

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
January 18, 2022

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

John called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Town Report items

Sara explained she has been working on the Town report a lot. She will have the draft put together the end of next week for the Select Board to review before we send to the printers. She wanted the Select Board to decide on the cover photo and see if they were okay with the dedication as written. The Select Board agreed on the cover photo and all agreed the dedication is approved as written. Sara will send the cover photo to the printers first.

John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (b) at 5:30pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to return to public session at 5:40pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

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

Email regarding Planning Board

A resident emailed the Select Board with concerns about the Zoning Ordinance that the Planning Board put together. They also would like something to be done about the Planning Board minutes not being available when they should. At the time of the email the October, November and December minutes still were not online but have since been sent over and are online. The Select Board discussed the email and John said that Deb mentioned at the Planning Board Hearing last night that they will send the draft over right away in the future but he will make sure to do a reminder at the next meeting.

Hebron email

Karen from Hebron emailed the Select Board stating that the Hebron Select Board will be meeting with the Bridgewater Select Board this week to discuss the potential impact of the petitioned warrant article on the Newfound Area School District ballot to change the funding formula. This was an invitation to the Groton Select Board to join in on the discussion. She just emailed today that she is posting a meeting with the Bridgewater Select Board and Groton Select Board to meet on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at 7 School Street to discuss the petitioned warrant article and possible impact to towns. John and Tony can attend. They would like Sara to attend to take minutes.

Closeout 2021

It was agreed to closeout 2021 and stop making payments out of the 2021 budget now that we should have received all bills from 2021 by now. If any other ones come in, they will have to be paid out of the 2022 budget. Sara will work on the 1099's on Thursday and send them out now that 2021 is closed out.

Transfer Station Porta Potty

Ron asked how often they are supposed to come out and clean the porta potty at the Transfer Station because it hasn't been done in a while. Sara will call them to check on this.

Budget Items

The 1st Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled for February 1, 2022 at 6:00pm. Sara had put together an updated budget and the only things that have changed since the last meeting are the items that were discussed and the YTD totals after we paid some bills. This led to noticing that the Transfer Station Porta Potty did use all of that line so Sara mentioned that line should probably go back to what it was last year since if anything it will at least stay the same. The Select Board agreed. Sara will make this change. Other than that, everything looks good from the last meeting.

Warrant Articles

At the last meeting, the Select Board started looking through the warrant articles that the departments submitted. They made it through a few articles last week and then they ran out of time so they decided to pick up where they left off.

- The Select Board had left off on the Article for the site work at the land across from the Transfer Station. Last week, they had agreed that Bubba will get a quote before the meetings but we should put \$100,000.00 for now until we get that quote. John thinks we shouldn't do the site work not knowing if they will move forward with the building in the future. He thinks that they should just put money into the CRF each year until we are ready to do it all. Tony thinks that we should at least do the dirt work so we know what is there. Then once this is done, we can get it laid out, with a site plan and then could at least put up a salt/sand shed. Ron agreed that we should move forward with the dirt work. The Select Board agreed to let the Town vote on this and put that they recommend this article 2-1.
- This article is for the covers at the Transfer Station which the quote was for \$168,000.00. There is a potential for a grant for this through USDA but we already submitted a grant through USDA for the backhoe this year but could apply for the USDA grant for the covers next year. The Select Board discussed either putting this before the town this year without the grant or waiting until next year and submit with the potential of a grant. The Select Board agreed to hold off until next year for this one and they will explain this to the Town. Sara will remove it.
- This article is for the new backhoe. The quotes are for around \$165,000 but there is \$50,000 that could potentially come from the USDA grant, \$50,000 from the Heavy Equipment CRF and then the Select Board would like the remaining \$65,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance so that nothing comes from taxation. The Select Board recommends this article 3-0. Sara will ask for assistance on wording for this in case we do not get the grant then we would need to raise the \$50,000 from taxation.
- This article was submitted by Bubba to establish a Road Repair and Paving CRF and to appropriate \$50,000 to be placed in the fund. The Select Board wanted to hold off on this until next year since all of the paving projects have recently been completed. Sara will remove this from the warrant.
- This article is for paving of the Town House. The Select Board recommends this article 3-0.
- This article is for paving of the intersections in Groton. The Select Board recommends this article 3-0 if Bubba wants to keep this one on but feels that he should choose between this one and the trailer in the next article.
- This article is for an equipment trailer for the Highway Department. The Select Board recommends this article 3-0 if Bubba wants to keep this one on but feels that he should choose between this one and the intersection paving in the previous article.
- This article is to recoat and restripe the basketball court at the park. The Select Board recommends this article 3-0.
- This article is for Town Forest Management. It was agreed to hold off on this one since the Town doesn't know what the plans are for those pieces of land. Sara will remove this one.
- This article is for the 3% of the Timber Tax for the Conservation Commission from the unassigned fund balance. The Select Board recommends this article 3-0.

The Select Board went through each article and voted on if they recommend it or not.

Sara will make the changes to the warrant articles from this meeting and will send it to the attorney for review like we always do before public hearing. She is also waiting for Debs wording for the zoning article for the ballot. Once this is done, she will make copies of the warrant articles for the public hearing. She will also update the budget to reflect the changes from the warrant articles and will make copies of the budget for the public hearing as well.

Meeting with Bubba

Bubba met with the Select Board to go over the following:

- Bubba had submitted two articles that were around the same price range. John asked him if he had to choose between these two articles, the paving of the intersections and the trailer which would he prefer. Bubba would prefer to move forward with the intersections and move the trailer to next year. The Select Board agreed.
- Sara and Bubba had a call with FirstNet. They can get phones for .99 with a plan and then the plan is only \$44.99 a month which includes the unlimited talk, text, data and priority hotspot. The phones also come with the option for the push to talk like the old Nextel phones had. This is cheaper than the Verizon plan the Chief is on. The Select Board agreed that we should set this up for Bubba and Chief. There are also options for personal offers for those that aren't getting a town paid for phone but do work for the Town and want to use this service. Once Bubba and Chief are set up with this then the Town employees will have a code to mention when they call to set up their personal lines.
- The door is on the backhoe but the roof came and was cracked so it has to go back. The roof is supposed to be here this week.
- They have been busy plowing, sanding and salting.
- The pick-up truck didn't start this morning for Bubba and he isn't sure why. He jumped it and it has been fine since.
- Tony asked if he can get a better roof light for the pick-up truck. Bubba said it has other ones on the bar but he will look at it.
- Tony asked if we can sand down by the dumpsters. Bubba said they do if they know the guys are coming or we know we are using it but they don't do it every storm if no one will be there so that they aren't wasting the sand and time.

Transfer Station items

- Tony asked Sara to contact the co-op and say we are having problem with the single phase at the Transfer Station, we need three phase. The three phase stops around Frank Harris' so it isn't much further to the Transfer Station. They would have less issues with the compactor if it was three phase.
- The Transfer Station closed for a few hours on Saturday because George was sick. He left around noon and Norm was there by 2:00pm to reopen it. Bubba said that we can let the Transfer Station know to call him if they can't get ahold of Norm if there are any emergencies in the future.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:55pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant