

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
April 5, 2022

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

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

PUBLIC HEARING RSA 74:10- REGARDING ONE’S LIABILITY TO BE TAXED

John motioned to open the public hearing regarding RSA 74:10 at 7:06pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John explained that RSA 74:10 indicates that Towns who use the inventory form, must hold a public hearing to discuss one’s liability to be taxed, but there are no guidelines on discussion other than this. John asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding this. Sara reminded everyone that the inventories are due April 15th. **Hearing no comments or questions, John motioned to close the public hearing at 7:07pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of March 15, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. Ron abstained.

John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of March 15, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. Ron abstained.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of March 15, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. Ron abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom/Casella- Dalton siting project

Tom from Casella requested to meet with the Town to discuss the Dalton Siting project. He introduced himself and thanked the Town for the support letter.

Tom had a hand out with a few talking points he would like to discuss which are the following:

- **No Time to Lose:** NHDES’s most recent projections show that by the end of 2025 NH will not have enough landfill capacity to handle the solid waste generated in the state with a projected shortfall range from 20,000 and 120,000 tons per year through 2034, and 1.35 million tons per year thereafter.
- **NCES Capacity:** Casella’s North Country Environmental Services (NCES) Landfill in Bethlehem, NH is currently moving towards final closure. This facility provides disposal capacity for 150 cities and towns throughout the state. This amounts to 50,000+ households and 5,500+ businesses statewide. If NCES’s capacity is not replaced, it is estimated that customers will experience disposal and transportation cost increases of at least \$3.5 million annually. Solid Waste Facilities in the state are already taking the maximum amount of waste they are allowed to take under their permits, and so, it is unclear where the waste now going to NCES will be disposed of.
- **New Hampshire Capacity is Critical:** As landfills continue to close throughout the northeast, and New Hampshire nears the exhaustion of its long-term waste disposal capacity at several of its facilities, it is essential that additional capacity be viewed as critical. Long term waste disposal capacity is necessary

to ensure the health and safety of New Hampshire's natural environment and the people who live there.

- **Not Just New Hampshire, Not Just Landfills:** New Hampshire has limited options for transporting waste long distances with no rail infrastructure in place. Trucking is becoming more costly as the nation is experiencing a shortage of drivers while fuel prices rise. Incinerators have the propensity to shut down intermittently for maintenance or mechanical failures. When this happens, displaced waste must find a place to go. Nearby landfill facilities that would historically have the ability to accept waste that incinerators cannot take are at capacity. Sounding states are experiencing this very same disposal crisis.
- **Casella's current operations in New Hampshire:** Casella owns or operates seven transfer stations in New Hampshire (Bethlehem, Newport, Lebanon, Belmont, Allenstown, Raymond and Concord) where waste and recyclables are consolidated from municipalities, businesses, residents and numerous waste haulers. This waste is currently hauled to NCES, which took in 80% in-state waste in 2020. Recyclables are exported to facilities in Vermont and Massachusetts.
- **Casella's Plan for New Hampshire:** Casella's proposed Granite State municipal solid waste landfill (GSL) is intended to be a part of an integrated solution for NH. GSL will be partnered with a Casella owned and operated state of the art Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to be constructed in the central part of the state. The MRF would process recyclables in state, which would reduce costs while improving recycling rates. The GSL landfill and the MRF are projected to create an additional 68 jobs statewide, add an additional \$20 million to the state's economy each year, and reduce the state's overall carbon emissions by more than 29,000 metric tons- the equivalent of removing more than 6,000 cars from NH roads annually.

These are the reasons that Dalton is needed. This is an area that works. It is extremely necessary. Senator Guida hasn't been against it which is good but there are people that are against it.

The Select Board asked if he knows anything about the compactors. We have had some issues and we have single phase and had a hard time getting parts before. We looked into extending the three phase but it is too costly. Tony asked if single phase will be going away and if we can expect to have issues with this. Tom said we should be able to get by with it for a while, he doesn't see it going away. There are still a lot of single phase out there. However, if we have any more issues with it, we can call him. Sara has his contact information if anyone has any issues or any other questions.

Reports of cut/yield certificates

The Town received three reports of cuts from Green Acre Woodlands. The information is as follows:

- **Map 10 Lot 42:** The Town received a report of cut for Map 10 Lot 42 on Halls Brook Road for a cut of about 9 acres. The amount of the tax is \$329.84. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 10 Lot 42, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
- **Map 2 Lot 41:** The Town received a report of cut for Map 2 Lot 41 on Halls Brook Road for a cut of about 1 acre. The amount of the tax is \$64.56. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 2 Lot 41, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
- **Map 7 Lot 16:** The Town received a report of cut for Map 7 Lot 16 on Halls Brook Road for a cut of about 1 acre. The amount of the tax is \$53.49. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 7 Lot 16, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit- Map 5 Lot 78

The owner submitted a building permit for a 2 story 3-bedroom home. He did provide the PUC approval and the DES septic approval. This is on a private road so it needs the release form and has to go before the Planning Board for review so they can provide comments/recommendations to the Select Board. **John motioned to table the building permit until the Planning Board has reviewed it and provided feedback, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Culligan Annual Contract

Culligan sent an option for an annual contract for \$125 which would cover the annual inspection, salt delivery, filter delivery, and you qualify for 10% off other services. We have been on the 'pay as you go' and paying for salt as it is delivered and if anything needs to be fixed. We have been between \$19-\$30 a year this way. If we stay on the 'pay as you go' we do not need to do anything. If we want to do the contract, we have to sign it and send it back. Also, the cost of salt increased from \$9.50 per bag to \$10.50 per bag. The Select Board agreed to stay on the 'pay as you go' plan.

Class VI Road Letters- Old Rumney Road and Nedeau Lane

Residents sent a letter to the Select Board with their plans for road maintenance for Old Rumney Road and Nedeau Lane and will continue to maintain the road along with removing rocks, ditching, rolling the road and filling holes and areas that may wash out due to rain, etc. **John motioned to approve both the Class VI Road improvements request for Old Rumney Road and Nedeau Lane, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Junkyard Properties

The Select Board reviewed the Junkyard List to decide which properties should be visited again this year. Below are the properties referred to by their case numbers:

#1: Keep as yearly check

#2: Keep as yearly check

#3: Keep as yearly check

#4: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#5: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#6: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#7: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#8: Keep as yearly check

#9: Keep as yearly check

#10: Keep as yearly check

The Select Board recently had a few complaints about another property on Sculptured Rocks. They agreed to add this to the list as #11.

The Select Board wanted to hold off on scheduling the inspections at this time as they are going to see if someone else is interested in doing it. Sara will add this to the next meeting agenda to set up the dates for the inspections.

Petition Article 5 Committee

On March 8, 2022, Newfound Area School District voters voted to approve petition article 5, asking to form a study committee to investigate and consider a change to the school district funding formula. The first meeting will be on April 14, at 6:00pm at the Newfound Memorial Middle School in the school library, on the third floor. According to Article 5, each Select Board in the school district needs to select one person to represent your town at these meetings. We need to provide the name and contact information of our representative to scross@sau4.org or call 603-744-5555. John said that if no one else can do it, he will be Groton's representative. He is okay with giving his email address. Tony said that if John cannot attend for some reason that he could try to go. Sara will email Sue Cross to let her know.

Alternates for Zoning Board

Ann Joyce requested to have this put on the agenda. They need some alternates for the Zoning Board. Ann has reached out to the four members and has only heard back from two of them. She hasn't heard from Gary or Glen and we have heard Glen is moving so we are not sure what is going on. Tony mentioned that Heath Matthews is interested but he talked to Ruth and she said that she cannot remove him until he doesn't accept the position. Tony said he knows for sure that Heath is interested. Ann said that she is trying to schedule a

meeting for the first Monday in May, which is Monday, May 2nd at 7pm. They will need to have someone here to let them in. They used to meet during the day when the building was open. The Select Board agreed to get Ann a key and have her code reinstated. Tony will give Heath the contact information for Ann. Ann asked Sara to reach out to Dave Switaj to see about getting an email for zoning board like the planning board has. Sara will also post the meeting.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Avitar Letters

Avitar sent over two letters, one to New England Hydro and one to New England Power, to put on our letter head and to send out asap. These letters are requesting that they send a detailed asset report by July 1, 2022. **John motioned to sign the Avitar letters, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Police Department

Chief explained that the bumper on the cruiser has been repaired. MHQ will send new lettering and there is a graphics company in Campton that will apply the graphics.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:35pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant