

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
March 20, 2012**

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

Audience Members Present

Kyle called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Kyle motioned to approve the minutes of March 6 as written, Miles 2nd, so voted, Christina abstaining.

Appointments

The Board decided to rotate the Chairperson responsibilities. Kyle will continue as Chair for now and the Board will revisit this in the future.

Swearing in of Officers

The following elected officials were sworn into office:

Sharon Nelson: School Budget Committee

Marilyn Lieto: Library Trustee

Steve 'Slim' Spafford: Planning Board

Pamela Hamel: Cemetery Trustee

Ann Joyce: Supervisor of the Checklist

Miles Sinclair: Select Board

Christina Goodwin: Select Board and Cemetery Trustee

UPDATES

2012 Inventories

The 2012 Inventories will be mailed out on Wednesday, March 21. The Select Board will be receiving inventories at their office, 754 North Groton Road, Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00 and Friday 8:00-12:00. Inventories are due by April 15.

OLD BUSINESS

River Road Speed Limit Change

Last fall the Board had received a petition to lower the speed limit on the Groton portion of River Road. Chief Pivrotto conducted an investigation and submitted a recommendation to reduce the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph. Lou Lieto asked the Select Board to consider looking into the matter further, and perhaps ask the opinion of other residents who live on the road. The Chief's report states that since 2007 there have been 7 accidents, 3 of which were due to excessive speed. Mr. Lieto feels driving 35 is reasonable for that road and believes a reduction is an overreaction. Miles said that initially he questioned

whether or not this was an enforcement issue more than a speed issue. As far as he knows a traffic study has not been done. Mr. Lieto asked if there has been any comparison with similar roads such as North Groton Road to determine if this number of accidents is excessive. Chief Piviroto said the issue of speed was brought to his attention several years ago. On a number of occasions people have missed that first corner and landed in the ditch. The road has many curves, dips, blind spots, etc. There are 2 horse farms and a number of pedestrians on the road. Even though Groton's section of the road is short it is very busy, especially on the weekend. This will pick up in the summer months as there are seasonal homes on the road as well. People who are not familiar with the road tend to travel too fast, and a speed limit of 25 is typical for this type of road. The speed limit can be enforced with radar, and the Police Department can assign someone to a directed patrol of that area. Both ends (Dorchester and Groton) have had accidents. Mr. Lieto feels that 25mph is unnecessary and burdensome typically because people generally drive about 35mph and do so for the most part without incident. Mr. Lieto does not think that the accident history has been so serious as to require this change. Miles asked if it is possible to have someone go down there to run radar and track the traffic and speeds. The Chief said he would do this. Although this is ultimately the Board's decision, the Chief's input carries a lot of weight. Mr. Lieto also stated that one of the biggest offenders is the Mascoma School Bus. During the afternoon run, once the children are no longer on the bus, the driver consistently speeds. They have complained and one driver was replaced. However, the problem still exists.

Map 10 Lot 40

In Miles' original investigation he made contact and had two conversations with Attorney Deachman. Mr. Deachman had also conducted an investigation into the ownership of this lot and was unable to make a determination. Miles does not believe that it will be necessary for our Attorney to contact him. Attorney Morgan believes the Board has done their due diligence and all that they can in an attempt to find the owner. **Miles motioned to move forward with seizing that property by tax deed, Christina 2nd, so voted.** The Board will ask the Attorney if there is any benefit to having her execute the deed as opposed to the Tax Collector, and if so, get an estimate of the cost.

Sculptured Rocks Road Properties (Bryer, Ashley)

Kyle motioned to sign the two letters, one to Bryer and one to Ashley, Christina 2nd, so voted. The Board is asking Mr. Bryer and Mr. Ashley to submit documentation verifying ownership of abutting land.

Victoria Collins: Victoria's Mtn. Way

After contacting the Local Government Center and E911 Bureau of Emergency Communications, the Board believes Victoria's Mtn. Way should remain listed on the Tax Map for 911 purposes. They will change the map to indicate that it is private (PVT) and a right of way (ROW). Pam will draft a letter to Ms. Collins.

Letter to Governor Lynch and Senator Forrester re: HB 514

The Board is asking Governor Lynch and Senator Forrester to oppose House Bill 514 which requires municipalities and their agents to get written permission from property owners before going on the property. Among other things this will cause an administrative and cost burden to the Town. **Kyle motioned to sign the letters to Governor Lynch and Senator Forrester, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS

Backhoe Quotes

Glen reviewed the quotes received for the backhoe. He stated that he is not interested in the Caterpillar or John Deere models due to repair and replacement costs. Also the John Deere model is not competitively priced. The remaining two are the JCB and the Case.

The JCB offers a standard two year warranty and Case offers a 1 year warranty. The JCB Company is offering a 2011 demo with 62 hours on it. This machine has several additional features including a tool carrier on the front which allows for a general purpose bucket, set of forks, power angled snow plow and brush. The Case is a fixed bucket. The JCB is 100hp, the Case is 63 or 64 non turbo charged. This means a big difference in performance and fuel economy. The higher horsepower machine will get better fuel mileage. The JCB has a drive control system on it, air conditioning and other options. Glen has spent a lot of time going back and forth with the various salesmen of both companies. He said they are looking at a \$90,000 machine for \$63,000 (after the trade), and he believes this will affect the future trade value. He has also purchased a lot of heavy equipment in the past. Glen has a 1989 JCB backhoe with 13,000 hours that has never had the motor or transmission apart and never had a differential problem. This machine is currently servicing the Town. The demo is ready for delivery. The others would have to be ordered (unless they take a left over). The Board puts great weight on Glen's expertise and recommendation regarding these machines. Glen will contact Steve Foote to see if he can arrange to have the backhoe delivered here for a demo. Should they decide to purchase then perhaps it can stay and the old one taken for trade at the same time.

Road Committee

A suggestion was made by Daniel Tobine at the Town Meeting that a Road Committee be formed. The Board feels this is a good suggestion and would like to solicit interest in a volunteer committee to work on a written long range plan regarding the Town's roads. The Board can then determine the makeup of the committee. Glen would like to serve, and he feels that the committee should also include a professional engineer. He would like to ask Jiri Hajek to participate. Roger Thompson has also expressed an interest.

Local Auditor's Preliminary Report

Kyle announced that the Local Auditor's preliminary report shows the books are in order. Bill Jolly is compiling the report.

Septic Design for Fe Rodriquez

The Map and Lot number for Fe Rodriquez is not listed on the septic plans. The Board would like the plans resubmitted with the map and lot number listed.

David Leone: Right to Know Request

David Leone had submitted a request for information. The Board referred this to the Police Chief as it pertained to Police records. The Chief has gathered the information requested and it is available from the Chief for Mr. Leone's review/purchase. Mr. Leone is aware of this but for some reason believes the Board should supply the documents. In the Board's opinion the Right to Know law provides the right to information not who must supply it. The Board will send another letter to Mr. Leone reflecting this position. Mr. Leone has been notified that the information is available for pick up at the Police Department.

Miles motioned that once the letter satisfies the Board they sign and send it out, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Memo re: March 25 Payroll/Time Sheets

Kyle motioned to sign the memo regarding the March 25 payroll, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Notice of Workers' Comp Insurance Coverage

Miles motioned to sign the Notice of Workers' Comp Insurance Coverage, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Rumney 2012 Fire/EMS Contract

Christina motioned to sign the 2012 Fire/EMS Contract, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Gary Easson Petition to do Site Review

Per request of Gary Easson, **Kyle motioned to table this for two weeks, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Schedule Safety Committee Meeting

A Safety Committee meeting to clean and inspect the Everett Hobart Memorial Park has been scheduled for Saturday, April 21st, 9:00 am.

New Computer

The Board agreed to purchase a new computer for the office in May. They will update the version of Quick Books at the same time.

Edgar Albert Road

Frank Grelle expressed concern about the condition of Edgar Albert Road. Glen Hansen stated that there is a very severe mudding problem on the road. He has already used about 55 yards of stone, and although some areas are now stable there are new areas developing, in particular the first 300 feet. The mudding issue is a wide spread problem that all municipalities and the State are dealing with. Glen is concerned about his budget line for material. He will be putting more stone on tomorrow. Marina Chase thanked Glen for the work he has done thus far.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Christina announced that the Library made \$135 on the bake sale. They are looking to do it again at next years' Town Meeting.

Kyle motioned to go into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(c) at 9:04pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Kyle motioned to return to public session, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles motioned to adjourn, Christina 2nd, so voted. (9:30pm)

Respectfully Submitted
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant