

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 15, 2022

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

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Public Hearing Meeting minutes of February 1, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of February 1, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of February 1, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Updates from Public Hearings

There were a few items that came up at the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget and Warrant Articles that the Select Board wanted to follow back up with everyone on.

- The Deputy Town Clerk Wage Line was changed to \$9,500 as discussed.
- The Planning Board postage was changed to \$500 as discussed.
- The Select Board agreed to keep the Police budget the same so no changes were made.
- It was asked if any of the Planning Board postage that was used in 2021 was offset by the residents paying. Sara double checked and she was correct that all postage spent in 2021 was used for the mailing of the information on the Zoning Ordinance so none of that was offset by residents.
- The question came up about how much we have spent so far on the building. The total is \$64,907.76. It was explained that the first time around was \$47,301.36 with Turnstone. Then the excavation that took place was \$10,000.00. Then the engineering and architect costs for when we applied for the grant were \$7,606.40.
- At the last meeting Sara provided the Forester name of Jordan King but couldn't remember his company name and information but has that information now. His company is Hooper Hill Forestry, LLC out of Wentworth, NH. We did begin working with him back in 2017 for the same rate from then until now, which was his introductory rate of \$40/hr. He did ask for an increase in 2022, for the average Forester rate of \$70/hr. which the Select Board agreed to, especially with him having to drive into Groton to check these reports.
- It was asked at the last meeting how much the Highway Block Grant is for. In 2021 we received \$25,800 for the block grant. We get paid quarterly payments. 2022 should be close to the same amount.
- There are 4400 hours on the backhoe. We got the backhoe in 2012 and it is a 2011 JCB Backhoe so it is over 10 years old.
- Bubba is working on the trade in value for the backhoe.

- It was asked if we can do more than ½ of the previous year's tax bills when setting the first tax bill of the year. Sara reached out to NHMA and DRA regarding this and found that RSA 76:15-a provides that the town must use ½ the previous year's tax rate. This is a statutorily required amount and cannot be changed, not even to allow people to pay more than half.

Candidate Night Information

Candidate night will be March 1, 2022 at the beginning of the Select Board Meeting.

The open positions are:

- SELECT PERSON 1 position for 3 years- Ron Madan
- MODERATOR 1 position for 2 years- Amy Prive-Hardy
- TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND for 3 years- Amy Prive-Hardy (she may only be able to run for one of these)
- TOWN AUDITOR for 1 year- Ann Joyce
- SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST 1 position for 6 years- Virginia Parker
- SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST 1 position for 2 years- Pamela Hamel
- PLANNING BOARD 2 positions for 3 years- David Madden and Kristina Madden
- ZONING BOARD 2 positions for 3 years- Glen Hansen and Peter Smith
- CEMETERY TRUSTEE 1 positions for 3 years- Michelle Sharp
- CEMETERY TRUSTEE 1 positions for 2 years- open

Intent to cut- Map 2 Lot 41

The Town received an Intent to Cut for Map 2 Lot 41 for 1-acre cut off Halls Brook Road. There are no taxes owed on the property so a bond was not required and all information on the intent is correct. **John motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 2 Lot 41, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to cut- Map 7 Lot 16

The Town received an Intent to Cut for Map 7 Lot 16 for 1-acre cut off Halls Brook Road. There are no taxes owed on the property so a bond was not required and all information on the intent is correct. **John motioned to sign the Intent to Cut for Map 7 Lot 16, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Local Septic Approval- Map 6 Lot 111

Matt Barnard dropped off an updated local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 111, for a resident on North Groton Road. This was signed at the last meeting but then the State needed a few minor changes. All information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 111, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Elderly Exemption

The Town received an application for the elderly exemption. The resident brought in all supporting documents and do qualify for age, income and assets. **John motioned to approve the elderly exemption, Tony 2nd so voted.**

Report of cut/yield certificate- Map 6 Lot 110

The Town received a report of cut for Map 6 Lot 110 on Snoburk Lane for a cut of about 1 acre. The amount of the tax is \$14.52. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 6 Lot 110, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba went over the following:

- There are a few more things to get fixed on the backhoe but it may take longer because the technician who does this area gave his notice. It is in working condition.
- Be careful driving this week. The weather has some rain/snow coming and temps all over the place.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:15pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant