

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
January 4, 2011
7:00PM**

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

Audience members present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.

Miles made a motion to accept the minutes of December 21 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles shared with the members of the audience that the School Budget Committee voted 4-3 to propose a level budget to the School Board for 2011. In addition, School Budget Committee member Skip Reilly is looking to present some type of petitioned warrant article regarding insurance benefits for the school ballot. He is asking if Miles and any other Board members would be willing to meet to discuss this. Miles encouraged residents to attend the budget public hearing on January 13 and the deliberative session on February 11 to have their voice heard. This is the public's opportunity to vote on the school budget that will ultimately be presented for final vote at the March 8 Town Meeting.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) held their public hearing last night regarding the Ethier Excavation Pit. This was the first time the Select Board had heard that the pit was in existence prior to 1979. Subsequently, the ZBA found that the pit was statutorily grandfathered, and they also granted a special exception. It is still not determined whether or not any additional Town permits will be required. Mr. Albert advised the Board that approximately 80 years ago his brother was hauling gravel out of there by hand.

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the building permit application. **Christina made a motion to approve the proposed highlighted changes on the building permit application, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

The Board reviewed the building permit guidelines. There are some changes proposed to clarify the requirements. **Miles made a motion to table this until the updated version is available and any changes discussed at this meeting are included, Christina 2nd, so voted.** The Board is also in the process of drafting a parking ordinance which would include addressing the boat launch issue at Spectacle Pond.

The Board reviewed the latest recommendations by the Junkyard Dog regarding the junkyard violations within the Town. **Miles made a motion to send the Newton and Kirk properties to the attorney for enforcement, send a letter to Mr. Faucher regarding his two properties, putting him on notice that he has 30 days to comply, and send licensing paperwork to Bixby and Greenwood letting them know that they need to take action on this by becoming licensed or coming into compliance, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

The Board has not heard back from Mr. Yetman regarding his property on Province Road. Miles believes they should reach out to him. **Kyle made a motion to draft a letter to Mr. Yetman inquiring on his position and asking if he has an alternate proposal for their consideration, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

The Northern Pass transmission project is the construction of a direct current transmission line that will link Hydro-Quebec's hydroelectric system with New England's electricity grid. Hydro-Quebec is proposing to run lines through New Hampshire to a converter terminal in Franklin. The proposed primary route does not run through Groton but the alternate route does. Northern Pass has supplied the Town with a binder indicating the primary and alternate routes. The public is welcome to come to the office to view the information. The approval

process for this project is in the very early stages. Once they file with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee the Town will file for Intervener status.

Christina made a motion to contact Avitar to double check on any financial impact to the Town as the phone lines will now have to be assessed for value and taxation, Miles 2nd, so voted.

The Department of Revenue (DRA) in conjunction with the Technology Transfer Center at the University of New Hampshire is developing a mosaic parcel map which will aid in the support of disaster relief/response, regional planning, fair and equitable property tax assessment and equalization. **Miles made a motion to make available to them copies of the Town Tax Maps and assessing data as long as our copies can be preserved, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Two photos were chosen for the Town Report: a photo of the Town Hall for the cover and an aerial photo of Spectacle Pond for inside.

Kyle made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Bryant, Map 7 lots 49 & 50, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Gordon Coursey has been volunteering to review the Intents to Cut prior to the Board signing. The Board feels that this review is not necessary as it is more important to have a review on the Reports of Cut. **Christina made a motion to change the process so that the Intents do not need to be reviewed by Mr. Coursey but they will continue to ask him to review the Reports, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Miles announced the School District offices that will need to be filled in 2011. A School Board representative for the Town of Groton is needed. Filing period begins on January 19 and runs through January 28.

The Select Board along with a review board made up of Frank Harris, James Joyce and Lou Lieto had interviewed two candidates for the position of Police Chief. All agreed on whom the best candidate for the position was and the Board did extend a conditional offer of employment to him. After thinking about it the candidate declined the offer. The Board recognized that to attract a better candidate they needed to increase the salary which they did. This candidate would likely have had to attend the full academy and pass a physical test in which he had only six weeks to get ready. The Board believes that this might have played a role in his declining the position. Also, the Board felt the candidate should know that in the past petitioned warrant articles to do away with the department have been brought before the town. This issue was something the candidate mentioned when declining the position. There was one individual who had missed the deadline for submitting resumes during the last round. The Board will allow this person to submit an application.

The Library will be opened from 10-2 on Saturdays. The trustees are trying to be open for a few hours each week. Also, the Middle School will be donating some books to the Library.

Kyle made a motion to adjourn at 8:31pm, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant