

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
July 23, 2019

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

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of July 2, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of July 2, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of July 2, 2019 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of July 9, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

July 11, 2019 Storm Update

The Select Board wanted to provide the Town with an update on the storm damage that the Town of Groton experienced on July 11, 2019. John went over how the storm happened. The forecast all day on Thursday showed rain but didn't say severe rain and didn't say anything about flood warnings. There was no advance warning for this flooding that the Town experienced. John explained that there were no flood warnings but the rain gauge at his house showed a decent amount. However, when he checked the radar it didn't show anything concerning. The first code red alert that came out was 30 minutes after the flooding had already occurred at the Town Garage and throughout the Town. The Town employees were already working in the flooding when they all got the first code red alert on their phones. Also, the Town gets emails from NH DOS when there are flood warnings and the first email we received on Thursday was at 10:22pm, which was after the flooding already occurred.

Based on the rain that was showing on John's rain gauge, he called Bubba and Bubba picked him up, before any alerts went out, and they went to the garage to move the equipment. They passed Jeremy Haney on their way. They were all at the Town House moving the equipment before any alerts went out. The water was raising quickly. They all moved one piece of equipment and when they went back the water was very high. The flood warning came through after everything was moved. The water raised and flooding occurred within 15 minutes so they had this small window to move everything they could, not knowing they only had 15 minutes and that the water would rise that quickly. These men worked quickly to move some equipment and when they went back to move more the water was waist high already. The water was also moving quickly at that time. These men risked their lives in the high waters to move more items and Bubba risked his life in this moving water to move the backhoe out, which was now up to his chest. Bubba had attempted to start the cruiser, which wouldn't start, and the water was rising quickly and the cruiser was under water within minutes which wouldn't allow them the time to tow it out or jump start it. They were there and tried to move it but couldn't at that point due to the amount of water. It was not left there intentionally and is unfortunate to the Town that it experienced damage, especially since we are beginning the interview process for a new part time police chief at the end of the month. All other Town equipment was moved in time and were not damaged.

Unfortunately, at this point it looks like we did lose the cruiser but we are still waiting for confirmation from the insurance adjuster. The cruiser was kept at the Transfer Station through the winter to keep it under cover and out of the snow. It was moved out of the Transfer Station to the garage to make room for tires and other items. Once it was moved there it was noticed that it did help control the speed of out of towners who were not aware that we do not currently have an officer. Bubba was starting it every few days while it was down there to make sure there were no issues. Again, they did try to move the cruiser but they were not able to.

John explained that the water didn't go through the bridge, it came down the mountain from the Orange side of Town. John mentioned that the Governor came out and walked around with John and they talked about the damages and the building as well. Sally Hatfield from the state called and John has talked to her about the grant we are waiting on, the building and whatever else can be done for the Town.

Tony mentioned there are still some pipes that are clogged. We do not want to dig them up because it is costly and can do more damage. Also, one culvert is a large one that is on the Hazard Mitigation Grant. We are trying to get it cleaned temporarily. Tony explained we don't have a lot of money so we are requesting to move the remainder of \$29,500.00 from the Disaster Relief Capital Reserve Fund and we are using the Highway Departments Budget Lines, Contracted Services and Groton Roads, in the meantime.

Bubba explained that within 24 hours about 90-95% of residents could get out and by noon on Saturday everyone could get out, even if it was only one lane. Sculptured Rocks road experienced severe damage and Edgar Albert Road had only one lane. A lot of people came out to help with the road work. Frank Harris and Dave Leone helped with Edgar Albert Road. Casey Kuplin and his guys did a lot of work on Sculptured Rocks Road along with M.E. Latulippe and Charlie Coursey.

Sherry asked if Senator Giuda has been out. Bubba explained that he did come out and went around Town with him. Sara explained that she has been working with Senator Giuda's assistant to see what they can do to help the Town.

Tony mentioned that Bubba has reached out to the Army Corps of Engineers hoping to get some help cleaning the river and brooks, which will prevent this from happening again.

Sara mentioned that FEMA and Homeland Security (HSEM) came out today to assess the damages and to make sure the threshold is met for a declaration. When they were out, they mentioned that they didn't have any warning of this either.

The Select Board wanted to thank Bubba, town employees and everyone else that helped as they worked hard and did a great job.

PA-28 Inventory of taxable property forms for 2020

Sara explained she received the form to fill out to request these forms as we do every year. She included last year's form and requested the same amount of forms for 2020. **John motioned to sign the PA-28 Inventory of taxable property forms for 2020, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Local Septic Plan Approval, Map 1 Lot 13-1 & 2

Eleanor Myles dropped off a Septic Plan and local approval for Map 1 Lot 13-1 & 2. All the information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local approval for Map 1 Lot 13-1 & 2, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 2 Lot 7

The owner submitted a building permit for a 24x36 pavilion to go over the RV/screen room on their property on North Fletcher Road. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 2 Lot 7, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 7 Lot 10

The owner submitted a building permit for a three-car garage on their property at 117 Victoria's Mountain Way. They did include the release of municipal liability form as well. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 7 Lot 10, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Province Road Contract

M. E. Latulippe submitted the contract for the Province Road Project. **John motioned to sign the Province Road Project Contract, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Trailer Concern

A resident on Jewel Hill requested that the Town start the legal process to have a decomposing trailer that has been abandon and neglected removed. This is on a private road so Sara reached out to legal who stated the following: *As the trailer is on private property, with the exception of any taxes due (assuming it was a trailer someone lived in), the town has no interest in the trailer. If the trailer was parked on the side of a municipal highway or on municipally owned property, that would be a different matter. Presumably, the landowner would be the person your resident should reach out to in order to deal with the issue of it being there.*

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Police interviews

John explained that on Tuesday, July 30th, there will be an oral board conducting interviews for three applicants for the Part Time Police Chief.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- Bubba explained they have been very busy working on storm damages. He has a lot of people he wants to thank for their help with the storm. He thanked Tony, John and Ron for all of their help during the storm. He thanked Casey Kuplin, Heath and Matt along for all of their hard work on Sculptured Rocks Road along with Charlie Coursey and M.E. Latulippe. He thanked Jeremy Haney for his help moving the equipment and for all of his help. He thanked Fred and Norm for their help since the storm. He thanked Dave Leone and Frank Harris for their hard work on Edgar Albert Road. He thanked Sara for coming in on her day off the week of the storm and during her vacation the week after to work on storm related items. He thanked the residents for their help and understanding and for the signs that have been put up around Town which is greatly appreciated and make a difference in morale. He thanked his neighbors, Nick and Kyle and Frank for their help on his road since he couldn't get home for two days. Bubba mentioned that some of these people that helped the Town and himself called him to offer or just showed up before he had to call them which was great.

Sara wanted to take a minute to thank Bubba for all of his hard work. He went out right away and started working and called the people he needed to. Sara added that during the site visits with FEMA and HSEM, they kept talking about how impressed they were with how much road work had already been done and that it is clear that the Town and everyone involved has been working very hard. John said Bubba worked hard on no sleep and got the work started. John mentioned it was great to see how the town all came together.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Old Home Day

August 17th is Groton Old Home Day. They are still collecting for fireworks but it doesn't look like it will happen this year. The recent quote they received was \$3,000.00 for a 20-minute show and we do not have that much money collected.

Conservation Commission

Slim mentioned that the Conservation Commission hasn't had meetings in two months because of people being away but they will be having one in August.

Groton Historical Society (GHS)

Slim and Sherry mentioned that GHS will be setting up a table at the Hebron fair this Saturday. Also, the lady that came out before to speak about Mary Baker Eddy, which was postponed, will be coming back out on September 8, 2019.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Tree concern

Slim mentioned that the trailers on the other side of the bridge near the town garage also experienced flooding because of trees damming it up. Slim asked who would remove these trees. Bubba said they will talk to the Army Corps of Engineers because even if we get permission, we don't have the money.

Disposal Agreement

Slim said that on the last minutes it mentioned a disposal agreement and he didn't know what this was. Sara explained that it is a form that residents fill out if they want the Town or companies working the Town to dispose fill, wood chips, etc. on their property.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:45pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant