

TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
December 8, 2015

**In Attendance: Christina Goodwin, Robert Ferriere, John Rescigno, and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant)**

**Audience Members Present**

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**MARTHA RICHARDS:**

Martha Richards introduced herself as the District 3 Grafton County Commissioner, explaining that she tries to go around to towns once a year to go over what the County does and how things are going.

The budget at the County is 40 million dollars. They have to raise 22 million dollars from taxation. She mentioned that last year was a higher tax bill for Groton at \$316,909.00 and this year it went down 46% to \$171,032.00. She explained that there are 32 towns and 1 city in Grafton County and there are three major departments, which she will go over.

One of the major departments in Grafton County is the Nursing Home which has 135 beds. This year there was an issue that required construction and repairs including bathrooms made to accommodate the wheel chairs. She invited everyone up to visit the nursing home and explained there are over 200 employees there.

Another major department is the Department of Corrections. This is the third year in the new facility. They call it corrections to correct behaviors and make people better than they were when they came in. There are currently 100 inmates but it can hold up to 250 if they double bunk them. This is anyone who is a year or less on their sentence. The majority of them are drug reasons. They offer AA, NA and family counseling. They also have a GED program. The Department of Corrections can be visited as well. Joe Koslow asked, "what happened to the old jail"? Martha explained that it was torn down and there is a park now which is named the Ray Burton Park. They are hoping to get 100 years out of the new jail.

The farm is the other major department. This is the area that any inmates that are eligible will work on the farm, in the barn, in the vegetable fields, etc. Anyone who has run the vegetable field has never come back to the jail when they leave. Martha explained that they also use the vegetables for the jail and nursing home. Slim asked – "what the relationship is between Glen Cliff and the County"? Martha explained there is no relation as Glen Cliff is a State facility.

Other departments consist of the IT department, the maintenance crew, court system, administration building, registry of deeds, etc.

The following are concerns with the County:

- Drugs: The heroin and opioid use is an epidemic. We need to find treatment facilities and ways to stop people from wanting drugs.
- Aging in County and State: Losing young people because of no jobs, housing, etc. Northern pass: She is very opposed to Northern Pass. They will bury 60 miles of it so she doesn't understand why they cannot bury all of it.
- Lack of mental health care: A person in crisis shouldn't be in a hospital or jail. The new superintendent of jail stated if they had money he would build a new pod for drug and alcohol rehab with about 50 beds. There really needs to be more mental health care facilities as well.

Martha Richards inquired about Groton's satisfaction with the wind towers. She didn't understand why they are not moving all the time. It was explained that they are not moving if they are not needed, if they need maintenance, if it is too windy, etc. Slim said he was on the Planning Board when the wind towers were discussed and there were only two Groton residents there that were against them. He said at that time he asked what the wind towers would do for the people of Groton. He was told that it will lower our taxes and people have been happy with that. Christina explained that we had a meeting with assessing firm and the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and they stated that some people moved to Rumney for the towers. Betty spoke up and stated that the wind towers do their job. Martha feels they are an eye sore so she wanted to get the input from the Town.

Martha fielded the following questions:

- Joe Koslow asked if the County Sheriff answered to her. She stated that he is elected so he doesn't answer to them but they can provide recommendations so she asked if he had a concern. Joe said they seem like all they do is transport but in Florida they do more. EJ mentioned they have full law enforcement ability. They do transports and investigations but can pull people over for speeding, etc.
- Slim added in about the drug problems. He that they drug problem is everywhere. He said he heard that people do not want Narcan because it puts them into withdrawal. Martha asked EJ if Groton has had a lot of overdoses. EJ said no but explained that we have found needles on the side of the road.

With no more questions, Martha left the meeting.

#### **MINUTE APPROVAL**

**Christina motioned to approve the minutes of December 1, 2015 as written, John 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### *Considerations for Open Positions*

Otto Jespersen requested to be considered for an appointment to the Cemetery Trustees. Last week the Select Board explained that they do appoint for the Cemetery Trustees but they need recommendations from everyone involved and they did not have Sharon Nelsons input at the time. Sharon Nelson emailed the Select Board that she does recommend Otto Jespersen. **John motioned to appoint Otto Jespersen as Cemetery Trustee, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.** Sara will get a copy of the motion to Laura and then Otto will be sworn in.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### *Letter and Form from Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests*

The Select Board received a letter and form from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. It was requested that the Select Board confirm if they are aware of Map 3 Lot 17 located on Province Road in Groton, NH having any problems concerning solid or hazardous waste which are on this property or which might impact it since they are working with a resident for conservation issues. The owner is James Cross Jr and the property is located off of Province Road on Coolidge Woods Road. The Select Board stated that they are not aware of any problems on this property. Slim said he has been all over the property and he hasn't seen anything except shingles possibly where the old farm house was located. **Christina motioned to sign the form from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Cutting on Map 2 Lots 55 & 56*

Sara explained that she was contacted by John Martin and Doug Miner regarding some concerns that the landowners of Map 2 Lots 55 & 56 are cutting illegally and cutting on others properties. At this time, Doug Miner from the NH Division of Forest and Lands is looking into it but wanted the Select Board to have a heads up. Sara did look and there is no intent to cut on file and not one needed as of this meeting but if any additional cutting takes place then an intent will need to be filed.

### *Abatement Application-Map 6 Lot 1-3*

Laura had submitted an abatement application for Map 6 Lot 1-3. This is a property that the Town of Groton bought but the property was not marked as exempt. The tax was \$1.00. **John motioned to approve the abatement application for Map 6 Lot 1-3, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Abatement Application-Map 1 Lot 91*

Laura had submitted an abatement application for Map 1 Lot 91. This is a property that the Town of Groton bought but the property was not marked as exempt and it was charged \$185.00. **Bob motioned to approve the abatement application for Map 6 Lot 1-3, John 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Abatement Application-Map 5 Lot 23-1*

Sara had submitted an abatement application for Map 5 Lot 23-1. This property was charged an inventory penalty of \$10.00 but the inventory was received on March 23, 2015. **John motioned to approve the abatement application for Map 5 Lot 23-1, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Abatement Application-Map UTL Lot 1*

The Select Board received an email from New England Hydro Transmission, Map UTL Lot 1 regarding the inventory penalty of \$10.00. Sara double checked the file and we didn't have anything for 2015 but did receive it every year prior. The Hydro indicated that they had sent the inventory form on April 8, 2015 submitting a copy to the Board as proof. **Bob motioned to approve the abatement application for Map UTL Lot 1, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Memo from Sara*

Sara submitted a memo to the Select Board regarding the amount of comp time and vacation time she currently has remaining in 2015. Sara currently has 19.25 hours of comp time and 57.51 hours of vacation time.

The Select Board would like Sara to schedule all but 40 hours, which they are okay with Sara carrying over. She will submit a list to the Board at the next meeting.

#### *Resignations*

Christina read Laura Hauser's resignation as Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Christina explained that the Board and Laura have been trying to work out a resolution, but couldn't announce anything until we received the official resignation. The Board is asking for interested parties to let Sara know by Monday December 14, 2015 at 4:00pm as the Select Board is in charge of appointing the replacement until Town Meeting and it is prudent to get someone training.

Christina read Ann Joyce's resignation as Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Christina mentioned that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector is in charge of appointing this position, but the Board will check with legal counsel for options when both positions are vacant. Any interested parties should submit their name as well, but a decision may not be made immediately.

Both positions resignations are for December 31, 2015.

#### **SELECT BOARD ITEMS:**

##### *Turkey Trot Group*

Christina did receive names for the Town of Groton and there were three which are a boy age 13, a girl age 11 and a boy age 17. If interested in purchasing a gift for them please let Christina know. She would need the items by next Wednesday, December 16.

##### *Donation boxes*

Christina thanked everyone for their donations. She will bring the cold winter clothing this week. Christina mentioned that we are using the money that was donated from the Turkey dinner, toward food baskets for Groton residents for Christmas. Sara also mentioned that there was a message asking who a check should be made out to for the donations. It was decided that the checks can be made out to Christina since she will be doing the shopping along with volunteers. Christina also mentioned that if anyone knows of family that would need a basket to her know.

##### *Open positions*

There are a few open positions for the Town of Groton, where some are volunteer and some are elected, which means that anyone interested would be appointed until the election. They are currently: one Library Trustee, one Road Agent Assistant, two Part Time Police Officers, and one Transfer Station Alternate. If interested either fill out an application for employment or submit your name for consideration.

##### *Grant from Groton Wind*

Iberdrola has approved a grant for \$5,000.00 towards dry hydrants and cisterns. The Board agreed to send a thank you card and place acknowledgement in the Town report.

*North Groton Road*

The North Groton Road paving has been completed.

*Tapply Thompson Community Center's (TTCC) 61<sup>st</sup> annual Christmas Village*

Christina explained that the TTCC will be having its 61<sup>st</sup> annual Christmas Village. This will take place on Friday December 11<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm, Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-5pm and Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-5pm. There are crafts, activities and the Santa's village to visit with the big guy.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

*Groton wind*

Pamela Hamel wanted to mention that Groton Wind has also been very involved with the community. They have given over \$17,000.00 to the community and other areas of the State, such as County projects too.

*Elizabeth Jespersen*

Elizabeth Jespersen had a few questions:

- Elizabeth found a leak in the basement. Christina explained that John found that it is the relief valve and Sara will contact Dead River to repair.
- She reminded everyone that "meals-on-wheels" is available for Groton. She will do 2 days a week hot meals and the other days they will get a frozen meal.
- She has been informed that the Library is not open for the hours that are posted online. It is actually open on Fridays from 10:30am-2:30pm. Sara will update the website.
- She also wanted to remind everyone that tomorrow at 4pm she will be meeting with the Hebron Library Trustees to get ideas from them and suggestions. Sharon Nelson and Gina Rescigno will be attending with her and everyone else is welcome to attend as well.

**Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 8:29pm, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant