

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
January 19, 2021

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

John called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Budget

Sara had updated the budgets from last meeting. She had entered in the true year to date totals for 2020, changed the Police Prosecutor to reflect the lower amount that was signed in the contract at the last meeting, changed the general insurance to reflect the true numbers from Primex and updated the mapping costs to the higher amount that was signed on the contract at the last meeting.

The entire budget was under budget but there were some lines that were over. Sara explained that due to how the pay periods fell in 2020 there was an extra week so that is why most of the payroll lines are over and is also why the phone bills, electric bills, etc. are a little over too. A few other things that played into why the budget was over in some areas was due to issues the Town experienced that were out of our control. Such items were the vandalism to the porta potties, the septic issues, the security system issues, Rumney Fire submitting the rest of 2019 bills after it was closed so the extra had to come out of the 2020 budget and the carpet installation resulted in moving of computers which wasn't taken into consideration.

The Select Board looked the budget over to see if there were any other areas that should be changed. It was agreed the budget is good as is. There is a \$27,571 increase from last years operating budget overall. \$25,000 of that is from moving the Groton Roads Warrant Article into the Highway Budget as the Townspeople have recommended since it is on there every year. Sara will make copies of the budget for the public hearing.

Warrant Articles

The following warrant articles have been submitted since the last meeting:

- There was discussion on whether or not to add a warrant article for the backhoe in case the building doesn't pass so Sara added this to the warrant and the summary so the Select Board could see the figures and make a decision based on that. The Select Board agreed to remove the article and if the building doesn't pass to amend article 5 to add \$65,000 to the Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.
- A warrant article was submitted for the excavation to prepare for the construction of the concrete slabs at the Transfer Station.
- The Conservation Commission submitted a warrant article for \$246.00 which is for 3% of the Timber tax received in 2020. It was found out that they did not need to submit a warrant article to request the remainder of their budget not used, they just needed to vote on it and submit a request which was done.
- Regarding the warrant article on the Town properties, the Select Board would like to put all properties on the list to try to sell this year. Sara will reach out to the attorney to see if there are any, we cannot do this year and to see if the rest are okay. The Select Board agreed not to do the landlocked property since we tried to sell it before and were unable to.

The Select Board went through each article and voted on if they recommend it or not.

Sara will make the changes from this meeting and will make copies of the warrant articles for the public hearing. She will also update the budget to reflect the changes from the warrant articles.

Town Report items

- We still need to get a cover photo. Originally John was going to take a picture of the new truck on one of the culverts but that is very similar to what was done last year. It was agreed to try to get a nice picture of the historical preservation on the Edgar Albert Culvert. John will get this picture.
- It was agreed to not do a dedication again this year.
- Sara will let the Select Board know when she has all items needed so they can come in and review it before it is sent to the printers.

Rumney Fire- gas inspections

Tony would like the Select Board to meet with the Rumney Fire Chief to discuss gas inspections. We currently do not do them and Hebron doesn't do them but Rumney does. It was agreed to meet with the Rumney Fire Chief on Tuesday, February 16th at 5:00pm. Sara will message him to see if he is available. In the meantime, there is one inspection that Dead River needs done that the Select Board is okay with him doing.

John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 6:00pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to return to public session at 6:40pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to seal the non-public minutes, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Meeting with Bubba

Bubba met with the Select Board to discuss the following items:

- The International is at the garage. The DEF, diesel exhaust fluid, is flashing. It could be that it is reading something wrong but they are looking into it. It had gone into limp mode but then was fine but he wanted to get it looked at.
- A couple weeks ago, prior to the rain, someone plowed Province Road. Bubba spoke to him and told him he shouldn't be plowing the road. It is not a winter-maintained road. The Select Board agreed that no one should be plowing Province Road or riding the snowmobiles on the road as it can cause damage to the road and the Town has been working hard on the condition of that road.
- There was an issue with land owner and resident in Town. The resident called Sara yelling about signs being put on Nedeau Lane but didn't mention they were snowmobile club signs. Sara asked Bubba to take a look at them. A friend of the resident that called took spray paint and blacked out the snowmobile signs. The Snowmobile Club, Fish and Game and the Police Chief have all been made aware. The Snowmobile Club isn't pressing charges. The Select Board agreed that the only part of Nedeau Lane that should be used for snowmobiles is the part of the road that the trail crosses over. That is the only part the Town has given permission for snowmobiles to ride.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:57pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant