

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 18, 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 February 4, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Public Hearing Meeting minutes of February 4, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of February 4, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Updates from Public Hearing on Proposed Budget/Warrant Articles

There were a few items that came up at the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget and Warrant Articles that the Select Board wanted to follow back up with everyone on.

- At the meeting it was asked that the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector wage line be reduced from \$11,000 to \$6,000. The Select Board talked it over with each other and the Town Clerk and it was agreed to keep it at \$9,000 like it was the year before.
- The information from the wage study that was online before has been put back online on the Select Board page.
- There was \$151.00 under Zoning that was for the Zoning Ordinance that was voted down for the 2019 ballot. This was moved to the correct line.
- Sara emailed NHMA and DRA about the Fire Capital Reserve Fund and the Perambulation Non-Capital Reserve Fund to see how we can move funds from these into ones that we need more such as the Disaster Relief and the Public Works Building. We cannot do it this year but can be done next year and needs to be a warrant article with 2/3 vote. We got two different answers as to where the money will go, one said unreserved fund balance and the other said general fund so we are waiting to see which is correct.
- There were questions if the cemetery contracted out services in 2019 and they did with Braley's Helping Hands for the lawn work, Harley Putnam, High Tension Machines for the gate and Bob Clay and Sons for other work at Rolfe Cemetery. It did come out to the exact amount that they had budgeted for.
- The Police Chief reached out to see if there is a charge for the State Police Tactical Team and it was confirmed that there is not.
- Sara emailed TTCC to see how much Groton uses TTCC. In 2018 there were 17 people and in 2019 there were 16 people. The number reflects those that are registered for programs but not those that come to drop-in programs, which is much more.
- We will be looking into water testing.

Perambulations- Rumney and Hebron

At the last meeting the Select Board tabled the perambulations. Since then, the Select Board reviewed the perambulations that Miles did for Rumney and Hebron. It was agreed that the Select Board will accept both the perambulations as written. Sara will send the narratives to the Secretary of the State. **John motioned to approve the perambulations for Rumney and Hebron and submit to the State, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Hazard Mitigation Plan update 2020 adoption

June Garneau emailed that the Town of Groton is ready for adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2020. The Select Board reviewed the plan. This plan has been available to the public to view online or at the Town House as well. **John motioned to sign the plan adoption form and the CWPP adoption, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

EDP renewables cancellation notice

EDP renewables mailed in a cancellation notice for a bond. Sara wasn't here when the agreement was made with EDP so she did some research and reached out to the Planning Board regarding this since what she found all went back to the Planning Board and was in her Planning Board files. Deb Johnson responded with the following:

"Yes, I remember this well. It was a planned wind project that would have stretched from Maxim property (they were going to lease their property) all the way along the ridge-line to Dorchester. The bond was to ensure the meteorological tower and any other instruments and buildings erected would be removed and the site restored – no trash, scrape metal ETC. and no environmental damage. The EDP project was put on hold, than cancelled but they continued to measure the wind, although I do not know if they actually installed the met tower. The cancellation notice gives the select board till 4/10/2020 to confirm the site has been restored and removal of the met tower completed. Talk this over with the Selectman. Maybe a site visit to view the site status, but certainly letters should go out to EDP and Maxim so the Town has no liability for clean-up or removal. The PB will continue to stand ready to assist if needed."

Jeremy Haney has been out there and confirmed that it was removed and nothing is left. The Select Board agreed that they are okay with the cancellation effective 4/10/20.

Response from Plymouth Court Jurisdictional Association (PCJA)

The Select Board received a response from PCJA and they enclosed the signed letter from Chief Pivirotto and the by-laws which state the notice to withdraw must be received by June 1st and the formal withdrawal must be submitted in writing no later than October 1st. Since the letter was dated January 21, 2020, they stated the Town missed the deadline to withdraw for 2020 but we can withdraw from for 2021. It was agreed to send this to the attorney to see if there is anything else that can be done.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Warrant for Town Elections

Ruth submitted the warrant for town elections for the Select Board to sign and a sample ballot for review. **John motioned to sign the warrant for town elections, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Sara will put a copy of this warrant and sample ballot online.

Report of Excavated Material- Map 5 Lot 47

Mr. Ethier submitted his report of excavated material for tax years April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. This report was for 1328 cubic yards of gravel, 350 cubic yards of loam and 812 cubic yards of fill totaling 2490 cubic yards. The amount of tax is \$49.80. **John motioned to sign the excavation tax for Map 5 Lot 47, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to Excavate- Map 5 Lot 47

Mike Ethier submitted an intent to excavate for the tax year of April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 for his property on Map 5 Lot 47. He submitted payment for the \$100.00 fee. The intent of for 3500 cubic yards of gravel, 500 cubic yards of loam and 1000 cubic yards of fill totaling 5000 cubic yards. **John motioned to sign the intent to excavate for Map 5 Lot 47, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Appointment for Lakes Regional Mutual Fire Aid (LRMFA)

The Select Board appointed Tony Albert to be on the board of directors for LRMFA. They had to send a letter with the appointment. **John motioned to sign the appointment for LRMFA Board of Directors, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Tony explained this gives the Town the right to vote for things like the budget, etc.

Transfer Station Dump Stickers

The Select Board explained that effective May 1, 2020 dump stickers will be required. There will be a cost of \$1.00 for these and they can be obtained through the Town Clerk. They are working on a new policy and working on some details. Sara will put this online and Norm will be putting this on a sign at the Transfer Station.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- They are just plowing and trying to keep the roads clear.
- We really need people to attend the town meeting for SRR so we can get the grant as this road is in really bad condition.

Police Department

Chief Bagan went over the following items regarding the Police Department:

- The cruiser has arrived and is up and running.
- Chief has been working with the attorney on a tow contract and they have finalized it based on these discussions. He will contact DC towing since a few other local towns use them as well.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:14pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant