

TOWN OF GROTON
PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING
February 7, 2023

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

Audience Members Present

John called the Public Hearing on the Proposed Public Works Building to order at 6:16pm.

The posting in the newspaper about the public hearing shared the warrant article wording which is as follows:

ARTICLE 3: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **six hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$625,000)** to design and construct a new Department of Public Works building, and to authorize the issuance of **two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$215,000)** of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); with **two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000)** to come from a grant from USDA Rural Development; to authorize the withdrawal of **one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000)** from the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Further, to raise and appropriate from taxation **ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000)** for the first year's debt service payment.

Tony mentioned that we discussed a lot of the building questions in the public hearing on the bond.

John mentioned that the big building in Hebron is basically the same building that we are going for with some modifications such as more garage doors. David said without the housing on the front. John said that is correct. Sherry said that the work ethic of the guys that built the building was amazing. They worked long hours to make sure the building went up as quickly as possible. Sara mentioned that the Select Board and Bubba went and did a tour of the building after they put it up to make sure it was something that would work for the Town.

Sara explained that if anyone didn't grab it yet, there are copies of the plans and the estimated costs on the table.

Tony said this is the first public hearing on the building to explain why it is on the warrant this year. There will be another public hearing before Town Meeting which will have updated numbers and USDA will be here to discuss that reality that we will lose the bond if something isn't done this year and to answer any questions.

Jeremy Elder said this is showing four bays and asked if it included the salt and sand sheds. John said no it does not, that would be separate. Tony said the salt shed would be built in the first year and we discontinued the sand shed for this year to save on costs. That will be a separate structure later.

Bubba said that USDA was interested in the sand shed when we talked to them. They are very interested in a grant for the sand shed. Sara explained that last year we applied for a \$50,000.00 USDA grant for the backhoe. We were denied because the building is still in the flood zone so the backhoe would be

stored in a flood zone and they couldn't give federal money knowing that. They also said that they would continue to deny any grant for the highway department as long as it remains in a flood zone. Once we talked to them about the \$250,000.00 grant and other grants moving forward, they said that if the building passes and is out of the flood zone, they would give us grants in the future. They also said if the building passes, they could almost guarantee us that they would give us a grant for the sand shed. Miles said that is a wise move.

David asked when the covers at the Transfer Station will be built over the dumpsters that they have been being told about for years now. Tony said that if we get this building we will ask the same company for estimates because we were having troubles getting estimates. John said the one estimate we got was outrageous and the costs didn't outweigh the benefits. John said it is a much bigger project than we thought it would be. Sherry asked why would we need to cover the dumpsters. It was explained that we currently pay by weight and it can get full of water.

Jeremy Elder said he didn't see a shower on there and he thought they were supposed to have them in case of chemical contact. Pam thought they would just need an eye wash station. Jeremy said he thought this was a requirement. Tony said all the DOT sheds have them. The Select Board agreed that they will have to look into it and check with the engineers.

David asked if it will have floor drains with a holding tank. John said no. Tony said there will not be floor drains, the water will be allowed to come out. Dave said if it has a leak will it go into the soil and then into the lake. Tony said that it will be set up to catch it. The DOT did the same thing so that they could catch it before it leaks out.

Stacey asked why there were no lights on the list. Tony said he is sure it does but it may be covered under another section. Sherry mentioned that it does mention conduit. Bubba said Casey's building has lights so he believes that is part of the cost. Bubba explained that Casey is working on breaking this down further. Sara mentioned that he will be working with the architect/engineer on the costs. This is why we have them look at it to, to make sure nothing was missed or overlooked. We will make sure this is part of the costs.

Slim said that pole installation is \$6,000.00. David asked if they amortize that cost. Tony said not anymore. Tony said that was a quote from the co-op themselves. Slim said when he did his house, the first pole was at no charge and anything beyond that was charged. Bubba and others said it is not like that anymore.

Jeremy Elder said it shows prepping for a generator but no generator. Sara said there is a generator on it and read the information out loud. Pam said if we don't do the generator right away, what are the chances of getting one later with a grant. Sara said there are grants for them so we could look into that.

There were no other questions or comments on the building.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to close the public hearing on the Proposed Public Works Building at 6:27pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant