

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
November 15, 2011
7:00 PM**

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

Absent: Ron Madan

Audience Members Present

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

Kyle motioned to approve the minutes of November 8 as written, Miles 2nd, so voted.

B. A. Barnard Enterprises

Bruce Barnard of B. A. Barnard Enterprises addressed the Board. Their company is offering tax mapping services to the Town. He submitted some of their map projects for the Board's review. These included an index map, perambulation (perimeter) map and Hebron tax map. Mr. Barnard said they already have a Groton file with many survey maps.

UPDATES

Boat Storage Facility

Fred Sewall sent an email with an attached photo of the site. He reported that the front ends and other junk under the steel frame have been removed. The only remaining items are the blue tarps and wood which he is hoping to take care of this week. The Board will do a site visit once the cleanup project is complete.

OLD BUSINESS

Assessing Request For Proposal (RFP)

The Board reviewed and discussed the Department of Revenue (DRA) recommendations for the assessing RFP and agreed to insert them into the document. The Board will send a letter to DRA certified assessors directing any who are interested in submitting an assessing contract bid to visit the Town's website where the RFP will be posted. Deadline to submit a bid is Monday, December 19 at 4:00pm.

Miles motioned for Pam to send the letters out once the revisions to the RFP are finished, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Junkyard: Faucher, Kirk

The Board has not received the latest inspection reports from Ken Knowlton thus they are unaware if there have been any changes to Mr. Faucher's property on Bailey Hill Road. Mr. Faucher had said he would bring an excavator to the site once he had finished working on the snowmobile trails. Miles reported that he is still working on the trails. Miles will do a drive by to determine whether or not there have been any changes. **Kyle motioned to table this until next Tuesday, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Miles announced that the Board met with the Attorney Spector and Ken Knowlton today to discuss the

Kirk case and possible mediation. They have maintained that there should be some consequences to Mr. Kirk as they have been trying to get him to come into compliance for a number of years. They are also concerned about the message that would be sent if there are no consequences. The purpose for meeting with Mr. Kirk and his attorney was to try to resolve this issue short of court. Following this consultation, Attorney Spector, Miles and Mr. Knowlton met with Mr. Kirk and his attorney. Miles reported and there were some things that came to light that in his opinion mitigated certain things to Mr. Kirk's advantage, and clarifying that he was not totally stonewalling the Town. It appears as though Mr. Kirk has been working with Mr. Woodbury from the Department of Environmental Services regarding Green Yard compliance, and was doing everything that he was asked to do. In addition there were other issues of whether or not he was in violation with some of the things he has on the property, and this is something that could go either way in court. It also sounded like Mr. Knowlton only made one physical attempt to meet with Mr. Kirk although admittedly there were several letters sent to him and he did not respond to any. A possible settlement agreement was proposed which would include Mr. Kirk applying for a junkyard license within 30 days and paying for 1/2 of the attorney's fees. Attorney Spector drew up a draft settlement agreement for the Board's review. **Kyle motioned to approve the settlement agreement for Kirk and sign the final copy once it has been drafted, Miles 2nd, so voted.** The Board believes that this settlement is in the best interests of the Town. Attorney Spector concurs. Chuck Stata expressed concern that in the past Mr. Kirk had agreed to get a junkyard license on two separate occasions and did not follow through on it. He believes Mr. Kirk has displayed a level of defiance against the Town, the residents on Bailey Hill Road and against any regulation whether local or state. Miles responded that should Mr. Kirk not comply with the agreement then they will be back to where they were prior to signing the settlement agreement, and they have retained the right to continue to pursue the court case.

Filing Cabinet

The Board will install some bracing under the closet before moving the new filing cabinet in. Kyle will pick up a 2x12 and Miles will do the bracing work.

NEW BUSINESS

Transfer Station Exterior Lighting

The electrician reported that water was getting into the light switch box causing it to short out. It appears as though it is coming down the conduit pipe. He can replace the switch and drill a few holes in the box to keep any water from pooling, and at some point someone can use some epoxy to seal the pipe. There is nothing wrong with lights. Kyle volunteered to take a look at the conduit pipe to determine what needs to be done to fix the problem. **Miles motioned to table this until Kyle has an opportunity to take a look at the conduit pipe, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Offsite Computer Backup

The Town's computer maintenance company has suggested using Carbonite for offsite backup. The cost is \$229 a year and covers all the computers in the building. The Board asked Pam to look into some additional companies/pricing for their review.

2011 MS-5

Kyle motioned to sign the MS-5 accounting contract, Miles 2nd, so voted. Although accountant John Lyford is retiring from Mason and Rich, he will continue to do the MS-5. Mason and Rich no longer offer this service.

Groton Historical Society (GHS) Request to Use Hall

The GHS will be holding a meeting on Sunday, November 20; however they do not need to use the large hall, only the library. The Board believes they need to contact the Library Trustees to confirm whether or not the Library is available.

QUESTION AND COMMENTS

Chuck Stata stated that two items mentioned during the meeting involve usage of the Town's website and internet access. He asked if the Board knew what percentage of the Town's business is utilizing the internet and this service. The Board does not know. Mr. Stata also said that in the current Hazard Mitigation Plan usage of the internet and the need for this access are integrated into the plan.

Miles motioned to adjourn at 8:49pm Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant