

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
March 2, 2021

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

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

Meeting with Fire Chief Coursey

The Select Board was supposed to meet with Chief Coursey regarding gas permits. He didn't show up so Sara called him and he has been out all day dealing with trees down so he was not able to attend. This was rescheduled for March 16th at 6:00pm.

Newfound Landing Article

There was an article in the Newfound Landing about the Public Works Building that was misleading. John had drafted a response and the Select Board reviewed it and made some changes. Once the changes were made, Sara emailed Brendan Berube at the paper and asked that he put the response on the front page like the original article was. Below is the clarification.

Clarification from The Groton Select Board

The February 18th article titled "Grant awarded to Groton for Public Works Building" contained information that was misleading. The article was written in a manner that led one to believe Maggie Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen and Annie Kuster played a major role in the grant process and that construction would begin on the Groton Public Works building. Where in fact, the town spent countless hours and had to go through the grant process not only once but twice. It is true that the current building is in a flood plain and needs to be replaced and relocated. I reached out to the newspaper that in return had Maggie Hassan's office contact me. Benjamin Belanger, special assistant for the North Country, contacted me and explained they are notified whenever a grant is issued in the state. Without contacting the Town of Groton, Maggie Hassan's office submitted the article to the paper. The facts are, the Town of Groton was contacted by The North Country Council who put us in contact with USDA for the grant. Sara Smith, the Town's Administrative Assistant, and Robert Ellis, the Town's Road Agent, along with the Select Board worked with USDA filing all necessary paperwork in order to secure the grant. Now that the grant has been secured, the town will vote at its annual Town Meeting in May to see if the town's residents approve of the building and the bond that will be required to pay the remaining balance of the building. If both votes are favorable, then the town will move forward with the construction of the building.

Evaluations

The Select Board had set up meetings with some Department Heads to go over their reviews with them.

John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 5:30pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to return to public session at 6:25pm, 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 go over the following:

- The Truck will be ready tomorrow. They found a few wiring issues. One was a data cable which was the main thing. It didn't have good seal on it so water got into it. They replaced it and sealed this one very well to make sure this won't happen again. Also, the outfitters used a plug for the plow that wasn't universal. Bubba is working out what is covered and by who.

- Bubba hit the new guardrail on the middle culvert on Sculptured Rocks Road. Bubba felt they didn't set them correctly. They usually are meant to run the wing off of it but when he did this it grabbed. There are two areas that are damaged and insurance doesn't cover the guardrails but would cover the plow. However, there is a \$1,000.00 deductible but the plow will not cost that much to fix. Bubba will make sure everything gets delineators to put there to avoid this from happening again. The guardrails are pretty expensive so Bubba is looking into how that fix that. The plow has already been fixed.
- Bubba talked to John about getting the heavy-duty paint for the plows and wings.
- There was a water leak at the garage. Bubba shut the water off. He cut out the bad piece and put it back together. A couple days later it split again and was dripping. The Coursey's do radiant heat and he said maybe 35years ago it was okay but now when you touch it you can hear it cracking. What we can see is deteriorating so we don't know what is happening under the floor right now. We will be able to tell if something happens. Bubba just wanted to tell the Select Board in case something happens because this is the heat at the garage. Bubba said we should tell the people about this as well when we talk to the Town about this.
- Bubba isn't sure when the septic has been pumped last. We should look at getting it pumped in the Spring.
- Bubba has been working with the phone company for over a week because he had no phone and no internet. They finally came and corrected it.
- There are talks that the State is going to post the roads on Monday, March 8, 2021. Some Towns have already posted them because we are supposed to get some warm weather. Bubba would like to post them as well starting on Monday, March 8th. Sara created the road ban posting and if the Select Board approve this date then she will post it online, on the Facebook page, at the Town House and at the Transfer Station. The Select Board agreed that March 8th is a good date.
- Sara mailed the letter to Maxam about loading materials or transferring materials at the Town Garage.
- Bubba said we should send Maxam a letter about the road bans. Bubba said we just put a lot of money into the road and we need to enforce this somehow. Tony said we can call the State Police to come out if needed. Sara will send this letter on behalf of the Select Board.
- Bubba said that when it rains, they really can't put a lot of sand down because it just washes away. Also, salt doesn't always work depending on temps. They do their best with each storm and each road is different. He will mention this at the Select Board meeting too.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:55pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant