

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 3, 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 August 20, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of August 20, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of August 20, 2019 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Orange Road- Bill Jolly

Bill Jolly reached out to the Select Board to see if there is anything that can be done about Orange Road due to the damage it received in the July storm. Bill has been working on it and putting material into the road but cannot put any more money into the road. He also has reached out to the Town about Jeep traffic on the road. Since the flood he has put it back together the best that he can. He can get in and out with his Jeep, but with the storms and the volume of traffic, he is having a hard time. He started looking to see what money is allowed. He said that he looked into this and he thought FEMA was an option and he wanted to know if the Town included Orange Road in the damage assessment for the July 2019 storm. It was explained that the town could not include this in their damage assessment since it is not a town-maintained road and they could only include roads that the Town maintains.

Bill mentioned that RSA 231:59a states *“a town may raise and appropriate, and the selectmen may expend, money for the repair of any class VI highway or private way which has been declared an emergency lane under paragraph II. Such repair may include removal of brush, repair of washouts or culverts, or any other work deemed necessary to render such way passable by firefighting equipment and rescue or other emergency vehicles. A capital reserve fund under RSA 35 or a trust fund under RSA 31:19-a may be established for this purpose.”* John explained this would be the case if this was declared an emergency lane but this is a Class VI road and is not an emergency lane. Bill said the Town should look into changing this to be an emergency road then. He doesn't feel he is getting any measure of protection from the town as a tax payer. Bill said that FEMA and the State does provide funding for private and class VI roads in some cases. John explained that we have looked into this and since this is a Class VI Road, which is not maintained by the Town, the Town cannot request FEMA assistance. Bill did call 211 and the State through other organizations was able to get him 6-8 truckloads of material. John has reached out the Governor to see if there is anything else that can be done. They recommended that he reach out to Homeland Security. Jennifer Harper who is the Director, emailed back that she reached out to the Commissioner at DES, Bob Scott, to see if there is anything that could be done about Orange Brook but as far as Orange Road, generally FEMA does not pay for repairs of class VI roads as they are usually unmaintained roads by communities. FEMA would need to see a record of maintenance for the road which the Town doesn't maintain this so we cannot provide.

Bill said that he is saying that it can be done. John read Jennifer Harpers most recent email regarding Orange Road and Bill's driveway. She looked into it and talked to her staff and her contacts and confirmed that they cannot assist Bill or the Town with Orange Road because it is a Class VI road which is not maintained by the Town. She confirmed again that Bill is getting 6-8 dump trucks of gravel for his driveway. She said that he knows that he cannot put the gravel on the road. She said this is all the assistance that they are going to be able to provide for Bill. John said that if Bill has anything that supports the maintenance or anything else that supports his claim that FEMA and the State can give money for class VI roads that John will be willing to bring this to FEMA and HSEM. Bill wants this to go to FEMA or someone on the Federal level as he feels Jennifer is wrong. John said he will see what can be done. Bill is asking for advocacy and is not asking that the town to put money into the road.

It was explained that the Bill can submit a petitioned warrant article to make this an emergency lane. Bubba mentioned that he can also petition for the town to let the road go which would change the classification of the road. Bill said he doesn't think that he can petition and he feels that it has to be the Town. Bubba said he disagrees but he will look into it. This will have to be researched to see who would submit the warrant article.

Junkyard letters

Ken Knowlton went back to the three properties that were in violation when he did the first inspection. Sara created letters for these properties based on the second inspections.

- The property located on Edgar Albert Road is now in compliance as the junk trailer has been removed. Sara created a compliance letter based on this inspection report. **John motioned to sign the junkyard letter for Edgar Albert Road, Ron 2nd, so voted.**
- The property located on Sculptured Rocks Road is now in and Ken said this is the best he has seen it. Sara created a compliance letter based on this inspection report. **John motioned to sign the junkyard letter for Sculptured Rocks Road, Ron 2nd, so voted.**
- The property located on North Groton Road is still seriously in violation. Sara reached out to the attorney to take the next step. Sara created another violation letter based on this inspection report. **John motioned to sign the junkyard letter for North Groton Road, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Signature Cards

There are new signature cards that need to be signed with Pam Hamel being the new Treasurer. **John motioned to sign the signature cards, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Health Inspection

A health inspection is needed at 1193 North Groton Road for a foster/adoption process. The resident was here. John asked how soon this needs to be done by. She asked for it to be done by September 20, 2019. The Select Board agreed to meet to do this on September 17th at 5:00pm. Sara will email Rumney Fire Chief to see if they can come out that date and time.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Building Permit Map 1 Lot 36-1

The owner submitted a building permit for a 12x16 addition to the existing 8x12 shed. They already have a release form on file. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 1 Lot 36-1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Land Use Change Tax- Map 5 Lot 140-3

Avitar sent in a Land Use Change Tax for Map 5 Lot 140-3. This is a 5-acre parcel with all acres assessed in current use. As a result of the construction of a new seasonal dwelling, an approximate .25-acre area no longer qualifies to remain in current use which makes the owners subject to the Land Use Change Tax. In this case, Avitar estimates the market value of the .25-acre building site to be \$19,000.00 resulting in a land use change

tax in the amount of \$1,900.00. **John motioned to sign the Land Use Change Tax for Map 5 Lot 140-3, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Hazard Mitigation (HSEM) Grant Agreement

The New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) is pleased to provide our community with a Hazard Mitigation Grant through FEMA for the Groton Sculptured Rocks Road Culvert project. This is the grant that the Town voted to raise and appropriate our match at the March Town Meeting for the three culverts on Sculptured Rocks Road to be changed to box culverts. HSEM emailed the grant agreement that needs to be signed in order to move forward with the grant. The entire cost of the project is \$629,454.00, with the grant amount being \$472,090.50 and the Town is responsible for our 25% match of \$157,363.50.

John motioned that the Select Board, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as presented in the amount of \$472,090.50 for the Sculptured Rocks Road Culvert Project. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$629,454, in which the town will be responsible for 25% match of \$157,363.50, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to sign the Hazard Mitigant Grant agreement paperwork and initial each page, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Ruth was in attendance and notarized the paperwork for the Town on page 1 as needed.

Thank you

John thanked Sara and Bubba for all of their hard work. He is seeing firsthand how much time and effort you have to put into getting an answer from the State. He has been calling the Governor and HSEM. It is very frustrating and a lot to deal with.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- Bailey Hill Road has been ditched and six loads of material were put on the road to crown it. Bubba thanked Dave Leone for doing a great job on this road.
- The shoulder gravel on North Groton Road is done.
- M.E. Latulippe will be working on Sculptured Rocks Road next week to build the road back up so it is ready to be paved. Hopefully the paving will happen soon after.
- M. E. Latulippe will be working on Edgar Albert Road after they complete the work on Sculptured Rocks Road. This will be done before winter.
- They are starting to get the trucks and plows ready for winter.
- They have been working on getting the garage back into good condition after the July storm damage.
- They will be doing some clearing on the land where garage is going so we can put winter material on that land to help with the north end of the town.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Groton Historical Society (GHS)

- John told Slim and Sherry that they need to order the signs for the Town Pound that were on the warrant article and were budgeted for 2019. They need to submit the invoices in 2019 as they need to be paid out of the 2019 budget.

- Slim has been working on getting help with the pound and he found someone to do the work. He wondered if this could come out of the money that was on the warrant article. It was explained that the warrant article said signs for the Town Pound so the money can only be used towards this. It was suggested that he submit a warrant article for next year for this work.
- GHS originally asked to use the Town House this Sunday but they don't have access as Pam Hamel is not in Town this weekend. John and Gina will be in Florida. Ron said that he will be around and will let them in the building by 1:00pm for set up.

Road Committee

Bubba mentioned that the next Road Committee Meeting will be Tuesday September 24, 2019 at 6:00pm. Sara will post this and put it on the calendar.

Building Committee

Bubba mentioned that the next Building Committee Meeting will be Thursday September 26, 2019 at 6:00pm. Sara will post this and put it on the calendar.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Building permit

Ann stated that she saw some minutes about the updated building permit and wanted to know if the Select Board received the answers from the Planning Board and what was decided about it. John mentioned that they are going to leave the part about the accessory dwelling units, they will be removing the question if the occupancy is part time or full time and they will be adding the PUC approval back in.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:52pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant