

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
January 19, 2021

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

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of January 5, 2021 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of January 5, 2021 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Swearing in- Plymouth Prosecutor

The Police Chief and the Select Board introduced Michael Clark and explained that he will be the prosecutor for the Town of Groton. He is with Plymouth Police Department. John read the appointment form out loud. **John motioned to swear in Michael Clark as the Prosecutor for the Town of Groton and sign the appointment form, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Ruth swore him in and also had to sign the appointment form and gave him the oath. Sara will email a copy of the appointment form/oath to Chief Bagan so he can send it to Michael Clark for his records.

Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability

The Town received an application for the Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability. The Town received the letter which states that the records of the Department of Veterans Affairs verifies that the resident was rated permanent and totally disabled effective 1/16/2018. There were no questions. **John motioned to approve the Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Hebron Library

Michael Riess is the head of the Hebron Space Needs Committee and the committee asked to meet with the Select Board and the Library Trustees to discuss the need for a new library. The committee anticipates a new facility plan will be brought to the Town of Hebron in the next three to five years. They are asking Groton the following questions:

- Is Groton interested in continuing to use the Hebron Library as a resource?
- Would Groton like to partner with Hebron in the construction of a new dual community facility?
- Perhaps Groton would want a formal agreement with a new Hebron Facility for an annual fee like the present relationship with the Hebron Fire Department?
- How does Groton feel about its relationship with Hebron along these lines?

John said that the Select Board does not believe the Town would vote in favor of this.

Ruth Gaffey explained that there are not many residents that use the library. The Trustees have been paying \$2000.00 a year for use of the library but there is not an interest in Town.

John explained that it seems that libraries are becoming extinct as people are not using libraries and are using the internet. It doesn't seem like there is enough value to put money into something that will be going away.

Ruth said that she feels Libraries are valuable but given the history in the Town, the Town doesn't use it enough to justify this. Hebron Library is open only 11 hours. The Minot-Sleeper Library in Bristol is open more and is available to Groton residents at no charge so they would be able to use that library. Ruth said that Hebron has a lovely library but it is not feasible for Groton.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba explained they have been busy plowing and sanding.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Credit Card payments

Ruth mentioned that they are working on the credit card machine for the office. There are some issues that they are working on. She had Dave Switaj helping her with this. It looks like the issues are on Interware's side. At this time, they cannot accept credit card payments at the office but credit cards can be used online.

Posting for Open Positions

Ann asked if the open positions have been posted yet. Ruth said that it has not been but she will make sure it is posted this week. Any resident who wishes to file a declaration of candidacy can do so January 20th through January 29th.

Town Meeting items

The Select Board explained that they are considering off site for the Town meeting as they anticipate a large turnout due to voting on the building. There has been talks that they are going to allow the meetings to be delayed through July but this isn't definite yet. If it is approved to delay it, the Town meeting could be held outside at our Park in the warmer months. If it cannot be delayed, the Select Board is looking into using a school, hall, or another larger place. NHMA mentioned that they should have more information on this by the end of January, beginning of February.

Idea for funding for the Public Works Building

Miles said that since he was here last his wheels have been turning and he was wondering if the windfarm would make a contribution for the building project. He said that he briefly mentioned it to Pam and she said she could give us some information of who to talk to. The Select Board agreed to explore this. Sara will reach out to Pam to see who to contact regarding this.

Perambulation

Miles asked if the Select Board reached out to Alan Barnard about the perambulation concern. John said that we did reach out to Alan Barnard. He responded that the perambulation was accepted by both Alexandria and Groton Select Boards and there was a cost deduction for work that wasn't done. John said

that the Select Board doesn't know if it is pursuing because it could cost more to do so than it is worth. John said that Select Board would look at it again after town meeting. Sara will forward Miles the emails.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:27pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant