

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
May 5, 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 April 20, 2021 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of April 20, 2021 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Interoffice Memo- Exemptions/Credits Updated letters per re-valuation

Every five years the Town does a re-valuation where DRA and Avitar work with the Town to make sure we are doing everything that we need to be doing and collecting the necessary documentation for current use, credits, exemptions, etc. They also do this to make sure the properties are being assessed appropriately. Due to this, every five years the Town sends out an updated residency letter for credits and exemptions and goes over any supporting documentation needed to make sure there are no changes. Sara has sent these letters out and has received some back so far. **John motioned to sign the interoffice memos for each of the exemptions/credits that Sara has received back so far, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Building Permit- Map 10 Lot 4

The owner previously dropped off two building permits for his property located on 37 Stage Coach Road. One was for a 3-bedroom home and the other was for a pre-built shed. These went before the Planning Board for review and the owner emailed that the Planning Board approved him to move forward but he needed an updated release form for the private road which he has since submitted. John was at that meeting and said it is all set to move forward. **John motioned to approve the building permits for Map 10 Lot 4 and sign the release form, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Report of cut/yield certificates

- The first report of cut is an updated one for Map 10 Lot 42 on Halls Brook Road for a cut of about 35 acres. Last meeting, the Select Board signed this with the amount of the tax being \$593.48. There was a typo on the number of cords that was submitted. It should have been 188 cords to bring the amount of the tax to \$854.05. **John motioned to sign the revised yield certificate for Map 10 Lot 42, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
- The second report of cut is for Map 8 Lot 1. There was no cut done this year so no yield certificate will be done.

- The third report of cut is for Map 7 Lot 10 on Halls Brook Road for a cut of about 12 acres. The amount of the tax to \$231.96. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 7 Lot 10, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
- The last report of cut is for Map 1 Lot 97&100 on River Road for a cut of about 2 acres. The amount of the tax to \$115.15. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 1 Lots 97&100, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Supervisor Vacancy

The Supervisors of the Checklist submitted a Memo that they have appointed Virginia Parker to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Anne Tobine. Virginia will be sworn in and prepared to participate in the Town Meeting on May 8, 2021. This appointment is good until the elections in 2022.

Conservation Commission interest

Virginia Parker submitted a letter of interest to be part of the Conservation Commission. **John motioned to appoint Virginia Parker to the Conservation Commission, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba said that they have been checking culverts for debris from winter.

Police Department

Chief did the annual recertification for the cruiser radar.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Conservation Commission

- They had 6 people at the clean up on May 1st. They did North Groton Road but they were not able to do a few sections.
- The Kids Fishing Derby will take place the first Saturday in June, which is June 5th. John said they have the signs that they use every year that they will need to put up. Sara will see if she has the flyer saved and will change the date. Sara will also put this on the website. Bubba did get the plywood to repair the bridge so that everyone can walk over but they cannot drive over. The fish will be delivered on Thursday before.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Tree

While Slim was out on Sculptured Rocks Road the other day, he stopped at the bridge and the tree was still down in the water. He talked to the owner and told her that the tree could be an issue someday so she can have someone cut it up. She wanted to give the Town permission to do this so she may contact the Town about this. The Select Board explained that when the State was out there, they said the Town cannot do it, it has to be the landowner or they can hire someone.

Town Garage warrant article

Slim said that since the Town Garage is a big warrant article for Saturday, he has information on the salt and sand sheds that Bubba could contact for more information and pricing. Bubba explained that until the Town votes on Saturday we cannot reach out to companies yet. Sara explained that we have to move

forward at the Town Meeting with the engineer prices and then will send it out to bid after if it passes at Town Meeting.

River Road Paving

Slim said that he saw the article for the paving on River Road so he reached out to the State to see when they will be working on the dam. They said that nothing will happen on the dam until 2023. John said we can't rely on that, or wait for them to do that, so we will see how the Town votes and then will do the paving this year if it passes. If there is any damage done when they work on the dam, then they will be responsible for repairing it.

Town Meeting

Ann asked about Town Meeting this Saturday. John stated that this will take place this Saturday May 8th at 9am at Everett Hobart Memorial park. There will be two tents there, one for masked people and one for those without masks. The tents will be delivered tomorrow and we will set up chairs and tables on Friday so we should be all set by Saturday at 9am. There will not be food or coffee. The weather is looking better for Saturday and the rain is supposed to hold off.

River Road petition

Dan Plumer lives on River Road and they have been having issues with tenants at Patti Bailey's tenants place at 158 River Road. The Police have been there many times, both State Police and local Police. There are concerns about the junk vehicles, the electric has been pulled by the electric company, there has been a small child there, and they have been seen opening the hoods on the neighbors' cars or going into the cars. Some neighbors have had money taken out of their cars and others have had car parts taken off their cars. They do this all hours of the night.

The neighbors wanted to sign something to see what they can do about this so the majority of the neighbors signed the petition to ask that the property be required to be cleaned up, to monitor the traffic and loud noises from the tenants all hours of the night and to patrol the area due to neighbors having missing property. They are asking the Town to take immediate action towards these concerns. They wanted to have something on record and to make sure the Town is aware of the issues. Dan said there has been a lot of involvement from the State Police and our Police Chief so he knows they are aware of the issues.

John let them know that the Town has been made aware of some of the issues but doesn't have all of the information that the Police would have. Regarding the junk cars and such, this property is on the junkyard list so that will be looked at and requested to be cleaned up. These inspections happen in June and then they are given a date when it needs to be cleaned up by and could be charged fines if it isn't cleaned up. The letters about these inspections and fines and such will go to the owner of the property, not the tenant.

John said that we can talk to the Police Chief to see what has been done on their end and if no one has contacted DHHS or DCYF then we will reach out. If there is no power there is no water but the Police may already be aware and may already be working on this but they may not be able to share exactly what they are doing.

Sara said that as neighbors who can see firsthand what is going on, they can call DHHS or DCYF themselves and file complaints. Sara said if he contacted each neighbor that signed the petition and if they all call, it will make the State aware of the concerns and the more complaints the more likely they are to look into faster.

Tony said they should try to get security cameras or trail cameras to see if they can get pictures of the people that are doing it.

Chief Bagan said that he has been working on this and with the neighbors but they need proof and factual evidence to move forward. He has been involved and will talk to the Select Board about what has been done that is information that he cannot share with the public. Chief has reached out to other law enforcement agencies and has been working with the State Police and other but right now they don't have any factual evidence that they can act on but they are continuing to work on it.

Police Chief Bagan asked to talk to the Select Board in a non-public meeting once the Select Board meeting was over.

John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 7:40pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to return to public session at 7:50pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to seal the non-public minutes, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:50pm, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant