

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2010
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:14pm.

Christina made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted, Miles abstaining as he was not present at last week's meeting.

Miles read the release issued by the Attorney General's office regarding the indictment of former Treasurer Jessica Hobart for Theft by Unauthorized Taking or Transfer, a Class A Felony. Ms. Hobart was indicted by the Grafton County Grand Jury on July 30, 2010. The indictment alleges that approximately \$3,000 was taken from the Town. The Board reported that the former Treasurer handled funds for the following three accounts:

1. Old Home Day Fund
2. Conservation Fund
3. Park & Rec. Revolving Fund.

While the Town's auditor was preparing the MS-5 (Financial Report), he noticed some inconsistencies in those funds. He suggested the Board have a preliminary meeting with the Town's Attorney to review the accounts and the discrepancies indicated. As a result of the meeting the Town's Attorney recommended that this matter be referred to the Attorney General's office. Ms. Hobart was originally appointed to the position of Treasurer in October 2007, to hold office until the next election. A background check had been done prior to that appointment. At the following election she then ran for the position and won. As far as recovery of the funds; it is common place for the court to require restitution. The Town also has insurance coverage through the Local Government Center (LGC), which the Board will be looking into. When they receive notice of the arraignment date (should be approximately one month from the date of indictment) they will inform the public.

Updates:

Mr. Clancy and Mr. Peverley have submitted some proposals for possible solutions to the visibility problem at the intersection of North Groton Road and Blanchette Lane. **Miles made a motion to forward these to the Town's Attorney, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Gordon Coursey and Buddy Lane have offered to assist with hazardous tree removal. Mr. Coursey feels that in most cases, when dealing with dead trees, is it best for him to push them over with his excavator. He is fully insured and willing to volunteer his services. Miles has said in the past and again reaffirmed that he is willing to sign a liability waiver. As his schedule is more flexible than Gordon's, he asked that Gordon contact him to let him know his availability.

Old Business:

Kyle made a motion to sign the Fred Fuller #2 heating fuel contract for a \$2.395 locked in price, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to sign the Time Warner Cable Inventory Penalty Abatement denial, Christina 2nd, so voted.

The Board asked the Administrative Assistant to contact Time Warner Cable regarding their promise to present to the Board the possible build out costs to residents who currently have no cable access but would like it.

Kyle made a motion to sign the Land Use Change Tax Warrant for Parris for \$2,350, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles gave a summary of his research into Map 10 Lot 40, a 1 acre lot located on Halls Brook Road which was part of a subdivision of Rene Latullipe's land that occurred many years ago. The ownership of this lot has been unknown for a number of years. Part of his research included measuring the area to determine if there was sufficient space to allow for the existence of this lot and speaking with Attorney Leonard Sawyer (was involved in Rene Latullipe's land transactions), Ed Latullipe (son of Rene) and Attorney Ross Deachman (referred by Mr. Sawyer, as he did research on this property 10-15 years ago). The measurements indicated that space is there to allow for the lot's existence. Attorney Deachman suspected that this lot may have been an undeeded property. He also asserted that a town can deed an unknown property once the correct steps are taken. **Christina made a motion to contact the Local Government Center (LGC) to find out the process and begin it, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to forgo the September 14 Selectmen's meeting due to the State primary election, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Polls will be open from 8:00am – 7:00pm.

Miles made a motion to grant the Old Home Day Committee's request for \$200 for supplies, and the use of some tables and chairs, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Vickie Kimball announced the schedule of events for Old Home Day including the new pie judging and pie eating contests as well as lawn tractor races.

Christina and Pam attended an informational meeting in Concord regarding HB 1448 which deals with the annual local audit (MS60). During the meeting they discovered that Groton, along with approximately 59% of other municipalities, has not filed an MS-60 for a number of years. The Department of Revenue (DRA) admitted to being lax in enforcement but with the passing of HB 1448 this will come to an end. All municipalities are required to file the new MS-60A as well as village districts. The DRA offers a waiver to Towns and Districts with a population under 750, which, if granted, allows the municipality to audit the general ledger and treasurer only. The Board is interested in filing for this waiver. However, since Groton has not submitted a MS-60 in a number of years, the DRA is more likely to require that the old MS-60 be filed for 2010. An independent auditor or CPA can be hired, or the Town can elect an auditor. Audit questions range from "Does the Town Clerk have a deputy?" to "Were abatements in writing and signed by a majority of the Selectmen or Assessors?" to "Did the treasurer have orders signed by at least a majority of the Board of Selectmen for each payment?" For municipalities that choose a local elected auditor, the DRA has a manual and some training available. The Board of Selectmen recognizes that the townspeople are concerned about any budget increases. To hire an independent auditor or CPA would be more costly than offering a stipend position to an elected auditor. For the 2010 audit the Board would like to appoint someone to fill the position until the 2011 elections. **Kyle made a motion to post this as an unpaid position until the March elections. The position is to be posted for 30 days in a number of local locations and in Jo O'Connor's column, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to sign the supplemental Intent to Cut for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Christina made a motion to sign the building permit for Goslin, Map 5 Lot 64, Miles 2nd, so voted.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Dorchester Board of Selectmen regarding their decision to enforce the 6 ton limit on Bridge #151/055 over Buck's Brook effective immediately. There are a number of logging operations in Groton that are currently going out through Dorchester. Glen Hansen has spoken with Ted Tichy and Bob Bradbury, the Foresters for Dillon and Timbervest respectively. He would like to discuss this with everyone at next week's Selectmen's meeting. **Kyle made a motion to table this until next week, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Kyle made a motion to ask for a refund check to be issued for the Worker's Comp credit that resulted from the annual worker's comp audit, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to sign the letter to the Groton Historical Society thanking them for their donation of the Veteran's Monument to the Town, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles gave an update on the informal sessions that he attended in Concord on Monday and Tuesday regarding data requests submitted to the Groton Wind LLC project. From his perspective, he did not see anything that would hinder approval. The Board reminded the audience that they are working diligently with the company on behalf of the Town to come to a decommissioning agreement that can be agreed upon by both parties.

Miles made a motion to go into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 (c) at 9:31pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to return to public session at 10:24pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant