

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
May 7, 2019

In Attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert, 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 April 16, 2019 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. Ron abstained.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of April 16, 2019 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. Ron abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conservation Commission Meeting request- Recycling

The Conservation Commission asked to meet with the Select Board to talk about recycling. Slim mentioned that due to the problems with the recycling we have to do something to educate people to give clean recycling. Norm had put a sign out that said no plastic bags which they liked to see. The Conservation Commission talked to Norm about putting up a sign stating clean recyclables only, cardboard flattened, something along that line.

John mentioned that the problem is with the containers being open. Even if it is cleaned if it gets wet it still won't be recycled.

Ruth Gaffey said that the Conservation Commission needs to do more research about recycling. They have a list of questions that Sara emailed to Norm to answer. Ruth gave a copy to the Select Board. They want to learn and then educate everyone about this once they know more. They asked if once they know more if it would it be possible to be at the Transfer Station to help people.

Ruth said single stream is the problem and this is happening with many towns not just Groton. She knows that New Hampton made money but they don't do single stream. It is different everywhere but single stream is hard and we need to learn how to manage it better. This is a nationwide problem.

The Select Board said a sign can be put at the Transfer Station and the Conservation Commission can talk to Norm about where. The Select Board doesn't have a problem with them being at the Transfer Station to talk to people. Sara mentioned that when they have more information, they could come back to a Select Board Meeting so it is in the minutes and we can put it on the website. Sara mentioned to do a flyer to have Richard hand out at the Transfer Station with all of the information because he sees every person that uses the Transfer Station. John mentioned a weekly tip would be a good idea so it is always changing and providing new information.

Junkyard Services Agreement

This is the contract that Municipal Resources Inc. sends us every year. There have not been any changes. **John motioned to sign the junkyard service agreement with MRI, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

There were a few concerns about properties that the attendees wanted to discuss.

- Many residents are concerned about 1214 North Groton Road. The Select Board explained that the owners were sent a letter last week which gives them 30 days to clean this up. If they don't the Select Board will reach out to our attorney for the next step. Sara explained that we also reached out to DES about this property with concerns about hazardous materials. John said this property has been in and out of compliance. Last year we originally sent a letter then they cleaned up the property so they were sent a thank you letter. Then shortly after it was a problem again so we have sent letters. They were just sent their final letter and we contacted DES. John said the Select Board understands the concerns and have the same concerns but we have to follow a process. Sara mentioned that the residents can contact DES, the State and whoever else they need to as well. If nothing is done then the next step is to take them to court and follow that process with the attorney involved.
- A resident asked if anything has been done about the Lamos property on Edgar Albert Road. The Select Board did look at the property. This was added to the list for junkyard dog and will be inspected in June when he goes out.
- A resident asked about the property where the fire was on Halls Brook Road. It was explained that this just happened and he has been cleaning it up but the fire dept had no concerns with any issues of hazardous materials, etc.

John mentioned we have been working on these concerns and for some the process is longer. We have already taken some to court and then had others that worked with us and have cleaned the property up before it goes to court but it takes time.

Scope for Emergency Operations Plan

June Garneau emailed over the Scope for the emergency operations plan. We will need this when we submit the grant application. She recommends that we should submit the grant application with Paul Hatch within the next month or so. Sara reached out to see where we can get the grant application and Paul was on vacation so she should hear from him soon.

The Select Board mentioned that we have a new Emergency Operations Director which is Bill Oakley and a new Deputy which is Patti Oakley.

Vision option for employees

Health Trust sent over a new option for vision coverage for employees. The vision plan would be something offered to the Town, at a premium cost, to cover items like glasses and lenses for employees who choose to participate.

The Town does have coverage through the medical plan for vision exams but there is no separate "eyewear rider" except for a \$40.00 reimbursement per person per year for the purchase of frames, lenses, or contact lenses (for anyone enrolled on the medical plan). Access to vision discounts (on things like frames, lenses, and contact lenses) are available via both the Medical and Dental plans. Depending on the plan, and if it is paid by the employee or the employer, it runs from \$5.34 a month for one employee to \$19.87 a month for family.

The Select Board does not have to take this coverage and can just continue with the current coverage that we have. **John motioned to stay with the current plan, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Current Use Application-Map 1 Lot 22

The Select Board received a current use application and recommendations from Avitar for Map 1 Lot 22. Avitar recommends the Select Board approve the current use application. **John motioned to approve the current use application for Map 1 Lot 22, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Report of Cuts (6 reports)

The deadline to receive report of cuts was May 15, 2019. Sara did send the reminder letters and will send a follow up letter to the ones that we don't receive.

- The first report of cut is for Map 9 Lot 1 on Old Coach Road for a cut of about 63 acres. The amount of the tax is \$3,657.42. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 9 Lot 1, Ron 2nd, so voted.**
- The second report of cut is for Map 9 Lot 2 on Old Coach Road for a cut of about 25 acres. The amount of the tax is \$719.11. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 9 Lot 2, Ron 2nd, so voted.**
- The third report of cut is for Map 10 Lot 42 on Halls Brook Road for a cut of about 1.5 acres. The amount of the tax is \$64.00. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 10 Lot 42, Ron 2nd, so voted.**
- The fourth report of cut is for Map 2 Lot 27 on Rumney Road. There was nothing cut for this so there is no tax and no yield certificate to sign.
- The fifth report of cut is for Map 7 Lots 10 and 21 on Victoria's Mountain Way for a cut of about 30 acres. The amount of the tax is \$1,292.56. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 7 Lots 10 and 21, Ron 2nd, so voted.**
- The sixth report of cut is for Map 7 Lot 46 on Blood Road for a cut of about 15 acres. The amount of the tax is \$728.34. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 7 Lot 46 Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Police Chief posting/services from MRI

Sara created a posting for the part time Police Chief based on the information that was discussed at the committee meeting. Sara highlighted the areas on it that the Select Board need to discuss what they want to post.

Sara also reached out to Primex regarding any recruitment services they provide and they do not offer this but referred her to Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI) which is who we use for the junkyard services and who we used for the wage study a few years ago. They can assist the Town but there is a charge attached to it. Alan Gould from MRI called Sara and then sent a follow up email about the services they provide. To do the comprehensive recruitment process which covers entire process from beginning to end will cost the town anywhere from \$6,000.00-\$7,500.00. The other way of doing this for small communities on a limited budget is to simply charge a flat hourly fee for their work. If they give a firm number for a process, they have no way of knowing how many applicants we'll be dealing with but would have to price it on the high side, just in case we had a good-sized pool. A blended rate of \$75/hour would cover administrative and consultant related costs. They anticipate a relatively low number of candidates so this means we're only paying them for the actual services we need. This also gives us flexibility as to process. After we see what the pool looks like we can decide if we want some essays or would like Alan to participate in on-site interviews. He suggested that we may not want to do the essays but that in any case, he would do phone interviews and then get the viable candidates right to our Board for interviews. He said they can usually get the job done for under \$3000.00 with this approach. We would have to pay for the advertising and if we want MRI to do the Police Standards and Training Council compliant background, that costs about \$1200.00. Whether they do it or someone else does it, a background is required by PSTC.

The Select Board agreed that this is expensive and we should post it ourselves and see if we have any bites first. John explained that there is a posting going out for a part time police chief for 20 hours, \$25-\$30 hours based on experience and request that June 13th is the deadline for interested parties to submit their resumes. **John motioned to approve the posting as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

This will be in next Thursdays, the May 16th, edition of the newspaper and will be on our website and sent to many police and municipalities sites.

GHS request to use Town House

The Groton Historical Society (GHS) has requested to use the Town House on May 27, 2019 for their Memorial Day program. It will begin at 11:00am and will be followed by the flag raising at noon and then eating afterwards. The Select Board approved the use of the Town House. John mentioned that usually there is someone from the Select Board there but John cannot attend this year.

Letter regarding Blanchette Lane

Blanchette Lane has been washing out from the private section of the road causing the town-maintained section to wash out and wash on to North Groton Road. This a concern for the Town and needs to be addressed. Sara and Bubba drafted letters to the abutters on the road so that this concern can be addressed.

John motioned to sign the letters regarding Blanchette Lane, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Disposal agreement- 64 North Fletcher Road

George Fletcher submitted a disposal agreement for his property at 64 North Fletcher Road. **John motioned to approve the disposal agreement for 64 North Fletcher Road, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Disposal agreement- 28 North Fletcher Road

Bonnie Lane submitted a disposal agreement for her property at 28 North Fletcher Road. **John motioned to approve the disposal agreement for 28 North Fletcher Road, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 3 Lot 6-2

The Town received an Intent to Cut for Map 3 Lot 6-2 for a 20-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 3 Lot 6-2, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 3 Lot 6-3

The Town received an Intent to Cut for Map 3 Lot 6-3 for a 15-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 3 Lot 6-3, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Letters from Avitar

The Town received two letters from Avitar regarding two Town owned properties that are on the list for the yearly inspection. These are map 5 Lot 62, the Town Garage, and map 5 Lot 136, the park. The Select Board is okay with these inspections taking place. John mentioned that other residents will be getting these letters as well and you may see Avitar out doing inspections.

A resident asked if Avitar can go on to a property that has "No Trespassing" posted. The Select Board doesn't think so but we will reach out to Avitar to see what their process is for this.

Letter from North Country Council/Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District

The Select Board received a letter from North Country Council/Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District which covered three things which are as follows:

- They included Household Hazardous Waste event fliers which have been posted at the Transfer Station and the Town House. The event is Sunday, August 4 at the Littleton Transfer Station and Saturday, September 28th at the Plymouth Transfer Station. The fliers give lists of what you can and cannot bring.
- A letter for the Board of Selectmen regarding appointments of the District representatives. The Town currently does not have any representatives but we can select new members to fill the position. Is there anyone we want to appoint? Sara will ask Norm if this is something he would be interested in.
- Groton's NRRRA Certificate of Voting Member

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Solar Farm Program

A representative from Renewables Worldwide reached out to see if they could be put on the May 21st Select Board Meeting agenda to meet with the Town about the State of New Hampshire's Program regarding a solar farm. The Select Board agreed to put them on the agenda.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- Bubba thanked Jeremy and Fred for taking care of things while he was on vacation.
- Bubba mentioned that they have cleaned up around the pond and at the highway department for the Fishing Derby so there is plenty of parking.
- They have been cleaning up the garage.
- Site visits were conducted for both Sculptured Rocks Road and North Groton Road. They have until the end of the month to get their bids in.
- There are old culverts that we have dug up and some residents have shown interest in them. Anyone interested should come to the Town Garage on May 29, 2019 at 5:00pm and Bubba will hand them out.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Conservation Commission

Slim mentioned that the road cleanup took place this last Saturday. There were about 25 participants that came out to help with the cleanup. They were handed out t-shirts and fed lunch. They collected 97 bags of trash but there were 97 bags. They didn't walk down hills to get tires, mattresses, etc., just garbage from the roads. Slim told the state shed about the items that are down the hill on Halls Brook and they said that they aren't cleaning it up either. Overall the cleanup was a success and it was a nice community feel. They had a good time. Slim wanted to stress if you see syringes, needles, or any drug paraphernalia please do not touch them, call the Police. They will be doing another cleanup after Labor Day.

Cemetery Committee

Slim mentioned it is flag time and the monuments at the Town House need flags. Tony Tavares was on the Groton Historical Society when the monuments were bought and they were donated to the town. The town owns the monument and the flag holders not the historical society so the town will have to buy four flags. Sara mentioned we haven't since she has been here so Elizabeth may have taken care of these when she did the cemetery. Ruth Gaffey and Gina mentioned that they have been in the basement a lot for the library and they think there may be some flags downstairs. Gina will look and will let Sara know. If not, we will buy some.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Police Cruiser

A resident was concerned about the Police Cruiser being moved. It was confirmed that Norm Willey moved the Police Cruiser originally from the Town House to the Transfer Station when he was part of the Sheriff's Department which is where it was stored for the winter. Sara knew that Norm was moving it out of the Transfer Station earlier that day to get the mower and make room for tires but wasn't aware that it was being driven on the main roads. The resident mentioned that RSA 266:74 covers this and we should look into it because they are pretty sure it has to be a member of law enforcement to move it. The Select Board thought Norm was still on call for the Sheriff's Department so we will look into if Norm is still okay to move it even

though he is not actively on the department. If not and if it has to be moved again it may have to be the Sheriff's Department or another member of law enforcement to move it.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 8:05pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant