

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
May 5, 2021

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

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

Prep for Town Meeting

- Sara already ordered tents which are supposed to be delivered on Thursday, May 6, 2021.
- It was decided no food or coffee will be served.
- Sara called and emailed to see if we can get the porta potty delivered before Saturday. She should know for sure tomorrow.
- We will need to set up ahead of time and make sure the speaker system works.
- Sara will check with Tony Tavares to see if he needs anything from the Select Board.
- Sara will make up signs for the tents. She will make one that says masks required in this tent and one that says masks not required in the other. She will make sure the signs state to respect others and follow social distancing.
- The Select Board said that the payroll increases that are approved at Town Meeting, should be retroactive back to the March 16th check.
- Sara will email Tony Tavares to see when it is best to mention that they will open and discuss article 2 but move to hold the vote until after articles 4 and 5 are voted on.

Discussion on Town meeting:

- Sara gave the wording for moving an Article - "Mr. Moderator, I move to accept Article __ as written."
- The Select Board went over who is going to move, 2nd and present each Article.
- Article 2- Public Works Building approval/bond- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this. They discussed that the bond counsel stated "I read that RSA requirement to mean that action on the bond article "prior to other business" can occur when the meeting takes action to open the bond article prior to other business and then sets aside the bond article for a period of time to address another article, in particular one which has relevance to the bond article. As such, in Groton's situation, so long as the minutes of the meeting reflect the Town opening Article 2 and then motioning to take up Articles 4 and 5 prior to the vote on Article 2, such sequence of events should not affect the validity of Article 2." Therefore, they will open Article 2 and discuss it but not vote on it until after Articles 4 and 5 are voted on since Article 2 may have to be amended if one of those articles do not pass.
- Article 3- Operating Budget- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 4- Discontinue Funds (Fire & Perambulation)- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this. If this doesn't pass, Article 2 will have to be amended.
- Article 5- Capital Reserve Funds- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this. If the Public Works part doesn't pass, Article 2 will have to be amended.
- Article 6- River Road- Bubba will be prepared to speak to this if needed
- Article 7- FEMA Match- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 8- Conservation Bridge- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 9- Excavation for Transfer Station Slabs- Norm will be prepared to speak to this
- Article 10- Cemetery Layout- The Cemetery Trustees will be prepared to speak to this. Sara will email Jim Gaffey to remind him.
- Article 11- 3% Timber Tax to be given to Conservation Commission. The Select Board will speak to this.

- Article 12- Hebron Library Contract- If needed Ruth Gaffey or Gina can speak on behalf of the library. Sara will email them to remind them.
- Article 13- Voting times- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 14- RSA 80:80- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 15- Properties to sell- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this
- Closing- thank everyone for coming, ask people to get involved in committees, hope things get back to normal soon.

Tax Warrant

Sara explained that she will be working on the first billing for the tax warrant next week. **John motioned to come in and sign the warrant when it is ready, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Circle Program inspections

Sara had received an email from Circle Program that they want to have the inspections done in early June. Tony said he would do it again this year so Sara gave Tony the email with the contact information.

Meeting with Chief Coursey

Sara has reached out to Chief Coursey and he can meet on 5/18/21 at 6:00pm. She also reached out to NHMA about if a contract is needed. They responded with *“You should have a written independent contract agreement that spells out all of the material terms of the subcontracting relationship between the Rumney Fire Chief and the Town of Groton. Memorializing the agreement in the Select Board’s meeting minutes would not suffice.*

Due to this, Sara created a job offer letter for the Select Board to review. The Select Board is okay with this offer letter but need to change the hourly pay amount. Sara will update this before the next meeting.

Junkyard Information from other Towns

Sara had emailed MRI about the junkyard inspections because they originally said they would have someone to take Ken’s place. They said that at this time they do not have anyone that is able to provide this service. The Select Board asked Sara to reach out to other towns to see what they do. Sara did this and below is what she found out:

- Dorchester doesn’t have any junkyards in Town but the Select Board handled inspections in the past.
- Alexandria: The Health Officer does the inspections
- Hebron: Doesn’t currently have anyone and said if we found someone they would be interested and they nominate Tony.
- Bristol: Christina does them as the Land Use Manager and Health Officer
- Plymouth: They have a building inspector/code enforcement officer that does them but they do not do other towns. Recommended reaching out to Ashland which I did but they don’t do other towns either.
- Ashland: The Select Board has handled the inspections in the past.
- Rumney: Uses MRI as well so isn’t sure what they are doing at this point either.

The Select Board stated that it looks like they will have to do them this year. They will come up with a date by June to do these inspections. Sara will add this to the next agenda.

1214 North Groton Road

Sara reached out to the attorney as requested by the Select Board to let them know the trash is building up again. They want updated pictures and then they can go from there for the next step. Sara or one of the Selectmen will take some pictures and send them to the attorney for review.

Meeting with Bubba

Bubba met with the Select Board to go over the following:

- Set up for Town Meeting: Bubba will meet with Sara and the tent company on Thursday. We will set up the table and chairs Friday and test PA system on Friday at the park. We will plan on meeting at 8am on Saturday. It was agreed that we should put a sign out at the Town House that the Town meeting is at Everett Hobart Memorial Park. Sara will ask Ruth and Joanna if they can do a sign to put at the Town House starting tomorrow.
- Guardrails: These will be \$5,400 to repair them. Bubba will forward the estimate to Sara.
- Sara and Bubba worked on a lot of paperwork to have it ready to go if the Town votes in favor of the articles. The Select Board reviewed the postings for invitations to bid for River Road and Province Road and are okay with posting these asap after Town Meeting. If these articles pass, Sara will send the postings to the newspaper next week. She will combine them so they are on one posting to save the Town money.
- Mr. Fenoff called and reached out to see if there have been any issues with the culverts. Bubba explained we just stopped plowing up here but haven't noticed any issues at this time. The Select Board agreed and said that Fenoff & Sons did a great job.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:54pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant