

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
December 20, 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 Work Session Meeting minutes of December 6, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of December 6, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Building Committee/Work Session Meeting minutes of December 6, 2022 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Building Permit- Map 6 Lot 47

The owner submitted a building permit for a 20x8 Rhino garage/garage in a box. This is on a private road so it has to go before the Planning Board for review so they could provide comments/recommendations to the Select Board. **John motioned to table the building permit for Map 6 Lot 47 until the Planning Board reviews it, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

MS-60A

Each year the Town submits an MS-60A after the MS-60W has been submitted. These are forms pertaining to the local town audit completed by the locally elected auditor. **John motioned to sign the MS-60A, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Friday

John mentioned that the Town received an email from Primex warning us of heavy rain on Friday. He said everyone should be prepared for possible flooding and should shovel off their roof if there is a lot of snow on it.

Bubba said that people need to understand it is almost impossible to sand during heavy rains. They will get out and sand once the rain stops. It is supposed to start as snow late Thursday night, turning to heavy rain with strong wind gusts on Friday and then will get cold again so things will freeze. He asked that everyone be careful.

Emergency Management

John mentioned that we were supposed to have an Emergency Management meeting on Saturday but it was cancelled due to storm. There was discussion to see when we should open the building during a storm or emergency situation. Tony said the Select Board did not want to make that decision alone and wanted the Emergency Management Director and the Deputy to be involved in that decision which we will discuss at the next meeting. John said in the mean time we will look at each storm and make a decision based on the situation.

Facebook post

John wanted to address a Facebook post that was posted on the Groton NH Community Page over the weekend. He said Dave Leone made a post about the road conditions in Groton and about the new Highway building. As far as the roads go there were many different factors that came in to play. First of all, Dorchester had less snow than Groton. Second of all, there were trees down everywhere. Also, if he had contacted the Town, he would have known that we were down two trucks and one person which made it difficult to stay on top of the snow as hard as it was coming down.

The false information that is spread only hurts the Town; it doesn't help the Town. He was a Road Agent and a Selectman in the past so he is aware of how things can happen. John doesn't know what his accomplishments were during those times but he does know the Bubba and Sara have worked hard to get more than a half million dollars in grant money for the town to bring the roads up to standard. The only one he knows of before Sara and Bubba getting grants for the Town was Slim for a truck.

He has said during town meetings that we should hire residents to do work in town and we have given residents many opportunities to do so, including Dave. He has promised the Town wood which was never delivered. He also said things that were not factual. He said the Select Board is moving forward with building the town garage. Being a Selectman in the past he should know that the Select Board cannot do that. They did decide to move forward with another building committee because the Town agrees we need a new building out of the flood zone but they felt the last building cost was too high. The building committee was formed because we didn't want to lose the grant for \$250,000 and we were told we would if something wasn't presented at Town Meeting in March. Also, if we lose that grant, it would hurt us to get other grants. We were fortunate to have a committee this time that has knowledge of buildings like the one we want to put up. We were also fortunate that there was a building put up in Hebron that fits the Town's needs and fits better in line with the budget. We cannot and will not put the building up without the Town's vote and it will go to the Town for vote in March.

Tony said that in March 2022 the Townspeople did vote to put \$100,000.00 into the Public Works Capital Reserve fund for this building which shows the Town does want to move forward with a building. This building will be lower cost and less money the Town will have to raise.

Bubba and John both mentioned that the Select Board used the ARPA funds for anything that has been done for the building this year, not taxpayer's money. Bubba said we have spent a little money so far but not a lot. John said that it was money spent to get the information to move towards a vote in March.

John said he was also told by a resident that NHEC was not aware of outages in our town. John called them today and asked how they are made aware of power outages. They have circuits throughout the town and they are notified if there is no power. She looked at his address and was able to give the updates as to when the power went out and when it came back on. She said they do not even need people to call. She also said that these outages were all caused by trees and limbs that fell outside of the right of way. Sara mentioned that she also reported it Saturday morning and they were already aware. Bubba said he also called to report outage and trees down. NHEC couldn't get here soon enough but they did a great job and the tree guys got here and started working. They said this was the largest number of primary lines snapped and they had to repair many snapped lines. Bubba said there were trees on fire. There was a lot of trees down on Halls Brook Road that the State was having to deal with. He said most of the trees that came down in Groton were on the opposite side of the road of where they did the cutting. Tony said it was so wide spread. He also stated that the people who came to service us were from Ipswich. They did a good job keeping the roads open.

John wanted to add that Bubba wasn't just plowing he was making calls to get parts and to get the trucks fixed, He did an excellent job during this storm and showed excellent leadership. He remained calm and collected with

everything he had to deal with. John said that Fred and Bubba both did great and worked so well together. Tony said to remember that he is always around to help if he needs a driver or parts.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba stated that they had two trucks down for the last storm as we discussed earlier. He wants to thank Charlie Coursey and Coursey & Sons along with Dan the Mobile Mechanic. They came right out to help with the roads and to fix the truck. It is nice to have good people around.

Police Department

Chief Bagan said everything has been quiet.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

ARPA funds

Janet wanted to confirm if the ARPA funds are actually authorized by the Selectmen to make the delegation of those funds and it doesn't have to go to Town Meeting. John said that is correct and they also did have a public hearing which stated the amounts of the money and how the Select Board wanted to use the money and they voted to do so in the public hearing. Sara mentioned this was posted and there are minutes showing this.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:17pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant