

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
March 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 7:00pm. Appointments, announcements and minutes of the February 23rd selectmen's meeting were read. **Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

John Faucher has not responded to the Board's attempts to contact him.

Mike made a motion to sign the letter to the Spectacle Pond Association, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike explained his position on road agent Glen Hansen putting in time for work done at the Transfer Station even though Glen is the Transfer Station Supervisor. He feels this is double dipping as the Transfer Station stipend covers this. In response, Glen Hansen reported that he had contacted former supervisors to find out how they handled compactor repairs and packing the dumpsters. In the past the road agent has always been compensated to pack the dumpster, and the compactor repairs have been hired out. He is following what has always been done and what was relayed to him upon taking this position. In an attempt to save the town money he worked with the electrician to repair the compactor instead of hiring the entire job out.

Ken Martell Sr. said he did not have a problem paying Glen to repair the compactor as there is a difference between maintenance and repairs.

Gary Easson said Glen has saved the town a lot of money by doing this.

Peter Bailey feels that Mike should drop it. It is like "kicking the family dog".

Jimmy Albert would like the Board to implement the use of time clocks in order to keep track of which accounts payment should come from.

Miles said the Board needs to take a look at how past supervisors have handle these situations. Would they have been expected to fix the compactor and work with the electrician or were these jobs hired out? In this case it would be unfair to Glen to try to take advantage of him because he has abilities which could be a benefit to the town. He expressed the need for the Board to be careful not to abuse this thus discouraging anyone who could assist the town from doing so.

Mike said if the remainder of the Board feels that way then he would like them to address how this type of work is recorded in order to prevent any appearance of impropriety.

Last week Mike asked about how they were keeping track of the number of hours the Town Clerk worked to determine eligibility for medical insurance. Pam produced copies of the Town Clerk's pay stubs which record her weekly hours and a Quick Books printout of year to date hours. Mike asked for the number of hours worked last year. Pam did not have that report as this was not something that was discussed at last week's meeting. At this time Mike said he was sick of this and left, leaving Miles to run the meeting.

Miles asked Peter Bailey if he had followed up on the burning of the Minnich house. Mr. Bailey is waiting to hear back from the state. **Miles made a motion to refer this to the town's Fire Chief to determine if this was an illegal burn, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to sign the state's copies of the supplemental Intent to Cut for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Roland Bixby requested permission for the Groton Historical Society to have a table at Town Meeting to display 3 or 4 choices for a Veteran's Monument. They would like the Town's people to have an opportunity to indicate their preference. Moderator Lou Lieto was fine with it as long as they set up something that will not be disruptive to the voting and meeting.

Miles made a motion to approve the Groton Historical Society's request to use the town hall on March 28 for their meeting and April 17 for a presentation and dinner, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Jimmy Albert had asked for the RSAs giving the Board authority to give away Town property. The Board gave former Police Chief Bill White his weapon upon retirement. Miles responded that the long and short of it is they do not have the authority to do this. When Miles had first come onto the Board Chief White had asked for the weapon. Since the request seemed reasonable he had agreed. At the time he did not realize that they did not have the authority to do this. He assured Mr. Albert that the Board would make this right. He asked him if he would rather have the weapon returned or have Chief White purchase it from the town. Mr. Albert does not care one way or the other just so long as it is made right. He feels that all employees who retire should receive standard treatment. Joyce Tolman was given flowers and a gift certificate from private funds.

Miles discussed the fact that they gave the old lights from the town hall to the Groton Historical Society, and the old heater from the transfer station to Chris Faucher. Technically these actions could be considered questionable but an attorney from LGC counseled that since the heater was to be thrown away it was okay for someone to take it, and giving the lights to the Historical Society can be justified in that the Society is benefiting Groton by preserving town records and other items for the town.

Peter Bailey suggested having an auction at the end of the fiscal year in order to get rid of any town property no longer needed.

Miles made a motion to table this in order to have additional time to think about it, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to have Judy Demers shop around and present some proposals for a new vacuum for the Town House, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Lou Lieto reported that at a recent Moderator's workshop it was suggested that moderators prepare some rules for town meeting. He had submitted 2 pages of rules to the Board and was looking for their input. Miles expressed some concern over the 5 minute limitation per presentation as some presentations can take longer than that. Lou agreed to take out the specific timing and insert verbiage about getting to the point in a timely fashion. Other items discussed included the language about non registered voters speaking at a meeting and how the moderator was going to handle a motion to Call the Question. He assured the audience that those who were waiting their turn to speak would be allowed to speak before moving on the question.

The Selectmen's office will be closed the following Fridays: March 12 & 26.

Miles will be here all day on Election Day. Kyle will come as soon as he gets out of work.

Miles made a motion to encourage a representative of Tower Resource Management to attend the Town Meeting, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Warrant article 20 deals with leasing a piece of town property for a telecommunications tower. Miles believes it is in the company's best interest to attend the meeting.

Pam has begun doing some research on welfare guidelines for the town in order to update the current guidelines and adopt some maximum expenditures for housing, etc. **Miles made a motion to table this until further research has been done, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Frank and Marcia Harris submitted a letter of thanks to the Town for a job well done in letting the residents of Groton know that the Town House was open as a shelter during the recent power outage.

Miles reported that they had met with Ed Cherian from Groton Wind LLC and the company's tax attorney Howard Moffett. Mr. Moffett left the Board with some public documents regarding the possible unethical conduct by a gentleman that the Board has been considering hiring to assist them with an assessment of the wind farm. This assessment would be used when discussing the PILOT agreement. Mr. Cherian had asked that the meeting be non public but the Board has determined that it is public as the documents in question are public.

Ken Martell asked if he needed a building permit to change the pitch of his roof and put a rail around it. The Board will look into it and get back to him.

Lewis Albert believes that the Road Agent is stealing fuel. When Miles asked him for some kind of proof he did not have any. He also feels the Town lost out on revenue from the clearing along the Province Road right of way. Pam explained that any wood along that right of way belonged to the property owners, not the town.

Jimmy Albert understands that Glen has been donating the use of his heavy equipment and only asks for fuel reimbursement. He believes it is best for the town to pay for the use of this equipment and keep the fuel. Miles cautioned Jimmy about getting what one asks for. Currently, the town is benefiting from Glen's donation of his equipment. If they change to what Jimmy is proposing, it will be much more expensive.

Miles made a motion to adjourn, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant