

Town of Groton  
Select Board Work Session Minutes  
March 13, 2018

**In attendance: Christina Goodwin, John Rescigno, Kyle Andrews and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant - AA)**

**Christina called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.**

*Schedule Work Sessions*

The Select Board set up the next few work sessions which are as follows:

- March 20 at 6:00 pm to go over anything from Town Meeting
- April 3 at 6:00 pm
- April 17 at 5:00 pm

*Truck Warranty Issues*

The Highway truck is not covered under warranty and was denied for any cost assistance after multiple discussions with the company. It was agreed to see what the cost from Bonneville is to fix the oil pan, in order to decide what our next step should be. If the cost is reasonable as promised, the Board feels that costs to go to court wouldn't be feasible, but will address this at the next Select Board meeting. We can also reach out to where we bought the truck in Vermont and Epsom since they have a truck like the Towns to see if they have had any problems.

*Wetlands Permit*

The Town received a wetlands permit and a compliance certificate form for the Atwell Orange Brook Bridge project. The Town has never had to fill out a compliance certificate form like this so Sara will reach out to Mike Vignale.

*Petition for Highway Layout*

The Town received a petition for highway layout for the Beraudo property off of North Groton Road. Sara will send this to the Town's Attorney to advise the Board of what is required.

*Suggestions/Requests*

Elizabeth Jespersen wanted to move things around in the kitchen to have more space. It was agreed that the Select Board is okay with this when we put the shelves up.

Elizabeth also requested that a coat rack be put up in the hall. The Select Board agreed this wasn't needed at this time.

**Christina motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 3:30 pm, John 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Christina motioned to return to public session at 4:45 pm, John 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**Christina motioned to seal the non-public minutes, John 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

***Meeting with Bubba***

*Winter Storm Concern*

John asked what happened on North Groton Road during the last winter storm. He said he went through at 6:20 am and there was about 6 inches of snow on the road. Bubba said he had gone through at 4:15 am and Ron Madan at 6:15 am. Bubba said they did plow it and must have been what came down within that time

frame. It started to snow harder and they were doing the best they could to stay on top of it. It was explained that Coursey was assisting during this storm as well and has a pick up with a plow so they worked out a plan that keeps certain trucks on certain sides of Town.

#### *Warrant Articles*

Bubba was asked to be prepared to speak on warrant articles 5, 7, and 9 if needed at Town Meeting. He wanted to know the expectations of what he is supposed to say. Christina explained that she is speaking to all the articles but Bubba could be prepared to answer questions.

Article 5, which is the repair/reconstruction of North Groton Road - we are not speaking on specifics of the road repair because we are not sure which way we are going to go at this point. Bubba said that he wanted to correct what was said in the last meeting, he didn't mean that what was done on the road in the past was wrong, just that it wasn't what everyone expected it to be.

Article 7 is the repair of Groton Paved Roads - Bubba wanted to clarify that this money can be used for ditching on the paved roads. The Select Board confirmed that this is not just for the paving of the road, but it is for the repair of all Groton paved roads which could be paving, ditching, crack filing, etc.

Article 9 is for the purchase of the new truck with plow – Bubba would just need to be prepared to answer questions.

#### *Tracking maintenance to vehicles*

Kyle said that starting this year we need to keep a log of when the vehicles go down, how long it was down, etc. Sara will create a spreadsheet.

#### *Internet*

Bubba said that he would really like internet at the garage since he has to use his own phone for weather updates, etc. Christina explained that this was discussed last week. The Board felt that the costs were much higher than anticipated and had agreed that it wasn't feasible for this year. Bubba looked into it and through Spectrum it was \$65 a month and through Fairpoint it was \$45 a month. Even at \$45, that is \$540 a year. Bubba said he cannot get reception inside. The Select Board will think about it and we should look into pricing again. Christina said they also need to think about if he should be using his own phone, computer, etc. Sara said that EJ has a line in his budget to pay Verizon for his work cell phone.

#### *Uniforms/Shirts*

Bubba mentioned that he was thinking about ordering two shirts for each person but he was waiting to hear from the Select Board so he hasn't told the vendor to go through with it yet. Christina explained that we did budget for this but the Board is concerned that this isn't a one-time type of deal and when does this stop. There are so many questions such as how many do we order, is it just t-shirts or sweatshirts too, what happens when someone ruins one of theirs. Bubba said that they have always worn their own clothes and ruined them but agreed there would have to be a policy. Bubba mentioned he bought a jumpsuit so that his own clothes didn't get ruined. John said that a jumpsuit makes sense. It was agreed by the Board to not to get shirts for now but to get jumpsuits if the employees need or want them. It was also agreed that if we went forward with the t-shirts in the future then they should say Town of Groton and not be by department so all departments could wear the same shirts.

#### *Trailer/Storage Unit*

One of the trailers was damaged in the flood and Primex sent us a reimbursement to replace it. Bubba wanted to replace it with an enclosed trailer so that we can keep the lawn items, along with the generator, welder, etc. in enclosed storage in this trailer. This makes it easier to move equipment out of the flood zone. The Select

Board discussed this previously and didn't know if it would be better to put a storage unit at the property across from the Transfer station. Bubba said that he knows that there are concerns about the trailer being stolen but he thinks the trailer is the way to go so it can be moved when needed, where a storage unit cannot. If it is a storage unit on the land it would be a pain to have to come up here every time they need something. Kyle asked if the generator, welder, etc. would be in the way of the lawn items. Bubba said it would be a larger trailer that would have two doors so everything can stay in it but wouldn't be in the way of each other. John said there is a used trailer on his work route that he will stop to price. Kyle said that a used trailer is not that much cheaper and you don't know how well they are taken care of. Bubba really thinks that the trailer should be able to be moved in case of flooding. There are cameras at the Highway Department and there are locks that you can put on them so they cannot be hooked up to and towed away easily. We can also put it at the Transfer Station behind the locked gates if needed during the flood warning, where there are cameras also located. John said that before something is purchased, he should put everything that would be going in the trailer together and measure it so we know what we need for room. Bubba will do this and let the Select Board know before the next meeting.

#### *Direction*

Bubba asked for direction from the Select Board as to what their expectations are. As far as the road projects, next year he would like a decision made prior to Town meeting because we should be ready as soon as the weather is nice. July and August should be used for road maintenance so that come October they are getting the equipment ready for winter. John said we should have a road maintenance plan which has a list of the roads and what needs to be done. Bubba said that he and Sara have already discussed making a list of the roads. Sara explained that North Country Council is looking into putting us on a schedule for road maintenance plan. Bubba stated that River Road has not had any work done in years. North Groton Road obviously needs work. As far as culverts, Jeremy and Bubba already had plans to go over the roads and see what needs to be done and what culverts need repair or replacing.

#### *Road Committee*

Christina asked the Select Board if the Town is going to continue with the Road Committee. The Select Board agreed that if the committee has meetings and has the right people on the committee then it should remain a committee. Christina explained the only reason they haven't met is because of her not scheduling meetings but anyone one of the committee can call meetings, she is not the Chair. Bubba mentioned there are others interested in the committee. Christina said if they are interested they need to submit their names to the Select Board. Christina is going to plan on having a meeting March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Sara will post this.

#### *Thank you*

The Select Board stated that they understand there is a lot to do and it is overwhelming but it cannot all be done in one year so we have to make a plan and prioritize. Bubba is working hard to make these changes but he can only take it step at a time. The Select Board thanked Bubba for all that he does. Bubba has accomplished a lot in a small amount of time. He has done a great job and everything he does is appreciated.

#### *Few things*

Bubba informed the Select Board that Mr. Crosby reached out to him. The culvert collapsed that Glen did on his driveway when they were doing the road over. Mr. Crosby was going to take care of it himself and he seemed better toward Bubba than the last time they talked. Christina said that culverts were replaced with the road project but it does become the owner's responsibility after. Bubba did make sure that Mr. Crosby had his contact information.

Mr. Grelle called Bubba about Edgar Albert Road. Bubba explained to him that this time of year is hard to do anything about the roads. There is either mud or then it snows again on top of it. He will do his best to get to the roads once the weather allows.

*Snowmobile Club*

We need to follow up with the snowmobile club to see if they have done what they were supposed to from when the Select Board met with them on River Road. We may need to open talks again. This needs to be resolved so Sara will see if Glen had the chance to reach out to them and when the work is going to get done.

**Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 6:00 pm, John 2nd, so voted.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant