

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
May 19, 2020

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

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

USDA Building Grant

The Town of Groton had originally applied for a USDA grant for the Public Works Building. At the last meeting it was agreed that it would cost too much money to move forward with a grant that we are not sure we will get. The Select Board had a conference call today with USDA and they really want to get the town this money because our Town fits the guidelines for this grant perfectly so they want to get us into a position where we feel comfortable applying. This grant doesn't come up often and is only available now due to the disasters that have been declared and since our building was damaged in more than one storm it fits the requirements. USDA even said that if we got the amended plans from the architect and committed to them that the Select Board would bring this to the Town at Town Meeting in March that they would obligate at least \$250,000.00 to the Town of Groton. The Select Board agreed that we should find out how much it will cost to amend the original plans and commit to USDA that we will bring this to Town Meeting and ask the townspeople to allow the Town to Bond the remainder of the funds. The Town will also continue to look for other grants to bring the cost of the bond down.

John said Turnstone was very up front and honest with us. We can reach back out to them and see if they can amend the plan to make the building cost around 1 million and see how much it will cost for the amended plans and how soon can they get it to us. We can change it so that it is wired for a generator but not get one now, do a 200amp service instead of 400amp service, and we could change the plans on the salt/shed. There was some site work done that will save some money too so they may want to come and look at it. We also do not need the tank for the salt water, just slope the floors. If possible, we can strip it down to the bare essentials. **John motioned to move forward with the grant for the town garage, to reach out to turnstone for amended plans and to commit to bringing this to the March 2021 Town meeting for Town to vote on a bond for the rest of the money, and continue to look for other grants, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit

Deb Johnson submitted the new building permit a few months ago and recently submitted the updated guidelines to reflect the changes. Sara mentioned that she put these in their folders along with the fire inspection forms she created using forms from Rumney, other towns and the State of NH. Sara asked them to review these and Debs comments on the guidelines so this can be discussed at a later meeting.

Sara explained that she is working with the attorney on some items regarding the building permit. The attorney recommended that the Town not put out the new permit or guidelines until some of these things are looked into which could take a while, maybe even after the next town meeting. The Select Board agreed to follow the attorney's advice and not put out the new permits until this is looked into.

Meeting with Gary Easson

Gary emailed to say that he cannot meet with the Select Board again and will reschedule later. However, there is a tree on the Town portion of Bailey Hill Road that he is requesting be taken down as it is rotting and ready to fall down and could cause some damage. He sent a picture of the tree. Bubba went out to check this out. Bubba will take care of this.

KV Partners Contract

The Select Board reviewed the contract with Mike Vignale, KV Partners, for the Sculptured Rocks Culvert Project and it was agreed the contract is good to move forward with. **John motioned to sign the KV Partners contract for the Sculptured Rocks Road Culvert Project, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Meeting with Mike Vignale

Mike Vignale met with the Select Board to go over the following items:

- Sculptured Rocks Road Culvert Project:
 - Mike met with the Select Board to go over what he found with his reference checks and experience on Kirk Feroff. Sara mentioned that Kirk asked to be put on the agenda for the Select Board meeting to answer any questions so he will be here at 7:00pm. Mike followed up on the projects that he did. Everyone that he followed up with said Kirk did a good job and they have either hired him again or will hire him again. No one had anything bad to say about him. It was agreed to ask him about his distance, if he is licensed to work in NH, what has he done to look into the project and when he could start. They will make a decision after they meet with him but do not see a reason why they shouldn't award the project to him.
 - Michie originally said that they were behind so they were not sure when they would be able to get the culverts but they are now saying they are on schedule and can supply them.
 - The schedule for this project end date was pushed back to September 30th.
 - Sara will send the letters with the MOU regular mail and then if we don't hear back, we will follow up with a certified letter. Sara will mail these out tomorrow.
- Sculptured Rocks Road Paving Project:
 - The Survey has been done. This means the plans will be done next and once the plans are done it can be put out to bid.
 - It was asked if the road project can be done at the same time as the culvert project or if there will be any issues with this. They can be done at the same time but will work on different sections.
 - The Road will be only open for one lane of traffic during this time. They will put up signs sated there will be limited road access and that the road is open only for local traffic. Bubba said the Town may want to do a letter to the State to explain we have to close the road to local traffic only during this project which could affect those trying to use Sculptured Rocks State Park. The Select Board agreed we should send a heads-up letter to the State of NH and see if they have any concerns with this. Sara will draft a letter and let the Select Board know when it is ready to sign. **John motioned to come in and sign the letter to the State of NH when it is ready, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
 - Bubba dug test pits with Mike.
 - There was a resident that was concerned about water around his property and the drainage when the road is being worked on. Mike said there will be a catch basin put there.
 - Mike mentioned he will put something in the specs about if they run into water to put underdrain, etc.
 - Bubba asked if he will bid them out separate, one for road work and one for paving. Mike said there will be one contractor responsible for everything, the paving, road work, etc. They can hire out if they need to.

Meeting with Bubba

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

- Truck Chassis invoice: This was paid. The truck will be built in July.
- Bubba explained that we haven't heard back from ME Latulippe about when he will be finishing the work on Province Road. We originally told him we needed it completed by June 30th and he agreed to this but when we asked when he will be out there to do the work we haven't heard back and we are

getting nervous. Sara and Bubba talked to HSEM to see what our options and if we can go with another contractor. They said if our contract said a certain date of completion and he didn't complete it by then we can but we have to keep in mind that the July storm did cause delays along with COVID19. The Select Board said to reach out again and state that if we do not hear back, we may have to look at other options or companies to do the work.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant