

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 16, 2016

In Attendance: Christina Goodwin, Robert Ferriere, John Rescigno

Audience Members Present

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the Work Session Minutes from February 2 as written, John 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Public Budget Hearing Minutes from February 2 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes from February 2 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Work Session Minutes from February 9 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Budget Hearing – continuation from 2/2/16

The Board met on February 9 to discuss comments/concerns from the public hearing on February 2. The budget was lowered slightly overall during this meeting. Christina updated the following changes and questions:

- Executive Budget - A discussion on the wages and the wage study was held. The discussion was a split with a 2-1 vote, with the final decision not to make any adjustments. Christina explained that the Board did make a mistake when increases were put into effect before Town Meeting, but she doesn't feel that it is appropriate to go back to adjust them at this point. The Board will move forward and deal with Town Meeting.
- Planning and Zoning budgets - There were questions about the legal lines being inflated in both budgets. The Board amended both legal lines in the Work Session. Planning Board legal was budgeted at \$6,000 originally and reduced to \$4,000. Zoning Board legal was budgeted at \$3,000 originally and reduced to \$2,000.
- Advertising and Regional Associations - The Board chose not to adjust the budget for 2016. They will look at opportunities that North County Council can offer as well as the potential to change to a different district if possible. Any elimination of contracts or dues would be done for 2017.

- Lakes Region Mutual Aid line in the Fire and EMS budget - Christina apologized that she was incorrect during the public hearing. The valuation did take the PILOT into consideration and the reduction in the rate was from usage and population. There won't be any additional reductions moving forward unless there are reductions in usage.
- Highway and Streets - The vehicle maintenance line was being checked and an answer will be available at the next meeting.
- Solid Waste Disposal - A concern was raised about the Recycling Costs being over-expended in 2015. The Board reviewed and increased the budget by \$1,000. The Board is working with the Transfer Station on alternatives for recycling in 2016.
- Welfare Administration – The Board reviewed this budget and reduced the Dues to zero and the Direct Assistance to \$1.00.
- Parks and Recreation budget - There was a concern that the Board was even considering adding electricity to Everett Hobart Park. The Board did not make a final determination on electricity, but did choose to leave the budget as is, since there are a number of other items to be done for 2016.
- The new operating budget total was reduced overall to \$744,465.

Warrant Articles were reviewed and any questions that were answered during the hearing were not re-addressed, but only items that needed to be researched, etc. The following articles were discussed:

- Article 5 - A concern was discussed about the stockpiling of material behind the Highway garage with the intended purpose to be ground up for use on Province Road and that the money was being wasted. Glen Hanson had the stockpile measured and a quote of costs will be discussed at the next meeting. If the Board determines that the cost of stockpiling and grinding exceed the costs of ordering and delivering, the Board will use this information to determine if there will be any additional stockpiling. The current pile will be used as planned.
- Article 9 - We are following up to make sure the money is transferred to the general fund. Christina adjusted the amount referenced in the account.
- Article 20 – This article was added after the last public hearing: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three-thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the purpose of purchasing a storage container for use at the Groton Transfer Station. This sum is to come from the fund balance and no money will be raised from taxation.* The intent is to purchase a storage container to be used for any collectible items, such as electronics, etc. After Town Meeting the Board will prepare a flyer for fees and what will be accepted and the Board will make a final decision on whether to go with a potential recycling company.
- Article 21 – This is a petitioned warrant article that was discussed in the public hearing but was added to the warrant after the public hearing: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to Highway and Streets materials budget line to ensure the upkeep of all Town maintained roads.*
- Christina added the wording to all the Articles – Majority vote required.

Once the warrant and the MS737 are done, then the Board will need to come in to sign for posting. **Christina motioned to approve the Annual Meeting Warrant for 2016 and the upcoming MS-737 and to come in to sign by the end of the week when ready, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Christina is still working on the excel sheet of wage changes for the public reference.

Letter to Chief Thompson regarding Special Details

The Board agreed that Chief Thompson could do Special Details as long as they did not affect his shifts or coverage for the Town of Groton. A letter was provided to cover the contract requirement of a written agreement of the Board. **Bob motioned to sign the letter to Chief Thompson regarding Special Details, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of affidavit

The affidavit was provided by the Town's attorney for the court case on 559 North Groton Road. An email was submitted to the Board, while Sara was out of the office that stated that the Board would need to be at a hearing on Monday. Christina emailed to inquire if this could be changed. The Board agreed with the affidavit. Sara will be updated to submit the affidavit and to also update the Board with the status of the hearing.

Signature Cards

Christina recommended that the Board table the signature cards until they are able to view the older cards for comparison. **Christina motioned to table the signature cards until next week's meeting, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Propane tank

Ruth Millett reported that the propane tank was filled but the kerosene tank for the monitors was empty and they had not been filled yet. The Board agreed that the monitors should be cleaned before used again and will have Sara make arrangements as well as scheduling the fill-up.

Spectacle Pond portable restroom

A concern was discussed at the Conservation Commission meeting about have a portable restroom installed at Spec Pond. Christina is concerned that it will get tipped over at this location because it is out of view. One possible solution for the tipping is to chain the portable restroom. Another requirement is that the restroom cannot be closer than 33 feet or further away than 200 feet and this roadway is restricted by width, no parking, etc. Another concern was that this is not budgeted. The Board agreed to consider for 2017.

Moose Plate Grant

Time is running out on the Moose Plate Grants, which is for preserving NH Cultural Heritage. The Board will review the application to see if it is possible to use for the Town Pound.

Plumbing quotes

Only one quote from Andy and Sons has been received. Christina will follow up with Sara to see if we are getting anymore quotes. If not, then we will move forward with the plumbing quote received.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Glen Hanson – Roof issue

Glen reported that there is a piece of cap coming off on the roof. He will get some quotes to repair.

Ice Jam

Glen reported that he has been informed that there is an ice jam on Halls Brook Road. He will be going to check on it tonight and call the State if necessary.

Dodge

Glen reported the Dodge truck is having the transmission issue again. He will call Autoserve.

Stockpile behind garage

Glen reported that there is 450 yards. In the Spring, they will begin grinding. Glen will provide the cost of delivering the material versus the stockpiling for the next meeting.

Having no other business to conduct, Bob motioned to adjourn at 7:57pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Goodwin
Select Board Chair