

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
October 8, 2013**

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the minutes of October 1 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

UPDATES

Christina announced that the November 2 fund raiser for Ty Clark has been changed to December 7. It is still an all you can eat spaghetti supper that will take place at the Bridgewater Town Hall from 5-8pm. All proceeds will go to help the family offset Ty's medical expenses. Volunteers are welcome. She also stated that the previous report that Ty's body had rejected the new kidney is not correct.

Christina gave an update on the New Hampshire Electric CO-OP's (NHEC) conference call. The call was mostly informational and included how NHEC determines priorities for handling outages. NHEC has forms they want municipalities to use to report a blocked road or wires down. They will send hard copies of those forms and additional information.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Proof File Cabinet

Pam reported that the file cabinet has been delivered. Due to the uneven floor in the hall it will need some shims for leveling. The Board will take care of it.

The Board has chosen Saturday, May 31 from 9am – noon for the Electronics Disposal Day.

Letter from Senator Forrester re: Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Cards Audit

Senator Forrester thanked the Board for their letter regarding the EBT audit. The Senator has filed legislation to address the recommendations from the audit. The Board would like to see a copy of the draft legislation when it is ready.

NEW BUSINESS

Bids for Cemetery Access Road

The Board received two bids for the Cemetery Access Road. While reviewing them they noticed that the performance bond was still included on the bid spec sheet and they had made the decision to not require the bond. Dave Leone stated that he did not bid because he had some concerns about the bid specs: no driveway permit was issued, the culvert required in the specs is longer than the driveway is wide, and there are some large trees in the wall that need to be cut and stumps removed but the wall is not to be disturbed. He feels there was not enough information in the specs to give an accurate bid. The Board

commented that some of the concerns being raised could have been addressed at the site visit that no contractors attended. Mr. Leone stated that he is not looking to challenge the bidding process or the Board's choice. He does believe that a driveway can be put in at the site with the correct pitch. There was some discussion regarding who has authority over issuing driveway permits.

The bids were as follows:

- DA White Excavating: \$13,534, includes performance bond
- GR Hansen: \$7,977.50. Mr. Hansen's bid does not state whether or not a performance bond is included.

Before discussing the bids further the Board will clarify whether or not Mr. Hansen's bid includes a performance bond.

Pole Licenses

Christina expressed some concern about amending the licenses at this time. They are in the midst of a court case with FairPoint which will not be resolved for several months and possibly not until 2015. If the licenses are amended the Town would have to pick up all other users in the Right Of Way. This presents its own challenges. As of April 1, 2013 (beginning of the new tax assessment year), the licenses were not amended. The Board has some time (5+ months) to consider how to move forward and watch how the court case develops before making a decision. In addition, the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) is holding a workshop on this topic during their annual conference in November. Christina is planning to attend.

Kyle motioned to table this until after the NHMA conference, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Chief Pivrotto

The Chief reported that his main computer has crashed on two occasions this year. The amount of information that the Department is putting in the computer is too much for it. He has already upgraded and added memory but believes it is time for a new one that is equipped for the work. He has no more funds in his computer maintenance line but does have money in the wage line for this. However, before making the purchase he wanted to speak with the Board as they have indicated that his wage line should be used for wages. In addition, the two rifles they have are from the Vietnam era. They are out dated and not appropriate for their use. He would like to return them to the State and purchase one new rifle that is appropriate for the department. **Christina motioned to approve both purchases, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Christina reported that, next year, Windows XP and Vista will no longer be supported. This presents some potential security risks for those using that operating system. The Town has a number of computers that use Windows XP and Vista. Pam will get pricing for upgrades etc.

Building Permit Violation for Tkachuk, Map 7 Lot , Halls Brook Road

Christina motioned to sign the Cease and Desist order for Tkachuk, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Mr. Tkachuk has put up a two story house on Halls Brook Road without getting the necessary permits.

Building Permit Violation for Morgan, Map 6 Lot 12, North Groton Road

The foundation for this house was poured last year but no additional work has been done. However, the property owner has not applied for her permit even though she has been contacted by letter and by phone.

Miles motioned to sign the letter regarding the building permit violation for Morgan, Kyle 2nd so voted.

Town Owned Property, Map 7 Lot 34, North Groton Road

The Board will contact the realtor about listing the property at 856 North Groton Road for sale.

Safety Concern

The Board received a letter from a concerned resident regarding the safety of employees who are working alone in the building during the day. The Board responded that to some degree this might be unavoidable, and the Town Clerk by statute sets her own hours. They will have a discussion with her to see if there is any way the schedules can be arranged to minimize this. In addition, surveillance cameras will be installed. Christina reported that she had attended a seminar on safety that was held in Holderness some time ago. She will try to find out who sponsored the seminar. The Board will set up a work session with the Town Clerk for next Tuesday at 5:30 pm.

Addendum to the Ambulance and Fire Agreement

Christina motioned to sign the addendum to the Ambulance and Fire Agreement, Miles 2nd, so voted. The addendum deals with forest fires which are governed by State statute.

Junkyard Inspection Reports

North Groton Road-Tolman: the property owner continues to make significant progress. There will be one more inspection this year.

North Groton Road-Millett: Pam will verify whether or not the remaining vehicle has been registered. If so no additional inspections are required for this year.

Old Rumney Road-Hansen: the property owner has made some progress. There will be one more inspection this year.

North Groton Road-Ljunggren: the property owners are now in compliance. The Board will send a letter thanking them.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kyle met with a contractor who looked at the repairs needed for the salt shed. The contractor will submit a bid. In addition, Kyle will contact a steel company to get a quote for using steel in the 2nd floor fire escape, and ask the same contractor to submit a quote for that project as well.

Christina submitted a Bristol Community Events flyer for posting.

David Leone asked the Board if they had any additional information regarding posting the Town's gravel roads. The Board responded that they learned that they have the authority to post the roads after following a statutory process. They do not know what process a former Board went through but they are not going to second guess whether or not it was done correctly or invest time/energy continually looking at what past Boards have done especially in light of the various current issues that they must attend to. They asked Mr. Leone why he did not investigate this while he was a member of the Select Board if he is concerned about the legitimacy and/or need of the postings. (Mr. Leone was the Road Agent when the signs were originally posted, and later was on the Select Board).

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

Miles motioned to return to public session at 9:39 pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Kyle motioned to adjourn at 9:40 pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel