

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
August 7, 2018

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

John called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Meeting with Hebron Police

The Select Board met with Chief Austin and Officer Newcomb from Hebron to discuss some ideas for police coverage. John explained that our Police Chief retired so we are looking at some options for coverage for the Town until March. This will allow us to present all options to the Town at the Town Meeting and then we can go from there.

Travis mentioned that there are hurdles that would have to happen before Town Meeting. The Town would have to decide exactly what they want to do, would Hebron officers be set up as Groton Town employees or would the doing to Police Jurisdiction for Groton be granted to Hebron. This would have to happen with two Town Meetings, one in Hebron and one in March. Due to this, Hebron has some hesitations as to starting immediately. They also wouldn't want to spread themselves too thin. They usually have one officer on each day to cover the times where calls are higher. They would be willing look into all options and see if we can come up with a plan for March.

Travis recommended reaching out to Sheriff's Department or State Police for coverage until March. Sara explained that they already have.

John asked if the Hebron Police cover Hebron twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Travis explained that they do not, they cover 8-12 hours a day but otherwise the State Police covers calls when there is no officer on duty. They do about 60-65 hours for coverage. They have eight officers. Out of these officers, Travis is the only full time officer and the others are part time with full time jobs in other areas of law enforcement. They also have a waiting list of people that want to come work for Hebron. John asked where they found their officers. Travis explained it was all word of mouth and referrals from current officers.

At this point we would need to figure out how we would want to move forward. Hebron would be supportive if it doesn't affect their Town coverage and doesn't reduce their services. It could be anything that we want it to be as long as it doesn't affect this.

Andy asked what we are thinking for coverage is adequate. John said we would need to think about it but 20-30 hours could be enough. John said if we spent money requesting 20 hours a week, we would expect the coverage to be for Groton during this time, not both towns. This is something that would be discussed further later to work out details if this is the road we chose to go. Their employees would be part time so wouldn't have to do NHRS or Health Insurance.

Andy recommended having an exploratory meeting before Town Meeting for ideas from the Townspeople and to get an idea of what they want before Town Meeting. The Select Board agreed that this is a good idea.

John asked how often an officer is in the office vs on the road. They spend every minute they can on the road. They have more calls to service because they are on the road and they use dispatch for everything they can such as VIN verification, etc. Andy said that when he worked for Groton he spent a lot of time here logging everything in Crimestar, etc. For an eight hour shift he would spend 2-3 hours in the Police Department. Hebron is different and has a different style. They log everything they can with dispatch which makes it easier and less paperwork. Once it is logged with dispatch it is there and won't be lost or changed or forgotten to be done.

Kyle asked if someone came to get a pistol permit what would we do. Travis said that the Select Board can sign off on it but the Sheriff's Department could do the background check for us.

Kyle mentioned we will need some numbers for March Town Meeting but we will meet with the tax payers first. We will have to meet with Hebron again before Town Meeting to get things in order to present to the Town.

Travis mentioned that since there is no Police in Groton right now that the Town may see the Hebron Cruiser in Town to assist with Fire/EMT calls.

Travis asked if the Select Board has thought about hiring a part time officer in the interim. Kyle mentioned we have thought about it but wanted to see what all of our options are before we posted anything. The Select Board would need to talk about it more. Travis advised that if they do hire someone it should be just a part time employee and not a Chief or interim Chief because then the Town will have to have cause to remove them under the RSA. Travis said if the Town hired an officer with experience they wouldn't need a Chief above them. Especially if it is someone who is looking to be the next Sargent, Chief, etc. Kyle asked what Hebron pays part time officers. They explained they pay \$22.00 an hour for the minimum. They want to raise it to \$25.00 per hour.

There were no further questions at this time so the Select Board thanked them for meeting with the Town.

Police Discussion

Kyle said we should think about putting an ad out there for a part time officer. John said if we decided to we could mention it to Travis and see if he can get the word out there. Before we do this the Select Board would like Sara to reach back out to the State Police and see about scheduling and how this would work. She will ask about the blocks and how many hours each block has to be. She will see if it is possible to have them patrol for one hour a day, seven days a week, but at random hours. She will also see if they would they want to meet with the Select Board regarding this.

Emergency Management

Roger Thompson and Bubba met with the Select Board regarding the Emergency Management process. John mentioned that we haven't had a meeting on emergency Management since we had the last emergency. There were concerns that during the last emergency the Emergency Management Director (EMD) wasn't there for the entire time. Roger said someone should have called him. John and Kyle asked who should call them. Roger said the Town, such as Glen, should have reached out to him when they

were travelling the roads. Kyle said that he talked to a different EMD and they get alerts and once the alert is received they take the appropriate steps. Roger said he should get them but he didn't get these alerts.

Bubba asked what the protocol is. Roger said that he will set it up to make sure that he gets the alerts. Once he has an alert that needs attention he will call the Select Board and Bubba. Now that he has a computer he will set these up on the computer.

John asked about the command center and where it should be. It was explained that in the past it has been the Town House. Kyle said in the past the EMD would hang out at the Town House so he could direct people where they needed to be. Roger said he thinks he should be out in Town and that the deputy would be the one to man the command center.

Roger said there are radios in the one ton, the back hoe and the truck. Roger has the two new radios at his house along with two of the older ones. The other two older ones are in the Police Department. He thinks that one radio should go to the deputy and one can stay here. Roger will bring the radios here and he will contact Craig from Ossipee Mountain to have him come show us how to use them. It was discussed that there should be a radio set up in the Select Board office on the desk. Roger said this would be a different kind of radio and he will find out what this is and what that would cost the Town.

Sara mentioned that we need to have a deputy who would need to go through NIMS certification. They would be in contact with Roger at all times. Norm Willey has expressed an interest and he knows the Town. The concern with this is that Norm is a highway employee so he would be needed to help out and couldn't be tied down to the command center. Kyle said he was interested but Roger doesn't think a Select Board member should as they should be out in the Town as well. Bubba mentioned Jeremy Haney. There was concern about since he is a responder to fire that he could be needed elsewhere and we know that he likes to be involved in the action and probably wouldn't want to be at the command center. Sara will reach out to him and see if he is interested. If so we will have him contact Roger.

The Select Board recapped the next steps which are as follows:

- Roger will call Ossipee to set up meeting to show us how to use radios and check on the price of a desk radio.
- Sara will reach out to Jeremy to see if he is interested in deputy EMD
- Sara will pull the Emergency Management plan and we can set up a meeting to go over that.
- Roger will bring all radios to the Town House to make sure they all work.

Meeting with Bubba

- Bubba called Ossipee to see how much it would cost for a radio to go into the truck or if we should get base portables.
- Fred Brooks started working with the Town and is working out well
- The old sander has been pulled into the shop to see what needs to be done to rebuild it. The plan is to rebuild the sander motor so it can be ready to go into the new truck.
- The new truck is in.
- Sara and Bubba are still working on permits for culverts but there is a lot of work to it.
- There is \$1000.00 in the budget for tree work. Bubba asked John Faucher about this and he will do some work. John can do the entire length of Bailey Hill Road for the \$1000.00. We need to

increase this budget line next year and try to do different roads every year. Sara will add this to the spreadsheet of road work.

- Bubba thinks we should put the rake and plow out for bid with a starting price of \$300.00. Bubba will get Sara the information on them so she can post this.
- They started the North Groton Road project today. Bubba will be checking in on the progress.
- The Dodge is broke down but we don't know what is wrong with it as of yet.
- We need to start thinking about mowing the sides of the roads consistently. DES mentioned how important it is to mow. We need to think about if we need to contract the work out, rent a mower of this capacity, etc.
- The Highway Department filled some pot holes on Sculptured Rocks Road with ledge pak.
- Sara looked into the internet and the lowest option is \$35.96/month. This would be \$432.00/year. The Select Board will let him know by next meeting.
- John asked about the area that the loggers damaged. Bubba said he wants to talk to Bryant Paving about this.

John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 6:20pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to return to public session at 6:30pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to seal the non-public minutes, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

DPW building

John mentioned that if we think the Bond is reasonable then we should start the process of the special Town Meeting. As far as the bond goes, the 20 year is a better option. Sara will follow up with the Morton building representative to get prices. Sara will send them the plan of the building. Sara will also ask the attorney to see if we can combine this special Town Meeting about the bond/building with the meeting about the Police Department future or if it has to be listed as two separate meetings on two different dates.

Fire Pond

Sara will follow up with Bubba to see if he talked to Mike Ethier and Dave Leone about the Fire Ponds.

Police Phone

We have the phone that EJ used. There is no contract on it and Sara is the point of contact so we can cancel it at any time. Sara will call them and see if we can put it on hold for now and if there are any reactivation fees.

Gina's request for code and key

Gina sent an email requesting access the building. Usually it is the department head or the committee Chair but Slim doesn't want this. Sara asked the Select Board if they are okay with setting her up with this. The Select Board is okay with this. Sara will put the request through for the code.

Fletcher Road

In June the Town received a request to change the name of Fletcher Road because there is already a Fletcher Road in Rumney and since we share a zip code with them there are concerns for many reasons but mainly for emergencies.

At the time, Sara reached out to NHMA to ask if the Select Board can change the name and the information they supplied was: *The governing body may change the name of any such street or highway at any time when in its judgment there is occasion for so doing. The governing body may change the name of a private street or highway when the name change is necessary to conform to the requirements of the enhanced 911 telecommunications system. In towns and village districts the governing body may at its discretion provide for public hearing and submit such names for approval at any meeting of the legislative body, and voters may submit a petitioned warrant article for such a name change under the procedure of RSA 39:3.*

Sara reached out to Rumney and see how many people live on Fletcher Road in Rumney. It was agreed in June that if there is less than Groton, it may be worth asking them to change it. If not, then we will meet with the owners of Fletcher Road to explain what is going on and let them give ideas for a name change. Sara finally heard back from Rumney and they have six houses which is the same as Groton. Sara will send a letter explaining this and that we are thinking of changing the name to North Fletcher Road and give a time frame to send back. Sara will send this letter from her on behalf of the Select Board.

Router for Cameras

Sara received an email from Dave Switaj that he quoted the router for the cameras. The cameras are constantly going down and this should help. The amount he quoted was \$162.49 for the router and labor. The Select Board is okay with this. Sara will contact Dave to have him order this.

Fireworks

Sara forwarded the email to the Select Board on training the Road Agent on fireworks. It would be pricy and a lot to it so the Fire Marshall recommended hiring someone. Sara will reach out to Pam to follow up on the request for funds and see if there is any way to increase the amount.

Next Meetings

Sara reminded the Select Board the next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2018 at 5:00pm. We will need to do the building permit and talk about the DPW building. It was agreed to move the Joint Loss Safety Meetings to this date as well due to the rain.

Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 6:57pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant