

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
February 3, 2021

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

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

Picture for Cover Photo of Town Report

John took some pictures for the cover of the Town Report. The Select Board agreed on the photo to use. Sara will send this to the printers before she sends the rest to get this part started and will be able to send the rest once we have the MS-636. They agreed on the winter trees.

M.E. Latulippe bill/retainage

M.E. Latulippe sent in another bill. Sara cut the check and then noticed that they change the retainage to 2%. Sara hasn't sent the check when she noticed this and emailed Mike Vignale to see how he feels about this and he responded that the Select Board would want to vote if they approve the reduction of the retainage to 2%. The Select Board doesn't have to, but they can if they like, just like we did with Kirk Fenoff for the culvert project. The Select Board are not obligated to reduce the retainage until after the guarantee period which is one year from completion. If the Select Board chooses to Mike V said we should get the project close out docs before releasing the retainage which is the lien waivers, as-built drawings, etc. The Select Board agreed that since there is still work to be completed that they should keep the retainage at 10%. Sara will email Mike V and Mike L to let them know.

Electric bill

Sara mentioned that the electric bill is quite a bit higher than it has been in the past and she thinks it is due to using the mini splits for heat. She is wondering if we should stop using them in the winter and use oil or what we want to do about this. Select Board agreed that the mini splits should only be used for the AC and should not be used as heat in the winter as it is too cold and is using too much electricity. We should be using the fuel, The Select Board asked Sara to let Ruth and Michael know not to use the mini splits as heaters and to only use as AC.

Public Hearing Prep

Sara mentioned that copies and everything are made and downstairs and ready to go. These were on the website last week for those that like to look at them ahead of time and have been downstairs as well.

- Sara said they will want to decide what order they do the public hearings as they must do them all separately and have to open and close each one separately which is very important to do. The Select Board agreed it would be best to go through the budget first and when get to the bond warrant article let them know that we will come back to that when we open the bond public hearing and then can go into the building public hearing from there.
- Sara reached back out to the bond bank and the interest rates are down now so they ran the numbers again, but this could change again come March or whenever the Select Board decides to have the deliberative session.
- For the Town properties warrant article the attorney recommended removing the ones that were done in the last three years and only sell ones that were done before that.
- The Select Board asked that Sara look into postponing the Town meetings. Sara looked into it and due to emergency order #83, the Town can delay voting to the second Tuesday of April, May, June, or July and may postpone the business or deliberative session of the annual meeting to one or more dates later in July 2021. The Town will be able to continue to make reasonable expenditures in light of last

year's budget until they adopt a new one (which must be no later than September 1) and the elected officers will continue to serve until the new election date. If the selectmen decide to use this authority, we need to put the new dates on the warrant and post it both when you normally would and 14 days before the new dates, as set forth in the order. Sara asked the attorney if the elections can stay the same day and just postpone the deliberative session and she said absolutely. If COVID-19 is still an issue, which is probably will be there will not be enough room in the Town House for the deliberative session but the voting has been working out fine so it will be okay to keep the elections. By postponing the deliberative session to another month will allow for the meeting to take place at the park if needed to be outside to allow for more room. We may have to rent tents, depending on weather. The Selectmen said that June or July will be taking too much time away from getting started on the building and on the road work. Therefore, the Selectmen decided that they want to keep the elections on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 and postpone the deliberative session until the second Saturday in May, which is May 8th. **John motioned to keep the elections on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 and postpone the deliberative session until the second Saturday in May, which is May 8th, Tony 2nd so voted.**

Meeting with Bubba

Bubba informed the Select Board that they have been busy with sanding and plowing and are working on resolving some truck issues.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 5:55pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant