

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 6, 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.

PUBLIC HEARING RSA 31:95-b- TO ACCEPT THE SECOND PAYMENT OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS AND DISCUSS HOW THESE FUNDS WILL BE SPENT

John motioned to open the public hearing regarding RSA 31:95-b to accept the second payment of ARPA funds and to discuss how these funds will be spent at 7:00pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John explained that Groton received the second payment of the ARPA Funds which was \$31,145.17. Our total the Town got from both payments is \$62,290.34. The Select Board needs to accept these funds.

Sherry asked what ARPA stands for. Sara explained American Rescue Plan Act. These funds came out during COVID and had certain items you could use it on. They have made it a little broader now. Sara explained this is the second payment. The first payment was used towards the mold remediation and the broadband research.

John explained that the Select Board would like to use this second payment towards the new Town Garage. John mentioned that we have been looking at a new structure that is coming in at a price closer to what the Town was expecting which would make the total project around \$600,000-\$700,000, but this cost could always change. John mentioned that we need to use the money on site planning such as the septic, well, tree clearing, crushing some rocks to get ready for Town Meeting. John said we March is our last chance to do something or we lose the grant money, so we need to put some money into that land. Since we are changing the plans, we are not sure how much of the grant money we will get from the state, it could be 50/50, could be 25/75. We are still working that out. Once the site plan, clearing, etc. is complete, the remainder of the funds will go towards the building itself. A resident asked if it was the same location and it was explained it is the same location, across from the Transfer Station.

John explained that the building we are looking at will be similar to Casey Kuplin's building near the Hebron Fire Department. It will be the same company but the design will be different.

John motioned to accept the second payment of \$31,14.17 of ARPA funds, to use the funds towards the new Town Garage by hiring Casey Kuplin for the clearing of where the building will be going, the Barnard's for the site plan and septic and well plans, to hire someone to crush the rocks at the site and to use the remainder the funds towards other building needs for the Town Garage, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding this. There were no questions or comments.

Hearing no comments or questions, John motioned to close the public hearing at 7:05pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of August 16, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of August 16, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Work Session/Building Committee Meeting minutes of August 16, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Tony motioned to approve the Select Board Work Session/Building Committee Meeting minutes of August 23, 2022 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. John abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

Building Permit Map 6 Lot 63-6 (feedback from PB)

The owners submitted a building permit for a shed on their property on Old Fields. They will be building a house in 2023 and have started the process for the PUC approval and DES approval. We have received the DES approval already. This is on a private road so it was submitted to the Planning Board for review. They have submitted the private road release. The Planning Board recommended to deny this permit since the Town cannot approve a shed to be built on a lot without a house on it. **John motioned to deny the building permit until the house is constructed, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Sara asked if they can submit the permit for the shed once the building of the house is started or if it has to be completely built. John said we would have to ask the Planning Board and can look into it once the house is being built.

A resident asked if they could just do a storage container? John said he would have to look into it with the Planning Board. Dave Leone said he knows there are some properties that currently have storage containers and was told by Avitar a building permit isn't needed for them. Sara mentioned as long as they are temporary, they are not taxed on but once it is there longer it is considered permanent and can be taxed on.

Sara will work on a letter to send the owners explaining this permit was denied and the reasons why.

Building Permit Map 5 Lot 47-2 (feedback from PB)

Summit Energy Group submitted a building permit for the owners of 82 Beaver Pond Road for 23 roof mounted solar panels. This is on a private road so we submitted this to the Planning Board for review. The Planning Board recommended to approve this permit. They have submitted the private road release. **John motioned to sign the building permit and release form for Map 5 Lot 47-2, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 1 Lot 54-1

The owners of 1610 North Groton Road submitted a building permit for a 16x16 shed/workshop which will not be heated. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 1 Lot 54-1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Intent to Cut Map 9 Lot 1

FORECO submitted an intent for Map 9 Lot 1 for property located on Old Coach Road. This is about a 45- acre cut. No bond is needed. **John motioned to sign the intent to cut for Map 9 Lot 1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Revised Local Septic Approval for Map 6 Lot 63-6

At the last meeting the Select Board signed the local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 63-6. The State required one minor change so they made that change and re-submitted for local approval. **John motioned to sign the revised local septic approval for Map 6 Lot 63-6, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Revised Local Septic Approval for Map 2 Lot 96

At a previous meeting the Select Board signed the local septic approval for Map 2 Lot 96. They moved the location so they re-submitted for local approval. **John motioned to sign the revised local septic approval for Map 2 Lot 96, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Building Permit Map 7 Lot 53

The owner of 764 North Groton Road submitted a building permit for a 9x12 greenhouse. This was submitted by John so he abstained. **Tony motioned to sign the building permit for Map 7 Lot 53, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Police Department

Chief Bagan said that there have been some incidents with nails in the road on North Groton Road from Smith Road to the dump. He said that some people think it is malicious but he has no evidence that it is malicious. They are old roofing nails on the road and some people have had them in their tires. Even the cruiser had to have a couple tires plugged which we will be getting the bill for. Chief Bagan said it was just brought to his attention this weekend so he doesn't know if it has been going on longer than that. He picked up nails by hand and Norm and Ken Martell were picking up handfuls of nails by the dump.

John said that that the State was notified and they did sweep the road today. Chief Bagan said he dispatched this weekend and they said it was Town road. He explained where he was talking about was not Town road, it is State from Hebron line to Halls Brook. They did come out after the Holiday weekend. He said most nails were picked up by residents. John said that when this happens on the State Road, we should call the State DOT. THE more people that reach out will make it so they do something about it and will react faster. John said he also had a nail in his tire as have many people in Town, residents and employees. Tony explained that a few weeks ago he picked up a couple handfuls by the Gaffney's driveway. They were all the way across the road. He said they are old roofing nails but hadn't been used. Chief agreed that they hadn't been used but it was like someone was cleaning out old items from their garage. Tony said when he picked them up, they were all the way across the road from shoulder to shoulder. It looked like they fell out of something and scattered. Chief said he hasn't received any complaints beyond the dump. John said unfortunately the Town doesn't have the resources to clean something like this up but we would do the best we could if it was a Town road but and this was the State Road anyway and they do have the resources. Tony said they did sweep the road and they went up and down 4-5 times so hopefully that will take care of the problem. Tony said the Select Board will keep an eye on it but it would be hard to find out if this is malicious without having someone see it on camera or in person. Chief said we may want to look at cameras at the dump to see if it would show that part of the road way. He has no evidence that it is malicious, no one has made any reports that they have seen anyone throwing nails or anything suspicious. Dave Leone said if it was it would be someone that didn't live in Town and doesn't have to drive these roads. Bubba said the same thing because they wouldn't want to drive over it. Bubba also had to plug his wife's tire.

Highway Department

Bubba explained that they are putting up sand and starting to get ready for the winter.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Groton Old Home Day

Groton Old Home Day was a success. There was a good turnout, the band was good and everyone had fun!! There were no fireworks this year due to the cost but they are looking at options for next year to draw more people in. Slim said to make it a cruise night since they have been so popular.

Conservation Commission

Slim mentioned that they will be meeting this month to set up the dates for the clean-up days for fall and spring. They will be in touch with the dates.

Dave asked Slim if the Conservation Commission discusses the number of cuts being done. He has seen a lot of cutting and silt running everywhere. There is no silt fence. Slim said they are not at this time but they can look into and get ahold of DES or whoever they may need to. Bubba said if it is the place, he is thinking of that they are referring to, the Town has reached out to them with concerns about the driveway and they are supposed to be taking care of it.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Property on North Groton Road

Sherry said that in the past, for quite a while, there were concerns with a property on North Groton Road. It was then cleaned up but it is getting messy again. The Select Board stated that it isn't as bad as it was and they don't think it constitutes a violation at this time but they will continue to monitor it. Chief Bagan said there are new cars there so maybe new tenants.

Avitar Concern

Dave Leone asked John if he reached out to Avitar. John said he did and asked Avitar to cc the Town moving forward on any emails that Avitar sends him so the Town can make sure things happen as they are supposed to. Dave said he did come out and they went through everything in the campground and that should all be taken care of. His biggest concern is that he has a problem with Avitar sending the Town a letter stating that he didn't respond to them when he did. This wasn't true and he is bother that they lied. John said that they cannot change what happened and it is their word against his but to be safe moving forward he would recommend all email communication so there is record of it and the Town should be cc'd on them to make sure everything is happening as it should be.

Maxam

Slim asked if anyone has any information on Maxam. Bubba said hearsay is they are starting to clean out and getting ready to move. Slim said he saw the guy getting fuel and he asked how long they will be up there. He said they said they are moving to Massachusetts and the drivers don't want to go down there.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:34pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant