

TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
June 5, 2018

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

**Audience Members Present**

John called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

**John motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of May 15, 2018 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

**John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session minutes of May 15, 2018 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

**John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of May 15, 2018 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

**John motioned to approve the Work Session minutes of May 29, 2018 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

**John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session minutes of May 29, 2018 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Frank Grelle- Wind Turbines*

Frank Grelle had requested to be on the agenda to discuss where the money from Groton Wind goes. It was that this money goes towards everything such as payroll, bills, school bills, county tax bill, warrant articles such as road projects, the entire budget, etc.

Frank asked when we started receiving these payments. Sara explained that technically the first invoice went out the end of 2012 but with the due date in early 2013.

Frank asked if the payment amount is the same every time. Sara explained that each year the amount increases 2.5%.

Frank asked how much the State gets of that. It was explained no portion of the payment we receive goes to the State. It is deposited in to the general fund to help pay for the items we mentioned earlier.

Frank is upset that his taxes went up so much and asked why the taxes increased even though we get this money. John mentioned to him that the majority of the increase is with the school and the Townspeople should be at the school board meetings and the school budget hearings when they have them to stress their concerns. Sara explained that she printed out what the tax rate would be without the wind money and also budgets and tax rates before we were receiving the payment. This year we applied \$200,000.00 from the unreserved fund balance to bring the tax rate down. Our tax rate was \$15.64 with adding the \$200,000.00. Without adding this \$200,000.00 it would have been \$18.22 with our revenue the way it is with the wind money. If we didn't have the revenue of the wind money this same tax rate would have been \$25.55 which is almost \$10.00 more.

Kyle explained that before the wind revenue, we didn't do as many warrant articles, which means money wasn't going aside for road projects such as North Groton Road or the new Public Works Building, etc. He said there were things that have been falling apart for a long time but now needs to be fixed such as the bridge, the

road, the garage, etc. The budget was a lot lower then so now the budget is higher and the wind money helps keep the tax rate from going up any higher.

Helen asked about the \$50,000 that she feels was wasted towards the architect for the Town Garage. Kyle explained that the money wasn't wasted and that we are currently still working with them to come up with a plan. John explained that in all fairness to them, the Town didn't know where to begin with this and everyone gave them an extravagant wish list and they did what they could with it. Sara explained that we have everything we have paid for to this point such as all plans and everything which costs money. Kyle explained that they also did surveying so we have all of that information too.

Frank said his road has issues and every year he has to complain in order for anything to be done. Bubba explained he has been out there twice this year already and is doing what he can and when he can. When the roads are muddy is not the time to go out and try to do road work because it will just make it worse. John explained that there is more than one road in Town and other roads need raking, ditching, culverts, etc. Frank said he doesn't care about the ditching he just wants the road taken care of and in better condition. It was explained that if it is not ditched it will cause more issues on the actual road.

#### *Building permit Map 1 Lot 53-5*

The owners submitted two building permits for their property located on North Groton Road.

- The first one is for a pole roof over the camper which is about 400 square feet with no sides. This will not be heated or cooled and no septic. **John motioned to approve the building permit for Map 1 Lot 53-5.**
- The next building permit is for a one story house with a basement that will be less than 1,000 square feet. He is working on getting the PUC approval and DES information. The resident asked if he can get the approval just for the foundation only for now while he waits for the PUC and DES information. **John motioned to approve the building permit for Map 1 Lot 53-5 for foundation only, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup> so voted.**

#### *Building permit Map 2 Lot 105*

The owners submitted a building permit for their property located on Brock Lane. This is for a 10x20 wooden shed with metal panels for the sides and the roof. This will not be heated or cooled. **John motioned to approve the building permit for Map 2 Lot 105, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Class VI Road Letter*

A resident sent a letter to the Select Board with their plans for road maintenance for Old Rumney Road and will continue to maintain the road along with removing rocks, filling holes, leveling and repairing areas that may wash out due to rain. **John motioned to approve both the Class VI Road improvements request for Old Rumney Road, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Intent to Cut- Map 9 Lot 2*

The Town received an Intent to Cut for Map 9 Lot 2 for a 40 acre cut. There are no taxes owed on the property so a bond was not required and all information on the intent is correct. **John motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 9 Lot 2, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Solid Waste and Recyclables Request For Proposal (RFP)*

Sara explained that the contracts are up July 31, 2018. Sara put together the RFP with the date to request the information back by July 5<sup>th</sup> to be opened at the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Select Board reviewed and is okay with moving forward with the RFP. **Kyle motioned to approve the RFP, John 2<sup>nd</sup> so voted.**

#### *Letter from Ruth regarding registration for Maxam*

Ruth submitted a letter to the Select Board requesting a refund to Maxam for \$1,639.00 due to an over charge on a registration done in May of 2016. First of all the list price of vehicle was in there, also it was a leased vehicle that was registered to Maxam and should have been to the lease company. Due to this Maxam had to go to the state and get stickers. Because it was not registered the same as the title was they couldn't get the stickers they needed. This led to Maxam having to re-register the vehicle which was \$1,639.00. Ruth would not like to collect this amount. They originally paid to us \$9,740.00 to the Town when it was registered.

Kyle would like to know exactly what they are owed and pay them back for it. Ruth will look into it to see what it actually would have been done if it was registered correctly so we can refund them what they are actually owed. John agreed. **Kyle motioned to table the Maxam registration issue until we received more information, John 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### **SELECT BOARD ITEMS:**

##### *MS-535*

The auditor sent the MS-535, which is the financial report of the budget, with our suggested changes on it over today. The Select Board reviewed the MS-535 and was okay with the amounts. **John motioned it sign the MS-535, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Sara will put this on the website.

#### **DEPARTMENT ITEMS:**

##### *Highway Department Updates*

Bubba provided the Town with the following updates:

- The International should be back up and running soon.
- Sculptured Rocks Road has been cleaned up and is looking better but still needs work done.
- Bubba will be on vacation for three weeks.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

##### *Library Trustee Meeting*

The Library Trustees will be meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

##### *Cemetery Updates*

The Cemetery Trustees hired Rich Braley of Braley's helping hands to do the lawn maintenance at the cemeteries. They have done a fantastic job so far. They will do all the cemeteries except Bailey Hill which Elizabeth will still maintain.

Ruth said that she got a call about a tree that fell into River Road Cemetery and there was concern that it may have knocked down some head stones. Elizabeth confirmed that a tree did fall but went between the stones and didn't knock any over. She said that Roger Thompson will be removing the tree.

##### *Conservation Commission*

Slim mentioned that the Conservation Commission will be working with the Groton Historical Society to put together a plan for the Town Pound and will hopefully have it done by the next Select Board meeting.

Elizabeth and Slim mentioned that the fishing derby had 30 kids. There were big fish that were caught, trophies handed out along with ribbons and gift cards. It was a great day for it and it was another successful fishing derby. They thanked Bubba for making sure the mowing and clean up was done.

Ruth said a resident commented to her that it was the best fishing derby they had ever been to and they have been to a lot of other towns fishing derbies as well.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

*Select Board Member*

Anne Joyce asked if the Select Board has chosen a third member yet. It was explained that they have not so if anyone is interested in the position to contact the Select Board office.

**Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 7:47pm, John 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant