

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
December 3, 2019

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

Absent: Ron Madan

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

Police Chief

The Police Chief quickly met with the Select Board to go over the following items:

- His computers are fairly old but most are working okay. There is one that Dave Switaj stated should be replaced this year and the others could wait another year or two. Dave provide a quote for \$883.00. The Police Budget has plenty of available funds so the Select Board is okay with him ordering a new one out of his budget. The Chief will let Dave know to go ahead and order the computer.
- The Chief asked about the Pistol Permits and how to rectify the ones that were issued for four years instead of five. He was told that he can send a letter to the effected parties and have them set up an appointment to bring their permit in and get a new one for five years.
- The Chief will be in a service training course tomorrow at NH Police Standards and Trainings in Concord so he will not be around.
- The update on the Cruiser is that they are waiting for radio. He has made some calls to get an ETA on the radio and will let the Select Board know when it is in.

Budget Meetings

Since all first budget meetings have been completed, the Select Board discussed the following:

- At the last meeting it was agreed to raise the election official wages to \$11.00/hr. The moderator and supervisors have sent updated budgets to reflect this. Sara printed these budgets for the Selectmen to review.
- Sara printed a new proposed budget for all departments based on the meetings and asked the Select Board to review and make sure she didn't miss anything. She did go back through the meeting minutes to make sure all changes were made but would like them to double check it.
- Sara is still waiting for an updated quote on for tearing down the old library. The quote we had was for \$9,500.00. Once we get this we can decide if we think we should do a warrant article for this.
- Carpet quotes- Sara did reach out for new quotes and is waiting on these. Since it has been over a year they had to come measure again today and should send the quote soon. At some point we should pick out a carpet style if someone wants to go to Home Depot or one of us can sign out a carpet board so we can look at it. It was agreed that this wouldn't be a warrant article and would come out of the Town House Capital Reserve Fund.
- Warrant articles are due January 2, 2020.

104 Sculptured Rocks Road

Sara reached out DES regarding this property and they will be going out this week. The Junkyard dog said he could visit when he returns after the 5th.

1214 North Groton Road

Sara reached out DES regarding this property and they will be going out this week to look at this property as they have received numerous concerns. Sara also followed up with the attorney to make sure we are doing everything that we can and she assured us that she is and that the process is lengthy and these are, in fact, extraordinarily frustrating cases.

Holiday Luncheon date

Sara passed out and emailed the Holiday Luncheon invitations which will take place Friday, December 13, 2019 from 12-2. Sara asked what the Selectmen would like to bring for food and how they want to do the raffle items, etc. We usually do poinsettias and other items to raffle off. The Select Board agreed that Sara can go get some items and asked that she spend around \$50.00 on these items. They will let Sara know what they plan to bring for food.

Donation Baskets/Christmas gift tree

Sara explained that in the past we have had a volunteer that put together a food and clothing drive which accepted donations of nonperishable food items and winter clothing along with a Children's Gift Tree which had gift tags on a Christmas Tree to provide a Groton child with a Christmas gift (or two). This has been on a volunteer basis the last few years but this volunteer has moved. Sara is very busy and doesn't really have the time to take this on. We won't do the tree but we will collect winter items and non-perishables. Sara will look for the collection bins and will post this online and the Select Board will mention it at the meeting tonight.

Dump

There have been some concerns about the amount of trash and people going to the Transfer Station. It seems to be increasing. The Selectmen are afraid that we have out of towners taking advantage. We haven't used dump stickers since 2004. We looked into it a few years ago and at the time it was \$200.00 for 500 stickers. It was agreed to hold off on this for now but if we decided to do this we could see if we can do it without the year but have a spot the Town Clerk could fill in the year when she hands them out. That way they would last longer. Sara will call Casella and see if our amounts seem high for a town our size.

The Select Board think that the new Police Chief should go the Transfer Station and introduce himself to the residents. The Selectmen will put him on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss how this is going and other things and it was agreed to put him on the meeting agenda for the 2nd meeting of the month going forward to get updates on how things are going.

Meeting with Bubba

Bubba met with the Select Board to go over the following:

- He got quotes for the battery shut off switches and it would be \$800.00 for all of the vehicles. If we do the backhoe and the big truck only it will only be \$400.00. It was agreed to move forward with this. Bubba will take care of this.
- Advanced Lock and Alarm will be coming to do the security/fire alarm at the Town Garage. They said they will be there around the third week in December. Bubba mentioned they need a new back door. It was agreed that he should get a new door.
- We need to think about posting a sign or putting the information out there reminding the residents they can only take three 5-gallon buckets or 15 shovel fulls of sand. Sara will put this on the website.
- They have been trying to go over to River Road to see if Dorchester needs help as they are short staffed. There are a few people plowing across the road and Dorchester is having issues with this. If there is an accident the home owner would be responsible. Dorchester is upset and we don't want to lose the help from them because it is a time saver for the Town for them to take care of that road for us. Bubba will address it as he sees it. He will mention it at one of the Select Board meetings.
- Bubba will also mention a reminder about parking too close to the road. We can put this online too.
- Bubba and Sara are working on the truck grant through USDA. The Select Board will have to sign this when it is done and this is due before the next meeting. **John motioned to sign the USDA grant paperwork when it is complete, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
- The CDFA grant meeting that Sara and Bubba went to stated public facilities were an option which is why they attended. However, during the meeting it was stated that it is more for low income public housing but that a new Public Works Building would not qualify.

- Other than that, the Highway Department has been busy plowing.

Sara will do a winter reminders section on the website to include all of the items discussed. We will also look up the policies and RSA's that support this.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:55pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant