

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
January 5, 2016

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

Audience Members Present

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

Bob motioned to approve the minutes of December 15, 2015 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Police Chief Pinning Ceremony

Christina explained that EJ Thompson was sworn in by the acting Town Clerk/Tax Collector Ann Joyce on Monday, January 4, 2015, but the Board wanted to hold a pinning ceremony for the new Police Chief. EJ's wife Heather was in attendance to do the actual pinning of the Police Chief's badge. Christina read a speech and explained that EJ has been in Law enforcement since 1990. The Board and the public welcomed and congratulated EJ on his promotion.

Thanking Police Chief Pivrotto

The Town presented Police Chief Pivrotto with a plaque to thank him for his years of service to the Town of Groton. He was a part time Police Officer since 2008 and became the Chief of Police in 2010. The Town wishes the Chief the best of luck.

A brief intermission was taken to enjoy refreshments.

Christina motioned to return to meeting at 7:42pm.

Letter from Owners of 559 North Groton Road

Christina motioned to table this until John was here. This is a legal matter that she feels the full Board should discuss. Sara will send this to the attorney for review and to provide feedback.

Christina motioned to table the letter from 559 North Groton Road until next week, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Items

Christina explained that Laura Hauser's last day was December 31, 2015. Ann Joyce has agreed to stay on as the interim Town Clerk/Tax Collector until the appointed Town Clerk/Tax Collector can take it over. The hours will remain the same for all days with the exception of Tuesdays. Effective immediately, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office will be open on Tuesdays from 4:00pm-6:00pm.

Also, on December 24, 2015 Ruth Millett has been appointed to be the next Town Clerk/Tax Collector but she has to shadow for 30 days and take some training classes. She began her shadowing on December 29, 2015. The State requires a letter from the Select Board explaining all of this. Ruth will not take on her full duties as Town Clerk/Tax Collector until she is certified to do motor vehicles. **Bob motioned to sign the letter to the State of NH Division of Motor Vehicles, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Christina stressed that we are very thankful that Ann stayed and we cannot thank her enough. We are also very excited that Ruth was interested in the position and we are sure that Ruth would appreciate the Town's votes in March.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hebron Ambulance and Fire Services Agreement

Hebron submitted a draft for the ambulance and fire service agreement so the Town could use this to prepare for the budget. The current contract does not expire until March 31, 2016. Once the Board has reviewed, then Hebron will submit a final version. Christina explained that currently we pay \$30,000.00 a year and then there are additional charges for each call that we pay hourly. This year it brought the total to over \$40,000.00. The agreement will be three years and will be \$50,000.00 a year and this will be a flat rate so there will be no more hourly charges. This contract includes payment toward the purchase of the new fire truck.

Inventory Abatement for Colony of Forest Hills

Charlene Weekly from the Colony of Forest Hills emailed a request that the inventory penalties be waived as she is sure they have been sent in every year. Sara tried to locate them but was unable to, but can confirm that they have sent them in every year. **Christina motioned to approve the inventory abatement request for \$30.00 for the Colony of Forest Hills, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Resignation

Andrew Newcomb submitted his voluntary resignation from his position as a Part-Time Police Officer with Groton effective January 1, 2016.

NH Police Standard & Training Status Notification Form B

It is standard procedure that any time any change is made to the Police Department that a NH Police Standard & Training Status Notification form is completed. The following forms were reviewed by the Board:

- For Andrew Newcomb's resignation. **Christina motioned to sign the NH Police Standard & Training Status Notification Form B for Andrew Newcomb, Bob 2nd, so voted.**
- For Joseph Pivrotto's resignation. **Christina motioned to sign the NH Police Standard & Training Status Notification Form B for Joseph Pivrotto, Bob 2nd, so voted.**
- For EJ Thompson's promotion. **Christina motioned to sign the NH Police Standard & Training Status Notification Form B for EJ Thompson, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Christina explained that we are currently seeking two part-time police officer positions in the Department.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Department Head Meetings

The schedule for the Department Head meetings has been updated, due to elections, budget and scheduling conflicts. Next week's Department Head meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be March 22, 2016 at 4:00pm. The rest of the year meetings will be as follows: May 17, July 12, September 20, and November 15. Sara will post the schedule online and in the buildings.

Zoning Board Concern

Christina explained that when the Zoning Board was discussed at a Select Board meeting there was a mistake with regard to resignations and current members of the Board. It was brought to our attention that Mark and Nancy Watson never resigned. Christina apologized that this happened and explained that Sara called Frank Grelle as the Chair and explained that there has not been any resignations. It was also recommended that Frank talk to some other members and put together a meeting so that the Board can be straightened out. It is believed that the current members are Frank, Glen, Mark, Nancy and Chuck. Otto could be an alternate if he is still interested.

Bob explained that one of the reasons that this happened is that even the members of the Zoning Board did not know who was on the board. This is partly because there hasn't been any meetings. Bob said that he feels they should at least have one meeting so everyone knows who is on the board and introduce themselves to each other.

Budget Schedule

Christina went over the following dates regarding budget meetings and deadlines:

- January 9, 2016: Deadline for warrant article submissions
- January 12, 2016 at 4:00pm: Work session to address budget and warrant articles.
- January 19, 2016 from 4:00pm – 5:30pm: Work Session with Department Heads whose budgets have been affected.
- January 19, 2016 from 5:30pm-7:00pm: Work Session to review any final budget/warrant article changes
- January 20-January 29: Filing deadline for Town Offices
- January 21, 2016: Deadline to advertise for the public budget hearing
- January 26, 2016: No work session; Regular Select Board meeting at 7:00pm
- February 2, 2016: Public Hearing for budget and warrant articles at 6:00pm. Followed by regular Select Board meeting. Snow date will be February 3, 2016.
- February 9, 2016: No Select Board Meeting due to the Presidential Primary Elections. There will be a work session at 3:00pm with the Transfer Station.
- February 12, 2016: Deadline for the first draft of Town Report to printers.
- February 16, 2016: If needed, the second public hearing on the budget.
- February 22, 2016: Deadline for warrant/budget to be posted
- March 1, 2016: Deadline for Town Report to be available for the public. Work session at 5:00pm to go over Town meeting preparations.

- March 8, 2016: No meetings due to Town Elections
- March 12, 2016: 9:00am Town Meeting

Thank you

Christina thanked Elizabeth Jespersen for baking and setting up for the ceremony tonight.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Library Meeting

Elizabeth Jespersen explained that on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 11am the State Librarian Michael York and Ann Huey from Library Development Services will be meeting with Elizabeth, Otto, Cassandra and anyone who is interested in attending. They are going to discuss the Town Library and give ideas.

Library Poll

Elizabeth explained that she received permission from Lou Lieto to set up a table for a poll from the Library Trustees on voting day with some questions regarding the library.

Fish and Game

Elizabeth shared some information on wild turkeys. There were two handouts regarding this. One is for counting the turkeys that you have in your yard and the other is information on viruses that the turkeys may have that you can watch for and submit information on as well.

Perambulations

- Alan Barnard will be here next week to talk about the Alexandria-Groton perambulation around 7:30pm.
- Rumney had an issue with the person we wanted to use for the perambulation with them. Sara will follow up with them to see where this stands,
- Hebron - Sara will clarify with them what the status is for the perambulation and confirm that we did pick Alan Barnard to do this one as well.

Having no other business to conduct, Bob motioned to adjourn at 8:21pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant