

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
July 23, 2019

In attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert, Ron Madan and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant - AA)

John called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Storm Damages, money, etc.

- As of the end of June, there was \$29,544.27 in the disaster relief Capital Reserve Fund. So far with the invoices we have received so far, we have spent \$61,555.00. Sara created a memo requesting to move these funds over as we need them until we know what is going on with FEMA. **John motioned to sign the memo to the trustees of the trust fund requesting to transfer \$29,500.00 from the Disaster Relief Fund to Meredith Village Savings Bank, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
- Bubba is going to get ahold of the Army Corps of Engineers to clean the rivers. This will make a big difference.
- Bubba reached out to Avery to clean out the culverts. The cost is \$1,700.00 but the first time they can come out is not until August 14, 2019. Tony said Bubba should see if there are any other companies.
- John feels the clear cutting caused some of this damage and didn't know if we can we pass an ordinance that loggers cannot clear cut. We do not think so but Sara will email NHMA to see. Tony also said he doesn't think that it was because of the clear cutting as much as it was just flash flooding.
- Sara mentioned that stain for the pavilion washed away. John said that he will order more. Sara will look through the receipts and let him know how much he ordered.
- Sara mentioned that Servpro will be going to clean the garage.
- The cruiser is currently at Plymouth Ford and the insurance adjuster was supposed to go there and look at it. We have not heard yet if it is totaled but that was what they were thinking. They will look at the radios and have them sent to Ossipee Mountain Electronics to see if anything can be salvaged or if it was all damaged.
- Bubba and Fred are going through items to see what is damaged and what isn't and then him and Sara will make a list for Primex.
- Sara and Bubba did site visits with FEMA and HSEM today to look at and assess the damages from the storm. This is the first contact and since it hasn't been declared yet, there is no guarantee there will be funding. However, with the amount of damage we received along with Orange and Rumney it looks like the threshold should be met for a declaration but we will not know right away.

Ray Gagnon's concerns

Ray Gagnon approached John about some concerns. There was an email from Ray that Sara shared with all of the Select Board but John went over the concerns that he discussed with Ray which were as follows:

- There was a concern with noise at a residence. John mentioned that he should have called the Police for this if it was a one-time concern. If it is an everyday thing the Select Board will address the resident but, in this case, it was about the noise for a party, which has only occurred once.
- There were rumors that all of the Select Board was invited to the party that Casey Kuplin had, which they weren't.
- There was a statement that Casey has the Select Board in his pocket. The Select Board has followed advice from the attorney on how to handle the Casey Kuplin items that came up in the past and it was resolved based on that. If any other issues come up, they will be addressed as needed.
- There was a statement that the Select Board is afraid to bring people to court. This is not true and in the past year the Select Board has brought two people to court and is currently working on a third.

Ray also mentioned the bridge on Casey Kuplin's property and the concerns with the bridge. This was brought up three years ago and we believe it was found that the Town was told they do not have authority as it is on private property. Sara will look for this information from when this was brought up a few years ago. John told him that he can talk to DES with his concerns. Sara explained that she will look into this when time allows but the storm damage and FEMA is keeping her busy and is a priority right now.

Steel Frame

There is a steel frame at Casey Kuplin's property that he is going to be selling. The Select Board agreed that Tony can talk to him to see how much he would want to get rid of it. This could be used either as a salt shed or to cover the bins at the Transfer Station to avoid water getting in them.

Hourly pay for Select Board working Storm

Ron asked if the Select Board should get paid for when they helped out with the storm or if this is part of their stipend. All three Select Board members agreed that they are okay with not getting paid for the time they put in to help with the storm. When Tony was working for Casey, he will get paid for that through Casey.

Runner incident- Primex

Primex reviewed all of the information regarding the incident with the runner and didn't see the Town as liable so they do not want to replace the sneakers. The runner's mother contacted the Select Board and left a message that she will be contacting her attorney as she does not agree with this decision. Sara emailed Primex back to let them know and let our attorney know. David Bullock called Sara and let her know that he talked to the resident and offered to speak to her attorney. Since the Town was not aware of the issue prior to this incident, and they responded immediately, the Town is not liable. He recommended that the Town refer her to them since they are handling this.

Mike Ethier Concerns

Sara reached out to Jennifer Gilbert after the inspection at Mike Ethier's property. Jennifer emailed back about concerns due to the storm but never mentioned if she was willing to meet with the Select Board and Mike. Sara forwarded this email and put it in the Select Board's review folder but still isn't sure on how to proceed. John said he will reach out to Jennifer and request the meeting.

Police Interviews

Sara asked if everyone reviewed the Police questions and the rating sheets. It was agreed to use the MRI rating sheet and the Select Board went over which questions we should and shouldn't use. Sara will update this list before next week and send them to everyone involved.

Also, Sara asked if the Select Board thinks we should meet earlier with the oral board beforehand. Right now, the interviews start at 6:00pm. It was agreed to ask the oral board to arrive at 5:30pm for a quick meeting prior to the interviews.

Building Permit

Sara explained that she did send the latest questions to Deb but she hasn't responded yet as she was having a procedure done.

Fire Pond/Cisterns

Tony looked at Paul Coles' property and it is too straight up and is only 14 inches deep so it wouldn't work. On the Halls Brook side there was too much stone. Tony said there is a property on the cemetery side of the road on North Groton Road. This is owned by the Town. The Hebron Fire Dept will test it and there is 4.5 feet of

water there so it would work. The Town wouldn't have to worry about anything because it is Town road and Town property. We would probably need to take some trees down and install the pipe. We would need to contact the State to see if we need a wetlands permit. If the testing goes well the Select Board will all go out together to look at it and move forward from there.

Jewel Hill

A resident on Jewel Hill said the first section of the road to the bridge is owned by the Town. Sara did some research and everything she finds says it is all private. Also, we have never done any maintenance, regular or winter, to this section. Sara couldn't find anything stating this section was town owned but will keep looking when time allows as she is really busy with FEMA stuff due to the storm.

Meeting with Norm Willey

The Select Board met with Norm to discuss the following:

- Recycling concerns- Norm said there have not been any complaints from the residents. People have asked and they have explained what is still being recycled but also what isn't they understand. There are two dumpsters there and we are doing okay. They are averaging 60-80 a day and seem to be doing okay with the two roll offs they have but they do have to be packed each week and they are getting emptied every two weeks. The compactor can go about three weeks. It is working well especially with this being the busiest time of the year.
- Transfer Station Concerns
 - Norm asked about Richards brother helping paint. He has some time on his hands. Norm was wondering if he could be hired to stain the building. There are two options for this that were discussed. He could be a town employee and work for Transfer Station and Highway too but would need to apply and do background check, etc. He could be a vendor and show he has insurance and then submit an invoice. Norm said he said he does have insurance so he just needs to submit this and thinks the vendor option would be best.
 - Norm said they need a piece of equipment at the Transfer Station for packing, plowing, etc. This would have to wait until Town meeting. If Highway gets a new one the Transfer Station could take the JCB.
 - Norm said the heater is 17 years old and is on its last leg. It has been repaired three times and the parts are hard to get since it is old. It would use 2/3 less electricity, 30% more efficient, etc. The Select Board asked for a quote so we can make a decision.
 - Norm said during mud season he would like to get a third dumpster, especially when the roads are posted. The Select Board agreed that this would be acceptable to do.
 - Norm is on vacation and will not be able to do the oral board.
- Transfer Station Operations Plan- Norm went through and made changes to the plan based on no more recycling and other changes. Sara made these changes to the master and printed. The Select Board ran out of time but will review this at the next meeting

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:00pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant