

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
November 20, 2018

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

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of November 13, 2018 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Non-public Work Session Meeting minutes of November 13, 2018 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of November 13, 2018 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Michael Pearl- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Special Operations Unit

Michael Pearl explained that he is a Lieutenant with the Concord Police Department but is also the Commander for the Special Operations Unit. Groton is paid up on its membership dues through July 2019 so if we have any critical incidents where the Special Operations Unit is needed they will respond. Michael explained that the Special Operations Unit is in need of an incident command truck. They are a 501c3 nonprofit entity so they are not allowed to make applications for grants so Concord will be the applicant but it will be shared. This would be for \$180,000.00 for the purchase of an incident command vehicle. Part of the agreement with Homeland Security funding is that each membership community needs to sign off on the MOU that allows everyone equal share of the vehicle when necessary. **John motioned to sign the MOU for the Special Operations Unit, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Pistol Permit

A resident dropped off a pistol permit application. Since we do not have a Police Chief right now, Sara sends the application to the State Police for review and background check. The State Police sent this back that the record was negative so we could proceed. **John motioned to sign the pistol permit, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Letter from Avitar-NNETC (Fairpoint)

Avitar sent a letter which states that the final offer from NNETC to settle their outstanding appeals for 2016 and 2017 with no interest is \$1,481.00. They further offer to non-suit 2018 for an additional \$200.00 for a total of \$1,681.00. Gary Roberge from Avitar said that the Town can just accept the 2016-2017 settlement offer and let 2018 be handled later in a future appeal, but he recommended ending it all now. He also stated that if we want to get the attorney involved to let him know and he can forward them the settlement information immediately. He believes this to be a very reasonable settlement, without interest and ends legal and expert costs as well as future appeals. The letter gives the options to option one: not accept settlement and continue appeals, option two: accept settlement for 2016-2017 only for \$1,481.00 and option three: accept full settlement ending all appeals for \$1,681.00. It was agreed to run this by the attorney first and see what their recommendation is and then go from there.

Meeting with Hebron Select Board

The Hebron Select Board emailed inviting the Groton Select Board to the December 6, 2018 meeting at 7:00pm for the discussion to prepare for the renewal of the Ambulance and Fire Agreement for 2019. The Select Board will be able to attend. Sara will let them know.

Septic Plan Map 5 Lot 46

Erin Darrow from Right Angle Engineering dropped off a Septic Plan and local approval for Map 5 Lot 46. It was discussed at the last meeting that in order to approve the septic plan for Map 5 Lot 46 we would need a map with where the flood plain is in relation to where the septic will be going. We also reached out to the attorney for guidance on this who stated that "the selectmen could issue a septic permit for this lot despite RSA 674:41; however, if they do so, that permit should have big bold language on it saying that this is not a guarantee that a building permit will be issued and that if the applicant installs the septic system, he does so at his own risk that the building permit may ultimately be denied." **John motioned to sign the local approval for Map 5 Lot 46, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Building permit Map 5 Lot 100 (renewal)

The resident submitted a building permit for a renewal of a building permit for a 24x24 garage that was approved on November 1, 2016. All building permits are valid for two years so November 1, 2018 the two years was up. The resident experienced some delays to the construction due to ledge where he wanted to build the garage. The site work is now prepared and they are planning to start the construction in the Spring of 2019. **John motioned to approve the building permit for Map 5 Lot 100, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Letter from New Hampshire Electric Co-Op (NHEC)

The New Hampshire Electric Co-Op (NHEC) sent a letter to the Town explaining that as of January 1, 2019, NHEC will no longer pay for traffic control when working to install, remove, or repair outdoor lights in our Town. If the Town requires a traffic detail, these costs will be paid for by the member who is responsible for the monthly cost of the light. NHEC will continue to practice its traffic safety procedures at all work sites by placing signage and safety cones around work areas. They will also continue to request additional traffic control measures (paid by others) if they determine they are necessary to protect the safety of motorists, pedestrians and their employees. Municipalities still have the option to require traffic control at all NHEC outdoor lighting work sites, but the costs will be borne by the member who is responsible for the monthly cost of the light. They sent a form for the Town to fill out to simplify the process. The Town can check off that traffic details are required for installation, removal and repair of outdoor lights. If the form is not returned they will assume that traffic details are not required in our Town. **John motioned not to sign or return the letter from NHEC, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Dead River- Certificate for exemption of Federal Diesel Tax

Each year Dead River sends the renewal form for the Town to fill out to continue their tax-exempt status. The current certificate for exemption of federal diesel tax expires on December 31, 2018. **John motioned to sign the 2019 certificate for exemption of federal diesel tax, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Important School dates

We received a letter from the School that has importance dates for upcoming Newfound Area School District meetings. They are as follows:

- Budget Hearing January 11, 2019 at 6:30pm at Newfound Regional High School Snow date January 12, 2019 at 10:00am
- Petition for Warrant Articles due by: January 8, 2019 at 3:30pm
- First Day to file for District Positions January 23, 2019

- School Board positions to be filled this year
 - Alexandria: 3 – year term
 - Bridgewater: 3 – year term
- Budget Committee positions to be filled this year
 - Alexandria: 3 – year term
 - Bridgewater: 3 – year term
- Moderator 1 – year term
- Last Day to file for District Positions February 1, 2019 at 3:30pm
- First Deliberative Session: February 2, 2019 at 10:00am at Newfound Regional High School. Snow date February 4, 2018 at 6:30pm
- Voting Day (Second Session) March 12, 2019

John mentioned that it is very important that the Towns people attend these meetings especially the deliberative session to challenge the budget. There has been some questionable action that the Townspeople from all communities need to come and question.

Petitioned Warrant Article

John explained that there is a petitioned warrant article that is going around and needs to be back by December 15th. This petitioned warrant article is for consideration at the Newfound Area School District Meeting, held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 10:00am at the High School. John read the warrant article which stated the following:

“The School Board shall adopt a procedure within an Administrative Policy that requires any and all planned expenditures deemed in any way to be a planned expenditure of capital for the planned maintenance, planned improvement, planned one-time expense, or for an otherwise newly established planned purpose in the Newfound Area School District in excess of \$24,999.00 to be presented in a warrant article for consideration of, and a vote by those registered voters attending its Deliberative & Election Day Sessions, prior to expenditure of said amount.”

John said that the person that sent it to him explained that your signature only counts if you print your name, sign it and put your full street address including town and phone number and/or email. John will forward this to Sara so it will be at the Select Board’s office if you would like to sign this.

Emergency Management

Roger Thompson resigned as the Emergency Management Director. The Town of Groton is currently looking for someone who is interested in being the Emergency Management Director and we also need a Deputy as well. If you are interested please contact the Select Board office.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- Bubba stated they have been busy plowing.
- Bubba asked that a reminder be put out about parking during the winter hours. Sara mentioned that she can put a reminder on the website since winter is upon us and will reference the parking ordinance which states the following under Parking Restrictions, section D: Snow Removal: No vehicle shall be parked on any street maintained by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation or the Town of Groton in such a manner so as to impede snow removal. No person shall stop or cause to be stopped, or park any vehicle, so as to impede or interfere with the proper snow clearing operations of the NH

DOT or Town, when snow removal operations are in effect. Sara will also post this on the bulletin board at the Town House and the Transfer Station.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Building Committee

John reminded everyone that there will be a building committee meeting for the future of the Town Garage on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 7:00pm. The public is welcome to attend.

Road Committee

The next road committee meeting will be on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:00pm.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Thanksgiving baskets

Elizabeth thanked the Select Board and Sara for delivering the Thanksgiving baskets and also thanked the anonymous resident that donated the baskets.

Food and Clothing Drive

Elizabeth wanted to remind everyone that we are accepting donations for our annual food and winter clothing drive. Please bring non-perishable food items to the Town Hall by December 15th. Cash donations are also accepted. All donations are greatly appreciated!

Children's Gift Tree

Elizabeth wanted to let the Town know that the Town of Groton has a children's gift tree located at the Town Hall. If you are interested in taking part in this, please come to the Town Hall and take a gift tag off of our Christmas Tree to provide a Groton child with a Christmas gift (or two). The tags have the sex and age of a child needing a gift this year. Cash donations are also accepted. Gift donations can be left at the Town Hall, with the tag you took off the tree, by December 15th. Your support is greatly appreciated!!

Thanksgiving dinner

Elizabeth explained that there were 15 people here that showed up for the dinner. They delivered 10 home meals and one meal to the dump. It was a good time and the ladies that ran it did a great job. Doug Millett added that they received a call from a resident thanking them for the dinner.

Boiler issues

At the Thanksgiving dinner they ran out of hot water while doing the dishes. The temperature may just need to be adjusted. We will look into it.

Concern about the Zoning Ordinance

Ann Joyce brought up that the amendment to the ordinance is not complete and wasn't online or available at the Town House when the mailing went out which stated it would be. Ann thought that it should have been available by Sunday. Sara reached out to NHMA and they stated the following:

“If this were a failure to post by the deadline or to notice all necessary parties, I would certainly say the notice was defective. Here, it's in the gray area. The notice provided definitely did not perfectly follow the notice requirements in RSA 675:7; paragraph III does require the notice to state where the full text of the zoning amendment can be found, and the amendment was not actually on file there at the time the notice was posted. That being said, it does appear you complied with the notice requirements in every other way, and, therefore, you did provide the public notice of what the

proposed zoning amendment was and how it may affect them. In addition, the full text of the amendment was put on file for the public prior to the public hearing taking place. So, while I suppose the sufficiency of the notice could be challenged on those grounds, I do think the purpose of notice was accomplished, and the risk of notice being challenged as defective is low.”

There is a feeling that this is defective because the document is not complete, as it was missing sections 10 and 11, missing definitions, etc. as they are coming from someone else. All information should be provided prior to the meeting so it isn't acceptable that the document is missing information. Deb did email it over but the offices didn't receive it until over the weekend when the office is closed but Sara and Ruth both made it available Monday when they received it and Sara put it online at that point as well. Deb has also mentioned that there will be more than one public hearing on this. Sara will email NHMA back about what was missing and see if the Planning Board will still be able to have the meeting. Sara will also ask if the Selectmen have the authority to tell them they cannot have the meeting or what is the process at that point. Sara explained she will send this before she leaves tonight so that we know first thing Monday morning since the offices are closed due to the Holiday.

Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 7:50pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant