

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
March 29, 2011
7:00 PM**

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

Audience members present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Miles announced that the Board made the decision to hire Gary Roberge from Avitar Associates to act as their negotiator for the Groton Wind PILOT agreement.

Miles made a motion to accept the minutes of March 22 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

The Board reminded the audience that anyone who wishes to express their position on the Northern Pass Project may call the office at 744-9190 and let Pam know. She is tracking all responses on a spreadsheet. This is also an agenda item for next week.

The Board discussed RSA 74:10, which requires the Board to hold public hearings to receive inventories and hear all parties regarding their liability to be taxed. Pam had contacted the Local Government Center (LGC) and learned the following information about this law:

- No one at LGC had ever heard of this or knows of any municipality doing it.
- There is no case law addressing this or what happens should a municipality not hold a hearing.
- The law originated in 1878 and the most recent revision was in 1965. They could find no notes accompanying the revision.
- The inventory form does not address this issue. It instructs property owners to mail or deliver their inventory by April 15.
- There is no indication that liability to be taxed refers to assessed value. Questions regarding assessment are dealt with in the abatement process.
- They recommend that the Board choose a regularly scheduled Select Board meeting in which to receive inventories.

Most municipalities have discontinued using the annual inventory. However, this law is still on the books for those municipalities that do use it. Miles questioned the need for holding a hearing as they will not be discussing the assessed value of property only the liability to be taxed. Kyle feels that since the law is still on the books they should just post the hearing and hold it at the beginning of a Select Board meeting. Christina agreed and also said that they should contact the New Hampshire Municipal Association about getting this law taken off the books. Pam said the statutes deal with what is considered taxable property so there is no reason for this law. There was a time when people (poll tax) and livestock were taxed, and this law probably referred to that. Last year the Rumney Administrative Assistant had made Pam aware of this statute, which is why she brought it to the Board's attention. At the time Rumney was also using the inventory. Pam said she forgot to contact Ms. Dow to find out if the Rumney Board was complying with this law. **Christina made a motion to schedule this hearing for April 12 from 7:00-7:05pm as a part of the Select Board meeting, Kyle 2nd, so voted, Miles opposed.**

Miles motioned to sign the 2012 Tax Map Agreement with Avitar, Christina 2nd, so voted.

A service technician from Powers Generators suggested that someone check the oil level on the generator during those times when it is being used. Miles volunteered to do this.

Ken Martell had asked the Board to look into whether or not the Town was paying for the street light at the Spectacle Pond boat landing. The Town is currently paying for 6 street lights including that one. Pam contacted NHEC to get a list of all the pole numbers for these lights. Christina will verify the location of each light.

Currently the Town Clerk, Administrative Assistant and Police Chief take care of the garbage from their offices. However, there is no one designated to take care of the garbage generated in the rest of the building or to take care of maintenance/cleaning jobs such as cleaning the overhead florescent light fixtures. After some discussion it was determined that there is not enough work in the building to create a position. The Board would like the Road Agent to ask his assistants or Transfer Station attendants if someone would be interested in including a few additional tasks with their normal responsibilities.

The Board set up a work session for Tuesday, April 12 at 5:00pm to discuss ordinances and guidelines, and another work session at 6:00 to meet with the Road Agent.

Friday, April 1 is the deadline to submit closing statements/positions to the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) regarding the proposed Groton Wind Farm. Miles had prepared a letter for the Board's review. **Christina motioned to sign the Groton Wind letter and submit it to the SEC, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

The Board reviewed the MS-60 report and cover letter prepared by local auditors Lou Lieto and Bill Jolly. Christina noted that when they submit the MS-60 to the Department of Revenue the cover letter will need to be included as the auditors make reference to it in the report. The Board would like Pam to contact the auditors regarding three questions on the report that were left unanswered. **Miles motioned to table this until they hear back from the auditors, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

The Groton Historical Society (GHS) gave a brief update on their Memorial Day Celebration plans. Pam Yinger inquired about whether or not they could move the flag pole from the former Town Offices to the park. The Board does not know if it is the Town or the Library that owns the pole. Library Trustee Christina McClay said she will address this with the trustees at their next meeting. In the meantime, Kyle will take a look at the pole, including how it is set in the ground, to see if it is worth moving. GHS President Roland Bixby showed the audience a map of Groton that they had redone based upon the map of 1892. The map includes the locations of mills, schools, cemeteries and churches as well as many property owners. They are available for purchase from the GHS for \$10.

The Board received a letter from the Department of Revenue (DRA) stating that the wording on the warrant regarding the frequency of deposits was incorrect. After consulting LGC and the statutes, the Board feels that the DRA is not correct. Pam informed the Board that while the Town Clerk was at a DRA workshop last week she was told that the wording needed to be changed. She would like to talk with the Board as she is getting two conflicting opinions, and she would like to have this cleared up before tax time. The Board will meet with her during one of their Tuesday work sessions.

Christina announced that the Library Trustees will be meeting Tuesday, April 5 at 5:00pm in the Library.

Miles announced that they have a non public with the Police Chief after which they will be discussing some public issues as well. He said anyone could stick around until after the non public session if they so choose.

Miles made a motion to go into non public session pursuant to RSA 91:3-A II (b) at 8:21pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to adjourn at 9:47pm, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant