

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
May 19, 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 May 5, 2020 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of May 5, 2020 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of May 5, 2020 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sculptured Rocks Road Culvert Project- Kirk Feroff

The Select Board Met with Mike Vignale today during a work session to talk about the bidders. Kirk Feroff, who was the lowest bidder, requested to be added to the agenda tonight to answer any questions the Select Board may have regarding his work, experience, bid, etc. Kirk and his son Don attended the meeting.

The Select Board asked the following questions:

- *Where are you located?* Kirk said that they are located in Danville VT and have been in business over 30 years. It only took and 1 hour 15 minutes to get here. They are a five-guy crew and are all on the job at the same time
- *What sparked your interest in this job?* This fits in with what they do. They have done work in NH but not in this area.
- *Can you do work in NH?* Yes.
- *Have you reached out to Michie or anyone regarding the culverts?* Not yet, they were waiting until this meeting but they can tomorrow if they are awarded the job.
- *If you were awarded the project when can you start?* When the company can supply the culverts, they can start. The sooner the better. Bubba and Mike explained that we have other projects on that road too. Kirk said they would be anxious for an early July start date. Mike said with the permits and easements we should be ready by July 1st.

John motioned to award the project to Kirk Fenoff, Tony2nd, so voted.

Mike will work with them to get contract together for the Select Board to review and sign.

Sculptured Rocks Road Project Bids

The Select Board received and opened bids for the Sculptured Rocks Road Project on May 5, 2020 and they motioned to table it until this meeting to allow more time to review the bids and such. Bryant Paving has since submitted an updated bid of \$86,382.00 and GMI Asphalt has a bid of \$94,784.75. **John motioned to award the Sculptured Rocks Road Project to Bryant Paving and sign the contract, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Transfer Station Sticker updated policy

At the last Select Board meeting the Select Board agreed that that going forward the sticker should be on the upper left corner of the windshield. Sara updated the policy and the website to reflect this. **John motioned to sign the updated Transfer Station Permit Policy, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Updated Email from Bristol Select Board

At the last Select Board Meeting, the Select Board mentioned they received an email from Bristol Select Board Chair asking if the Town of Groton will support the calling of a special town meeting of SAU 4 to amend their current budget in light of tax revenues short falls expected this year. This action could help each town to minimize the impact of expected shortfalls of tax revenues we all shall face this year. If the Select Board supports this it was asked that they draft a letter making such a request. John had motioned for Sara to draft a letter in support of the SAU4 special town meeting and to ask Bristol if they had a sample of the letter. Since then, Bristol has emailed back that Bristol did not vote on a resolution for SAU 4 to call a special meeting. They may try to agree on something more along the lines requesting greater cost controls from the SAU4 until the fiscal year ends, the legislature has yet to enact legislation that would allow them to call special meetings for the school budget at this time. They will keep us apprised to any other thoughts that the board as a whole can support in this matter when facing this fiscal year and should have more information after their meeting on May 22, 2020. **John motioned to hold off on sending the letter that was agreed on at the last meeting until we have more information, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Extended Stay at Home order/Offices closed to public until 5/31/20

At the last meeting the Select Board agreed to keep the offices closed to the public through May 31st. They wanted to follow up at this meeting to make sure we don't need to extend it any further. Sara mentioned that she talked to Bill and we put in a request for masks, gloves, gowns, etc. for when we do reopen. The Select Board thinks we can open June 1st since we will have the masks and gloves. Sara mentioned we will just have to watch the amount of people and sanitize between each visitor.

The Transfer Station is back to its normal hours of operation.

Ruth submitted some information about deeds during this. A municipality cannot deed a property until the order has been lifted. The deed date is set for September 29th with notices going out June 15th and August 29th. If the order is not lifted, we will need to do waivers for each property.

Ruth gave handout about COVID 19 related voting instructions. These handouts are available at the Town House. Sara will put this online.

Junkyard Inspection letters

Ken Knowlton contacted the Select Board and informed them that he would be coming out on Friday, June 12, 2020 for the visits. Sara drafted the letters to all that would be visited as previously determined by the Board. **John motioned to sign the Junkyard inspection letters, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Class VI Road letters

Sara drafted letters to those that have previously maintained Class VI Roads to remind them to submit their changes to the Board for approval. **John motioned to sign the Class VI Road improvements letter, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Report of cuts/yard certificates

The deadline to receive report of cuts is May 15, 2020. We have now received all of the reports. This report of cut is for Map 10 Lot 31 on Old North Groton Road for a cut of about 50 acres. The amount of the tax is \$103.15. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 10 Lot 31, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 7 Lot 38

The owner submitted a building permit for a 12x18 porch at their property on Brock Lane. This will not be heated or cooled. They also submitted the private road release form. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 7 Lot 38, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 2 Lot 49

The owner submitted a building permit for a 10x16 garden shed at his property on North Groton Road. This will not be heated or cooled. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 2 Lot 49, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 6 Lot 46

The owners submitted a building permit for a 30x36 garage at their property on Giovanna Road. This will not be heated or cooled. They also submitted the private road release form. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 2 Lot 49, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

PSNH Request for information letter- Avitar

Avitar sent a letter with a draft letter to Eversource/PSNH requesting a detail asset report for all transmission assets located in our municipality in order to complete utility values for 2020. Sara put this letter on town letterhead. **John motioned to sign the PSNH request for more information letter, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Stipend for First Responders

Due to COVID19 there is a stipend for first responders that is \$150.00 a week for part-time and \$300.00 a week for full time. Chief Bagan would qualify for the \$150.00 for the part time. This is voluntary and the Town is not required to do this but if they decide to, they should vote on it. It can also be paid weekly or a lump sum for the 8 weeks which will be \$1,242.86. There are forms online that Sara would have to fill out and we should get all of this back. It must be submitted by June 1, 2020. **John motioned to apply for the first responders grant for the part time Police Chief, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Extension for Charitable Tax forms

The Circle Program submitted its BTLA-A9 which was due by April 15th. The BTLA-A12 is due by June 1, 2020 and with that they have to submit the 990 and the financial report. They have already filed for the 990 and financial report with the State so they need an extension from the Town for the BTLA-A12. RSA 72:33 gives the Select Board the ability to receive items late and Emergency Order 23 also allows this. **John motioned to grant an extension to Circle Program for the BTLA-A12 until they complete the 990 and financial reports, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Dump Sticker question

There is a resident that needs a dump sticker but she doesn't have a car, she has someone who brings her. Ruth usually puts down the license plate number when she hands out a permit. John said that he thinks she should be

given a sticker to keep with her personal belongings and show when she goes to the Transfer Station. Ruth can put "no car" where she would put the license plate number. The Select Board agreed.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Intent to cut- Map 10 Lot 42

The Town received an Intent to Cut for Map 10 Lot 42 for a 40-acre cut. There are no taxes owed on the property so a bond was not required and all information on the intent is correct. **John motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 10 Lot 42, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

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. In the work session, the Select Board 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.

John mentioned that USDA is the same group that we applied for the truck grant with. They said that they don't like to give money for a truck that would be stored in a flood zone. We did let them know we monitor the weather and move the trucks and equipment, but for truck grant we had to show them we are serious about moving forward with the building.

Tony also mentioned this is the first time they have guaranteed and obligated the money up front before the Town votes but they really want the Town to get this grant and as long as we can get the amended plans and provide them with the commitment they will obligate the funds and they will be in escrow for when the town needs them.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

- Bubba explained that NGR was paved today and was paved from Halls Brook to about 300 feet past MIT parking lot.
- A resident had a concern about the paving trucks turning around in his driveway. He was upset and talked to Bubba about this. Bubba told him he will be down first thing in the morning to straighten it out. The resident said he would take care of it but wanted the Select Board to know about it. Bubba did apologize and will check on this in the morning.
- The Bridge is closed that goes to the pond as it is rotting out and is a safety hazard. We received on quote so far for \$4,975.00. This was done about 7-8 years old. John said this is a great example of why the job should be done the right way the first time. We don't know where the money is coming from yet but the Conservation Commission pond is what the bridge is used for. John will mention this to the Conservation Commission and if they cannot pay for it then we will need to wait until Town meeting since we do not have the money for this in the budget.

- They put buntings up on town hall and will put new flag up tomorrow.
- The Engineering Projects for the Sculptured Rocks Road culverts and Road Work are both awarded to Mike Vignale with KV Partners and those projects should hopefully get started in the next few months.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Kids Fishing Derby-Conservation Commission

The annual kids fishing derby has been cancelled for 2020.

Hebron Fair

Tony mentioned that the Hebron Fair is also cancelled.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Building Questions

Ruth brought up the following questions regarding the building.

- The Boards on the deck are curling. Bubba said they tried screwing them down but there are a few that may need to be replaced.
- Ruth asked when the carpet will be installed. Sara said June 12th. The Highway Department will assist the week of with moving furniture and Dave Switaj will be coming out to help with the computers. The Select Board agreed that the book shelves in the old library should be taken down and the room painted. Sara will reach out to the library trustees to move the books.
- Ruth asked if anyone looked into the roof. We did have a roofer come out the end of 2018 and he said that the roof had another five years or so before we would need to do anything.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:59pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant