

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2010
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Miles made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Up Dates

The Board has received some information from the Local Government Center regarding the procedures and steps to take when selling town property that was acquired by tax deed.

Old Business

Regarding John and Jennifer Fitzpatrick's request for possible cost sharing as they have chosen to withdraw their daughter from the Hebron/Bridgewater School in the Newfound School District; Superintendent of Schools Marie Ross informed the Board that there is no legal provision (mechanism) to transfer tax dollars from one SAU to another. She did give the Fitzpatricks the option to send their daughter to any of the other elementary schools within the district; New Hampton, Bristol or Danbury, but the Fitzpatricks declined the offer. **Miles made a motion to draft a letter to the Fitzpatricks explaining the Board's findings, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

The Local Auditor's position, whether appointed or elected, is covered by the Town's Property & Liability Member Agreement with the Local Government Center.

Christina made a motion to sign the letter of thanks to Venture Print for providing Old Home Day advertisement posters free of charge, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Christina reported that the Department of Environmental Services (DES) is requiring a wetlands permit before the Town does the agreed upon work on Dave Yetman's property off Province Road. They indicated that a Minimum Impact Expedited Application might be sufficient. Although the Town would be doing the work the property owner is responsible to file the application, fee and all accompanying documents (plans, photos, etc.) Christina provided the Board with a copy of the most recent rules governing wetlands. The Board asked Pam to contact Mr. Yetman and let him know their findings thus far. **Kyle made a motion to table this while they review the rules, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Kyle made a motion to sign the letter to the Attorney General regarding the possible electioneering material the Town received in their monthly billing statement from Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Miles 2nd, so voted.

New Business

The Safety Committee meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 7 at 6:00pm. The Committee will conduct an inspection of the Town Garage.

Christina made a motion to sign the building permit and release of municipal liability for a private or Class VI road for Aperia, Map 6 Lot 22-1, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to sign the Mitigation, E-grant and access privileges for Library Trustees Annie Tobine and Christina McClay, Miles 2nd, so voted, Christina abstaining. These privileges will allow the Trustees to have online access to view/print, create/edit and sign/submit their grant application.

Miles has offered to attend the 2011-2012 Legislative Policy Conference on September 17. There are 9 different legislative proposals affecting municipalities that will be discussed at the Conference. The Board will schedule a work session to discuss their positions on the proposals prior to Miles attending the conference.

Chief Dickerson has submitted his resignation as the Groton Chief of Police. **Kyle made a motion to accept his resignation, Christina 2nd, so voted.** In the Chief's resignation he stated that "after over twenty years as a police officer I no longer have the compassion, desire, and the drive to continue to be a police officer." At Town Meeting two years ago the Town voted that the chief's position would be full-time. Miles stated that the salary of \$46,000 probably plays a role in the limited interest that has been shown in the position. The Board will be meeting to discuss how to move forward and inform the public as they go along.

On his 2006 & 2007 annual inventory, a property owner reported building a tool shed. When the assessor visited the property this year he found a cabin, 45% complete with an unplumbed bathroom, bedroom, tile flooring and large deck. Sam Greene, the Town's Department of Revenue Property Appraisal Division representative said it appears that a case for dooamage assessment has been made. Dooamage assessment is equal to four times as much as the property would be taxable if truly returned and inventoried. Mr. Greene recommends that the Town contact Avitar and perhaps the Town's Attorney before assessing dooamage. **Miles made a motion to forward this to Avitar for their recommendation, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

The Board would like to meet with the following Departments on September 21 at 6:00pm regarding the theft of funds and procedures to put in place to safeguard against this:

- Town Clerk/Tax Collector and her Deputy
- Groton Recreation & Old Home Day Committees
- Library & Cemetery Trustees
- Trustees of the Trust Funds
- Conservation Commission
- Treasurer

Rosemary Perry believes that her new car was scratched while the attendant at the Transfer Station was assisting her by removing scrap metal from the vehicle to toss into the dumpster. She would like the Town to cover the repair costs. The Town has Property and Liability insurance with a \$1,000 deductible. The Board is unsure whether this deductible would apply to this type of claim. They, along with audience members, are concerned about whether or not this would set any kind of precedent as the Transfer Station attendants help customers on a regular basis. **Christina made a motion to contact Mrs. Perry and ask her to get two estimates, and convey to her that this is not a promise of agreeing to her claim, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to accept, with regret and thanks for her service, Vickie Kimball's resignation from the Recreation Committee affective September 21, Christina 2nd, so voted.

The Recreation Committee is looking for volunteers. Call and leave a message for Vickie at 744-5395 or Annie at 744-5317.

The Recreation Committee has an opportunity to apply for matching grant funds for the purchase and installation of:

- An artisan well
- Bio toilets
- Electricity
- Additional playground equipment

The Board would like to meet with Vickie Kimball on September 21 to get more details. In the meantime, they will review the packet of information Vickie supplied. **Miles made a motion to table this until they can review it in greater detail and see if Vickie can meet with them, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Ed and Rita Smith have asked the Board to assist them in recovering \$400 for the death of their pet dog. James Tillotson's dog attacked and killed the Smith's dog on July 4th. The Smith's allege that Mr. Tillotson's agreed to pay all Veterinary fees as well as \$400 in compensation for the loss of their pet. They are assuming the Vet fees have been taken care of but have been unable to contact Mr. Tillotson regarding the \$400. The Board does not feel that it is their responsibility to try to collect on behalf of the Smith's. However Miles, in his capacity as Animal Control Officer, is willing to contact Mr. Tillotson to get his side of the story regarding this compensation. Miles is familiar with the incident.

Miles gave the following update: Attorney Ray spoke with the Planning Board on behalf of Frederick Sewell and Miles Friend. At this time the property owners want to be in compliance but have not made a decision regarding whether or not they will continue with the Boat Storage Facility (and to what degree) or have the operation shut down. Attorney Ray is aware that at present it is okay for boats to be removed from the premises but no boats are to be going in. His clients are also aware of the junkyard violation.

Mr. Sutton said that in the sixty years he has owned his property on North Groton Road he knows of no accidents that have occurred at the intersection of Blanchette Lane and North Groton Road. He recognizes that visibility can be an issue as his driveway is diagonally across from the intersection and he has a visibility problem. He would like to see a 'blind drive' sign put up. The Board reminded him that North Groton Road is a state road thus they have no jurisdiction regarding signage. They are currently looking at other possible avenues that will provide information regarding the history of that intersection.

Christina reported that the Library Trustees had a fund raiser at the Bristol Old Home Day and made \$46 selling books.

Miles made a motion to go into nonpublic session at 8:36pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b), Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to return to public session at 9:45pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant