

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
March 1, 2016

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board minutes of February 16, 2016 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the work session meeting minutes of February 16, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board minutes of February 23, 2016 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the work session meeting minutes of February 23, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.

CANDIDATES NIGHT #2:

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.

Moderator for 2 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. She is the current Town Clerk. Her and her husband Doug bought land but they are not in the house yet due to some issues with building. She has a two degrees and has taught for 15 years; she has 8 years of Management experience in Retail which she has been doing for 9 years. She has been working with Ann and enjoys working with her. She loves this Town but wasn't able to get to any community events with working in Vermont but she is looking forward to being able to now.

Donna Bryant is running as a write-in candidate. She has been in the Town of Groton for 17 years and she loves it. She is involved with the Thanksgiving dinner in Town. She has owned a restaurant and her and her husband owned a fire sprinkler system. 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.

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

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

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

Cemetery Trustee for 3 years: 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

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

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.

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.

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” Gordon

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?”

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:

Town Meeting/Budget Updates

We are soliciting anyone who is interested in bringing a snack food for the Town Meeting on Saturday March 12, 2016. It starts at 9am.

We are also reaching out to a few people to ask for help with the coffee.

The stock pile was measured by M.E. Latulippe. It will be 450 cubic yards upon completion. Sara will email to get a price of the cost to truck the materials. Dave Leone thought it was the asphalt only that was being ground. Christina explained it is the entire stock pile, not just asphalt. Dave asked if the Town is figuring out the cost that it took us to get the stock pile and now what we are paying for grinding and trucking. Dave said it would have been better if it was ground up and put back into the road to avoid the cost of trucking and storing. Christina thinks that it has happened more than one year. Ron confirmed that the stockpile was mostly from the first road construction but not the last few.

Christina explained that during the first public hearing a request was made for a breakdown of anything that changed due to wages. The Select Board created a spreadsheet which shows the difference between 2015 and 2016 and also points out any changes due to the wage study. All changes in wages are approximately \$37,000.00, but some of this was due to hours changing, the Road Agent position changing, extra elections, etc. The items specifically changed due to the wage study total \$26,443.00 which includes pay increases, any changes to retirement etc. This spreadsheet will be added to the Select Board page and will be named Wage comparison.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report of Cut- Map 7 Lots 3 & 22

The Select Board received a report of cut but no actual cutting was done. It was still treated as a report of cut. This gets filed with the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) but there is no need to do the Certificate of Yield Taxes. The report will be marked as exempt.

Abatement Application Map UTL Lot 3

Sara explained that she has only received the one abatement application and will be forwarding it to Avitar for review but wanted the Select Board to have a heads up. The abatement is for Fairpoint which is currently in court so they will send an abatement application every year. Bob explained that there are a lot of other Towns in the same lawsuit. Sara will also send these to the attorney as well.

Land Use Change Tax from Avitar Map 6 Lot 22-5 and Map 2 Lot 115-5

Avitar sent in a Land Use Change tax form due to an inspection of the property located on Map 6 Lot 22-5 for Alan and Mary Barrett. The property is 11.5 acres and only one acre is being removed from current use status, so the remainder of the lot will still qualify for current use. The Land Use change tax is a 10% penalty on the 1 acre. The penalty is \$2,600.00.

Avitar also sent in a Land Use Change tax form due to an inspection of the property located on Map 2 Lot 115-5 for Rick and Terri Simula. The property is 16.49 acres and only one acre is being removed from current use status, so the remainder of the lot will still qualify for current use. The Land Use change tax is a 10% penalty on the 1 acre. The penalty is \$2,300.00.

John motioned to sign the land use change tax forms for both properties as indicated by Avitar, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Road Postings

Road Postings go into effect March 7, 2016. Sara created signs to post in the Town Hall, the Transfer Station and online. Christina explained they will be posted until further notice. Paved roads are posted for 15 tons. Gravel roads are posted for 6 tons. Any vehicles would need to get a permit to exceed the weight limit through Glen and the Town Office. Dave Leone thought that a fuel truck would be exempt.

John motioned to approve the road postings for the weight limits, Bob 2nd, so voted.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Treasurers report in Town Report

Christina explained that there is a typo on the Treasurers report. Darlene will fix this and there will be copies at Town Meeting with the updated number.

Notice of State paving

We received a notice from the Department of Transportation (DOT) that they will be doing paving along sections of North Groton Road from Hebron to Halls Brook Road. The paving is actually $\frac{3}{4}$ inch shim. The Board will announce this as the date gets closer.

Plumbing

Sara had reached out to three companies. One came out, another kept saying they were going to come out and didn't, and the third never responded at all. The one quote we received is a reasonable price. Sara will contact them to see if they are able to come out before voting. If not

it will have to wait until after Town Meeting. John went over again what was going to be done to repair the issue with the septic pipe in the building. **Christina motioned to approve the estimate for Andy and Sons plumbing in the amount of \$671, John 2nd, so voted.**

559 North Groton Road

Christina explained that Town did go to court on Monday with 559 North Groton Road. Bob went to court but the owners did not. Our attorneys notified us that the property owners are being sent an order that they must clean up and if not then the Town can clean it up and lien the property. Sara explained that the attorney called today to see if the roads are closed and Sara told them not until March 7.

Brock Lane

Christina explained that we have received a number of complaints about the property and the amount of debris. Another letter is being sent giving them until April 30th to clean up.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Stock Piling

Dave Leone asked what was encumbered from last year. Christina explained that the cost of the grinder was encumbered, but the Board doesn't have a definite number. Dave asked if the Board had also considered the option of just disposing of the material. The Board did not look into it, but the Board has chosen to clean up what is behind the garage.

Dave also said that there is a lot of other material behind the garage that needs to be cleaned up.

Warrant Article question

Ann wasn't here February 16th so she asked why majority vote required was added to the warrant articles. Christina explained that this is what we do anyway but it didn't need to be on every one and should have been removed.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 8:03pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant