

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
December 21, 2021

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

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of December 7, 2021 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of December 7, 2021 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

MS-60A

Each year the Town submits an MS-60A after the MS-60W has been submitted. These are forms pertaining to the local town audit completed by the locally elected auditor. **John motioned to sign the MS-60A, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Letter to MIT Outing Club

Tony Albert and Nick Coursey from the Rumney Fire Department did the follow up inspection at MIT. There are a few things they still need to complete which is what the letter explains and then they will have another inspection. **John motioned to sign the letter to MIT, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Email from Deb regarding FEMA Flood Insurance questions

FEMA had emailed the Town a letter and Map for the Flood insurance. Deb looked over it as the Planning Board Chair and sent an email to the Select Board with some questions and asked if we should set up a meeting with other committees/departments such as the Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Emergency Management, Bubba, etc.

John motioned to table this and to schedule a meeting for Tuesday January 4, 2022 at 530pm at the Town House, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Sara will email the other departments to see if they can meet. Sara will also make copies of Debs email for the Select Board to review before the meeting.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

ARPA Funds- Broadband

Sara had an exploratory call regarding the broadband option for ARPA Funds as discussed at the November 16, 2021 Select Board meeting. The call was with Carol Miller, the Director of Broadband Initiatives for the National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE). Carol explained to Sara that the National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE) and the NH Municipal Association (NHMA) have partnered to create the NH Broadband Investment Planning Network to provide consulting services to municipalities.

Both NHMA and NCDE recognize that there is a great need for improving the access, reliability, and speeds of internet in the state of New Hampshire. Both NHMA and NCDE recognize that many municipalities are seeking help in addressing broadband issues in their community.

NCDE agrees to provide the following services based on contract hours and materials:

- a. Prepare community leadership with investment and capacity building readiness planning for the infrastructure of the future (fiber) by mapping current broadband providers service coverage and highlighting gaps in unserved and underserved portions of town.
- b. Create goals and objectives based on community needs and desires through a public process.
- c. Help secure partners in non-profits, banking, federal and state funding opportunities.
- d. Provide recommendations that reflect best models in Public and Private partnering and sharing of funding resources with one or more communities if interested in becoming a part of Communications District
- e. Promote solutions that incorporate affordable pricing (<\$15/month) for low- and moderate-income households
- f. Provide report at the end of contract.

To join the network, NHMA members must allocate a portion of their CSLFRF grant funds or other available funds to NCDE. The portion to be allocated will be based on population, as stated below:

25-4,999: \$5,000

NCDE will provide NHMA a fee equal to 15% (fifteen percent) of each of the contributions each municipality makes to the network.

She attached the contract for review. It is basic but does include mapping activities which would outline where in Town has service, where doesn't, etc. It can also be revised to include needs the selectmen wish to add as a goal/objective during a work session discussion. It is a 6-month project from start to finish. Once a contract is executed, she will create a timeline to completion.

She thought the Select Board may want to schedule a call at one of the next meetings to ask any questions before they start the process. She also said to let her know if there is anything else we need from her regarding this.

Sara asked the Select Board if they would like to schedule a call before they sign the contract or how they wanted to proceed from here. They agreed that the information is clear and they do not need to schedule a call. **John motioned to sign the contract with NCDE, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Christmas Donation

A resident that wants to remain anonymous donating money for Christmas gifts for kids. We were able to give families gift cards to Walmart to get gifts for their kids. Thank you for the donation!

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following

- Norm rolled the backhoe over today. He is okay and that is what's most important. It was a little scary but he is okay and we are working on getting everything situated for the backhoe.
- They have been plowing and sanding.

Police

Chief Bagan went over the following:

- One radar sign is out of service for a warranty repair. He had to send it out but it is still under warranty which is good.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Groton Historical Society (GHS)

Slim mentioned that they are still working on the Town Pound. They have the signs but haven't put them up yet until the trees are removed. He put flags up for the trees to be removed. He has had three people promise to remove them but they haven't yet so he had someone come look and give a quote. He originally said he would do it for \$500 but then ended up going down to \$300. He has a certificate of insurance. Slim asked if the Town would give approval for the work to be done if GHS raises the money for this and the Select Board said they would. **John motioned that if money is raised for tree removal at the Town Pound and the company has insurance, they approve moving forward with the tree removal, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Quotes for covers at Transfer Station

Slim said he got word that we are getting quotes for covers to go over the dumpsters/recyclables. John explained that we are just getting quotes right now. Slim said he heard they are around 100,000, it was explained that it is higher than this but everything is going up. John explained his prices on everything at work is going up so they removed all the prices off the shelves. John said if we are going to do it, we have to do it correctly and cannot be cheap about it. Tony explained it is expensive because it has to be wind resistant with the wind, we get up there. John mentioned it will make it so our transportation costs are cheaper though because it should keep the water out.

Province Road Concern

Bubba said that people are still trying to get thru Province Road to get to their property in Dorchester, they are Dorchester residents not Groton. Bubba said we should look at more signs or something that we can do since this is not safe especially this time of year. Also, we just put money into this road and don't want this ruined by people traveling the road when they shouldn't be or plowing it when they shouldn't be, etc. Sara will email NHMA to see what our options are and see if we can put out gates this time of year since it is only seasonally maintained

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant