

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
August 6, 2019

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

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of July 23, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of July 23, 2019 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of July 30, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of July 30, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Building Permit Map 6 Lot 38

The owner submitted a building permit for a 20x20 metal carport. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 6 Lot 38, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 2 Lot 69-2

The owner submitted a building permit for a 14x24 portable shelter. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 2 Lot 69-2, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Old Home Day Band contract

Christina sent over the Old Home Day Band Contract for the Select Board to sign. The band is Horsepower. They play classic rock and will be playing from 5:30pm-8:30pm. **John motioned to sign the contract with Horsepower, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Junkyard License

Doug Hutchins at 141 Sculptured Rocks Road submitted a junkyard license renewal for his junkyard. We received the background checks with no records to report. Ken Knowlton reported that he is in compliance and that the license can be renewed. **John motioned to approve the junkyard license renewal for 141 Sculptured Rocks Road, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

MS-434

This is the estimate revenues for Groton which is due by September 1st. Sara submitted this as an FYI. The Select Board does not need to sign it but needs to review it. The DRA will review and send their revised MS-434 for the Select Board to review. The Select Board did not have any questions or concerns. Sara also explained that she will be working on the MS-1, which is also due by September 1st, but it is not ready in Avitar yet so she should have this by the August 20, 2019 meeting.

Intent to cut Map 9 Lot 1

The Town received an Intent to Cut for Map 9 Lot 1 for a 120-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.**

Resignation

Darlene Andrews submitted her resignation at Treasurer, effective August 10, 2019. The Select Board would like to thank Darlene for her years of service to the Town. Pam Hamel is her Deputy so she will be taking over until elections in March. **John motioned to appoint Pam Hamel as Treasurer effective August 10, 2019, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Request for Tables and Chairs

Charlie and Becky Coursey submitted a request to borrow tables and chairs for an event on August 24, 2019. **John motioned to approve the Coursey's borrowing the tables and chairs, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Amended Septic Plan Map 5 Lot 47

Erin Darrow submitted an amended septic plan for Casey Kuplin's property at Map 5 Lot 47. The amendments are minor changes which have been approved by DES. **John motioned to approve the amended septic plan for Map 5 Lot 47, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Storm damages/budget

John explained that due to the July 11, 2019 storm the Highway Department has had to use its budget to repair damages and there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. We are running out of funds. We still haven't completed the work from the October 2017 storm as we are waiting for funds from the State. Sara looked into options and talked to NHMA and DRA and they informed her that money can be moved from the Police budget to the Highway budget since the Police Budget has plenty of money left. The money isn't actually moved since it is a bottom-line budget the Highway Department would be over budget at the end of the year and the Police Budget would have to be under the amount that the Highway is over to balance it out. The Select Board met with Sara and Bubba and looked over the Police Budget and it was agreed that \$53,000.00 should be moved. The board went through line by line to see what could be moved and what should be left there to still run the department should a new Police Chief be hired. **John motioned to move \$53,000.00 from the Police Budget to the Highway budget to cover the emergency road repairs from the July 11, 2019 storm damages, Tony 2nd so voted.**

John mentioned that Sara has spent countless hours with follow up with calls and emailing both the state to check on the funds from October storm and Primex for damages on 2019 storm. She has been emailing weekly. Bubba has also made calls.

Frank Grelle asked for an update on the cruiser. It was explained that just this week we were informed that it is totaled but are waiting for the amount that we will be getting. It is now being moved to Ossipee Mountain Electronics to look at the lights and radios and see what can be salvaged.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- The North Groton Paving Project has started and should be completed on Wednesday, August 7, 2019. After this it will need a 1-inch wear next year. We should now have a smooth road from Halls Brook all the way to 118. This will also help with the plowing.
- Edgar Albert will be finished within the next few weeks.
- They are trying to do something with Bailey Hill before winter but it will depend on money.
- They borrowed asphalt from Bryant Paving while they are on North Groton Road to fix some potholes on Sculptured Rocks Road.

- They are still working on clean-up from the storm. John wanted to thank Bubba and the Highway Department for all of their hard work. They acted quickly and have done an amazing job on the roads.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Old Home Day

August 17th is old home day. They are still collecting money for fireworks but they do not have enough yet so there may not be fireworks this year but all money will be put towards fireworks for next year. The Old Home Day committee wanted everyone to know that food donations are welcome. The band is playing for an extra hour this. It will be a great time for the town to get together.

Road Committee and Building Committee

Bubba mentioned that the Building Committee and the Road Committee need to meet again so they will try to schedule something for the end of September.

Conservation Commission

Slim wanted to let everyone know that the Conservation Commission will be meeting this Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 7:00pm.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

DOT- North Groton Road

Slim said that the State DOT is doing a great job on North Groton Road and replacing the concrete culverts. Bubba said they are doing a great job and since not many other Towns experienced damage, this allowed other State sheds to help out which allows more guys working on the road. Tony said the supervisor told him that FEMA will pay for the ditching this time but wouldn't during the last storm. Slim asked if the parts they dug up will be paved or if the entire road will. Tony said he doesn't think the entire road will but they will definitely do the spots that the pavement was removed.

Loretta Hayden- Home damage

Loretta introduced herself and said that her house on Sculptured Rocks Road is in jeopardy due to the storm damage but no one will say it is. She said that Homeland Security (HSEM) has washed their hands of this due to report from Groton in which John said that the house is structurally sound. John explained there was no report from Groton. The Town of Groton was asked to have the Select Board Chair go out as the building inspector, with the Welfare Official, and look at the house and let the State know if the house is structurally sound in his opinion. John said that three people went out before he did, some from HSEM, and everyone that has been out say it is structurally sound. Loretta at first said that no one came out and then said that they did but they didn't give a notice and looked more at the house behind her and not her house. John said they told him they did and Nancy said she crawled under the house. Loretta said that the skirt was on her house at the time and that they didn't look at her house or crawl under. She said the house is sitting on air and she has footings that are not good and are sinking. She said that when they were out Jeff asked her is, she had water which she did and they looked at the garage quickly and told her the good news is that there is no water in the garage now.

Loretta said she has a report from FEMA from 1986 about mobile homes and what needs to happen after flooding. She has an appointment with a company that will do a free estimate to see what it will take to fix it. They have thermal imaging that can be done. Loretta said that there was a sack of water in the vapor barrier but the water is gone now and wasn't there when John went out.

John asked if the water was that high why the skirting was still on the house. With the other water damage and how hard it came through the skirting would have been torn off or damaged. Also, there was no visible silt which you can usually see that water leaves behind. Loretta said that water was that high but it didn't go under because

her cat sanctuary took the hit of the water and damage. She said there is sludge under the house and the footings are twisted and mangled. John said the footings are concrete blocks and are there for extra support. He agreed that there was sludge under the house but that didn't affect the structure of the home.

John asked what she would like the Town to do because it is her home and the Town wouldn't cover damage to the home. She said that she would like to see the report. John explained again that there is no report, it was just a phone conversation with Nancy which was followed up with a short email from the Town. Sara said if there is an actual report, she should contact the State for that. Loretta said that the report said the water didn't go under the house. John told her that she just said that it didn't because it hit the cat sanctuary. She said that it did just not as bad as it could have been if it didn't hit the cat sanctuary first.

John said we were only there to say the home was structurally sound and in his opinion it was. Loretta showed pictures of the footings but John said he didn't need the pictures as he saw them in person. There was one footing that was leaning and John said the rest are structurally sound. Loretta argued that and didn't agree. Tony said that that if she has the tires and the jack the cinder blocks are just another support. John explained that the house is not being replaced by the Town or the State and the state said this is holding up the funding for the driveway. Loretta said she doesn't care about the driveway she cares about her house. She said HSEM said they have money to help. John explained it is not their money and they reach out to organizations for funding and assistance.

Loretta said the State lied about being out there and crawling under and she said that their report is a lie. John said that she has to take that up with the state. He again explained that there is no report from Groton just a simple email that states that in his opinion the home is structurally sound. She would have to ask the State what they did and she can ask them for their report. The Town doesn't make the decision, just gave their opinion on the home being structurally sound, so she would have to take her concerns up with the State. John said he feels bad that she is going through this but this is out of the towns control. Loretta was upset and still doesn't understand how he can say that it was structurally sound. Loretta was very upset still when she left and slammed the door to the Town Hall.

John explained to the rest of the audience that he was asked if building is structurally sound and he feels that it is. Yes, a footing is leaning but can be straightened out. The footings are cinder blocks are just there too level it. The house is structurally sound but the footings can be fixed. John said he wishes there was more we could do but we answered the question that we were asked from the State. Their driveway is what was being fixed and there is funding for that but the home is on the home owner. The Karkheck's home that is behind her is not livable and they are working on getting it replaced themselves with some help from the State as far as which loans to get, etc.

Sheriff

Slim said he drove by earlier and a Sheriff car was in the Town House parking lot. He asked if we are still using their services. Sara explained we are not since the Town voted not to. He was here offering help if and when we hire a new Chief and to help with the Cruiser once it is replaced.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant