

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
December 7, 2021

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

John called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Holiday Luncheon items

The luncheon is this Friday from 12pm-2pm. Gina got some items to raffle off. She will also make a few things if she has time. Sara already got the tablecloths, plates and napkins. People have reached out with the food they want to bring.

Email from Jennifer Gilbert regarding Beaver Pond Road

Jennifer Gilbert had reached out August 12, 2021 for an update of any activity that has happened on Beaver Pond Road. The prior update was that no permit had been submitted and the Town attorney had sent him a letter. Sara responded that as of today the Town still has not received any permit but we also have not received any reports from neighbors with any concerns about Ethier working in the flood zone so it appears that the work has stopped as far as we know. Sara also said that she knew that DES was involved with this as well and doing their own investigation.

On November 22, 2021 Jennifer responded with the following:

"I apologize for the long delay in responding to your email in regards to my request for a status update. As you indicated, you are not aware of any further activity at this site and you had not heard anything further from the neighboring property owner, which I have not heard anything as well. I spoke to FEMA Region 1 staff to determine what can be done to resolve this compliance case. FEMA staff asked if someone from the town could go to the site and determine (to the best of their ability) whether fill has been placed at the site and to take and send me pictures of the site. Since most of the fill that had been placed following the 2017 flooding was washed away during the 2019 flooding, FEMA is willing to clear this compliance case if, in addition to the 2019 cease-and-desist letter, it can be shown from a site visit and pictures that any additional fill has not been placed in the floodway since the 2019 flood event. Is this something that the town would be willing to do?"

John is willing do this over the weekend. Sara will let Jennifer know.

Transfer Station Attendant Position

There was another person that came in for an application for the Transfer Station attendant position. The Select Board agreed that Norm should set up interviews with all three applicants.

Town report items

John had typed up the letter for the Town report from the Select Board. Ron and Tony reviewed it and are okay with it as written.

Also, Sara is working on the dedication. The Select Board agrees we should dedicate the report to everyone that passed away this year. If we can't get pictures for all of them then we shouldn't use pictures at all and just list the names and dates.

Atwell/Orange Brook

Sara mentioned that they have been emailing about cleaning the river and hopefully getting a mitigation grant. Sara is waiting to hear back from HSEM to see if Fish and Game does have money budgeted for this or not.

Tony said that NLRA was also supposed to be looking into this. Sara will follow up with Rebecca to get an update. More sand is coming down so we need to get this resolved.

EOP

Sara mentioned the EOP update is on a hold right now. Bill Oakley is waiting to hear from Paul Hatch to see if they can work on it together or since an Agreement was signed for the grant, if we are required to move forward with that.

Budget Items

Since the last meeting Sara has received the following:

- Chief Bagan sent a revised Police Budget. He changed the part-time officer wages to \$1.00 and changed the vehicle maintenance to \$1,000.00. The Select Board is okay with the changes.
- Chief Bagan would also like to make sure that we start adding money back into the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund.
- The request from NCC which is under Advertising and Dues: They are asking for \$750 which is \$39.00 less than last year. We were under last year so we still have room but we are still waiting for dues for NH Assessing so we may have to change this line.

Meeting with Bubba

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

- Bubba got a quote for a CAT backhoe and it was close at around \$152,500.00. He will go look at the CAT to compare to the John Deere one. He is still waiting on JCB.
- Things are going well. They have been busy plowing or sanding every day. The spreader on the new truck is working well.
- The street signs came in finally so they put that up. Tony mentioned that Stone Glade doesn't have a street sign and it would help 911/Emergency services if they had a sign. The Select Board agreed that they would order it as long as they pay for it. The letter also needs to state that they are responsible for the installation.
- Bubba has been working hard to use his time off but may not be able to for the rest of the year. The Select Board approved him to carry over the remainder of his time. He is planning on taking a vacation at the beginning of April.
- Bubba has been using his own cell phone since he started. When he first started the Select Board offered him the phone the previous Chief was using but he wanted to hold off to see how much he actually uses it. He uses it a lot for work. He wanted to know if it would be an option to get a phone now. He would like to look into the First Net like the Fire Department uses that way they are priority as well and it is used with disasters. Tony will look into this to see if he can get the Town some information
- Bubba also uses his own computer so he would like to look at options for getting a computer for the Highway Department. They will discuss this at another meeting.
- Bubba is trying to get the fire/alarm company to come out to fix what was taken down when they did the mold remediation. Sara told him to let her know if he needs her to call them or email them.

Sara's vacation time

Sara explained that she has been trying to use her vacation time even though the Select Board approved her to carry it over because she realized she will not be using as much as she thought during her vacation at the end of the month due to how the holidays fall and she has to use her comp time and personal time up first. Due to this, she will most likely be putting in a request for next Thursday 12/16/21 as well as long as nothing pressing is happening. The Select Board is okay with this.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:56pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant