

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
February 1, 2022

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

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

Budget Items

Sara updated the budget and warrant articles since the last meeting and since we received the Zoning Ordinance Wording from Deb and the Planning Board. Sara provided the Select Board with the budget with the differences on the side so they could see how much each line went up or down since last year. The Select Board reviewed the budget and warrant articles. Sara explained that she put these online last Thursday, and on the table downstairs last Thursday, so everyone can review them ahead of time.

A few things have come up since then, and after the last meeting which were discussed below:

Article 5- Site Work

Sara explained that Bubba just emailed her the quote from Casey Kuplin this week regarding the Warrant Article on the site work on the land across from the Transfer Station. This was after she already printed the copies for the public hearing and the Select Board hadn't met to discuss this yet anyway so since they agreed on the \$100,000. Sara couldn't make the change until the Select Board met and discussed this and agreed on what they want to change this amount to. The quote was for \$21,000 but it doesn't include gravel so we would want to increase this if we change the amount for site work. May want to add layout design to this. Bubba suggested keeping it \$100,000 and changing the wording to site work and sand shed or maybe even the salt shed too. The Select Board discussed this and agreed to only do the site work and some plan design and change the amount to \$30,000.00 to cover the site work and any plan design that may be needed, like septic plan, etc. It was also agreed to change the wording to say site work and plan design.

The Select Board will mention the change during the meeting tonight and Sara will make the changes after the meeting so the copies that go in the Town report for the Town Meeting will be updated. The updated budget and warrant article will be printed and put online and in the Town Report.

Map 2 Lot 123 interest in purchasing land

The abutter of Map 2 Lot 123 emailed the Select Board to see if they would consider an offer on this lot. He knows it is landlocked and would like to purchase it.

Sara emailed the attorney regarding this to see if the Select Board need to do a warrant article on this or if they are covered by warrant article 14 that passed last year that stated:

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to RSA 80:80 to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of property acquired by tax deed as justice may require, in addition to disposing it by public auction and advertised sealed bids. This authority shall continue indefinitely and remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of the municipal Town meeting.

The attorney emailed back that the Town would be all set. The as justice may require authority allows the selectmen to sell undeveloped parcels to abutters for consolidation into adjoining lots for the purpose of affordable housing development, preserving open space, or reducing development density. She said the Select Board would have to make sure that if he buys this, it gets merged with one of his other parcels. Sara asked the attorney what if he didn't want to merge it. She said then it would have to be a warrant article. Sara

worked with the attorney on the wording of such warrant article which would be if the Select Board went that route.

The abutter said he could merge it if it makes things easier. He has no plans of subdivision or sale. The attorney said it is up to the Select Board if they wanted to do a warrant article then. If they don't, he has to merge it. If they do an article, they can negotiate that later.

The Select Board agreed to move forward with the offer with merging the lot as part of the agreement so a warrant article is not needed. Sara will have Ruth look at the taxes owed so we can come up with an amount. The Select Board asked Sara to reach out to the attorney to confirm that we don't have to use a realtor. She will also ask the attorney that if a realtor isn't need if the attorney can write something up for the sale with amount of attorney fees, taxes, etc.

Sign evaluations that were gone over with employees

A few evaluations were turned in from the department heads that the Select Board needed to sign. **John motioned to sign the evaluations, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

FEMA Meeting 2/15 or 2/16 FIRM and Flood Risk Study

FEMA emailed to invite Groton to attend the Grafton County Virtual meeting regarding the NH Flood Risk Study and the FIRM and FIS changes from December 13, 2021. These meetings will be 2/15/22 at 1pm or 2/16/22 at 10am. The Select Board said that it is important for Sara and Deb to attend this. Sara will work with Deb to see what meeting she can attend. The Select Board is okay with Sara closing the office for this meeting as well so that she is not interrupted.

Sara's Welfare Meeting 2/17- office will need to be closed for this- it is from 11-130

The NH Local Welfare Meeting is going to be held via zoom this year on 2/17/22 from 11am to about 1:30pm. Sara would like to attend but would have to close the office for this. The Select Board is okay with her attending and closing the office so she doesn't get interrupted. She will post the office as closed during this time.

Informational session at Bridgewater

Tony went to the informational session at Bridgewater. They gave the information that we already know and talked about closing Bridgewater Hebron Village School if needed. Tomorrow night is the information session at the High School. John and Sara will be attending that one.

Meeting with Chief Bagan

Chief Bagan met with the Select Board to discuss the following items:

- He wanted to discuss having quarterly meetings again. We haven't had these in a while. The Select Board agreed we need to make a point to have these meetings again with all department heads.
- Chief said that he knows that they wanted him to do informational sessions with the residents. He wanted to do one on identity theft but with COVID he never heard back from anyone. Tony asked if he checked with Plymouth to see what they have for these meetings.
- The Select Board told Chief to be prepared to discuss removing the part time police officer from the budget. He said he knows people will ask but there hasn't been any interest and we don't have much to offer here, especially pay. He reached out to other departments to see if anyone had interest in some shifts here and never heard back from anyone.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 5:50pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant