

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
October 31, 2012**

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 6:59pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Kyle asked to amend the minutes to read “Miles will attempt to walk the Groton/Plymouth town line on November 3.”

Kyle motioned to approve the minutes of October 23 as amended, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Kyle stated that he is still unsure if he will be going. Miles will be at the Groton Wind operations building at 8:00am.

UPDATES

Special Town Meeting

About 38 people attended the public hearing on Saturday. The warrant article to swap the 50 acre lot on Old Rumney Road for a portion of Map 6 Lot 1 on North Groton Road passed unanimously. Because this new lot will be for governmental use it is not subject to local land use ordinances. The Board decided to hold a public hearing once the actual lot configuration has been determined. They will run a newspaper ad, post the hearing locally and send non-certified letters to all abutters.

State Contribution Rate for Police and Fire Retirement.

In order to save money the State had proposed temporarily lowering their contribution amount to the Police and Fire Retirement Fund. Municipalities have been taking up the slack. The New Hampshire Municipal Association took this to court saying it violated the unfunded mandate provision in the State Constitution. The Supreme Court has found that the legislature did not violate this provision. In addition, as of state fiscal year 2013, the state will no longer be contributing to the Group II (police and fire) and Group I (teachers) retirement.

OLD BUSINESS

River Road Cemetery (memo to Planning Board)

Christina motioned to sign the memo to the Planning Board, Kyle 2nd, so voted. The Cemetery Trustees confirmed that a fence is no longer required but they would like to have some type of boundary markers in place.

Disposition of Cabinets in Meeting Room

The Chief of Police does not have use for the cabinets in his office but he suggested using them in the basement. As a part of their Election Day work session the Board will look around the building for possible locations/uses for the cabinets.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 Tax Warrant/Tax Rate

Miles motioned to sign the 2012 Final Tax Warrant, Christina 2nd, so voted. As there is approximately \$142,000 in delinquent taxes owed, the Board chose to retain \$225,000 of the unreserved fund balance and applied the remaining \$72, 687 to the taxes to lower the rate. This year's rate is 11.23, down 1.01 from last year. The Town portion (which is the only portion that they have direct control over) was reduced by 1.77, from 3.87 to 2.10.

Amended Septic for Kelley

Kyle motioned to sign the amended septic plans for Kelley, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Hardy Country Snowmobile Club

The Hardy Country Snowmobile Club (HCSC) submitted a request for permission to do some work on Orange Road including repairing a double culvert and filling in some pot holes. **Kyle motioned to approve the repairs to Orange Road by the HCSC, Christina 2nd, so voted. Miles recused himself as he is a member of the club.**

Building Permit for EDP Renewables

EDP Renewables submitted a building permit for the installation of an 80 meter meteorological tower on MAXAM property, Map 5 Lot 164. The Board determined that EDP Renewables needs a special exception, and **Christina motioned to forward this to the Zoning Board for that purpose, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Letter from New Hampshire Electric Co-op (NHEC) re Scenic Highways

Miles motioned to sign the letter to the Co-op letting them know that Groton does not have any roads designated as scenic, Christina 2nd, so voted. The Board asked Pam to look up the spraying warrant articles so they can determine whether or not the spraying prohibition applies to the entire town or just the power lines.

PILOT

The Board received an email from the Danbury Select Board regarding Groton's PILOT agreement with Iberdrola. Miles suggested that since this is a three town project he is willing to meet with all three towns at one time to answer any of their questions. This approach avoids duplication and makes the most sense. The Board agreed and asked Pam to contact the Select Board in Danbury and ask them to coordinate this if interested.

Sale of Municipal Property

During a work session the Board met with a realtor from Old Mill Properties to discuss listing two (2) properties on Dodge Road. They have agreed to move forward with the listings and have the realtor do a market analysis on a third property.

Kyle motioned to adjourn at 7:46pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant