

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

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

John called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Town Reports

Sara mentioned that the deadline for the Town reports to be available to the public was today 3/1/22. However, we had them available last week. She received them on Tuesday 2/22/22 and on Wednesday 2/23/22 she put them out in the Town House, gave Ruth some to hand out, gave the Transfer Station some to hand out and put it online.

Prep for Election / Town Meeting

- Sara already ordered the coffee, creamer, sugar, cups, plates, bowls and plastic ware for Elections and Town Meeting.
- John will mention at the Select Board meeting that we will accept donations of food for the Town Meeting.
- We will need to ask someone to run the coffee machines.
- Sara already sent Gina a reminder about elections and Town Meeting to make sure the big room is clean.
- We will reach out to Tony Tavares to see if he needs anything from the Select Board with assistance setting up or anything for the elections or the Town Meeting.
- On Election Day, Ron and Tony will be here all day. John will be here around 1pm. Sara said she will be around if needed.

Discussion on Town meeting:

- Sara gave the wording for moving an article - "Mr. Moderator, I move to accept Article __ as written."
- The Select Board went over who is going to move, 2nd and present each Article.
- Article 3- Operating Budget- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 4- Capital Reserve Funds- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 5- Site Work and Plan for potential Highway Garage site- The Select Board and Bubba will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 6- Backhoe- Bubba will be prepared to speak to this if needed; Sara will have the quotes with her.
- Article 7- Paving of the Parking Lot- Bubba will be prepared to speak to this
- Article 8- Paving of Intersections- Bubba will be prepared to speak to this
- Article 9- Recoat and Restripe basketball court- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 10- 3% Timber Tax to Conservation Commission- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this
- Article 11- This is on there every year and no one usually speaks to it.
- Closing- point out dedication, thank everyone for bringing food, ask people to get involved in committees

ATT/FirstNet

Alyssa from ATT/FirstNet asked if the Town would be interested in her coming in to talk about personal ATT/FirstNet plans and coverage. The Select Board said we can see if she can come during a works session. Sara will see if March 15, 2022 at 6:00pm works for her.

Hebron Ambulance and Fire Services Agreement

Sara wanted to let the Select Board know that she put the Hebron Ambulance and Fire Services Agreement on the Select Board Meeting agenda. The current agreement with Hebron for Ambulance and Fire Services expires on March 31, 2022. Hebron just sent over the updated agreement for the next three years which will increase from \$73,000/yr. to \$80,500/yr. which is an increase of \$7,500 per year. They sent the agreement over but also said that if the Select Board would like to meet to discuss this, they do meet the first and third Thursday of the month.

Sara pointed out that at Town Meeting the Select Board will have to amend the operating budget because this line, which is contracted Services Hebron under the Fire Budget, was only budgeted \$74,500 which was for the \$73,000/yr. plus any extra illegal fire calls or anything. The Select Board agreed that we should amend this line to \$82,000.00. They will have to amend the total for the operating budget for Warrant Article 3 which will increase by \$7,500.00. Once Sara totals this up she will type up the amendment so that it is ready to go at Town Meeting.

Building Permit Question

A resident came by with questions about the building permit with new zoning. He was just made aware of the new zoning and he wanted to put a permit in before then. He didn't have the PUC or Septic Approval information and Sara explained that this information is needed to be submitted with the permit to be considered a complete permit. He was trying to rush it and wanted to know if there is anything that can be done to say this permit was on file before the new zoning went in to place. I explained it isn't a full and complete application so I am not sure how this would work but that I would talk to the Select Board about it.

The Select Board agreed that they won't approve it or consider it a complete application without the DES and PUC approvals. This permit was also for two 2 family buildings and they have not had a property like this before. This is a 2.09-acre lot so they would have to look into if they could approve two buildings on this lot. The current zoning ordinance doesn't say anything about multiple buildings nor does the permit guidelines as far as they could tell. The Select Board asked Sara to send the permit to Deb on the Planning Board for review to see if there is anything in the Town that states multiple buildings cannot be put on one lot so they know how to move forward when he does submit the completed application.

John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) and (d) at 5:55pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to return to public session at 6:30pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

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

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:

- Bubba wanted to give an update on the Truck issue. There was a broken wire inside the aluminum casing. This was fixed and the truck is back. They said that the Town isn't doing

anything wrong they are just odd things that are happening to the Town Truck. No other trucks are having these issues, they are only seeing recalls on the transfer case and cooling issues. Bubba told them that the Select Board and himself are disappointed and cannot continue to have these issues. Bubba said we will not be driving it down anymore to get it fixed, it will be towed at their cost. They said they understand this and the frustrations the Town has. The truck is back now and everything seems to be okay. Tony said that no matter what you buy you are going to have some type of issue. Bubba was thankful that Fred was able to go with him today to pick it up.

- Road Postings: DOT is posting the road bans starting Monday March 7, 2022. Sara created posting for the Town to post our roads the same day. The Select Board is okay with this date. Sara will post this on the website, at the Town House and give one to the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station did get extra containers already. The Select Board asked Sara to have Norm get the compactor emptied before then.
- They have gone through a lot of salt/sand. It has been the worst year for freezing rain.
- There was a hole on Edgar Albert Road. There was one metal culvert left on the road that was going to get replaced this year but it popped apart and there was a hole on the road. They did a temporary repair until they can fix it in the spring.
- There were some washouts on North Groton Road a few weeks ago when we had all that rain. They put some stone down but the truck was down so once the weather clears again, they will take care of it.
- Tony told Bubba he doesn't need to plow out around the dry hydrant at the Town Garage. It is out of service right now due to sand built up.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:50pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant