

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 21, 2023

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 February 7, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of February 7, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Public Hearing on the Bond Meeting minutes of February 7, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Public Hearing on the Building minutes of February 7, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Public Hearing on the Budget/Warrant Article minutes of February 7, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of February 7, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of February 13, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Casella Meeting

Mike Casella and Amber Vecchiarelli from Casella had requested to meet with the Town. They called today and had a scheduling conflict so they need to reschedule. Sara provided the dates of the next few meetings. They will look at their schedules and will get back to Sara with the date that works best for them.

Updates from Public Hearings

There were a few items that came up at the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget and Warrant Articles that the Select Board wanted to follow back up with everyone on.

- There will not be any changes to the operating budget. The Select Board agreed to keep it as it was including the moderator and ballot clerks.
- Article 3- building. At the Public Hearing we were not sure if we were going to proceed with the bond or not. We got the numbers from the architect and found out that we are able to apply \$100,000 from the unassigned fund balance so we will not be doing the bond. We will move forward to raise the \$169,000 from taxation to move forward with the building. This will only increase the budget \$6,272 from last year.
- We reached out to USDA and if the building passes at the march 2023 town meeting, how long would we have for the project. They said, ideally the project would be completed within a year of funding obligation but no later than two years from obligation, example January 2026.
- We reached out to see if a shower is required and were informed that Showers/tubs are not specifically required by the code for business, assembly or storage uses. However, depending on the

use, OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.151(c) requires eyewash and shower equipment for emergency use where the eyes or body of any employee may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials. So, it depends on how the facility will be used and if there may be exposure to those materials listed above. We included an eye wash station in the previous round of drawings. The Select Board did agree to move forward with the eye wash station and shower.

- We reached out to the attorney to ask what the best way to proceed with Article 5 is in case the building article 3 doesn't pass and we need to add money for the building; she recommended that it would be best to put the building in there with \$1.00 and then amend that amount as needed.
- We double checked and the Conservation Commission Fund did have \$6,536.46 as of December 2022 as Sara stated at the last meeting.
- The question came up about how much money we get for the Highway Block Grant. This amount does change every year but for 2022 we received \$30,921.84.
- Sara looked into the Veterans Credit. We currently have 34 properties that receive the Veterans Credit; 2022 was higher but some have sold the property. That includes 31 that get the \$500 and 3 that get the totally and permanently disabled veterans' credit of \$1500.
- Also, regarding the comment at the public hearing that a resident thought the credit was increased, we looked into this. RSA 72:28 still states \$51-\$750. Sara also reached out to NHMA to ask if they are aware of an increase and they are not. Also, on the DRA's list about veterans' credits, out of the 259 towns listed, only 23 towns have credit amounts higher than \$500; 78 have credit amounts lower than us and the rest are all at the \$500.00 credit amount.
- Sara asked NHMA if the residents can amend articles 9 and 10 to change the \$500.00 credit amount. NHMA's answer was yes.

Candidate Night Information

Candidate night will be March 7, 2023 at the beginning of the Select Board Meeting. The open positions are:

- SELECT PERSON 1 position for 3 years- David Leone and Tony Albert
- TREASURER 1 position for 3 years- open
- TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND for 3 years- Michele Lacriox
- TOWN AUDITOR for 1 year- Ann Joyce
- PLANNING BOARD 2 positions for 3 years- Deb Johnson and Russell Carruth
- ZONING BOARD 2 positions for 3 years- Casey Kuplin and Jonathan Beliveau
- ZONING BOARD 1 position for 2 years- Heath Matthews
- CEMETERY TRUSTEE 2 positions for 3 years- Jonathan Beliveau
- LIBRARY TRUSTEE 3 positions for 3 years- open

Report of Cut/Yield Certificate- Map 7 Lots 3, 12-18 & 22

The Town received a report of cut for Map 7 Lots 3, 12-18 & 22 on Halls Brook Road for a cut of about 52 acres. The amount of the tax is \$1,522.16. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 7 Lots 3, 12-18 & 22, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit Map 10 Lot 4

The Town received a building permit for Map 10 Lot 4. This is located on a private road so this has to be reviewed by the Planning Board. Sara did send it to the Planning Board for review at their next meeting. **John motioned to table the building permit for Map 10 Lot 4 until the Planning Board reviews it, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

NCES Contract for Disposal under Pemi-Baker Amendment

North Country Council emailed that under the fully executed amendment to the Pemi-Baker Disposal Contract, members of the district are now provided with an additional 4 years of disposal at the Bethlehem facility. This amendment extends the contract until April 30, 2027. If our community currently uses the Bethlehem facility

of wishes to take advantage of this, a contract needs to be signed and returned prior to the extension start date of May 1, 2023. Sara emailed to see if we still need to sign this even though we do not bring our materials there ourselves, that Casella or another company does this for us. North Country Council stated that yes, since we are currently using Casella for our disposal under the original agreement, we are required to sign it. **John motioned to sign the Contract for Disposal under Pemi-Baker Amendment, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Bubba was out plowing so John went over the following Highway Department items:

- The roads have been posted effective February 21, 2023.
- The new backhoe was delivered.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:14pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant