

Town of Groton  
Select Board Work Session Minutes  
March 7, 2023

**In attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert, Ron Madan and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant - AA)**

John called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

***Prep for Election / Town Meeting***

- Sara already ordered the coffee, creamer, sugar, cups, plates, bowls, etc. for Elections and Town Meeting.
- John will mention at the Select Board meeting that we will accept donations of food for the Town Meeting.
- We will need to ask someone to run the coffee machines.
- Sara already sent Gina a reminder about elections and Town Meeting to make sure the big room is clean.
- We will meet with Amy tonight so we should see if she needs anything from the Select Board with assistance setting up or anything for the elections or the Town Meeting.
- On Election Day, John, Ron and Tony will be here all day. Sara will be here as a ballot clerk.

***Discussion on Town meeting:***

- Sara gave the wording for moving an article - "Ms. Moderator, I move to accept Article \_\_ as written."
- The Select Board went over who is going to move, 2<sup>nd</sup> and present each Article.
- Article 3- The Building- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 4- Operating Budget- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 5- Capital Reserve Funds- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 6- The Road Repair and Paving CRF- The Select Board and Bubba will be prepared to speak to this.
- Article 7- Refurbishing the 2012 International- Bubba will be prepared to speak to this; Sara will have the quotes with her.
- Article 8- 3% Timber Tax to Conservation Commission- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this
- Articles 9 & 10- Veterans Credit Updates- The Select Board will be prepared to speak to this
- Article 11- This is on there every year and no one usually speaks to it.
- Closing- point out dedication, thank everyone for bringing food, ask people to get involved in committees

***Letter from 1642 North Groton Road***

The Town had sent the owners of 1642 North Groton Road a letter asking what the intent is with the RV on the property. The owners send a letter back stating the following:

*"We are writing in response to your letter dated February 7, 2023. In June of 2021, before we purchased our property, the land broker selling the property told us that there were no covenants or restrictions on the property and that we could use an RV. We called the Groton Town Hall to confirm that there were no covenants or restrictions on the property and that we could use an RV. The town's response was that we could indeed use an RV and that there were no covenants or restrictions on the property. We signed the Purchase and Sale on July 9, 2021 and closed on August 18, 2021. Starting August 20, 2021, we began using the property, working and camping on weekends, long before the new zoning ordinance was*

*established March 8, 2022. Our intent with the RV and property is to continue to use it as we have since August 20, 2021, until we finish building our home on the property. We have no intention of living in the RV full time."*

The Select Board agreed that they are okay with them having the RV since it was there before the zoning went into effect, as long as they are not living in it year-round. No further action is needed.

### ***Health Officer Renewal Form***

Sara explained that the State emailed to have the Town update the Health Officer Renewal Form since the last one expired on 2/28/23. Sara completed as much of the form as she could but Tony has to complete the rest and the Select Board need to sign it. They are now requiring a background check so Tony completed his section, Sara signed hers and Ruth notarized this. Sara will send this out with the payment next week. **John motioned to sign the Health Officer Renewal Form, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### ***Subpoena***

Sara explained that Ruth brought over a subpoena that was dropped off to her on March 1, 2023. Sara put this on the agenda for tonight to see if we should send this to the attorney. However, the attorney emailed last night after office hours stating that towns are receiving a subpoena from the law firm of McLane Middleton. They represent the 3M Company in connection with a lawsuit filed against the company by the State of New Hampshire. Our Town is being subpoenaed to produce information regarding our closed transfer station/landfill. As these requests are time sensitive, they asked that we forward the subpoena to them as soon as you receive it, indicating what day you were served. Sara emailed it over to them today and explained that Ruth received it March 1, 2023.

The attorney called Sara after she emailed it and told her that over 100 were sent out and there are at least 17 towns so far that our attorney represents that have received it. The same paperwork went out to everyone. It is a broad request/demand for information regarding the closed transfer station/landfills, cleanup, testing such as PFA's, etc. dating back to the 1950's. Our attorney is working with other offices and they are filing an objection to all of this addressing all concerns, on behalf of everyone. They know this is a busy time for the Towns with it being Town meeting time and they do not feel that what they are asking for is fair within the 20 day timeline they are requesting it in. They are hoping to file the objection today. Since it will be filed on behalf of everyone, the costs will be split up between all towns they are representing.

They know that DES has all of this information so they feel the company should have went to the State for this information. They also feel that the company could have scheduled a time to meet with the Towns to get the information they need. The attorney said they understand that any policies for the dump or transfer station that may have been in place in the 1950's may have not been in writing and may not be accessible anymore. The attorney stated that we should not send anything to them at this time but we should start collecting information on the closure, clean up and testing. They will send out a mass email to all Towns that this was sent to stating what information should be collected, who to send it to and when.

The Select Board appreciated Sara letting them know and told Sara to follow the instructions from the attorney.

### ***Public Hearing Prep***

Sara made copies of the updated costs of the building and the building plans. John said he plans on reading the warrant article, which goes over the updated costs, the money from the unassigned fund balance, the amount to be raised. They will mention that they are moving forward with no bond and see

if there are any questions from the audience. Sara said that Eric Law is supposed to be here from USDA so he will speak about how the grant needs to be used this year or we will lose it and how this will affect other grants in the future.

***Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)***

Sara let the Select Board know that she did submit applications for the CDS for the North Groton Road Culvert and for the Sand Shed. We need letters of recommendations from a third party for these by 3/10/23. Sara has two for the North Groton Road Culvert which are Mike Vignale and Christina Goodwin. She did reach out to a few residents to see if they would be able to do the letters for the sand shed.

***Dry Hydrant***

Tony mentioned that the dry hydrant broke during the last fire. It was very cold out and a piece broke off. They will not be able to repair it until Spring so it will be out of service until then.

**John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (b) at 5:25pm, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**John motioned to return to public session at 5:55pm, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**John motioned to seal the non-public minutes, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

***Meeting with Amy the Town Moderator***

The Select Board met with Amy to go over the warrant articles and other town meeting items to make sure she is as comfortable as she can be.

Sara mentioned that she received the surveys from the school. Tony told Amy that he used to put things like that out on the table where they walk in. Amy said that is where she will put them.

Amy asked what is the best way to open the town meeting. The Select Board mentioned that she opens the meeting, does the pledge of allegiance, read the moderators rules, explain that the ballot articles were already voted on so we will start on article 3. The Select Board will move each article, 2<sup>nd</sup> it and speak to them. The Select Board has the first chance to speak to each article. The Select Board went over with Amy who was moving each article, who will second each one and who will speak to each one.

The Select Board and Amy went over other procedures for elections and Town meetings. Amy feels comfortable with running both.

Amy will be setting up for elections on Monday. Sara said that she will be here to assist her. Tony mentioned that he cannot count at elections so he will help take things down after voting and set up for Town Meeting.

**Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:55pm, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant