

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
October 2, 2018

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

John called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Budget Meetings

Library Trustees Budget

The library budget stayed the same so the trustees didn't attend the meeting but would be happy to have a follow up meeting if there are any questions.

Wages

Stayed the same

Library expenses

Stayed the same

Other Concerns:

None

The Select Board was okay with the Library budget as is.

Cemetery Budget

Elizabeth Jespersen attended to discuss the Cemetery Budget.

Repairs & Maintenance

Stayed the same

Wages

The Cemetery Trustees recommended an increase of \$500.00 making it \$2,000.00. There will be more mowing next year.

Supplies

The Cemetery Trustees recommended a decrease of \$500.00 making it \$500.00.

Mileage

The Cemetery Trustees recommended an increase of \$25.00 making it \$100.00.

Fuel

Stayed the same

Advertising

Stayed the same

Site Work- River Rd Cemetery

Stayed the same

We may need to encumber the 2018 funds if we do not use it but we will need a contract. We will relook at this as we go further with the budget. Elizabeth doesn't know the exact costs right now and is waiting for more information that she will get us as soon as she can so we can revisit this.

Other Concerns:

None

The Select Board was okay with the Cemetery budget as is.

Treasurer Budget

The Treasurer budget stayed the same so the Treasurer didn't attend the meeting but would be happy to have a follow up meeting if there are any questions.

Stipend

Stayed the same

Deputy

Stayed the same

Mileage

Stayed the same

It was discussed that if we do not have a Police Department and we may be able to cut back on this.

Supplies

Stayed the same

Other Concerns:

None

The Select Board was okay with the Treasurer budget as is.

Conservation Commission Budget

Slim Spafford attended to discuss the Conservation Commission budget.

Conservation

Stayed the same

Workshops/Seminars

Stayed the same

Postage/Supplies

Stayed the same

Mileage

Stayed the same

It was agreed to add some money in here for those that travel to the workshops/seminars.

Other/fishing derby

Stayed the same

The Select Board was okay with the Conservation Commission budget as is.

Town Clerk/ Tax Collector

Ruth met with the Select Board to discuss her budget.

TC Salary

Stayed the same

Ruth is not asking for an increase but the Select Board explained that she should put in for a 3% increase like everyone else. A 3% increase would bring this line to \$29,714.00.

Deputy Wage

Stayed the same

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Dues

Stayed the same

Town Clerk Expenses

Stayed the same

Tax Collector Expenses

Stayed the same

Workshops/Seminars

Stayed the same

Telephone/Internet

Stayed the same

Computer Maintenance/Software

Stayed the same

We will revisit this and see if we can lower it next year.

Advertising

Stayed the same

Supplies-general

Stayed the same

Postage

Stayed the same

Election supplies/Expense (ballots, advertising, etc.)

Stayed the same

Ballot Clerks

This is a different budget meeting and will be done in the Moderator's budget.

Checklist Supervisors

This was a different budget meeting and will be done in the Supervisor's budget.

Mileage

Stayed the same

The Select Board was okay with the Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget as is.

Groton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Meeting

The Hazard Mitigation Plan update meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 4:00pm. Sara will make sure Bubba, Roger, and Deb Johnson are aware.

Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting Updates

- The attorney had emailed Sara some questions for the petition and Sara had emailed back and cc'd the Select Board. She didn't want to delay the process any further so she just went ahead and answered them. The attorney emailed the petition and John needs to sign it. I will email it back to her and overnight it to her tomorrow. **John motioned to sign the petition for special town meeting, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**
- Ann Joyce had emailed Sara some questions regarding the new building. Sara sent these questions to Turnstone and will follow up next week. Sara also sent them a reminder email of the things they said in the meeting that they would provide the Town with.
- Ann Joyce offered to assist with the mailers. We need to decide if we are going to do the mailers, what they should say and when we want to send them. It was decided we should wait until the hearing has been done and the meeting is approved so we don't send a mailer and waste money if it isn't approved. The Select Board agreed that they will come in and review it before it is sent.

Police Coverage

Sara reached out to the Sheriff's Department for coverage. They do not do contracts and do hourly at \$75 per hour. They would just need to know what we are looking for such as which days, nights, weekends, how many hours and how many months.

It was agreed to start with two months. We would like to have them here Saturday and Sundays from 2:00pm-6:00pm to start for the first month with alternating Saturday one week and Sunday the next. We will also want them here for the Special Town Meeting October 23, 2018 at 7:00pm.

Property Inspection

Case #5 on our junkyard list has no trespassing posted on the property. We have sent letters requesting him to contact Ken Knowlton to set up and inspection and he will not. We cannot see from the road if he is in violation or not. The attorney requested an order from the court for an Administrative warrant so we can inspect the property with him. The attorney said this should be done this Friday or Saturday and Ken Knowlton, one member of the Select Board and a police officer should attend. We need to let the

resident know ahead of time to allow him to seek an order from the court prohibiting this or if he is simply at the property and refuses to let the Town on then everyone should leave and we can seek a contempt order.

Sara has called and left a message and emailed Ken Knowlton to see if either Friday or Saturday works for him. Ken said that Saturday works best for him. Sara has also reached out to the Sheriff's Department to see if we can have someone from their office attend with us. Also one Select Board member is needed to attend as well.

Both Selectmen will attend the inspection. It was agreed to meet at the Town House on Saturday at 9:00am. Sara will call Ken and let him know the time and will call the Sheriff's department to see if they can meet at the Town House at 9:00am as well. She will also make sure they know to bring an SUV or 4 wheel drive vehicle.

Email from Ruth/Avangrid

There was an email that Avangrid sent to Ruth regarding the state education rate for tax bills. Avangrid was wondering why the State Education tax rate (\$4.11 for 2017) is being applied against these values. Groton Wind pays the state utility tax under Chapter 83-F. Pursuant to Section 83-F:9 and Section 76:3, because Groton pays the utility property tax, its values should not be assessed at the State Education rate. Ruth wasn't sure how to respond so she is looking for guidance from the Select Board. Sara did send the email to the DRA to see who would be the correct person to look into this. She also emailed Avitar on this to see what they have to say about how it is being assessed.

John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 6:30pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to return to public session at 6:45pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

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

Meeting with Bubba

The Select Board met with Bubba to discuss Highway Department items. Bubba went over the following:

- North Groton Road is done but it will need to be finished next year with 1 inch wearing course and edging.
- The trailer was picked up and Fred built a shelf in it. Right now the generator, welder and mower in there and there is still room for other things. It was agreed that we should look into costs of getting the Town lettering on it to match the vehicles. Sara will reach out and request a quote.
- They have started painting the plows.
- The radio is in the new truck which came out of the insurance money to replace the radio that was damaged in the truck that was totaled.
- Mike Ethier is doing a great job on Province Road. The ditching is done. Bubba needs to double check to see when they will do culverts. There are 14 on that road that need to be replaced.
- Dave Leone will be helping with the culverts on Sculptured Rocks Road.
- The reclaiming on Sculptured Rocks Road will start on October 16th.
- The new sign is up on North Fletcher Road. The Select Board is okay with giving George Fletcher the Fletcher Road sign.
- Bubba is working with Mike Ethier on the culvert on Sculptured Rocks Road where the jersey barriers are.

- The garage is cleaned up all around. He moved pipes, etc. and made a little berm to add an extra measure to protect the building.
- Most of the items on the park to do list are done. The staining and the painting of equipment will most likely be done next year.
- He is getting ready for winter and is working on getting salt and delivered
- Bubba thanked the Select Board for approving the internet and explained he has used it a lot and has saved money the town money by being able to go on there to compare prices for highway items.
- The sander is up and running. Everything is new except the tub which is stainless steel and the rollers which are in good shape. It is all remote control now and only needs one more piece that runs the throttle control.
- TLC is supposed to be doing the cutting on Bailey Hill Road.
- Bryant Paving will be doing the skimming by Christina's house which is where the road damage was done by the logger.

Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 6:59pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant