

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
December 7, 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 Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of November 16, 2021 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of November 16, 2021 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Assessing Request for Proposal

The Town of Groton had advertised online, in newspapers, and reached out to assessing firms. We only received a bid back from Avitar. Sara had pulled the old agreement so the Select Board could compare. It covers the same thing but the process is over a five-year period. The old amount is \$74,274.00 which was for 4 years instead of 5, this one is for 5 years and the amount is \$97,956.00. The monthly payment amount will be very close to the same but the cost to update the contract on the 5th year, the revaluation year, went up about \$5,000.00.

Assessing Contract

Since Avitar was the only one to submit a bid and the cost increase is reasonable, the Select Board agreed to move forward with Avitar. **John motioned to sign the five-year contract with Avitar for \$97,956.00, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Avitar 2022 Terra Mapping Agreement

Avitar sent in the Terra Mapping Services Agreement. This is sent in yearly. The Town does the 1 year and the cost this year is \$1,780.00 which it did increase this year by \$120.00 but covers everything it did in the past. **John motioned to sign the 2022 Avitar Terra Mapping Services Agreement, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Refund request- Map 5 Lot 68

Ruth submitted a refund request due to an overpayment of taxes during a property sale. The requested amount to refund is \$2,180.04. **John motioned to sign the refund request, Tony 2nd, so voted.** Sara will cut this check next week.

Building Permit Letter- Map 1 Lot 66

It has been brought to the Board's attention that the resident is constructing a new building on their property located on Map 1, Lot 66, 1725 North Groton Road. There is no building permit on file so the Select Board is sending them a letter. **John motioned to sign the building permit letter for Map 1 Lot 66, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Abatement Application and letter- Map 10 Lot 42

The Town received an email from FORECO/Green Acre Woodlands requesting an abatement for the inventory penalty received on Map 10 Lot 42. They did turn the form in but they dated it 2019 which made it appear to be an older inventory they submitted. After review, it was the 2021 inventory so they should not be charged the penalty. **John motioned to sign the abatement application and letter for Map 10 Lot 42, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Dead River- Certificate for exemption of Federal Diesel Tax

Each year Dead River sends the renewal form for the Town to fill out to continue their tax-exempt status. The current certificate for exemption of federal diesel tax expires on December 31, 2021. **John motioned to sign the 2022 certificate for exemption of federal diesel tax, Ron 2nd, so voted**

Twin Rivers Office Machines 2022 agreement

The Select Board received the contract from Twin Rivers Office Machines, Inc covering 1/1/22-12/31/22. This contract covers the same details as last year and is for \$30.00 more. **John motioned to sign the Twin Rivers Office Machines, Inc contract, Tony 2nd, so voted**

Intent to cut- Map 5 Lot 161

The logger submitted an intent for Map 5 Lot 161 for property located off Sculptured Rocks Road. This is about a 35- acre cut. No bond is needed. **John motioned to sign intent to cut for Map 5 Lot 161, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 5 Lot 162

The logger submitted an intent for Map 5 Lot 162 for property located off Smith Road. This is about a 45- acre cut. No bond is needed. **John motioned to sign intent to cut for Map 5 Lot 162, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

2022 Holiday Scheduled

Sara submitted a Memo to the Select Board as she does every year which breaks down when each Holiday actually is and when it is observed and the offices are closed. This year most of the holidays fall on the same day that they are observed but some do not, there are four holidays that do not. There are two holidays which fall on a day the Transfer Station is open. These are Christmas Day which is Sunday, December 25th, and New Year's Day which is Sunday, January 1, 2023. Sara will talk to Norm and ask if the Transfer Station will be open, closed or closing early these days. John read the days the offices will be closed and these will be added to the calendar. **John motioned to approve the holiday schedule for 2022, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Norm put up a reminder about Christmas and New Year's this year since they both fall on Saturdays so the Transfer Station will be closed. Sara created a posting for the Town House and the Transfer Station and she put this on the calendar. Norm put this on the new sign board at the Transfer Station, which looks great!

Bubba mentioned that Juneteenth is now a federal holiday so he asked why this isn't on the list. Sara said that they usually follow the State Holidays and didn't see this on their list for 2022 so she didn't know if they were doing a floating holiday or not. She will look into this.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Thanksgiving Baskets

The Town received some donations and with these donations we were able to help six families in Groton by delivering four Thanksgiving baskets and two gift cards to some of our residents. Chief, Ruth and Sara all took part in the deliveries. Thank you to the Haney Family, Ron Madan, the Lions Club and everyone else for their donations.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following

- They have been sanding and plowing.
- Bubba reminded all residents that even though it has been very icy, they need to stick to the 3-4 five-gallon bucket limit. They also should only be taking the sand from the pile that says for residents, not the covered pile.

Police

Chief Bagan went over the following:

- He submitted a revised budget to the Select Board.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:18pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant