

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
March 17, 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 March 3, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of March 3, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of March 3, 2020 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Plymouth Court Jurisdictional Association (PCJA) update

At the last meeting it was agreed for Sara draft a withdrawal letter stating that we no longer wish to use PCJA after the 2020 year. She drafted this letter and sent out the first payment that she was holding on to until a decision was made. **John motioned to sign the PCJA withdrawal letter, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Reporting for PILOT/Utility Property- Lempster's email

Sara reached out to Lempster as the Select Board asked her to. Lempster responded with the following information:

Representative Marjorie Porter is working with Barbara Reid of NHMA to find a bill suitable for amending; Groton should have or should contact her regarding the wording of the amendment. Senate bill 484 would be suitable but may not pass the senate; did not get a good hearing. Barbara is looking for another bill for possible amending. Groton should be sure to update their two NH Representatives and NH Senator. If a bill does not come forward suitable to amend, Then Groton and Lempster:

6.10 Notification of Total Equalized Valuation

The DRA notifies each municipality of its total equalized assessed value on or about May 1.

6.11 Appeal Rights

(a) Statutory Authority: RSA 71-B:5 Authority, Duties of the Board of Tax & Land Appeals

(b) Any municipality may appeal their total equalized valuation in writing to the New Hampshire Board of Tax and Land Appeals within 30 days of notification pursuant to RSA 71-B:5.

(c) The appeal period is not extended due to any communication, either verbal or written, between the DRA and a municipality regarding the total equalized valuation.

*The decision to appeal might be the path to follow if a bill cannot be suitably amended. Certainly, **I would recommend an appeal by Groton and Lempster** if this cannot be fixed legislatively.*

We should know soon if a suitable bill is found for amending; best first option. If you want "our representative" to do something, perhaps Steve, Judy and Ruth could be asked to meet with the Select board. They received my "letter to Rick" and are aware of what is going on. Ruth did meet with Barbara. I will not be a go-between with

these three. As soon as a potential bill is found for amending, they should be notified. We are presently in a wait and see mode. Representative Porter is doing the legwork on this because she and I were sponsors of the amendment to 72:74 that is being misread by DRA. She also has a pony in the race regarding Antrim's future wind farm.

The Select Board agreed that we should contact Representative Marjorie Porter and to update their two NH Representatives and NH Senator. Sara will contact Representative Marjorie Porter first and then will draft letters to our NH representatives and the NH Senator for the Select Board to sign. **John motioned for Sara to draft the letter and the Select Board will come in and sign it when ready, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Emergency Management-COVID19

The Select Board and the Emergency Management Director and Deputy wanted to meet to come up with ideas regarding our plan if our town is impacted by this virus. The governor declared a state of emergency and the schools in NH are now closed until April 3, 2020. Grafton County has some cases and there are more cases in Laconia so it is close to us. Emergency management wants to control this with information that we can put on the website, and for community it will be case by case and they will handle the situations as they arise. As of right now there are no cases in Groton. The Select Board, Bill, Patti and Sara discussed the following options or steps to be taken.

- There is meal on wheels so if anyone in Groton is interested in receiving Home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels) 2-3 times a week, please contact Lisa Minickiello at 603-536-1204. We believe this is still an option but are not 100% sure how long it will be available.
- There is Transport Central which provides Seniors age 60+, individuals with disabilities and those on Medicaid, well sense and NH Healthy Families with transportation needs to medical appointments and basic necessities. They can call 1-855-654-3200. If they can't get out, Patti said they will go out and get the items and bring them to them. We are not sure if they have stopped this yet due to the social distancing.
- As of right now, Food Services through the school will provide a bagged breakfast and lunch for any student who needs it. If any student needs it, they can contact the school or the Select Board office for more information.
- The school is doing remote learning. It was explained that Spectrum is supposed to be offering free internet to those that need it so they should call Spectrum. Also, they are providing Chromebooks to the families that need it. The town also has internet access and the computer in the old library if anyone needs it. These can be used during normal operating hours of the Town House.
- Anyone in need may also go to Bristol Community Food Pantry, located at Bristol Community Services to pick up items of need.
- The Town will be collection non-perishable items for now. Sara will put this online.
- It was discussed that if the school cannot do lunches anymore then Patti offered to head this up. The Select Board, Sara, Ruth, Bubba and others offered to help put lunches together and deliver if needed. If Sara gets any calls regarding this, she will let Patti know.
- It was stressed that if you have general questions about the virus you should call 211.
- If you are sick do not go to the hospital, call your PCP first and follow their instructions.
- Sara will put helpful websites online which have helpful tips how to protect yourself, who to contact, information about the virus, etc.
- Governor Sununu signed proclamations and orders regarding unemployment, take out only for restaurants, no shut offs for bills, no evictions for rent, etc. during this time.
- The Senior Center is closed to renters but they are still open for the seniors and they are protecting them by keeping the renters and others out.

- Bubba asked if this is prolonged, if government starts passing out food what we are going to do. It was explained that we need to get through the 15 day first and then we can meet again.
- John said the townhouse is the Groton Emergency Operations Center (EOC). What if there is a storm or disaster and people have to come here? What if it is several families? Patti and Bill suggested we could do a questionnaire, check them in, check for symptoms. We could use the petitions in the emergency management trailer so we can put them in different places in the town house. We would contact Red Cross as well.
- Right now, the State EOC is open from 7am-7pm.
- Hygiene in building is very important. We can't get masks right now but we can make sure we wipe everything (pens, staircase, windows, doorknobs, etc.) down, sanitize, disinfect and keep our distance from people. We have hand sanitizer out throughout the building.
- It was stressed that everyone just needs to keep an eye on each other and help each other.
- Patti gave a demonstration on the proper way to put gloves on and take them off.
- Patti gave a demonstration on the correct way to use hand sanitizer which was to rub it in circular motion, get every finger, and rub it in until it dries.

The Select Board and Emergency Management Team feel this is a good starting point and will meet again as needed. Everyone will keep each other in the loop and let each other know as soon as we can if there is a situation in Groton.

MS-232

The MS-232 is the Report of Appropriations Actually Voted from Town Meeting. **John motioned to sign the MS-232 and have it submitted to the Department of Revenue, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

MS-535

The auditor sent the MS-535, which is the financial report of the budget, with our suggested changes on it over today. The Select Board reviewed the MS-535 and was okay with the amounts. **John motioned it sign the MS535, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Sara will put this on the website.

Inventory Meeting

The Select Board has scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:00pm, regarding RSA 74:10, for the public to provide comments on one's liability to be taxed. This meeting will be held at the Town House at 754 North Groton Road.

Report of cut- Map 2 Lot 27

The deadline to receive report of cuts is May 15, 2020. The town received a report of cut for Map 2 Lot 27 on Old Rumney Road for a cut of about 32 acres. The amount of the tax is \$1,926.40. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 2 Lot 27, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Avitar inspections starting 3/18/20

Starting Wednesday, March 18, 2020 Avitar will be out doing inspections. They will be driving a car that has the company name on the side. In light of the Governor's announcement regarding the State of Emergency and School closures, Avitar has felt the need to be proactive and safe. Given the contracts they have in place, they still need to work and keep on schedule as much as possible. Their field staff are still out in the field working; however, they have been advised not to enter properties for interior inspections. They will still visit, knock, step back and gather information from the taxpayers at the door and continue on with any exterior work needed. This is in line with the CDC recommendations regarding avoidance of close contact. If taxpayers are sick, they should be advised not to open the door at all. They will be sending letters at a later date to complete

interior inspections where needed. The safety of their staff and all taxpayers is one of their top concerns and they will work diligently to ensure everyone stays as safe as possible. They recognize that they may encounter children home alone or with their parents and want to get the word out regarding their protocol. If this pandemic continues, this may alter how they handle the informal hearing process for those towns with updates/revaluations this year, as well. They will post updates as they occur on their website and send further notification if and when things change.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Request for reimbursement letter- FFY 2017 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

After the 2017 storm the Town applied for an FFY 2017 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for the update to the Town of Groton's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan has been completed and all invoices have been paid. June Garneau has mailed us the final updated plan and a CD with it that Sara will put online once it is received. In the meantime, Sara has worked with June to collect all supporting documents needed for the reimbursement and one requirement is this written request for reimbursement on Town Letterhead. **John motioned to sign the request for reimbursement letter for NH HSEM, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit for Map 2 Lot 62

The owners submitted a building permit for their property located on 1047 North Groton Road. This is for a 12x15 utility shed. This will not be heated or cooled. **John motioned to approve the building permit for Map 2 Lot 62, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following items regarding the Highway Department:

- Bubba explained that the Truck will hopefully be ordered this week. The Truck will be through Clarks Truck Center and the upfitting through Viking.
- They have been sanding and plowing.
- They have been working on fixing the trucks.

Police Department

- Chief Bagan explained that he has been doing patrol but there are no new items to report.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Flag

Slim wanted to mention that he helped get the flag but it was donated from the Bristol VFW.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:47pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant