

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
September 6, 2022

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

John called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Meeting with Carol Miller on Broadband

Consolidated Communication couldn't meet so this meeting had to be postponed until September 20, 2022 at 6:00pm.

Memo from Sara

Sara submitted a memo with a day off request. The Select Board approved the time off. Ron mentioned that he will not be able to attend the October 4, 2022 meeting. John and Tony will be there so we can still have that meeting.

Budget/Warrant memos and deadlines

Sara explained that she sent out the budget and warrant memos last week and scheduled the budget meetings. Therefore, starting in October the Work Sessions will be back to starting at 5:00pm for the budget meetings. Sara also included the handout with important dates from now until Town meeting.

Junkyard letter

The junkyard letter that we sent certified came back as unclaimed. We did mail one out regular mail which hasn't come back so we assume he received that one. The Select Board asked Sara to reach out to Audrey Cline to explain it was unclaimed and to see if we can have the Chief deliver it.

Health Officer information

Sara had asked Audrey Cline, who is doing the junkyard inspections, if she does the Health Officer inspections as well. She said she would check with MRI to see if this would be okay. The responded with the following:

The Groton Selectmen should consider appointing a local person in the field of Public Health or someone with a medical background to sit as the Health Officer, and to appoint a Deputy Health Officer.

The Health Officer, as a local citizen, is in a better position to sit on the Local Board of Health with the Selectmen as described on RSA 128:3 (below). This Board has the ability to propose local health ordinances for the jurisdiction as well as address impacts to public health such as the covid Pandemic with local emergency orders.

The Deputy Health Officer would handle all of the day-to-day inspections and complaints with a lead time of 2- 4 day notification (i.e., a school inspection can be scheduled weeks in advance, but a nuisance complaint may need more immediate attention.)

128:3 Secretary of Local Board. – The health officer shall be the secretary and executive officer of, and, with the selectmen, shall constitute the local board of health for the town. The local board of health for each town shall meet at least once every year, and as frequently as needed, to review the state of local public

health issues and concerns and provide information, as requested, to the department of health and human services, on the readiness to address relevant public health threats at the local or regional levels.

128:1 Appointment. – *The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall appoint as health officer for each town such person as the selectmen of the town recommends, and the commissioner of the department of health and human services shall issue to the health officer a certificate of appointment. The appointed officer shall provide the department with sufficient and complete contact information to be readily accessible as needed. Upon the expiration of the officer's term, or upon his or her removal, death, or resignation or the occurrence of a vacancy in the office for any reason, the selectmen shall recommend a replacement as soon as reasonably practicable; but if no recommendation is made within 15 days after notice, the commissioner may appoint a health officer without such recommendation.*

128:5-b Deputy Health Officer. – *When a health officer has been appointed under the provisions of RSA 128:1, such officer may, subject to the approval of the selectmen and the commissioner of the department of health and human services, appoint a deputy health officer or officers who shall be empowered to enforce public health laws and regulations and make such sanitation investigations as the health officer may direct or as may be required by the department of health and human services. The term of the deputy health officer shall expire with that of the health officer, or may be extended with the approval of the board of selectmen, in consultation with the commissioner of the department of health and human services or designee, until the health officer vacancy is filled. The deputy health officer shall receive such compensation from the town as the selectmen of the town shall fix.*

The reason for this recommendation is that in a major emergency/crisis, like the coronavirus, the health officer is heavily engaged in the town's response. For instance, the health officer is generally a member of the emergency management team and may need to report to the Select Board on a weekly or participate in weekly meetings when faced with a health crisis. Audrey does not have the medical background for this role and she cannot make the time required to participate in this type of a response. However, Audrey would be available to handle the health officer duties related to inspections, sanitation...as a deputy health officer. In many/most towns, like my town of Rye, we have a retired doctor that serves as our health officer.

The Select Board agree we should have her be the deputy health officer but we do not have the money this year. Sara will add this to the budget so we can increase this to add a deputy as well so we can start this next year.

Fire Warden

Tony explained that it is all official that Jeremy is the Fire Warden. Tony said we now need to send Roger Thompson a letter explaining we need the radios back and any other Town equipment he may have. We should offer to have the radios taken out. The Select Board agreed this should be sent certified and give a timeframe of 30 days from the date on the letter. **John motioned to come in and sign this letter with the checks next week, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

NLRA

Rebecca from NLRA reached out and gave some information regarding the responses to our questions on the plans for Atwell Orange Brook. They also asked for a support letter for a grant like we have done in the past. Sara had drafted the letter. **John motioned to sign the NLRA support letter, Tony 2nd so voted.**

Voting Day

John reminded the Select Board that Tuesday, September 13th is voting day. He will be here around 1pm. Tony and Ron will be here the entire day.

ARPA Public Hearing tonight

Sara reminded the Select Board that the Public Hearing to accept the second payment of ARPA funds is tonight and to also discuss how they want to use these funds. John mentioned that he knows we should use some of this money on the building. We need to get ready for Town meeting and some site work will need to be done to submit new plans and information at Town Meeting. Tony said that since this March is our last chance to do something or we lose the grant money, we need to put some money into that land. The Select Board knows the entire site work was voted down at Town meeting last year but things have changed since then. Since March of 2022 we have learned that we will lose the grant money if we do not do something with it and they are giving us one more Town meeting to do so which will be March 2023. Also, since March we have found another cheaper option by getting information from Casey Kuplin for the company that put up his building. Tony said at the last meeting that Casey said he can clear where the building is going for \$1,500.00. Then Barnard could come in and do the site plan and septic plan which would be about \$2,100.00. The Select Board agreed that at the ARPA public hearing they will vote to use this money towards these items and the rest to go towards other building items as needed. Tony will reach out to Casey to tell him he can move forward with the clearing and then we can reach out to the Barnards after that.

Meeting with Bubba

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

- Since the last meeting there have been more nails in peoples tires and more people picking up the nails. Norm and Chief Bagan found more in front of the Transfer Station. It is very wide spread from Smith Road to the dump. Bubba got a call on Sunday. Chief had called dispatch and they called DOT but DOT told them it wasn't their road so they called Bubba. He told them it is a State Road so he isn't supposed to do anything. He did call Dan this morning and mentioned the concerns. They told him that the DOT said they would be going out with the sweeper. Bubba confirmed that they did go out today and did it a few times.
- Fred is on vacation this week.
- They will do culverts on Edgar Albert Road tomorrow.
- Fred painted some plows. They are starting to get ready for winter.
- The State has talked about possibly having the Town plow North Groton Road again. They used to do this but then the State took it back. Bubba is not sure if we should take this on. He said that they will have to use the truck a lot more than they have been so we would need to keep this in mind. If we take it back over, we would need another truck. The Select Board agreed we shouldn't commit to this at this time. It was not officially asked yet and could be more of a headache then it is worth. Bubba said he will help when needed because he has to keep our roads open. We would get paid but we would be adding more work to the town vehicles.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant