

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
December 13, 2016

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of November 15, 2016 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of November 29, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted. Kyle abstained.

Christina motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of November 29, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted. Kyle abstained.

Christina motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of December 6, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Non Public Work Session minutes of December 6, 2016 as written, John 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Two New RSA's

A few months ago Anne Joyce informed the Select Board of a few new RSA's that had been approved by the State and would require being added to the Warrant for the Town to consider. 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.

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.

The difference for RSA 72:28-b is that the veterans do not have to have served in specific wars/conflicts anymore, just active duty and honorably discharged. As far as RSA 72:31, the Town of Groton already grants both the husband and the wife the tax credit, but would need to official adopt. The Board agreed to put these on the Warrant this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Junkyard Letter

An inspection was done of a property on Bailey Hill Road and it was found to be in violation. The Select Board normally gives these properties 30 days to bring it into compliance. However, due to the time of year, it was decided to give the owner until March 31, 2017. The Select Board is sending the property owner a letter along with a copy of the inspection report. **Christina motioned to sign the junkyard letter for Bailey Hill Road, John 2nd, so voted.**

Collapsed building letter

During recent inspections of neighboring properties, the Select Board came across a camper/trailer that has a collapsed roof. This is a safety hazard concern. Due to the time of year, the Select Board is giving the owner until March 31, 2017 to have this removed or corrected.

Sara will soften up the beginning of the letter and let the Select Board know when this is ready to sign. She will add “you may not be aware that you have a collapsed building”. It was also agreed to extend the date to May 31, 2017. **Christina motioned to approve the collapsed building letter and to come in and sign the once updated, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Kyle also mentioned there is a green building on Halls Brook Road that should also receive the same letter. Sara will draft this letter to be ready at the same time. This is across from the stone house.

Memo to Department Heads

Sara drafted a memo to the Department Heads to remind them of upcoming deadlines regarding employee performance evaluations.

Sara will make the changes on the evaluation form that were discussed in the Work Session and will attach the updated form to the Memo. The Select Board had no changes to the Memo.

Twin Rivers Office Machines, Inc. Contract

The Select Board received the contract from Twin Rivers Office Machines, Inc covering 1/1/17-12/31/17. This contract is the same as last year. **John motioned to sign the Twin Rivers Office Machines, Inc contract, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Trustee of the Trust Funds

The Town received a resignation letter from Celine Richer. The Select Board appoints a replacement through March. If anyone is interested please put your name in by the end of the month.

Thank you to Ann Joyce

Today was the holiday luncheon. We did years of service for employees, held a raffle, ate lunch, etc. The Select Board announced a thank you during the meeting for Ann but she wasn't at the luncheon. When Laura Hauser resigned, Ann stepped up and ran the office, helped with training Ruth and the Town is very grateful for that. Ann also has been with the Town for six years.

Tax Rate

The tax rate was set and bills were sent last week. The Town applied \$225,000.00 to keep the tax rate down, although there was small increase. The Town rate is \$0.40, the Local School rate is \$5.06, the State Education rate is \$3.43, the County rate is \$2.81, which totals \$11.40.

Ann asked how many kids were in school. Sara will reach out to the school to get this information.

Christmas baskets

Christina explained we have two ideas for families to receive Christmas baskets from the Town. We need to decide what we need to shop for then put the baskets together and deliver them. Elizabeth Jespersen offered to shop. The Select Board asked her to get fixings for a dinner such as potatoes, rolls, etc.

The Select Board agreed to plan on handing them out on December 23rd. Elizabeth will shop the day before.

Cameras

It came up that the cameras do not have a recording feature. Sara will reach out to Dave Switaj to see how we can fix the cameras as they should be recording.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Building Committee

Christina explained that the Building Committee met with contractors and let them know what we are looking for in the new building. The Select Board requested that the contractors get the proposal costs back to board by 1/20/17 so this information is available at Town Meeting.

Bridge

Christina explained that the Select Board met with two engineers regarding replacing Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge. It was asked that they get back to the Select Board with the first look at the cost for design by December 19th at 4pm. Once we get this proposal we will move forward to obtain the entire cost of replacement of the bridge for Town Meeting.

Library

Elizabeth mentioned that the library will be moving the desk to corner. Sara will contact Dave Switaj to see if we can move the wi-fi router for the library.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Zoning Board

Otto mentioned that the Zoning Board met this past week. At the meeting they nominated Helen Martyszyn to be the Secretary and Otto is the Chairman.

Police Department Website

Chief Thompson mentioned that Jonathan has been working on a Police Department website which will be linked to Groton's website. There will be a lot of updates such as who the department is, pictures, the monthly logs, etc.

Bridge

Elizabeth asked if anything has come of the pictures she provided that shows the damage to the bridge on Cross Road. The Select Board explained that nothing has been done at this time. The Select Board reached out to the Town's attorney as well as New Hampshire Municipal Group attorneys and is trying to make a decision. However, it was found that the Town is not liable at all if anything were to happen.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant