

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

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

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

John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a and b) at 5:01pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to return to public session at 5:15pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to seal the non-public minutes, Tony 2nd, so voted.

MIT Meeting

It was discussed that the ZBA, Planning Board and Select Board should all meet with MIT together to go over the process. Originally Sara sent an email to the ZBA and Planning Board to see if April 21st at 5:00pm works. Since then the order passed that we cannot have more than 10 people and if all attend it will be more than 10 people. Also, the ZBA met on 4/1/20 and in their minutes they want to reach out to MIT and set up a site visit to walk the property and discuss the plans when everything clears up.

The Selectmen agreed that the Select Board and the Planning Board should be involved in the site visit along with the Fire Chief. Then after that site visit, we can set up another meeting with all boards to discuss this. Sara will send an email to all boards about this.

Meetings going forward

Sara mentioned that all of the emergency orders that have been put out by the Governor states that meetings can be held but no more than 10 people, but the email from NHMA said 9 or less, and we need to keep 6 feet apart. They do say that municipalities are relieved from having to meet on certain scheduled time and are relieved from complying with the deadlines set forth for taking actions on applications and such. The Planning Board cancelled meetings until further notice due to this because they have a few members that are high risk. Sara had reached out to the resident the Select Board was supposed to meet with individually and rescheduled. He was fine with this.

The Select Board agreed that they should still keep their scheduled meetings as there is Town business to discuss still and they will have to keep in mind the amount of people and the distance. It was also agreed that the Select Board shouldn't be meeting with residents in work sessions unless it is an emergency. It was agreed to change the work sessions to 6pm and if it is decided that is not enough time, they will change it back to 5pm. Sara will update the posting.

Accident/guardrail

Last Thursday there was an accident on North Groton Road. The guardrail was damaged in the process. The Police Chief reached out to the State Trooper and got the accident report number but the report may not be available for a few weeks. Sara mentioned that she can reach out to Primex if the Select Board wants so that we can go after their insurance company to pay for the damages.

The Select Board agreed that Sara should reach out to Primex to let them know about the accident and to see if we can do work on the guardrail in the meantime. It was agreed that Bubba should wait to do work until we hear from Primex and when he does, he will need to take pictures before and after any work that is done and keep track of costs and time spent.

Atwell/Orange Brook

Tony said the color of the river is still grey and he thinks it is from Atwell/Orange Brook. When snow melts more and it isn't as muddy, Tony will go look at it. After he looks at it, we can let NLRA know if it is still a problem and see if they want to help us.

Meeting with Chief

Chief met with the Select Board to discuss the following items:

- Chief discussed the accident that happened on North Groton Road and that he asked for the accident report. The Select Board explained to him that Sara will be reaching out to Primex regarding this.
- The Chief asked Sara if she has heard anything from Wex regarding the Wex card for the cruiser. Sara reached out but they haven't responded. Chief will call the number on the card and Sara will send a letter with the payment she is sending out tomorrow.

Meeting with Bubba

Bubba met with the Select Board to discuss the following items:

- The new truck might be here before we anticipated. Vermont got an emergency waiver so they were allowed to resume work on the trucks. They are saying the first of June. Sara will send a follow up email to see when the grant should be decided on. Bubba sent photos of Dodge to see about the trade in value. They originally offered \$10,000.00 but Bubba negotiated and they agreed on \$11,250.00. The Select Board agreed to trade it in for that amount. Bubba will let him know that is a go ahead. They might have something in writing to sign for the next meeting.
- Sara and Bubba explained that Mike Vignale emailed and he thinks we will have more than 10 people for the meeting on the 15th so we need to decide what we will do. The Select Board stated that it should be outside so it shouldn't be a problem and everyone will be in their own vehicles but we may have to do two trips. Mike Vignale is heading it up so he will decide what is best. The Select Board agree that since it is outside it shouldn't be a problem but support whatever Mike decides to do.
- Bubba explained that Mike V was the only one to show up for the engineering bid for the Sculptured Rocks Road Paving Project. We advertised it in the paper, on our website and on our bulletin board here and at the Transfer Station. We had a lot of contractors call but only one Engineer showed up. They have until April 20th to get the bids in so we will see if someone will bid without attending the site visit.
- Bubba took wing off truck and it has been most just him and Fred working. They are keeping the 6-foot distance in mind.
- Bubba brought up the accident on North Groton Road. He said the car was from Vermont and Vermont is required to have insurance so their insurance will cover the guardrail. The Select Board explained that Sara will be reaching out to Primex to let them know about the accident and to see if we can do work on the guardrail in the meantime. It was agreed that Bubba should wait to do work until we hear from Primex and when he does, he will need to take pictures before and after any work that is done and keep track of costs and time spent. Bubba said he doesn't know if he can fix it, it pulled the cable. Tony and Bubba will look at it and see what they can do.
- Bubba said we should talk about upping the \$5,000 that has to go out to bid in our procurement policy. He thinks that is low and it should be raised to \$7,500 or \$10,000. Tony mentioned that this was voted on at a town meeting about 20 years ago so in order to change it, it should be a warrant article. Sara will add this to the list of warrant articles for 2021.
- Bubba explained that the grant for the building requested a new plan for the building. This will cost money. Sara explained that we can submit the grant now without the plan but we will need the plans to move forward later on. Sara reached out to Stacy from Turnstone to see if she can update our plans and she was supposed to call but hasn't yet. Sara will follow back up. Also, we need an environmental done so Sara asked Stacy about this as well as she thought they did it. John remembers this as well.

- Bubba stated that for the last 40 years the well at the Garage had a wrong pressure switch. He had this replaced and now it has much more pressure.
- As of right now the road bans have not been lifted. The letter from the DOT originally said they were hoping it would be lifted by April 8th but they haven't said anything else. There are rumors it will be next week. We follow what the State does so we will not lift ours until the State does.
- Bubba mentioned that the driveway on North Groton Road that we have sent letters on due to ice issues, now has marks on the road in front of it. They are apparently using the driveway they said they aren't using as well. The Chief will look at the marks on the road and will keep an eye out.
- The property on the corner of Halls Brook Road will need to be cleaned up. They had a fire so the Town gave them some time but it has been enough time now. Sara will draft a letter requesting the clean-up. The Select Board is okay with this being sent from Sara on behalf of the Select Board.

Meeting with Ruth

The Select Board asked Ruth if the credit card machine was looked into. Ruth said she reached out to get costs but she doesn't know if she will be able to technically handle it. It was agreed we need to get the cost first and what the process will be because we really should have one. If it costs a lot it will have to be budgeted for next year if it is decided to go that route.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:55pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant