

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
April 5, 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 7:07pm.

Miles announced that Chief Pivrotto has accepted the position of permanent part-time Police Chief pending the signing of a contract. This contract is renewable annually.

At last week's meeting the Board went into a non public session followed by a public session. That public session's minutes are not reflected in the Select Board meeting minutes but are available as a separate public work session. They are currently in draft form awaiting the Board's approval but will be available to the public upon request.

Minute Approval

Miles made a motion to accept the minutes of March 29 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Old Business

Inventories

After reviewing the RSAs regarding the annual inventory, Miles has changed his vote from last week's meeting, regarding the hearing for taxpayers to discuss their liability to be taxed. He now supports holding the hearing. RSA 74:13 is clear that any selectman that shall willfully omit or fail to perform any duties imposed by the statutes governing the inventory shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition, upon further review of these statutes, the Board learned that they are required to send a notice to any property owner who has failed to file the inventory by April 15, notifying that property owner, that a penalty shall be assessed. Pam said this mailing can be done via postcards. The Avitar software system will produce a list of all property owners subject to the penalty as well as mailing labels. She will get quotes for printing the post cards.

Fill Waiver Form

The Board discussed some changes they would like to implement to the fill waiver form which will provide additional clarity and protection for the Town. These will be reviewed with Glen Hansen at next week's work session. In addition, the Board will consider whether or not disposal agreements are intended to be limited to Groton property owners only or can be extended to property owners in other municipalities, specifically those that are located near to the work site should Glen not find a Groton property owner nearby to take the fill.

Northern Pass

After conducting a brief survey that included 20-30% of Groton property owners regarding the Northern Pass Project, the Board found that the majority of those who participated were against the project. The results are as follows:

- For - 13
- Against - 100
- Undecided - 43

Based upon these results, **Miles motioned to send a letter to the Department of Energy, Governor Lynch, and our House and Senate Representatives, Christina 2nd, so voted.** The letter will relay the results of the poll and ask that these results be taken into consideration as plans for the project go forward.

Street Lights

Christina announced that she hopes to have the locations of the Town's six street lights by next week.

North Groton Road Complaint

Last November the Board received a complaint regarding the outhouse constructed on the Fleming property on North Groton Road. This was turned over to the Health Officer, Chuck Stata, who investigated and found the complaint to be unfounded. In an email to the Board he stated that the outhouse was legal. However, while speaking with the home owner, a possible water problem stemming from the brook across the road was brought to the Mr. Stata's attention. During the recent rain event the brook jumped its banks, crossed the road and flooded Mr. Fleming's driveway. Miles said he was aware of this incident. However, the problem stemmed from an ice jam at the Baker River Valley Snowmobile Club's bridge which is on private property. The snowmobile club is aware of the issue and it is Miles' understanding that they will be addressing this. At this time, the Board does not feel that they should be involved as the problem stems from the brook which is on private property even though an argument can be made that the water crosses over the Town's right of way. The Board will wait to see how the snowmobile club handles the situation.

New Business

Timber Tax Warrant

Christina made a motion to sign the Timber Tax Warrant for Upper Birch Holdings, Map 6 Lot 63, Sub lots 1-12, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Boiler Inspection Report

The biennial boiler inspection was conducted last week. Both boilers (Town House and Town Garage) passed the inspection. The insurance company did recommend the following for the Town House boiler:

1. A secondary high temperature limit control
2. A low water fuel cutoff device

The system already has a high temperature limit device. Before making a decision on these recommendations the Board would like Pam to get three quotes for the work.

State Fire Marshal's Request

The State Fire Marshal's is requesting a letter from the Town regarding any ordinances the Town has for the display or possession of fireworks. The Board is not aware of any ordinances prohibiting this, and they do not believe that this has been previously addressed. **Miles made a motion to send a response to that effect, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Building permit request

The Board reviewed the building permit for a 16 x 45 addition submitted by the Fields. Before making a decision on the permit they would like Pam to do the following:

1. Since the Fields are not the property owners, the Board would like to get something in writing from the property owner acknowledging her approval.
2. Check the subdivision regulations regarding setbacks to the road. This lot was a part of the Brock subdivision.
3. In 2007, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) issued an administrative order regarding the septic system. This order was recorded at the Grafton County Registry. In 2009 DES issued a letter stating that the septic was in compliance. However, this was not recorded. The Board would like LGC's opinion regarding the standing of the original order.
4. Contact DES about putting on this addition in respect to the current septic system as they are familiar with this case.

Miles motioned to table this until they get the information, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Groton Wind

The Board reviewed the proposal submitted by Gary Roberge from Avitar for negotiating the PILOT agreement with Groton Wind LLC. They agreed to accept the proposal with one change; the charge for a meeting Mr. Roberge had with the attorney for Groton Wind should be removed as this meeting was not authorized by the Board.

Current Use

While doing Current Use (CU) research in preparation for the Department of Revenue's Assessment Review, Pam came across an application for CU that was approved in 2005 but never recorded at the Grafton County Registry. The Board agreed that this should be forwarded to the registry. Normally the applicant pays the fee for recording at the time of submission. However, since this was the Town's error the Town will absorb the cost.

Committee Updates

Christina announced that the Library Trustees have no issue with moving the flag pole from the former Library building to the park. Once the snow has melted Kyle will take a look at the base to determine the condition of the pole. Pam mentioned that one of the problems with having a flag pole at an unmanned location is who will be responsible for lowering the flag when it is to be flown at half mast. The Board will address this issue once they determine the condition of the pole and whether or not it is worth moving it.

Christina also announced that the Library Trustees will get the hallway closet cleaned out within the next month and a half.

The next Library Trustee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19 at 5:00pm at the Library.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant