

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
February 15, 2022

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

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

Candidates Night

Sara explained it is that time of year to pick a date for candidates' night. She was thinking the next meeting which is March 1st which is a week before the elections. The Select Board agreed and will announce it at tonight's meeting. Sara and Ruth will let the candidates know so they can plan to attend.

Map 2 Lot 123

Sara explained that she sent the attorney the deed and information on the property that the abutter asked if the Town would be interested in selling. The attorney said that once we have a purchase price, we can calculate the transfer tax by multiplying the purchase price by .75 and dividing by 100. Ruth had looked at taxes owed and provided these amounts.

Sara asked if the Select Board wanted her to reach out to the abutter to let him know the Select Board would be willing to accept an offer if the merge was done with his other property and to see how much he was going to offer. The Select Board would like Sara to reach out to the abutter to explain the merge and see what he was going to offer. John said she can even provide the amounts that we would need to get in order to consider selling the property and explain that is a ballpark amount in case the amounts change.

3-Phase electricity information

At one of the last meetings, the Select Board asked Sara to reach out to NHEC to see how much it would be to extend the 3-phase electricity from where it ends near Frank Harris' to the Transfer Station. She did reach out to them and it was a lot of back and forth but they did end up sending her an estimate. Below is the information that NHEC sent:

The rough estimate amount is **\$185,000.00**. **This estimate does not include:** side tap construction & services (which will add additional assemblies and labor) or the cost to trim trees/branches in the right of way (approx. \$55,000.00-\$60,000.0 for approx. 1.5 miles), or road guards, or easements needed (approx. \$160.00 each), or communication relocate costs (cable/internet, etc., attachments) or transformers (approximately \$3,000 each). All estimates are subject to change based on supply and demand. If the town decides to pursue 3-phase, we would go through the normal design process and you'd receive the actual costs. She said another town reached out a few years ago to add 3-phase also and when they received the quote, they went against bringing in 3-phase and were able to work with the single phase. Maybe this is something to look into also, if this estimate is too high.

The Select Board agreed that this is too high to do right now. They will talk to Norm to see if there are other options through Casella.

Beaver Pond Road Concerns

Jennifer Gilbert from the State emailed back regarding the pictures that were sent to her. She said that since the pictures that were taken in December 2021 appear to show further placement of fill and encroachment in the floodplain/floodway, the next steps are for the town to determine what the next enforcement efforts will be to address this ongoing zoning ordinance violation. The town had issued a letter dated on September 9, 2019 that gave the property owner 30 days to cease all work and apply for required permits. It appears that neither of these two things have occurred. Since the letter was sent by the town's attorney, she suggests consulting with the attorney to determine next steps.

She explained that the enforcement of the town's floodplain regulations has to be done at the local level and is done just like any other zoning ordinance violation. FEMA and herself are available to the town to provide technical assistance regarding the floodplain regulations and the town's responsibilities as a participating community of the NFIP. She attached the section from [FEMA's Floodplain Management Requirements: A Study Guide and Desk Reference for Local Officials](#) that provides guidance on enforcement to the email that she sent.

The Select Board asked Sara to forward the email from Jennifer Gilbert to the attorney for guidance on the next steps.

Evaluations

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.**

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

John motioned to return to public session at 6:10pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

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

Meeting with Norm

The Select Board met with Norm to see if he had any department items he wanted to discuss. Norm discussed the following:

- Norm said that Dan has been training and is doing well. He is ready to go on his own.
- The Select Board told Norm to get some extra containers for the Transfer Station before the road bans. Norm said they will need to get the backhoe there. The Select Board told Norm that he needs to coordinate with Bubba. They think we should put more containers there. We need to make sure we get them picked up before the bans. Norm said he will ask Casella if we can move the compactor around. John said if this is too much, we can do extra open containers. We can put these up top down in the corner like we did when the slabs were poured. Norm said the compactor will go about 2 weeks before it is too full. John said if we need to put some at the Town Garage then we could do that as well. Tony said he thinks we have enough room to do two extras down bottom. Norm said he will get two containers where he had them when they did the slabs, he will put one near the metal dumpsters and try to get another one. This will have four extra ones. We won't take construction debris, mattresses or furniture until mud season is over. Norm said he doesn't want to do this too early because they will fill up with ice and snow and then we will have higher loads. Tony said we made it last year for 5 weeks with what we had so we should be okay with four extras.
- The Select Board asked Norm to check with Casella about the compactor. Tony explained that we got a quote from NHEC to run 3-phase there and it will be close to \$200,000.00 which is too

expensive. Norm said the compactor we have is the oldest one out there right now and the new ones run on 3-phase. Tony asked Norm if they said there was something they can do. Eventually we will have to do this if we need to get a new compactor and we can always look at grants for the 3-phase.

- Sara let them know that she talked to K&R Portables and sent them a key so they will be sure to do cleanings every other week. Sara asked that Norm and the Transfer Station attendants let her know if they are not cleaning them.

Meeting with Chief Bagan

The Select Board met with Chief Bagan to see if he had any department items he wanted to discuss.

Chief Bagan discussed the following:

- The resident that was driving down the side of North Groton Road on the snowmobile apologized. They thought they could ride the road for so many feet but now he knows you can't so he is working with his neighbors for access.
- Chief informed the Select Board of a case that he is working on. He couldn't give names or specific information.

Meeting with Bubba

The Select Board met with Bubba to see if he had any department items he wanted to discuss. Bubba discussed the following:

- The Select Board let Bubba know that Norm will be ordering extra dumpsters and will be getting in touch with him when they need to be packed.
- Tony asked Bubba how he likes his service through FirstNet. He said he has better service in some spots. He would like to look into the extender to see how much it is and how well it works. He wants to see if there is a 30-day trial. Tony said they have them but he doesn't think they work well. Tony said that he has better service and they are supposed to have 90% coverage by the end of 2022 so more towers will be going up.
- Bubba had to buy a new spreader for the sander. They built a stop so that the sander won't slide anymore so it won't bend the sander.
- Bubba noticed a leak last week on the Ford. The transmission pan was rotted. They thought it was out of warranty but we bought the extended warranty so this was replaced and was under warranty. Bubba thinks the pan must have been defective. The Select Board agreed.
- Fred's father passed away on Sunday. Sara has a card going around.
- The weather is going to get warm. Wade Reed is cutting up off Orange Road. He doesn't think they are going to ban the roads any time soon. It is usually the first or second week in March. Tony thinks we need to watch the road but as long as it stays cold at night, we should be all set. Bubba said he doesn't want to stop anyone from doing their job but he doesn't want the new road damaged. Tony said Bubba should keep an eye on it.
- We will be doing the crack filling again. Bubba is watching a spot on North Groton Road that they may have to fill. Sculptured Rocks has held up well but there are some cracks that will need to be filled.
- Sara gave Bubba a heads up that the State is doing work on 118 and a resident said they are digging the ditches and left a huge ditch at the end of his driveway that they cannot drive over. Sara gave him the number to call DOT.
- Sara and Bubba will be attending a Public Works' Training for Resiliency During Emergencies on March 23rd at 11am. This will be a zoom meeting.

- They will be doing a Flagger training here at the Town House. This allows us to get some training for free. This will be on May 11th from 8am-2pm.
- They will also be hosting a Leadership Exchange training for Road Agents here at the Town House on June 1st from 11:30am-1:30pm.
- Tony asked Bubba if Casey gave him the quote on the building. He hasn't emailed it over yet. Tony thought it was around \$178,000 but that is only the building and insulation no cement work, wiring, septic, etc.
- Tony asked if Bubba was able to get the quote on the trade in. He is working on it. Tony said they want to still submit the warrant article without the quote and keep the old one but the Town can amend this if they want to.
- Bubba did get the hours on the backhoe which is 4400. Sara sent this information to Miles since he requested it.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:54pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant