

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
January 7, 2020

In attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant - AA)

Absent: Ron Madan

John called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Budget Items

The Select Board discussed the following:

- Regarding the Transfer Station budget, we will need to see if we should increase this line. Sara did reach out to Casella and they stated there is no way for them to compare Groton to other towns as there are too many variables but they provided the following tonnage information for Groton:
 - 2017- 206.53 tons MSW, 27.02 tons C&D
 - 2018- 218.73 tons MSW, 28.11 tons C&D
 - 2019- 236.88 tons MSW, 65.72 tons C&D
 - Sara will look up what we paid waste management for recycling.
- Sara will have the proposed budget with warrant articles for the next meeting. She needed to wait to see what warrant articles will be submitted and she is still paying some bills out of 2019 budget.
- The Public Hearing for budget/warrant articles will be February 4, 2020 at 6:00pm, snow date will be February 5, 2020. Sara will send this to the Newspaper to be posted in the January 23, 2020 edition so it will be posted more than 10 days prior and will have it posted online, in the Town House, and at the Transfer Station before it will be in the paper.

Warrant Articles

The Select Board went over the warrant articles that were submitted so far and the list Sara made. The Select Board will review them all over the next week and be prepared to discuss next week when Kyle is here. The following were discussed regarding warrant articles:

- The operating budget will have to be updated if we make any changes to the budget
- NBRC Grant: There is a warrant article for the Sculptured Rocks Road Upgrade Project from the NBRC grant that we were awarded 50% for which would be \$250,000.00 for the town to raise and \$250,000.00 from NBRC. The Select Board agreed on putting this on the warrant as this is saving the town a lot of money, the road work needs to be done and we are not sure when we will get this opportunity again.
- Finishing North Groton Road: There was a warrant article to finish this road that was submitted by the Highway Department and Road Committee
- Last year we put all of the CRF into one warrant article since we do them every year.
 - Last year it was agreed to not put any requests in to put money into the Perambulation Capital Reserve Fund. It was agreed to leave this out again this year.
 - Last year it was agreed to not put any money into the Fire and Equipment.
 - Truck Sander: Every year we put \$5,000.00. If we buy a new truck/sander and take money out of this we can put \$0 in it this year and then put money into again next year. It was agreed to not put any money into this each year.
 - Town House: Every year we put \$5,000.00. It was agreed to keep this the same.
 - Disaster Relief: It was agreed to ask for \$25,000.00.
 - Heavy Equipment: Every year we put \$5,000.00. It was agreed to keep this the same.

- Atwell/Orange Brook: Last year it was voted to put \$2,000.00 into this. It was agreed to keep this the same this year.
- Assessing Reval: Every year we put \$7,000.00. It was agreed to keep this the same as this is the amount we need to pay when the five-year revaluation happens.
- Police Cruiser: Last year we didn't put any money into this because we didn't have a Police Department but have since used the money for a new cruiser. Before this we were putting \$7,000.00 a year in this. It was agreed since we are getting a new cruiser this year and taking money out of this that we will not be putting money into this for this year.
- Public Works: It was agreed to ask for \$25,000.00.
- Electronic Equipment and Software: It was agreed to not put anything into this for this year.
- Truck: Bubba submitted a warrant article for a new Truck with plow and wing for \$90,000.00. There is currently a little over \$18,000.00 in the CRF that we could use. We have put a lot of money into the Dodge. Sara and Bubba will work together to see how much we have put into the Dodge. The Select Board agreed this must be put on the warrant since we are having so many issues with Dodge.
- Excavator/Backhoe: Bubba submitted a warrant article for an excavator which will use some money from the Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The excavator is \$but we have \$62,000.00 in the CRF. It was agreed that the highway is asking for a truck so we should wait until next year for this.
- Groton Paved Roads Warrant Article: it was requested to put \$25,000.00. The Select Board agreed on putting this on the warrant.
- Slabs at Transfer Station: Norm submitted a warrant article for the construction of a slabs for the scrap metal roll-off dumpster at the Transfer Station. The Select Board agreed on putting this on the warrant.
- Demolition of Old library and Town Office: The Town voted to allow the town to demo the old library/town office building. We got a quote for \$10,400.00 to do so. The Select Board agreed on putting this on the warrant.
- The library submitted the usual warrant article for the contract with Hebron Public Library. The Select Board agreed on putting this on the warrant.

Questions

- It was agreed to put the GHS and NLRA in the budget this year so they will not be warrant articles.
- We cannot submit a warrant article for the FEMA match as we do not have amounts yet for the storm damage. However, Sara said that with the amount that they have spent already we have probably met our match already or are very close so we shouldn't need a warrant article for this.
- We got a quote to fix the basketball court and it will cost \$9,000.00. The Select Board didn't want to submit a warrant article for this last year. It was agreed to hold off on this again.
- Carpet: We talked about the roof and the carpet for the Town House but we have over \$41,000.00 in the Town House Capital Reserve Fund that can be used. We did get a quote for this. Do we want to move forward with this with or without a warrant article? If so, do we still want to raise money to put into this account since we will be taking money out? What carpet do we want to use? It was agreed to not do a warrant article for this and that if we move forward it will be out of the Town House Capital Reserve Fund. The Select Board agreed that #26 which is called Hopsack will be the best color to hide the dirt. Sara will send this over to get an updated quote. It was also agreed that if we do move forward with this that it would be best to wait until June to do so that way it is after the winter and mud season.

Sara's time off

Sara submitted a memo requesting Thursday, January 23, 2020 off for a procedure. **John motioned to approve Sara's time off, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Email from Planning Board- NLRA

The Planning Board sent an email to NLRA regarding concerns about the culvert at Kuplin's property. They are meeting with NLRA on January 22 at 7:00 PM and wanted to see if the Select Board wanted to attend. Sara had sent an email to NLRA about the concerns with Atwell Orange Brook as well and they responded with *"We are certainly concerned with the impact from severe storms on the Lake, its tributaries and the towns surrounding the lake. As we work with funders that help us to protect water quality, we will keep this area of the watershed in mind. I'd be happy to meet with the select board in the New Year to discuss this further."* Sara asked the Select Board if they are planning on attending on the 22nd and mentioned we may be able to discuss the Brook at this time as well. The Select Board agreed that they should attend.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

June emailed stating she would like to get the plan sent to HSEM for the APA (Approved Pending Adoption) by the end of this coming week, so she wanted all comments before then. She will be planning on checking back On Friday to get the go ahead to move the plan forward to HSEM. She also asked who will officially give me the go ahead for the town...Bill, John, Sara? The Select Board said that Sara can give the go ahead and that Sara can let June know that they are okay with moving forward once Debs recommendations are done,

104 Sculptured Rocks Road

Sara explained that we received the report from the Junkyard Dog that the property is in violation so she drafted a letter for the Select Board to sign during the Select Board meeting.

1214 North Groton Road

Sara explained that while the junkyard dog was in town, he visited 1214 North Groton Road and he said it is the worst he has ever seen it. There have also been a few more loads delivered. John asked Sara to reach out to the attorney to see if anything can be done even though it is in process with the courts for the junkyard but maybe as Health officers. The attorney said *"Everyone has been served and no one has filed an answer or appearance, so I would expect in the next couple of weeks that we'll receive a default notice and we will get an order requiring the removal of the junk. Which of course, is only half the battle. Once we have that, when the junk is not removed, we'll need to go back in with a motion for contempt. Eventually, we'll get an order allowing the town to remove the materials and place a lien on the property. If there is an actual HEALTH issue, we can also pursue remedies under that statute, but based on what I've seen and heard, I doubt that this property actually meets that standard."* Sara has added this to the Select Board meeting agenda to give the Town an update.

John asked for the phone number for the neighbor across the street. Sara said his name is Bernard and she will see if she has his phone number and then send it to John. John wants to call him to keep him updated.

Meeting with Bubba

Bubba met with the Select Board to go over the following:

- The Select Board isn't going to do the backhoe for the warrant article this year because the warrants are very high. Bubba understands but thinks we definitely need to mention that it will be on there the next year as we will need it.
- The Dodge broke down and we are out of warranty. Autoserv looked it over and provided feedback of what needs to be fixed. Transmission range sensor needs to be replaced along with turbo, etc. They said it would be \$14,000.00 to fix through them. He called TMCD diesel and transmissions and they have good reviews from Rick Belanger and Charlie Coursey. His price was more around \$7,000.00. Some of the information from Autoserv was not correct and were things that were recently done. Bubba has used his truck three times since the Dodge broke down. It was easier to do this than contract work out. It was agreed to get it towed to the other place and get the actual total for a second

opinion first. If it is too much money then we can contract out or pay Bubba to use his truck instead of putting money into the Dodge.

- The sander broke on the Ford, the electric clutch went. They put a new clutch on it.
- A cable on international broke but this was replaced as well.
- They finished the alarm system. They have to come back and place the low arm. The Select Board is okay with this.
- They are hoping to put the battery shut offs in the vehicles tomorrow.
- 1214 North Groton Road is parking on the street. They have laid on the horn and no one came to move it. The Chief doesn't have a cruiser so who should we use for tow problems as it is in our ordinance. We need to think about this and talk to the Chief about this.
- There is an ice issue at North Groton Road. Three weeks ago, Bubba talked to the tenant and explained he needed to take care of the situation as there has never been an issue before and there is now. He said he would take care of it but it got worse. Fred and Bubba took care of and cleaned out the ditch. The tenant did a little work but not much. Bubba stopped by again. The ice is back up there again and Bubba doesn't know what he should do about this. We should send a letter to the owner of the property. Bubba and Sara will type up a letter to send to her. **John motioned to come in and sign the letter when it is ready, Tony 2nd so voted.**
- There is a car parked on the road on Sculptured Rocks Road. They laid on the horn but no one moved it.
- It was agreed that Bubba and Sara will draft a letter for all of the cars parked on the road and it will say that if the car isn't removed immediately it will be towed and we can leave this on the vehicle and then if it isn't moved it will be towed. We will reference the ordinance. Then the Chief will have to ask to have it towed.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:58pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant