

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
July 21, 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 July 7, 2020 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of July 7, 2020 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

PA-28 Inventory of taxable property forms for 2021

Sara explained she received the form to fill out to request these forms as we do every year. She included last year's form and requested the same amount of forms for 2021. **John motioned to sign the PA-28 Inventory of taxable property forms for 2021, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

PA-16

Sara explained that the Town received the PA-16 which is the Application for reimbursement to Towns and Cities in which federal and state forest land is situated. They receive this every year. Sara filled it out with the new Valuations from Avitar and included last year's form to be compared. **John motioned to sign the PA-16, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Horizons Engineering Agreement

Horizons Engineering originally quoted us \$5,000.00 to do the work for the grant. They sent the agreement over and it is for a lump sum of \$3,000.00. **John motioned to sign the Horizons Engineering agreement, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Studio Nexus Architect and Planners proposal for services

Studio Nexus Architect and Planners emailed the proposal for the services to get the work done that USDA needs for the grant. The proposal goes over the project understanding, scope of services, Phase I which is the architectural feasibility report, Phase II which is the services post USDA award, the fees and expenses, additional services and assumptions and exclusions. For Phase I which is the architectural feasibility report that USDA needs in order to award the grant, the estimate is \$3,850.00. This includes the predesign, schematic design, opinion of probable cost and final report. Phase II which would be after USDA awards the grant would be \$50,200.00. **John motioned to sign the Studio Nexus Architect and Planners proposal/agreement, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Memo- Town House CRF

The Select Board agreed that the Horizons Engineering and Studio Nexus costs would be paid out of the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund. **John motioned to sign the memo to the trustees of the trust fund requesting to transfer \$6,850.00 from the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund to Meredith Village Savings Bank, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 2 Lot 50

The owner submitted a building permit for a 30x10 wood shed at her property on North Groton Road. This will not be heated or cooled. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 2 Lot 50, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Local septic approval- Map 5 Lot 145

John Downing dropped off a Septic Plan and local approval for Map 5 Lot 145. All the information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local approval for Map 5 Lot 145, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Junkyard License- 665 Halls Brook Road

Stephen Bixby/Joshua Bixby submitted junkyard license renewal for their junkyard located on 665 Halls Brook Road. Stephen Bixby/Josh Bixby just had an old item that has been on there on the past reports and has been okay in the past by to issue a junkyard license. Ken Knowlton reported that they are in compliance and that the license can be renewed. **John motioned to approve the junkyard license renewal for Bixby, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Letter

The Town received a letter from Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid asking the Town of Groton to confirm which agency would provide primary fire protection to the community, which is the agency having jurisdiction and which sections of town each agency maintains jurisdiction so they know who to take direction from when making needed changes to Groton's run cards and response zones.

Sara drafted a response letter stating that Groton Select Board appointed Tony Albert to represent the Town of Groton on the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Board of Directors and he works closely with the Hebron Fire Department. With that being said, the Town of Groton would like Hebron Fire Department to be our primary fire protection and be the ones you take direction from when making needed changes to the Groton run cards and response zones. Tony Albert and the Hebron Fire Department will be sure to involve the Rumney Fire Department in all discussions regarding Groton. **John motioned to sign the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid response letter, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Internet Availability and Reliability

A resident emailed in with concerns about the internet availability and reliability. They own a home on Jewell Hill and there is no internet or what they do have is not reliable. He has been working on the issues he is experiencing but thinks that with more people working from home and students doing remote learning that this would be affecting others as well. He was wondering if the Town would be willing at looking into extending Spectrum further down the road or if the Town has explored bonding options the State has made available for bringing in fiber town wide. The Select Board agreed that they do not want to get involved in reaching out to Spectrum or doing any bonding options for bringing in fiber town-wide. The Select Board recommends that the resident reach out to their neighbors and if there is enough interest for them to reach back out to Spectrum. If Spectrum sees that there are a lot of customers that will be willing to pay monthly for service and it is something they will benefit from then they are more likely to extend the service. Sara will email the resident with this information.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

- Bubba explained that Dave Leone finished the work on Old Rumney Road and it looks good.
- The new truck should hopefully be here by the beginning of August. Bubba presented a picture of the truck.
- They have been replacing signs around town.
- They will be starting work on the Sculptured Rocks Road Culvert Project the second week in August.

- The NBRC Grant/Sculptured Rocks Road Project had a site visit and will be opening bids on July 30, 2020. The project will be awarded at the next Select Board meeting on August 4, 2020.

Police Department

- Chief Bagan looking to speed control signs. The only concern with putting out these signs is that they are fairly expensive and we would be worried about vandalism. It was agreed that the Town could put a camera on it or game camera nearby.
- Chief Bagan gave out more parking tickets and is looking into raising the cost of the ticket. The Select Board thinks \$50 would be fair and that the Chief should order new tickets with the new amount.
- There was a complaint about the loggers on North Groton Road starting the loud machines at 5:00am. In the past we have asked that the loud machines not be started until at least 6:00am. The Police Chief went on site and talked to them.
- Bubba asked if we have received the police report for the accident on North Groton Road where the guardrail was ruined. We have not received the report yet. Sara did send out the check and paperwork that the Chief gave her. He will reach back out to check on the status of this.
- Sara explained that the Select Board sent 1214 North Groton Road a letter explaining that the Town will be cleaning up the property. She gave Bubba a copy of the letter and Bubba and the Chief will hand deliver a copy to make sure they are aware. Bubba will also be getting quotes from companies to see what they would charge the Town to clean it up so we can decide if we want to do that or just clean it up ourselves. Dave Leone will talk to Bubba about this as well.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

There were no committee updates.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Water testing

Dave asked if we heard back on water testing and the Town has not. He hasn't heard anything either. They are doing the bacteria test and then next month he will be back for the other test. Dave said he would pay the \$15.00 for the bacteria testing. Sara explained that the Town has money in the budget for water testing so he can submit a reimbursement request. Dave said he wants to donate this one but will submit this for the next test.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:30pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant