

TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
April 19, 2022

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

**Absent: Tony Albert**

**Audience Members Present**

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

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

**John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of April 5, 2022 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of April 5, 2022 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

**John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of April 5, 2022 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Junkyard Inspections*

At the last meeting, the Select Board reviewed the Junkyard List to decide which properties should be visited again this year. They didn't schedule the inspections at that time and asked that we put it on the next agenda to discuss. The Select Board has a meeting on May 3, 2022 with the person that does the Fire inspections so they are going to see if he is interested in doing the junkyard inspections as well. **John motioned to table scheduling the junkyard inspections until the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*MS-535 and representation letter*

The auditor sent the MS-535 and the representation letter to be reviewed and signed by the Select Board. The MS-535 is the financial report of the budget. Sara reviewed this and sent some questions back to the auditor and all adds up. The representation letter is a letter stating that the Select Board understands that the Select Board has reviewed the MS-535 and all supporting documents, they are not aware of any misstatements in the preparation, no adjustments need to be made, etc. The Select Board reviewed the MS-535 and was okay with the amounts. **John motioned to sign the MS535 and the representation letter, Ron 2nd, so voted.** Sara will put this on the website.

*Class VI Road Letters- Old Rumney Road*

Residents sent a letter to the Select Board with their plans for road maintenance for Old Rumney Road 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, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

*Local Septic Approval- Map 1 Lot 53*

Hinds Septic mailed in a local septic approval for Map 1 Lot 53, for a resident at 1612 North Groton Road. All information is correct. **John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 1 Lot 53, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

*Building Permit- Map 10 Lot 21*

The owner submitted a building permit for a 20x20 shed. This is on a private road so it needs the release form, which he did submit and pay for, but it 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, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Building Permit- Map 2 Lot 96*

The owner submitted a building permit for a 768 square foot, 2-bedroom home at his property on North Groton Road. They provided the DES septic approval but didn't provide the PUC approval and they did check off that the structure will be heated or cooled. Sara did call the owner yesterday to let him know the PUC was needed. He asked for information to be mailed to him so she did mail the letter and the PUC application to him yesterday. She also let him know that building permit will not be approved at this meeting but could be at the next meeting if we get the info back by then. **John motioned to table the building permit until the PUC approval is received, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Reports of cut/yield certificates*

The Town received two reports of cuts. The information is as follows:

- Map 5 Lot 161: The Town received a report of cut for Map 5 Lot 161 on Sculptured Rocks Road for a cut of about 30 acres. The amount of the tax is \$2,753.40. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 5 Lot 161, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**
- Map 5 Lot 162: The Town received a report of cut for Map 2 Lot 162 on Sculptured Rocks Road for a cut of about 40 acres. The amount of the tax is \$3,933.77. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 5 Lot 162, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Disposal Agreement- 64 North Fletcher Road*

George Fletcher submitted a disposal agreement for his property at 64 North Fletcher Road. **John motioned to approve the disposal agreement for 64 North Fletcher Road, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *All Veterans Credit*

The Town received an application for the All-Veterans Tax Credit for the owner of Map 2 Lot 91. He has a DD-214 with an honorable discharge. There were no questions. **John motioned to approve the All-Veterans Tax Credit for Map 2 Lot 91, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### *Charitable recommendations memo*

This is a Memo from Sara explaining the religious, educational and charitable exemptions have been received and sent to the Assessor and should be approved by the Board. These are usually reviewed by Avitar every year but Kerry from Avitar mentioned last year said that since these all are a recurring annual application, there is no need for him to review them every year unless something changes on the property. **John motioned to sign the charitable exemption approval Memo, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

#### **SELECT BOARD ITEMS:**

##### *School Meeting*

John attending the school meeting where they discussed the school payment that looks like Groton's will increase. Right now, we pay by the number of children that attend the school district. They want to change it so it also looks at the Towns valuation. It was an interesting meeting but will most likely pass. The Towns that will benefit have people in attendance and the towns affected don't. We need people there. John has been working closely with Hebron and Rumney. They are working on a spreadsheet to show that if towns value goes up, how that will affect this.

Sara asked if there are votes at the meetings or if this is voted on in March. John said they are doing the study right now. The Towns get to voice their concern and the representatives get to vote on what will go on the ballot. The public can attend all of these meetings but they will not vote on it until March. Even though there

are no votes at these meetings, it is beneficial to have people from our Town there so they can give feedback and state what they think will work best.

Right now, we know where Alexandria stands on this and how they will vote. They are trying to convince the towns like Danbury, New Hampton and Bristol to look at the big picture not just the now picture.

Chief Bagan said they should put a clause that states schools can exit the district if they want to since they are changing the formula. John said that it is not that easy. They have looked into that and the other towns still need to vote on if a town can leave and they wouldn't want any towns to leave because that would make their taxes go up. Sara and Bubba mentioned that when Virginia brought this to the Town, she said there was a town in the White Mountains area that has been trying to do this for a very long time and hasn't had luck.

Ann asked if we will be able to view the minutes. John said that Heidi Milbrand is the one taking the minutes and they haven't been approved yet but there is probably a draft available.

The next meeting is May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the library in the middle school.

### **DEPARTMENT ITEMS:**

#### *Highway Department*

Bubba went over the following:

- They plowed today.
- Groton has had a better mud season than a lot of other towns. Bubba thinks that all of the money and work that has been put into the roads in Town helps, like the crowing and ditching. Edgar Albert Road was probably the worst road in Groton but it still wasn't anywhere near what other towns have been experiencing. They will start working on road repairs around the beginning of May.

#### *Police Department*

Chief Bagan informed everyone that he had the snow tires taken off the cruiser.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

#### *Conservation Commission*

Slim informed the Town of the following Conservation Commission events:

- They are having a road clean up this Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-12:00pm. They will be doing a hike after the clean-up. All are welcome to attend. Sara will post this on the website.
- The Fishing Derby is June 4<sup>th</sup>. They have started working on this and getting permits and the fish ordered. Sara will post this as well.

### **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

*Thank you!*

The Town would like to thank Lorraine Hobart for all of the clean-up of garbage that she has been doing throughout town. It is greatly appreciated!

**Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:42pm, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant