

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
March 3, 2020

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

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 18, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of February 18, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of February 18, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

CANDIDATE NIGHT:

John explained that each candidate has the opportunity to speak if they wish and answer any questions that may come from the public. Tony Albert and Pamela Hamel were candidates that were in attendance. They are running uncontested. There were no questions for either of them.

John thanked the candidates for coming out and mentioned that it would be nice to see more people stepping forward.

OLD BUSINESS:

Plymouth Court Jurisdictional Association (PCJA) update

At the last meeting it was agreed for Sara to send the attorney the letter from PCJA. The attorney wrote back that they have reviewed the response we received from the PCJA and the documentation they provided. Essentially, they sent the signed copy Groton could not find. The attorney's approach was based on having nothing binding Groton to the terms of the By-Laws, assuming they had not been signed by Groton. Now, it appears Groton had agreed to the terms and so the attorney thinks they are right that they have the right to enforce those terms-including the withdrawal provisions. John explained that we will stay with them for this year but will be writing a follow up letter that we wish to withdraw after the 2020 year. Sara will draft this letter and have it ready for the next meeting. She will also send out the first payment that she was holding on to until a decision was made.

Sherry asked what this was for and it was explained that it is for the prosecutors for the Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reporting for PILOT/Utility Property

Mark Stetson met with the Select Board on February 4, 2020 to discuss some concerns that the DRA may not be calculating the state portion of the taxes correctly due to the PILOT/Utility Property. Mark assisted the Select Board with drafting a letter which was mailed out. The DRA sent a response letter which states they are calculating it correctly following the RSA and said the solution to the issue could be a simple legislative change. Sara did send the response letter to Avitar. Loren from Avitar sent Sara and Ingrid from Lempster an email

which had an email thread from NHMA which states that the Towns need to either challenge the DRA legally or look to get a legislative change. They said that given that this effects other towns as well, the legislative change is probably best for all and is the cheapest option. They provided some suggested language and are looking for a current bill this could be added to. They want to know how the Town plans to proceed. The Select Board agreed that Sara will reach out to Lempster to see what they did and that it would be very expensive to proceed with legal action so the legislative change would be best. Pam asked if Lempster has a PILOT. John read the letter and explained it covers renewable energy overall not just a PILOT. **John motioned to move forward with the legislative change, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

MVSB- Name change/authorization

Sara's name was never changed when she was married so the bank needs a letter explaining the name change and proof of the name change. The letter also needs to say that Sara has authorization to use the bank card. **John motioned to sign the letter to MVSB, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Affidavit as to Military Service

The attorney sent the affidavit ad to Military Service for one of the junkyard properties that we are taking to court. This affidavit states that to the best of the Towns knowledge none of the parties involved are in the military or other service of the United States. The Town does not believe any of the parties are and we did a little research, as did the attorney and we were not able to find any evidence of that. **John motioned to sign the affidavit as to Military Service, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Ruth was in attendance and notarized this paperwork.

Report of Cuts (2 reports)

The deadline to receive report of cuts is May 15, 2020.

- The first report of cut is for Map 9 Lot 1 on Old Coach Road for a cut of about 71 acres. The amount of the tax is \$678.05. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 9 Lot 1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
- The second report of cut is for Map 9 Lot 2 on Old Coach Road for a cut of about 104 acres. The amount of the tax is \$2,752.63. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 9 Lot 2, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

All Veterans Credit

The Town received an application for the All Veterans Tax Credit for the owner of Map 1 Lot 84. There were no questions. **John motioned to approve the All Veterans Tax Credit for Map 1 Lot 84, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Roads posted effective March 4, 2020

Pursuant to RSA 231:191 the Town posted the roads with restrictive weight limits effective March 4, 2020 until further notice.

March Town Meeting

John reminded everyone that the Annual Town Meeting is March 14, 2020 at 9:00am. If anyone would like to donate any type of food, drink, desserts it would be greatly appreciated.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- Bubba explained that we are heading into mud season and the weather will be back and forth for the next couple of weeks. It is still slippery and there is ice under the mud so please be careful.
- Bubba explained that as John mentioned the roads will be posted effective tomorrow. The State is posting the roads and we follow their lead. The State is effective tomorrow as well and they are estimating this will be through April 8, 2020 but could be longer or shorter depending on weather. Bubba said they have told all the loggers that they know so they are aware.

Police Department

- Chief Bagan explained that he dropped off a copy of the Tow contract to DC Towing but there is a discrepancy in the cost for storage fees so he is looking into this and may need to adjust that. Tony gave him a card for another company to look into.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Coronavirus

It was discussed that the medical masks are hard to get right now and there was a confirmed case of the coronavirus in New Hampshire.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:25pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant