

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2010
7:00pm**

In Attendance: Miles Sinclair, Kyle Andrews, Christina McClay, Pamela Hamel (AA)

Audience Members Present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:12pm and read the appointments and announcements. He asked to amend page 1 paragraph 9 of the minutes, putting a period after weapon and striking the words ' for fair market value'. As he remembers his conversation with former Chief White, the Chief was looking to purchase his weapon for the trade in value. The Board had discussed selling it at the fair market value. **Miles made a motion to amend the minutes as stated, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Miles made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to sign the letter to FairPoint, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Christina made a motion to sign the letter to Kevin Maass regarding his Current Use application, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles asked Pam to summarize the response she got from LGC regarding the Town's options for handling the possible cash flow issue.

- The Board can apply for a tax anticipation note. However, interest must be paid on these notes which will cause an increase in taxes.
- They can approach the Newfound School District and ask to decrease the monthly payment until taxes begin to come in. However, the school payment is considered a bill and the school can demand payment even if the Town has to borrow the money.
- Under RSA 80:80, the town can vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell tax liens.
- They can sell town property.
- In his research Miles discovered that under RSA 80:50-a, the Board can authorize the Tax Collector to take tax prepayments. This could be enough to tide them over until the next tax bill, and it would be strictly voluntary.

Kyle believes this is a good idea to consider as well as looking into selling some town properties. He also asked if there is some kind of incentive for the tax payer to prepay. In the past the Town has given discounts to those who prepay. This was voted on annually at Town Meeting.

Pam had done some additional research comparing the Town's current financial status to last year's status. The Town has a little more money but also has more expenses. At last week's meeting the Board approved a motion to sign the Rumney Fire & EMS contracts, deferring payment until the July 1st due date. They recently discovered that only the EMS payment is due in July. The Fire payment is due April 1st. There are also some other invoices that have come in this week. **Miles made a motion to table these one more week while they look to gain a better understanding of the town's financial situation, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Kyle made a motion to sign the letter to National Grid, Miles 2nd, so voted.

The prior Board had agreed to abate the back taxes on the Bentley trailer. They do not feel they will ever see any of those back taxes neither do they want to penalize John Faucher by not allowing him to move the trailer due to the lien. The current Board has agreed to follow through with this. The Tax Collector will prepare the necessary abatement papers and Pam will draft a letter to Mr. Faucher informing him of the Board's decision and asking him to remove the trailer as it could become a possible junkyard issue. The Board would like Avitar to visit the property to reassess the trailer as they do not believe it has any current value. **Kyle made a motion to send Avitar out there to look at the property as long as it is not at any additional cost to the town, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Attorney Mitchell had presented a number of concerns about the decommissioning guaranty proposed by Iberdrola. Before contacting Iberdrola's attorney he asked the Board to weigh in on those concerns.

- The Board feels very strongly about items 3&4: the agreement should not be transferable and the proper courts of jurisdiction should be New Hampshire courts.
- They are very concerned about item 1: need a greater guaranty that no matter what becomes of the company there is enough money for decommissioning.
- Item # 2 will be taken care of under #1.

In this agreement the Board is looking to be prudent and make sure the town is protected. They would like Pam to ask Ed Cherian why the company feels that \$2,000,000 is sufficient for decommissioning 24 turbines when that is the amount in the Lempster Guaranty for just 12 turbines.

Miles made a motion to sign the 2010 MS-2, Christina 2nd, so voted.

The Board announced a public hearing for a telecommunications tower that will be located in North Woodstock. The hearing will take place Monday, April 12, 6:45pm at the Woodstock Town Office.

Christina made a motion to sign the Timber Tax Warrant for Pat Whiteneck, Map 1 Lot 52, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Doug and Sandra Hutchins have submitted an application to renew their Junkyard License. The state statute changed this year to make the junkyard license expiration date July 1st instead of April 1st. Before acting on this application the Board would like Pam to contact LGC to find out if the current licenses have automatically been extended to July 1st or if they must issue a new one with a July 1st, 2011 expiration date. **Kyle made a motion to table this and contact LGC, Christina 2nd, so voted.** Once this has been determined the Board will contact James Rego who also has a license.

The Hobart's have filed for bankruptcy and a hearing has been set for May 7th. The Town is not listed as a secured creditor. Thus it is possible that the Town might only receive up to 2% of what is owed. Currently the Hobarts owe close to \$6,000 in back taxes. The bankruptcy trustee advised the town to file an objection. Once filed someone must appear at the hearing. The Board would like the town attorney to file the objection and let them know the cost for her to attend the hearing. **Christina made a motion to contact the town's attorney, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Pam explained that because Henry Rego only had 900 cubic yards of material excavated from his property he is not subject to the excavation tax. The Planning Board is still requiring him to submit reclamation plans.

Pam Yinger gave a brief update on the GRC dance and reminded the audience of the upcoming Historical Society meeting.

Ken Martell decided to not install solar panels on the roof of his garage. Instead he is going to change the area into a deck. The Board asked him to submit an amended building permit application. There is no additional fee.

There was some discussion about young people taking part in the Keep New Hampshire Beautiful program that is scheduled for May 15. Pam will check with Chief Dickerson whether or not anyone under 11 is allowed and if any 12-17 must be with a parent.

Miles made a motion to adjourn at 8:39pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant