

TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
January 7, 2020

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

**Absent: Ron Madan**

**Audience Members Present**

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

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

**John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of December 17, 2019 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of December 17, 2019 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**PUBLIC HEARING- USDA GRANT:**

John called the Public Hearing on the USDA grant to order at 7:01pm.

The Select Board explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to inform the residents that the Town of Groton applied for a USDA grant to assist with the purchase of a new dump truck with front plow, side wing plow and sander for the Groton Highway Department. This meeting will allow the residents to comment and ask questions regarding this grant and the truck.

John explained that this would to replace the Dodge. He explained that we have been having major issues with the Dodge over the last few years and it is down again. Autoserv just gave a quote of \$14,000.00 to fix everything. Tony explained that we are going to be getting a second opinion from another company and hopefully it will be cheaper. Sara explained the quotes the Town have received are for about \$130,000.00. The Town applied for the USDA grant for \$50,000.00. There is around \$18,000.00 in the Truck/Sander Capital Reserve Fund. Also, we are hoping to trade in the Dodge but we are not sure how much we will get for that. There will be a warrant article for this which will explain the \$130,000.00 would be offset by these other elements.

They have confirmed that they have everything that they need from us but they received a lot of applications to review. Grafton County has a lot of grant money but also has received a lot of applications for the grant. If they have too many and cannot give us the entire \$50,000.00, they will let us know how much they could give us. However, we will not know this until after Town Meeting in March. Bubba explained that the last time they didn't get the grant money until August.

Tony mentioned that due to the issues the Dodge, we have discussed contracting services out or using other trucks to assist with the work. Bubba mentioned we will have exact figures at Town meeting but we have been putting money into this truck every year since we got it and he estimates we have spent over \$30,000.00 on this truck. John mentioned it only has 52,000 miles.

Slim was glad that we applied for this and likes to see the Town applying for grants. Sara explained that her and Bubba have applied for quite a few grants over the last two years. They also learned that even though we

have received this USDA grant in the past it does not hinder us from applying again and we can apply every year if we have new things.

**Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to close the public hearing at 7:10pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*List of Open Positions for the Town of Groton*

Any resident of the Town of Groton, who wishes to file a declaration of candidacy for the following Town offices, may do so between January 22, 2020 – January 31, 2020 at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am -4pm, Tuesday 12pm – 7pm. The office will be open January 31, 2020 from 12pm – 5pm.

The following positions are available:

SELECTMAN – 3 YEAR TERM TOWN  
TREASURER – 3 YEAR TERM  
PLANNING BOARD – 3 YEAR TERM  
PLANNING BOARD – 3 YEAR TERM  
CEMETERY TRUSTEE – 3 YEAR TERM  
LOCAL/TOWN AUDITOR – 1 YEAR TERM  
MODERATOR – 2 YEAR TERM  
TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND – 3 YEAR TERM  
TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND – 3 YEAR TERM  
LIBRARY TRUSTEE – 3 YEAR TERM  
LIBRARY TRUSTEE – 3 YEAR TERM  
ZONING BOARD – 3 YEAR TERM  
ZONING BOARD – 3 YEAR TERM  
ZONING BOARD – 3 YEAR TERM  
SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST – 6 YEAR TERM

*Junkyard reports/letters*

Ken Knowlton, the "Junkyard Dog", was asked to inspect a property on Sculptured Rocks Road for junkyard concerns. This property was found to be in violation and has been in and out of compliance. This is the same property that DES visited and demanded some other clean up take place by Spring. **John motioned to sign the junkyard letter for the property on Sculptured Rocks Road, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

While Ken was in Town, he visited 1214 North Groton Road as well and stated it is in the worst condition he has seen. Sara reached out to the attorney to see if anything else can be done by the Select Board. He response was as follows *"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."* John mentioned he wanted everyone to know that we are still working on this but it is a process and we are continuing on this avenue.

### *Prosecutor Services*

Chief Bagan has been working on the prosecutor services. He made contact with a Becky Huntoon who is the administrative assist for the Plymouth Court Jurisdictional Association (PCJA) and informed her that I left a phone message and we were looking for a less costly service. He couldn't find the contract here and asked them to send us a copy of the contract but they have not supplied this as of yet. He spoke with Lincoln PD who left the PCJA without any push back from them or legal challenge. He thinks we should take the advice from Natch Greyes from NHMA and have the attorney send a letter that we no longer need their services. The Select Board agree that Michael should reach out to the attorney, explain what is going on and ask that a letter be sent.

### **SELECT BOARD ITEMS:**

#### *Atwell/Orange Brook*

John mentioned that he reached out to the Governor again regarding this. Jenn Smith got back to him and let him know that the Governor requested that she reached back out to DES and Fish and Game to see what their thoughts are. They are not sure if anything will be done but if it is it may not be until Spring. John was happy that he called them and got a call back. He will keep in touch with them.

Sara mentioned that she reached out to NLRA before the Holidays regarding this and they were interested in discussing this with the Town but wanted to wait until the New Year so we are hoping to have a meeting soon.

### **DEPARTMENT ITEMS:**

#### *Highway Department*

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- As mentioned earlier in the meeting the Dodge is down again. He will take it for a second opinion and go from there depending on the cost.
- Busy plowing and taking care of the roads.
- If your vehicle is parked on the road and in the way of the plow it will be towed. Ruth will put this in the paper. Tony mentioned that he thinks the tow company may need to have the request from the Police Chief. Michael said he has no issues with this. Tony said until the cruiser is here he could ride with Bubba if needed. John mentioned we will start with leaving a letter on the car and then it will be towed if not moved. Tony mentioned that Michael could call Plymouth Dispatch to see about the tow rotation.

#### *Police Department*

Chief Bagan explained that they are still waiting on the cruiser and it should be here by the end of January.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

#### *Road Committee*

Bubba mentioned that the next Road Committee Meeting will be Tuesday January 14, 2020 at 6:00pm.

#### *Building Committee*

Bubba mentioned that the next Building Committee Meeting will be Thursday January 16, 2020 at 6:00pm.

#### *Conservation Commission*

Slim asked Sara if she received the write up from the Conservation Commission for the town report. Sara confirmed that this was received and is all set.

## **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

### *Cemetery Gates*

Slim mentioned that him and Sherry bought wreaths and put them on all three cemetery gates.

### *Flag at the Town House*

The Chief mentioned that a resident mentioned the flag being ripped at the Town House. Sara explained this was just replaced a few months ago and we went with a thicker, more heavy duty one that was supposed to be better for the wind up here. Slim said that he knows the VFW gives Bristol a flag every year so he will look into this and let the Town know if this is an option for Groton.

### *Clothing/food Drive*

Ruth mentioned that we received enough food and items to provide two families with food and gifts for from Christmas for the Town. Ruth thanked everyone that donated. There are clothes left if anyone is interested. Whatever isn't gone by Town Meeting will be donated to Ladders.

**Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:28pm, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant