

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
December 4, 2018

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

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of November 20, 2018 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Non-public Work Session Meeting minutes of November 20, 2018 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of November 20, 2018 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Letter from Avitar-NNETC (FairPoint)

At the last Select Board meeting the Select Board reviewed a letter that Avitar sent which stated 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. Sara sent it to the attorney and they recommended that Groton settles. **John motioned to accept the full settlement ending all appeals for \$1,681.00, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Map 10 Lot 40- Bob Berti

Bob Berti requested to meet with the Select Board regarding Town owned property located on Map 10 Lot 40. This is the same lot he came in to discuss on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. They have not sent the request for the map and the information they obtained at that time. They are behind but will get this information to the Town when they can which may take at least two weeks. In the meantime, they would like to obtain permission from the Town of Groton to place a log landing/access road on the property currently claimed by the Town. This would be temporary access. The landing is mostly on their road but the access road would be about 75 feet long on the Groton Town owned property. They provide insurances. Kyle asked if their insurance would cover any liabilities on the land. Bob said the insurance would cover everything. The Select Board is okay with the access road being put on this property. Bob brought a temporary road, landing and skid trail use agreement for the Select Board to sign if they agreed. **John motioned to sign the temporary road, landing and skid trail use agreement provided there is no liability to the Town of Groton, Ron 2nd, so voted.** Sara will scan and email this to Tracey tomorrow.

Junkyard Letters/reports

The Junkyard Dog did two more inspections on properties that the Town had requested he look into.

- Map 1 Lots 25 & 26 is in compliance – Sara drafted the compliance letter and included the report. The Select Board agreed not to have the attorney send the other letter since we do not do this for everyone and to only send this letter that we usually send. **John motioned to sign the junkyard compliance letter for Map 1 Lots 25 & 26, Ron 2nd, so voted.**
- Map 2 Lot 12 is in violation – Sara drafted a violation letter which gives 30 days for the property to be cleaned up and included the report. **John motioned to sign the junkyard compliance letter for Map 2 Lot 47, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Signature Cards

Darlene dropped off the signature cards for the Select Board to sign to add Ron Madan as an authorized signer as a Selectman and Pamela Hamel as an authorized signer as the Deputy Treasurer. **John motioned to sign the signature cards, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Two Veterans Credit Applications

The Town received two applications for Veteran's Credits.

- The first one is for Map 6 Lot 104. There were no questions. **John motioned to approve the Veterans Credit for Map 6 Lot 104, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**
- The second one is for Map 6 Lot 9. There were no questions. **John motioned to approve the Veterans Credit for Map 6 Lot 9, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 9 Lot 1 & Map 7 Lot 46

Foreco submitted an intent to cut for Map 9 Lot 1 and Map 7 Lot 46. This is for a 90 acre cut off of Halls Brook Road. There was no need for a bond payment. **John motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 9 Lot 1 and Map 7 Lot 46, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Letter of Resignation

Otto Jespersen submitted his resignation to all positions he currently holds which includes the Town Auditor, Cemetery Trustee and Library Trustee.

Library Trustee appointment request

Elizabeth Jespersen sent an email to the Select Board requesting to be appointed as a Library Trustee. **John motioned to appoint Elizabeth Jespersen as library trustee, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Zoning Board Concern

Chuck Stata, Frank Grelle, Helen Martynzyn and Carolyn Booth have all resigned from the ZBA. That only leaves Glen Hansen if he is still on the board. This is not enough to hold a quorum. The Town of Groton is in dire need of residents to join the Zoning Board. The Zoning Board consists of five members and we currently only have one so we need at least four interested people. If you are interested, please contact the Select Board office by calling 603-744-9190, emailing selectmen@grotonnh.org, or coming by the office at 754 North Groton Road.

Sara has reached out to NHMA and our attorney to see what we can do about this in the meantime because we have the concern with Map 5 Lot 46 where they need a waiver that needs to be done by the ZBA. They would need a quorum which is three members so until there is at least three.

Ann Joyce was in the audience and requested to join the Zoning Board until March. Sara will let Glen know so he can appoint her.

Winter Clothing

There is a large selection of winter coats, snow pants, hats, scarves, gloves, sweaters and sweatshirts/pants available in both children's and adult sizes. Anyone in need can come to the Groton Community Meeting Room when the Town Hall is open and help yourself. If you have specific needs please let us know and we will attempt to furnish you with these items.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

HealthTrust Medical Coverage agreement for 2019

HealthTrust sent the yearly agreement for the Health Insurance for 2018. The medical rates increased 11.3%. The dental rates increased 2.3%. Sara included last years for comparison. **John motioned to sign the HealthTrust Medical Coverage agreement for 2018, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 2 Lot 48

Jon Martin submitted an intent to cut for Map 2 Lot 48. This is for a 200 acre cut off of North Groton Road. There was no need for a bond payment. **John motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 2 Lot 48, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit letter- Map 5 Lot 46

Even though we have explained to Mr. Kuplin in person, the attorney suggested that we send him a letter explaining that the Select Board cannot approve a building permit due to the frontage issues and him only having a right of way access to his property. He would need to apply to the ZBA for a waiver. Sara drafted this letter but also thought we should explain that there is no quorum and until there is the ZBA cannot conduct business so that he knows there will be a delay in this. **John motioned to sign the building permit letter for Map 5 Lot 46, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- They have been busy plowing and sanding.
- They will hopefully have the Dodge back this week and most of the work should be covered by Warranty.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Road Committee

The Road Committee will be meeting Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00pm.

Building Committee

The Building Committee will be meeting Wednesday, December 12th at 6:00pm.

Having no other business to conduct, Kyle motioned to adjourn at 7:39pm, John 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant