

TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
November 29, 2016

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

**Absent: Kyle Andrews**

**Audience Members Present**

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

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

**Christina motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of October 17, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted. Christina abstained.**

**Christina motioned to approve the Non Public Work Session minutes of October 25, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.**

**Christina motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of October 25, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.**

**Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of October 25, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.**

**Christina motioned to approve the Non Public Work Session minutes of November 1, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.**

**Christina motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of November 1, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.**

**Christina motioned to table the Work Session minutes of November 8, 2016 until December 13, 2016, John 2nd, so voted.**

**Christina motioned to table the Select Board Meeting minutes of November 15, 2016 until December 13, 2016, John 2nd, so voted.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Bridge/Hazard Mitigation Plan*

Christina provided an update on the bridge/hazard mitigation plan. The Select Board did meet with Dave Leone and at the time requested that he send the rest of his concerns to the Select Board since they ran out of time. They are still waiting for him to send over the rest of his recommendations.

As far as the Orange/Atwell Bridge, the Select Board is looking at options. They are hoping to have more information by the end of the month.

### *Pump Stations*

Christina provided an update on the Pump Stations. The Select Board did meet with Fire Chief Roger Thompson and he provided potential locations. The Select Board will look at the map and send letters to the land owners and see if they would grant permission for this to happen. There should be more information regarding this by the end of the month.

### *Two New RSA's*

A few months ago Anne Joyce informed the Select Board of a few new RSA's. These are:

#### **72:28-b All Veterans' Tax Credit. –**

I. A town or city may adopt or rescind the all veterans' property tax credit granted under this section by the procedure in RSA 72:27-a.

II. The credit granted under this section shall be the same as the amount of the standard or optional veterans' tax credit in effect in the town or city under RSA 72:28.

III. The all veterans' tax credit shall be subtracted each year from the property tax on the veteran's residential property.

IV. A person shall qualify for the all veterans' tax credit if the person is a resident of this state who served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that Title 10 training for active duty by a member of a national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this paragraph; provided however that the person is not eligible for and is not receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35.

**Source.** 2016, 217:1, eff. Aug. 8, 2016.

**72:31 Husband and Wife.** – A husband and wife, each qualifying for a tax credit, shall each be granted a tax credit upon their residential real estate as provided under RSA 72:28, I or II, or RSA 72:28-b.

**Source.** 1947, 240:1, par. 29-b. RSA 72:31. 1955, 289:3. 1967, 219:5. 1991, 70:14. 2003, 299:5, eff. April 1, 2003. 2016, 217:4, eff. Aug. 8, 2016.

Ann asked what year the credits changed from \$50 to a certain amount. Sara will ask Michelle Clark if she has a list of when this was done.

Since Kyle is not in attendance it was decided to wait for Kyle to make a decision since this would have to be a warrant article. Christina thought that there were other changes so we will have to look into this as well. We will try to have this ready for December 13, 2016 meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### *Transfer Station Hours*

Due to the Holiday, the following are the hours:

- Saturday, December 24, 2016 closing at 3:00pm
- Sunday, December 25, 2016 closed all day- Richard will get paid
- Monday, December 26, 2016- special opening from 12:00pm-6:00pm
- Saturday, December 31, 2016 open regular hours of 9:00am-5:00pm
- Sunday, January 1, 2017 closed all day

### *MS-60A*

Each year the Town submits an MS-60A after the MS-60W has been submitted. These are forms pertaining to the local town audit completed by the locally elected auditor. **John motioned to sign the MS-60A, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Letter to 523 North Groton Road regarding their concerns*

The home owner of 523 North Groton Road reached out with some concerns regarding their taxes and what they are taxed on. The Town did some research and Avitar did as well. There was a camper that was removed so it was removed from their taxes. The other concerns they would need to fill out an abatement request. The Select Board created a letter to address their concerns. **John motioned to sign the letter to 523 North Groton Road, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Abatement request for Map 2 Lot 115-5*

The Select Board met with the owner of Map 2 Lot 115-5 in June regarding a large lump sum that was due resulting from taking some property out of current use. The Select Board met with the owner and Avitar and the request to abate all taxes was denied but it was agreed that once the bill was paid the Town would abate any interest and fees that accrued. The amount to be abated is \$228.13. **John motioned to sign the abatement request for Map 2 Lot 115-5, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Memo regarding Holidays*

Some of the Holidays for 2017 occur on the weekend, so Sara created a memo that outlines when the Holidays fall and when the offices/departments would be closed. The memo covers the remainder of 2016 and all of 2017. **John motioned to approve the holiday listing and closings, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Request to join the Zoning Board*

The Select Board received a request from Helen Martyszyn to be considered for the Zoning Board. The Zoning Board doesn't have any concerns regarding this. **John motioned to appoint Helen Martyszyn to join the Zoning Board, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Helen will have to come in and get sworn in by Ruth Millett. Sara will contact her to let her know.

## **SELECT BOARD ITEMS:**

### *North Groton Road Project*

The Road Committee met to discuss the options for road project. The rates for the bond have all changed so this will have to be drawn up again, but Christina explained the options the Road Committee are providing for the Select Board:

- 1.) \$1.2 million - from where the project stopped in 2016 to the Town line. This would finish only that side of the project, but would include all road, pipes, culverts, under drain, etc. This would be done under a 10yr bond.
- 2.) 3 year contract- they have chosen not to recommend this option because the paving prices change every year and it will be hard to get a number from a contractor that will be set for three years.
- 3.) \$400,000 – from end of 2016 project to top of hill just past the “S-curve”. This is approximately 4200 linear feet and then the second half would be done the following year. The Road Committee is not recommending this option.
- 4.) Overall proposal – approximately \$1.5 million – this would be from Halls Brook Road to the new pavement and then from end of 2016 project to the Town Line near Route 118. This quotes at

\$1.2 million with no extras, but items such as culverts, ditching, drain etc, should be taken into consideration and would bring it to the \$1.5 million.

- 5.) Additional Road project- Sculptured Rocks Road – As we can't encumber what isn't spent from Groton paved roads from 2016 without a contract, the Road Committee recommends increasing to \$25,000, taking \$5,000 from the general fund. This would allow the Highway Department to do a larger amount, such as 1000 feet.
- 6.) Status quo- keep doing what we are doing up to this point, which is about 1000 to 1400 linear feet a year at \$145,000 each year.
- 7.) Increase the Warrant article to get 1500 to 2000 linear feet, which would be closer to \$200,000 for the year.

The Road Committee will be finalizing these numbers and will be submitting to the Select Board for their review. Based on \$1.5 million and the original numbers from the bond bank, the first payment would be \$178,000.00 and then it goes down a little each year until the last payment at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> year.

Once there is a bond, you are tied to that for 10 years and the Town cannot bond anything else.

#### *Tax Rate/Freeze on spending*

The tax rate still has not been set. There is a delay due to our Financial Audit. We are waiting for the issues to be resolved. Due to this the tax bills will not be due until January. We have the county tax bill due 12/19. The Board has initiated a freeze on unnecessary spending for all Departments.

#### *Town Report Dedication*

We will be asking for submissions for cover photos and dedication suggestions.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

##### *Building Committee Meeting*

The Building Committee was supposed to meet on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. This meeting has been postponed until Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. The three contractors that were discussed at the last meeting will be invited to discuss the proposed plan.

The Committee will be giving a measurement and give them what we are looking for and have them design it.

##### *Department Head Meeting*

The Department Head meeting that was scheduled for 12/13 will be cancelled and we will look at a date in January for this.

##### *Trees off Simula property*

Elizabeth Jespersen asked if the trees are considered necessary spending. It was confirmed that there are trees hanging so this would be considered necessary removal and cost.

##### *Warrant Article*

Elizabeth asked if they just submit a warrant article or if an attorney has to approve it. Christina explained that they submit it and then we submit them to our attorney and DRA for review.

*Reminder*

The Library Trustees wanted to remind the residents that as of December 1st Groton Residents can use the Hebron Library at no cost.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

*Solar Panels*

Ann asked Roger what he thinks of Solar panels as far as fire issues. Roger said he doesn't know enough information. Roger would think there should be a switch to kill it. Roger said solar is new and this is something to think about.

*Decorations*

Elizabeth asked if she can put out decorations. The Select Board agreed that she could decorate.

*Collections*

We need to put out a new box for the food as the one that is there is overflowing. We are accepting food donations, gifts, clothing, etc. for Christmas baskets.

Also, if someone needs assistance, please submit the information to the Select Board's Office.

*Bridge on Class VI Road*

Elizabeth hiked with her grandson out on Coolidge Road. There is a big hole in the bridge now that someone chopped away and made on purpose. The Town is not allowed to put any money into this bridge but will look into what we should do. Sara will pull the notes from NHMA regarding this bridge to see what they said. Elizabeth will send the Town a picture of the bridge in the condition it is in right now.

*Joe- electronics*

Joe asked if we received anything from North Coast Services regarding the electronics. There was a bill that was received that we paid at the beginning of the month. Joe stated he will come in tomorrow to look it over and sign off on it.

**Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 8:22pm, John 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant