc) will remain status quo. The Board would like a record of the usage of his own equipment to be prepared for town meeting.

Mike made a motion to set up a work session with Ed Cherian from Groton Wind LLC for Thursday, February 11 at 6:00pm, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion to set Tuesday, February 16 for candidate's night, and February 23rd for anyone who is unable to make it on the 16th, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted. Those interested in running as write-in candidates are welcome to participate.

The Board has been trying to schedule a meeting with the Lempster Board of Selectmen in order to discuss the wind farm that Iberdrola built there. One member of their Board who has been a part of the entire process has agreed to meet. **Miles made a motion to set this meeting up for a Thursday evening, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.** Pam will try to arrange the meeting for the 18th at 7:00 pm in Lempster. Board will leave Groton at 5:45.

The Board reported that the petition warrant article submitted by Donna Arena is written contrary to state statute. The Board does not have the authority to change it. They can only fix typos, spelling errors or change it into a form of a question if it is not. Pam explained the problem with the way it is currently written. She will forward the state statute dealing with the topic to Ms. Arena. The statute includes an example of wording to be used for a warrant. The Board stressed that this article would need to be amended in writing from the floor the night of Town Meeting as the deadline for submitting petitioned articles has passed. Ms. Arena asked the Board to consider placing the article toward the beginning of the warrant. They agreed to place it as article 2.

The DRA suggested that the Board contact the town's attorney for the correct wording of the warrant article dealing with leasing town property for a cell tower. Christina McClay said the town of Bristol has a similar article. They hired a special attorney to assist them. She does not know if this article is similar enough to be used as an example but is willing to forward it to the Board for their review. The Board agreed to review the article before contacting the town's attorney.

Mike made a motion to renew the town's membership in the Our Town Energy Program, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion for him to sign the 2010 Census Boundary Validation Survey, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted. The survey calls for the chairman's signature only.

Miles would like to put together a memo to all Department Heads regarding spending town funds. He wants to include examples of prudent spending, planning ahead, consolidating trips, etc. The Board is in agreement with this.

The Administrative Assistant needs a report from the Selectmen for the Town Report. Mike agreed to type up a few thoughts for the others to review on Thursday. Miles agreed to write the final report.

Glen reported that he has a picture to submit for the Town Report. The Board will choose which photo to use on February 9.

Glen asked about securing donations for asphalt for the ice rink. He would volunteer his time and equipment. Then the rink could be used for ice skating in the winter, roller skating and street hockey in the summer as well as other activities. This is something the GRC would need to discuss before approaching the Board of Selectmen.

Donna Arena thanked the Board for all their work, including their efforts to secure cable access for those areas that are still without. She said that although they moved here because Groton is a rural, residential, agricultural and quiet community, they do not live outside of modern service areas. One mile of Sculptured Rocks Road is undeveloped as most of it is state land. But there are many homes beyond that and they would like to have the opportunity to have cable hook up. The Board assured her that the issue is not dropped. They met with TWC representatives about 3 weeks ago. TWC will do a cost analysis of this build out and provide numbers and options for cost sharing between the company and residents who subscribe. TWC might do an additional survey to determine who would commit to service. Other companies are allowed to do business in Groton but the same dynamics would be in place.

Frank Grelle reminded the audience to attend the school deliberative session on Friday evening at 6:30 at the Newfound High School.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54pm, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant