

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 23, 2016

In Attendance: Christina Goodwin, Robert Ferriere, John Rescigno

Audience Members Present

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

Minutes were tabled until the next Select Board meeting.

CANDIDATES NIGHT:

Supervisor of the Checklist for 2 years: Currently no candidates listed. The other Supervisors recommended to write-in Annie Tobine, who has expressed interest in the opening and has been working with the Supervisors throughout 2015.

Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years: Pam Hamel has been doing the position for approximately ten years. She is quite knowledgeable with regard to the statewide voter database and brings experience to her role. She would like to continue in this position and has no issues with being at the elections.

Zoning Board for 3 years: There are three candidates running for two positions - Frank V. Grelle, Glen Hanson, Otto H. Jespersen.

Library Trustee for 1 year: Otto H. Jespersen.

Library Trustee for 2 year: Elizabeth A. Jespersen.

Library Trustee for 3 years: Sharon E. Nelson became interested when the Town lost all of the Trustees in one year. She has talked with the Jespersen's who are working hard on improvements for the Library. She would love to help keep up the good work that they have started.

Cemetery Trustee for 3 years: Otto H. Jespersen.

Town Auditor for 1 year: Currently no candidates – Write-in candidates are welcome.

Planning Board for 3 years: Two candidates are running for two positions – Glen Hanson and Elizabeth A. Jespersen.

Trustee of the Trust Fund for 3 years: Currently no candidates – Write-in candidates are welcome.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector for 2 years: One candidate is running on the ballot and one candidate is running as a write-in.

Ruth Millett is on the ballot and is currently in training after being appointed by the Select Board. She is learning a lot of information in her training and would appreciate the public's vote.

Donna Bryant is running as a write-in candidate. She has been in the Town of Groton for 17 years. She works for the Newfound Regional School Department and also the Town of Hebron as a Beach Attendant. Donna ran previously for this position. She feels that it is time for a change, the job is convenient and she likes working with people.

Moderator for 2 years: Currently no candidates – Write-in candidates are welcome.

Select Board for 3 years: Christina Goodwin has been doing the position for 5 years. Some days she honestly hates the job and other days she loves it. Christina really cares about Groton and has been living here for 23 years, growing up in Plymouth, NH.

School Board – Alexandria for 3 years: Suzanne Cheney

School Board – Bridgewater for 3 years: Vincent Paul Migliore

School Board – Danbury for 2 years: Sharon Klapyk

School Budget Committee – Alexandria for 3 years: Two candidates running for one position: Harold "Skip" Reilly and Kimberly Bliss

School Budget Committee – Bridgewater for 3 years: Currently no candidates – Write-in candidates from the Town of Bridgewater are welcome.

School Budget Committee – Danbury for 2 years: Ruby Hill

School District Moderator for 1 year: Edward "Ned" Grodon

Article 2: Expendable Trust Fund: Building Maintenance – "Shall the Newfound Area School District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of Ninety-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine Dollars (\$99,999) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund: Building Maintenance and to authorize the transfer in that amount from the undesignated fund balance available July 1, 2016 for this purpose?"

John Rescigno explained that this money transfer comes from the general fund and does not hit taxation for the school budget. Pam Hamel raised a concern that the dollar amount isn't specific and that the Department of Revenue might have an issue with the wording. The intent was explained that the dollar amount again is not to impact taxes, but to take money left over from 2015 and put into the Building Maintenance Fund up to this amount.

Article 3: Operating Budget – Shall the Newfound Area School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or

as amended by vote of the "First Session", for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Twenty-Two Million, Eight Hundred Twelve Thousand and Seven Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$22,812,760)? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be Twenty-Three Million, Two Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fourteen Dollars (\$23,285,714) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Newfound Area School District or by law: or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Christina explained that a yes vote is the lower of the two numbers for the School Budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget Hearing questions/updates

The Board is updating questions from the public hearing on the budget at each meeting. Last week a number of questions were answered and will be available in the minutes next week. One remaining question was regarding the vehicle maintenance line in the Highway Budget. The 2015 budget was \$9,000, but \$9,207 was spent. A concern was raised that the majority of this money was spent on the old Ford. Out of the total, there was one bill for the Ford, for ball joints, brake pads, fan clutch, speed sensor, calipers and locking hubs for approximately \$2,100. The work was completed in April 2015.

Christina also shared a letter that was written regarding the vehicle line and the public hearing. The letter agreed that this number was high but that it was the cost of doing business. The letter also pointed out that during the public hearing a comment about the Ford truck was made, stating that the previous Board wanted to trade it in and get rid of it. Christina clarified that the comment during the public hearing was not accurate and that the previous Board voted 2-1 to keep the Ford. The letter went on to point out that it was important to have the Ford as a back-up and it has been a reliable back-up used on many occasions to cover for the new vehicle issues.

The Board agreed that the money spent on the Ford was justified and that the vehicle has been worth the cost. The remainder of the money spent in this budget line, was shared among the other Town Highway vehicles and equipment.

Christina will also have an excel sheet with a breakdown of the wage study out by the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Signature Cards

The Board reviewed last year's cards with the new cards to be signed for each account. **John motioned to sign the proposed Signature Cards, Bob 2nd, so voted.** The Board signed the Park and Recreation Fund, but will have the Sara review with Darlene Andrews if they are also supposed to be signing the Old Home Day Revolving Fund.

The Board also agreed to reach out to Darlene to let her know that she should be good to move forward with recommending the appointment of a Deputy Treasurer.

Rumney Fire & EMS coverage

The Board had asked Rumney to add the coverage area to the contract but received a map of the coverage area instead. The Board would like to reach back out to the Rumney Board to inquire if a line in the contract can be added referencing the map provided. Wording could state “as indicated on the Lakes Region Mutual Aid Map” or something similar.

The Board also agreed to indicate the coverage area on the Hebron contract when that is being reviewed.

Memo from Sara

Sara submitted a request for time off, which the Board approved. The Select Board Office will be closed on the following days: Thursday - March 3, 2016, Friday - March 18, 2016, Monday - April 25 through Friday - April 29, 2016. **Christina motioned to approve the requested time off, Bob 2nd, so voted.** The closings will be posted.

Christina also reminded the public that the Select Board Office is closed for the remainder of the week.

Equalization Ratio

The Department of Revenue set the 2015 Median Ratio, used for assessing purposes, at 115.2%. This does indicate that the Town overall is slightly over market value, but the Town will be completing a revaluation this year. Notifications will be given to the Town two weeks prior to any property visits. Pick-ups or construction changes will be coming up in March/April and it is estimated that the new assessments will be in August/September/October time frame.

Christina also updated Mark Watson that Avitar is supposed to leave a door knocker when they visit a property and the owner is not home. She will follow up on the rest of the response for Mark.

Wex Fleet

The Board reviewed the Wex Fleet application, which is hoped to lower costs for the Town Highway Department and fill-ups. If approved, a card will be issued for each vehicle in the Highway Department. The Police Department has also previously applied. **Christina motioned to sign the Wex Fleet application, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Thank you

Sara Smith shared a thank you for the overwhelming outpouring of support from the Town and townspeople and the collection provided with the recent loss of Daryl Smith.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Salt – State section of the road

Robert Ellis brought up a concern that the State is using too much salt on the State section of North Groton Road. He is concerned where the salt is going to end up. John Rescigno offered to follow up with the State.

Building Committee

Robert Ellis inquired if the Select Board was going to establish a building committee for the new building and location of the Highway Department. Christina advised that it hasn't been discussed yet but after Town meeting the Board will be prioritizing the plan. She also felt this was a great idea.

Having no other business to conduct, Bob motioned to adjourn at 7:56pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Goodwin
Select Board Chair