

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
March 2, 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 February 16, 2021 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of February 16, 2021 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of February 16, 2021 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Memo- Trustees of the Trust Fund- Assessing Revaluation

This is our revaluation year so the assessing costs will be more than usual. This happens every five years. Due to this we will need to take money out of the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. It will be \$31,800.00 which will be billed in monthly installments of \$2,650.00. **John motioned to sign the memo requesting the transfer of funds from the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund to the Town's Meredith Village Savings bank account, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit- Map 7 Lot1

The owner submitted a building permit for a 28x32 two car garage with breezeway. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 7 Lot 1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Local Septic approval- Map 7 Lot 52

Colin Brown dropped off a Septic Plan and local approval for Map 7 Lot 52. All the information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local approval for Map 7 Lot 52, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Report of cut/yield certificate- Map 1 Lots 81 & 82

The Town received a report of cut for Map 1 Lots 81 & 82 on Warren Lane and North Groton Road for a cut of about 3 acres. The amount of the tax is \$104.74. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 1 Lots 81 & 82, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

NHEC Broadband

A resident emailed an update regarding the internet service being rolled out by New Hampshire Electric Co-op. They are calling the service "NH Broadband" and they have created a website for the service: [NH Broadband \(https://nhbroadband.com/\)](https://nhbroadband.com/). On the website, there is a place to enter a physical address and

express interest in signing up when service becomes available in the area. It asks for basic contact information so they can keep people posted on their progress, no deposit required or anything like that. He expects that areas with the most people requesting service will be prioritized in the full build out.

He asked that this be mentioned at the Select Board meeting and possibly posted on the Town's website to encourage members of the community to express interest if they think they may want to go with the Co-op for Broadband. He checked the map and service will ultimately cover all parts of Groton that are served by NHEC for electricity. He also hopes that the Town Office/Library, Garage, Transfer Station, etc. will consider expressing interest in institutional/business accounts. This may improve the chances of Groton's build out happening sooner and going with NHEC for Broadband keep the funds the Town is spending on internet service local. NH Broadband is a non-profit based in Plymouth while Spectrum is for-profit and based in Stamford, CT and Consolidated is for-profit and based in Mattoon, IL.

It looks like there will be two service tiers for residential accounts: 25/25 mbps for \$49.95/month and 1000/1000 mbps for \$89.95/month. Business accounts will be \$79.95 for 100/100 mbps and \$149.95 for 1000/1000 mbps. It is important to note that this will be fully fiber internet with symmetrical upload/download speeds. Consolidated and Spectrum do not offer symmetrical connections so upload speeds tend to be much lower and the connection less reliable in general.

The Select Board agreed that Sara can sign the Town up as interested and put this information on the website.

Newfound Landing article "Grant awarded to Groton for Public Works Building"

The February 18th article titled "Grant awarded to Groton for Public Works Building" contained information that was misleading. The article was written by Maggie Hassan's office and the Select Board felt they were taking credit for the grant when they were not involved in the process. They feel this was used to try to get political votes. The article made it seem like the building was definitely being done and it didn't mention that the grant didn't cover the entire building and didn't mention the bond.

John called the newspaper who had Maggie Hassan's office contact John. John asked them questions about the article and where they got the information. They said they contacted USDA and got some facts but the Select Board felt that they needed to put out an article on behalf of the Select Board to clarify some of the things that were said in the article.

John wrote up a response to the article that the Select Board reviewed, made changes and approved. It was then sent to the newspaper, with a request to put this on the front page of the Newfound Landing like the original article was to clarify what was said.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following

- This time of year, when there is ice on the gravel roads, there is not much they he can do while it is raining. If you put sand down, it disappears or gets washed away. Once the rain stops, they go treat the roads.
- They have been busy plowing and sanding.
- Fred is out for the rest of the week as he was picked for jury duty.

Police Department

Chief Bagan will reach out to the dispatch to see if anyone is interested in a Part-time Police Officer position. He will not hire anyone until Town meeting to make sure the budget for this isn't voted down but wants to see if there is any interest out there.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:15pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant