

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
June 04, 2019

In Attendance: John Rescigno, Ron Madan, Tony Albert 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 May 21, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. Tony abstained.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of May 21, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. Tony abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

Casella- Recycling concerns

After Town Meeting Sara had sent Casella and email per request of the Select Board. We had not heard back from them so Sara reached back out and Gary Lavine thought it would be better to come out to answer the questions the Select Board had, to answer questions from the Town and to give other information.

Below are the questions the Select Board emailed and the answers Casella provided:

- *Is this true that all items are going to a landfill and are not being recycled?* Casella stated this I not true, material is being recycled. Casella sends materials to outlets all over the country and overseas. They are based out of Vermont and it is required that items are recycled in Vermont. Recycling is still being done but the process needs to be cleaned up. If it is heavily contaminated it will be returned to Casella but if Casella catches it, they will contact the Town and then will trash it if the Town says to do so. They would let us know that our contamination is high and they would come here and do all the education to get the town where we need to be. They are not sorting trash; they are sorting recycling.
- *Waste Management informed us that they cannot do enclosed commercial containers for recycling so they are not recycling for us at all due to the material getting wet. Would Casella be able to confirm that items would be recycled if we changed the recycling over to you?* Casella would use an RV container to keep the material dry but there are other options as well.
- *What is your cost for recycling?* \$150 rent for RV Haul and Recycling processing charge.
- *If we did away with recycling, could we get more containers from you for overflow and such? How much would this cost? This may mean more trips to empty, is that possible and what is the cost?* Yes, this could be done. Casella could provide as many containers as needed for \$150 per month.

Casella submitted the following current costs for the Town of Groton (we use tandem pulls):

- Single 30yd O/T C&D has a haul fee of \$365.00
- Single 40yd B/Way Trash has a haul fee of \$365.00
- Tandem pull 30yd O/T C&D has a haul fee of \$295.00
- Tandem pull 40yd B/Way Trash has a haul fee of \$295.00

The Recycling options

- 30yd RV Container has a rental fee of \$150.00, haul fee if single \$365.00 if tandem 295.00, and a tip fee of \$150.00 per ton.
- 40yd B/Way Recycling Compactor has a rental fee of \$550.00, haul fee if single \$365.00 if tandem 295.00, and a tip fee of \$150.00 per ton.

Gary did explain that it is more costly to recycle. He said he can confirm that their recycles do not end up in a landfill. It is cheaper to trash it. If contaminated they will contact the town to see what to do with it.

Gina asked what would be considered recyclables. Gary handed out a flyer on what is recyclable. The Town would use zero sort recycling which is cardboard, boxboard, junk mail, paper, plastic bottles, jugs, tubs, lids, aluminum and steel cans and glass bottles and jars. All items would need to be emptied, rinsed and dry and are all put into the same recycling container that Casella would then sort.

John told everyone that our open recyclable containers right now are bad, there is not much of a difference between compactor and the recycling compactor. People are throwing everything in there even things that shouldn't be. There was even a full bag of garbage in there. This would need to be monitored better in the future.

John as far as a carbon footprint goes, as far as the fuel, transport, etc.; what are we gaining besides not filling up a piece of land. Gary said he cannot really answer that but it is to save filling up the land. He said Casella is going to pick up the garbage any way so he feels why not do it the right way.

Slim asked about if aluminum cans/steel are separated. Gary explained that the Town would put it all in the recycling bin and then it would be separated at the company. The Town would put all the paper, cardboard, cans, etc. in the same container and they are separated at Casella. The containers do have to be totally cleaned out.

If we decide to recycle through Casella, they will give us a lot of the flyers to hand out and put online and they also have poster size ones to put out at the transfer station.

One issue we will have is that they take two containers at a time and right now it is trash and C&D that they take. If we recycle though them then we will have three containers so they may have to leave extra and we will have to see how fast we go through it.

If you don't recycle, it all goes to trash. Sara explained that we had 67.38 tons of recycling in 2018. Gary said he will take this information and can use this to give us our estimate. There is a rental, haul and tip fees. He can also have a few guys and himself come look at the site to see where it would be best to put it.

We would have to find out if there is three phase for electricity. Tony said he believes the three phase stops at Halls Brook and it is only single phase at the Transfer Station. Gary said that single don't have a good life. They don't come across this often but did just have this in another town so he can look at our options, costs, etc.

The Town didn't have any other questions for Gary so he said he would send the information to Sara and that we could contact him with any questions or concerns.

The following concerns came up after Casella left:

- Ann asked what tip fee is and it was explained it is the charge to pull it. John explained that doing the math with the numbers they provided it would be an additional \$6,600.00 a year that we don't pay for right now.

- John also said we need to keep in mind that if we decide to go this route, we are tied in. We will need to sign a contract and will probably be tied in for at least three years.
- A resident asked how often they come now. Norm stated that recycles can go two months but sometimes less than that in the summer months.
- Cynthia said we need to keep in mind that there will probably be more trash because people won't want to clean the containers.
- The concern is also that this will need to be monitored.
- Norm mentioned that he attended some meetings on recycling and has learned that About 4 years ago Chinese had pollution problem which was from them taking all of our trash. They were taking recycles in bulk without going through them. Then they would pick out the cream of the crop to recycle, the rest went to the village people to pick through our trash and what wasn't recycled ended up in the rivers, oceans, etc. He also learned that plastic has almost nowhere to go. Glass is almost worthless. Only cardboard, paper, and books are worth anything and that is only if it isn't contaminated. The best the US has ever done is 34% so only 34% of what they take in is recycled into anything else.
- Tony mentioned that we should look at putting a roof or cover over the bins that are there.
- Sherry asked if there is a time limit that we need to decide. There is no time limit but the sooner a decision can be made the better.
- Sherry asked if we can we start working with people now to get them the knowledge? Yes, we can and we can use the information from the flyers.
- Gina mentioned that since Waste Management has admitted they are not recycling our material that we should stop paying them and we shouldn't continue with them.

Norm and the Select Board wanted the Townspeople to know that the Town is not against recycling. We do currently recycle steel, cans, tires and electronics. We just do not want to pay for items that are not being recycled.

The Select Board have a work session in two weeks and will look at this information and We will need to do a price comparison between Casella and Waste Management. Sara will pull these numbers before the next meeting. The Town did vote to allow the Select Board the discretion to make a decision to continue recycling or not so they can make this decision. However, looking at the numbers Casella provided the cost will increase to recycle and it would cost to put a roof over the bins, and there is not enough money in the budget for either of these so this would have to wait until next year.

North Groton Road Project Bids

The Select Board received three bids for the North Groton Road Project from GMI Asphalt, LLC, Bryant Paving, and R&D Paving Inc. Each bid was opened and reviewed. GMI Asphalt submitted a bid of \$105,195.40, Bryant Paving submitted a bid of \$95,717.00 and R&D Paving submitted a bid of 101,138.30. The Select Board wanted to review these in more detail and will look at their schedules to have a work session next week to make a decision. **John motioned to table the North Groton Road Project bid decision until the work session next week, Tony 2nd so voted.**

Sculptured Rocks Road Project bids

The Select Board received two bids for the Sculptured Rocks Road Project from Bryant Paving, and R&D Paving Inc. Each bid was opened and reviewed. Bryant Paving submitted a bid of \$104,227.70 and R&D Paving submitted a bid of 113,172.70. The Select Board wanted to review these in more detail and will have a work session to make a decision The Select Board wanted to review these in more detail and will look at their schedules to have a work session next week to make a decision. **John motioned to table the Sculptured Rocks Road Project bid decision until the work session next week, Tony 2nd so voted.**

Class VI Road Letter- Nedeau Lane

A resident sent a letter to the Select Board with their plans for road maintenance for Nedeau Lane and will continue to maintain the road along with removing rocks, ditching, rolling the road and filling holes and areas that may wash out due to rain. **John motioned to approve both the Class VI Road improvements request for Nedeau Road with conditions, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Class VI Road Letter- Orange Road

A resident emailed the Select Board with their plans for road maintenance for Orange Road when time and funds allow which is mostly for shaping and drainage. He also sent concerns about the access traffic on the road from ATV's, jeeps, etc. which causes damage. He stated that Fish and Game refused to enforce existing laws and suggested it is the Town's responsibility. He feels it would be helpful if the Town would take measures to protect private roads, class VI roads, etc. **John motioned to approve both the Class VI Road improvements request for Orange Road with conditions, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Bridge-change order and retainage

KV Partners and M.E. Latulippe submitted a change order for the Atwell Orange Brook Bridge project to allow the paving of the bridge and road to be done concurrently. Mike Vignale stated in the email that the loam areas around the bridge need reseeding but otherwise everything looks good. **John motioned to sign the change order, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Also, Mike Vignale stated that the contract allows the Town to reduce the retainage to 2% from 10%. The retainage is held until the end of the warranty period in December 2019 so Mike Latulippe would like it reduced. Mike V waited last fall to recommend reducing the retainage to be sure everything was stabilized but based on what he observed on Wednesday the site is fully stabilized. He thinks the reduction would be okay if the Selectmen want to allow that. If the Selectmen say that it is okay, he will have M.E. Latulippe prepare a Pay Application requesting that amount. The Select Board agreed to not reduce the retainage and to keep at the 10%. **John motioned to not reduce the retainage from 10% to 2%, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Letter to Governor Sununu regarding the Town Garage

The Select Board drafted a letter to Governor Sununu in hopes that he can assist the Town with the dilemma we have been facing regarding the flooding near the Town Garage ever since the bridge was replaced. John explained that the letter is asking to see why the flooding is happening and to see if there is any assistance that can be provided. **John motioned to sign the letter to Governor Sununu regarding the Town Garage, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Abatement Application- Fish and Game

Sara created an abatement application for the State of New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for Map 3 Lots 9, 14 and 16 along with Map 4 Lot 1. This property was purchased in April 2019 by the State of New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the State of New Hampshire should be exempt. The deeds were not received by the Town until after the warrant but the deeds do show the correct date the properties were purchased. Therefore, the tax bills for these properties totaling \$587.00 should be abated. **John motioned to approve the abatement and sign the abatement application, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Letter from Circle Program

The Circle Program submitted a letter requesting the Health Officer visit to certify that the Circle Camp is a safe environment for the girls and the employees. The Select Board is the Health Officer. Last year, DES did an inspection so the Town did not do one. DES has not done one this year. Ron mentioned that he would be willing to do this. Sara included a letter from when Christina did the inspection last. Tony and Ron are willing to go out. Sara will get Tony her contact information and will email her to see if there is a date and time that work best for them.

Building Permit for Map 1 Lot 78

The owners submitted a building permit for their property located on 1539 North Groton Road. This is for a 10x16 shed on blocks. This will not be heated or cooled. **John motioned to approve the building permit for Map 1 Lot 78, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit for Map 1 Lot 13-1

The owners submitted a building permit for their property located on Bailey Hill Road. This is for the foundation only until they get the PUC approval and DES septic plan. They did submit the release of municipal liability form. **John motioned to approve the building permit for foundation only and sign the release for municipal liability form for Map 1 Lot 13-1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Local Septic Approval- Map 5 Lot 8

Colin Brown dropped off a Septic Plan and local approval for Map 5 Lot 8. All the information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local approval for Map 5 Lot 8, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 9 Lot 1

The Town received an Intent to Cut for Map 8 Lot 1 for a 10-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 9 Lot 1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Elderly Exemption

The Town had previously received an application for the veterans, disabled and elderly exemption. The resident had sent supporting documents for the veterans' credit only so the Select Board granted that credit but sent a letter requesting additional supporting documents for elderly and disabled. The elderly is the larger exemption for the resident so they applied for this instead of the disabled exemption. They brought in all supporting documents and do qualify for age, income and assets. **John motioned to approve the elderly exemption, Tony 2nd so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- Bubba mentioned that the prices on the North Groton Road and Sculptured Rocks Road bids can change if oil prices change.
- The invitation to bid for Province Road will be posted in newspaper on Thursday 6/6/19.
- They have put calcium chloride out on the dirt roads to keep down the dust.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Conservation Commission- Fishing Derby update

Slim mentioned that he doesn't have the exact numbers but the fishing derby had over 30 kids. There were a lot of fish caught and a lot of people there. No one caught the tagged fish. It was a great day for it and it was another successful fishing derby.

Old Home Day Committee

There has been a collection at Transfer Station for Old Home Day for fireworks. This started at Town Meeting and there was \$203.00 collected at Town Meeting. Last week they collected \$83 at the Transfer Station so there is about \$286.00 total. Old Home Day will be August 17th.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

1214 North Groton Road

A neighbor wanted an update about the clean-up for 1214 North Groton Road. It was explained that he was sent a third and final letter to the land owner. We thought some clean up had been done but then more stuff is being brought back. It was explained it needs to be in compliance by June 10th when the junkyard inspector comes out or else the Select Board will take the next steps with the attorney. The Select Board explained that it is a process but we are doing what we can and following the necessary steps. They understand his concern.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 8:30pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant