

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
March 3, 2015

In Attendance: Kyle Andrews, Robert Ferriere, Christina Goodwin and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant)

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Christina motioned to approve the minutes of February 24, 2015 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

SOU Training Update

Sargent Thompson gave an update on the Special Operations Unit Training. A sniper hid on the property and none of the trainees could see him which was effective. A handful of towns participated and the group is holding another training with the tentative date of 5/21/15 from 8-4. They will notify abutters in person and use the "Code Red" program to inform the residents.

Code Red is a program that residents can register a number or email contact. Sargent Thompson mentioned that residents can go to the Grafton County Sheriff's department website, click on the "Code Red" link and enter information to be informed of emergency situations.

Ten Year Improvement Plan with North Country Council

Sara was able to submit the plan/intent into North Country Council on time for the Atwell/Orange Bridge to be considered as part of the ten year improvement plan. Christina explained that we will find out later if we are on the ten year plan.

Transfer Station Projects

Matt Fysh has been at the Transfer Station this week working on projects. He has completed the window as of Monday and the door should be completed by Thursday.

Christina let Joe Koslow know that she has talked to Alan Burgess at the Prison Sign Shop and we are waiting for a quote for the closure signs.

Joe asked Kyle about the potential for a snow blower for the Transfer Station. Kyle advised that the Board approved the snow blower at the Highway Department being given to the Transfer Station to use.

Joe asked about the fence. It was agreed during budget preparation that the fence would wait until next year.

Health Officer

The Board agreed that the one person that interviewed for the position was a good candidate to extend a conditional offer of employment. Unfortunately, the candidate has taken a full time job somewhere else. The Board agreed to look into other towns, instead of posting the position again, for sharing Health Officer options. The notice will be submitted to newspaper column and placed back on the website.

Ethier Report of Cut-Yield Tax Certificate

Jesse Bushaw at the Department of Revenue verified that the amounts on the report match the amount of cut that was done and also confirmed that the pallets should be 1.780.

Kyle motioned to sign the Yield Tax Certificate for Mike Ethier, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Illegal Fire

On July 16, 2014 there was an illegal fire in Groton. Upon recommendation of the Fire Chief and per statute, the Town billed the residents, sending them two bills. The second bill noted that a late charge would be imposed. No payment has been received; therefore, the Select Board has chosen to send a letter with a new bill imposing the late fee. Joe Koslow inquired if the Select Board would contact an attorney if the residents still do not pay. Christina stated that is one option but it has not been decided at this point and not the option the Board would prefer to do.

Christina motioned to sign the letter for the illegal fire, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Road damage

Road Damage was caused by a logging truck driving on the new part of North Groton Road with tire chains. A bill was sent previously to the logger for \$2,100.00 and the town has not received payment. This second bill is being sent with notification of a late fee to be imposed if not paid and also a letter from the Select Board requesting payment or other action to be taken.

Kyle motioned to sign the letter for the road damage on North Groton Road, Christina 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Municipal Audit Report

Sara will email the Local Auditor's report to the Board for review.

Christina motioned to table the local auditor's report until the March 10, 2015 work session, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Alarm Activation

Christina explained there was an alarm activation Sunday night where the alarm company made a number of calls and also dispatched a police unit to check the building. Bob ended up coming up but the Board would like to develop a better policy to handle these calls moving forward. Kyle feels that the Board shouldn't be responding to the building until the police have responded. The Board agreed. Chief is first on the list to be contacted but should the Board be contacted in the future, then the police response will be first with Board to follow if necessary.

Christina also stated that small animals can set it off so she wanted to know if we should be setting mouse traps out in the hall area. Bob also mentioned that it could be set too sensitive

and asked if this can be adjusted. Sara will contact Main Security to see if there is a way to adjust the sensitivity on this.

John Rescigno stated that when he would respond to them at the Department Stores he worked at they were not allowed to go inside until the police responded. EJ added that the Police do not want anyone to go inside but they also do not want to kick a door down. EJ said to ask the alarm company to find out how long it will be until the responder is there so that we know when to arrive.

Joe Koslow asked EJ if the Town switches to Plymouth dispatch would Plymouth police come out. EJ explained that the State Police would still come out and not Plymouth.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Town Reports

The Town reports are in and anyone can pick one up from the table in the aisle or at Town Meeting.

Agenda

Christina explained that we are going to finalize agendas and put them online by Mondays before Select Board meetings. However, this will not happen until Sara returns from leave. The Board will plan on an anticipated start date of May 1st.

Vote

Christina wanted to encourage everyone to vote. She also explained that there are still some positions without candidates running and that anyone interested should consider being a write-in candidate.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Jo asked if it would be possible to get the agendas for the other meetings such as Planning Board, Conservation, etc. Christina explained if it is a hearing on a case then the Planning Board has to post, but there is no requirement for these other Boards or Committees to post. We can ask them to consider the request.

Kyle motioned to adjourn at 7:45pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant