

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
October 19, 2021

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

Absent: Ron Madan

Audience Members Present

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of October 5, 2021 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING RSA 31:95-b- ACCEPT AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS

John motioned to open the public hearing regarding RSA 31:95-b to accept the ARPA funds at 7:01pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John explained that Groton will be getting \$62,290, and the first payment of \$31,145.17 has been received so the Select Board need to accept these funds. **John motioned to accept the \$31,145,17 of ARPA funds received today and to accept the next payment making it \$62,290.00 total that the Town will accept in total, Tony 2nd so voted.**

Senator Giuda's office sent the following information regarding what the ARPA funds can be used for. There are four eligible use categories for Fiscal Recovery Funds:

- To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

The Select Board agreed to use these ARPA funds on the mold remediation for the Town Garage. The four eligible reasons didn't really show this project under it so the Town reached out to GOEFFER and NHMA to see if this was okay and the answer that we received was as follows:

"Yes – while this project does not appear to meet one of the specific eligible uses called out in ARPA and accompanying Treasury guidance, it does appear to fall into the broad category of "government services"

that a local government may use LFRF funds to support in the context of revenue loss – that is, to the extent of a reduction in revenue as a result of the public health emergency (as defined by ARPA and accompanying Treasury guidance). The eligibility of this project depends on if the Town of Groton did experience a revenue loss per ARPA definition.

The Select Board explained that they will be using the first payment towards the mold remediation and there will be other meetings when it is decided how the rest of the money will be spent. **John motioned to use the ARPA funds towards the mold remediation first and then any other remaining funds will be used for purposes consistent with the Treasury's Rules, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

John asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding this. Hearing no comments or questions, **John motioned to close the public hearing at 7:05pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Assessing Request for Proposal (RFP)

Sara created an Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Assessing services like we do every five years. Sara sent this to the newspaper for the October 21, 2021 edition and has put this online. She will send it out to Avitar and will also look on the DRA website and send out to at least three more companies. The deadline is Monday, November 22, 2021 which gives them a month from when it is in the paper.

USDA Grant Application- Backhoe

Sara completed the application for the USDA Grant for the backhoe. This is the same grant that we applied for, for the truck in the past. The application deadline is December 17, 2021 but Sara wanted to get this in before then in case they need anything else from us. They said we could submit after October 1, 2021.

We will eventually have to have a public hearing to inform the public that we applied for this grant. Just has to be some time after the application is submitted and accepted and before money is granted.

There are some forms that just the Select Board Chair needs to sign and some that the entire Select Board need to sign. **John motioned to sign the USDA Grant application forms for the backhoe, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Local Septic Approval- Map 6 Lot 63-4

Matt Barnard dropped off a septic plan and local approval for Map 6 Lot 63-4. All information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 63-4, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Local Septic Approval- Map 6 Lot 63-5

Matt Barnard dropped off a septic plan and local approval for Map 6 Lot 63-5. All information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 63-5, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Junkyard letters

There are two properties that were in violation. One has been cleaned up and one has not. The attorney drafted letters to these property owners for the Select Board to sign. The Select Board asked that these be mailed out certified mail. **John motioned to sign the junkyard letters and have Ron come in and sign when he is able to, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Santa's Workshop Questions

Last year Rob and Kathleen Brown held Santa's Workshop with a meet and greet with Santa and Mrs. Claus. They want to continue this for the Town of Groton and all the children and families who could use a little

Christmas cheer. Their son and daughter in law are going to be helping out this year and they want to add a couple of fun things to the day. One is that they are going to take some professional photos of the kids and Santa and they were thinking about having them posted to the Town's website so families could download a free picture of their time with Santa. They wanted to know if they can do that or not. The Select Board said that the Town shouldn't be involved but they should have the photographer get the residents email address or give the resident their information so they can email the photos over.

They also want to offer some hot cocoa and didn't know if that requires any kind of permission to do so since we are still in a global pandemic. The Select Board would be fine with them offering hot cocoa and then the people could decide if they are comfortable with it or not.

Sara will email them back to let them know of these recommendations.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

HealthTrust Medical Coverage agreement for 2022

HealthTrust sent the yearly agreement for the Health Insurance for 2022. The medical rates decreased 8.1%. The dental rates decreased 1.5%. The short-term disability increased 0.7%. The long-term disability stayed the same. The life coverage stayed the same. **John motioned to sign the HealthTrust Medical Coverage agreement for 2022, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Local Septic Approval- Map 2 Lot 91

The owner dropped off a septic plan and local approval for Map 2 Lot 91. All information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 2 Lot 91, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Residents

John is sorry to announce that two Town residents have recently passed away. Chuck Stata who used to be the Health Officer and Paul Norman who has lived in Town for a long time. They will be missed.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following

- Smith Road is scheduled for the top coat on 10/21/21.
- They finished shoulder gravel on River Road yesterday.
- Parking Bans will be starting soon for parking on the road.
- Bubba and Sara went a training last Friday in Mutual Aid and Cyber Security. It was very informative. The Town is a member of the Municipal Aid.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Ruth said they had the tax conference last week and it went well. The attorney for the tax association talked about law that the towns cannot benefit from sale of town property, like we have learned about in the last year. Avitar did a workshop as well that was helpful.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

State Car

Slim said when he was going out of Town last week, he noticed a State Car coming off of Sculptured Rocks Road. He thinks it said Wetlands or DES on the side. Slim wanted to know if they looked at the dam issue and

if they came up here after or let the Town know about it. The Town has not heard any feedback yet but we did email them for an update and are waiting to hear back. John said the last he knew they were going to suggest that the landowner take it down. Chief said it hasn't been completely taken down but has been opened up more to allow more water through.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:25pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant