

TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
August 22, 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 August 8, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of August 8, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of August 8, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Steve Nilhas- Interim Superintendent for SAU 4*

Steve introduced himself and explained that he is the Interim Superintendent of Schools of SAU 4 since July 1st. He is pleased to serve the towns of the Newfound Area School District. He was raised on a farm in Kansas. Following graduation, he worked on the farm for eight years. Once he entered the field of education, he served as a teacher, principal, and superintendent in Kansas. He has also worked in two international schools, Asuncion, Paraguay, and Cartagena, Colombia.

He has been the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Federal Grants for the past three years at SAU 36, Whitefield, Lancaster, Dalton, Jefferson, and Twin Mountain, NH. Prior, he was the Superintendent of Schools at SAU 84, Littleton, NH.

Since beginning at SAU 4, he has started to learn more about each community and to understand how he can best support the education of the children who reside in each town. In addition, he is mindful of the need to consider and understand the broader community, which includes many business owners, homeowners, and others whose hard-earned money goes to support our schools.

He wanted to make himself available to meet and to answer any questions the Town might have for him and to listen to how we can work together.

Tony said since he is interim now, is he considering going full time. He said he would like it to be beyond this year but that is not his call. He respects the process.

Steve said that they have selected some board members to start meeting with the planning committee regarding the school process. He agrees there needs to be transparency and they need to give the voters as much information as they can so they can vote accordingly.

*Bids for 2023 FEMA Multiple Road Reconstruction Projects*

The Town of Groton put out an invitation to bid on the 2023 FEMA Multiple Road Reconstruction Projects for North Groton Road, Edgar Albert Road, Province Road and River Road damages that we experienced during the December 22-25, 2022 storms. The site visit was conducted on August 1, 2023 and the attendees were told

they needed to have their proposals to the Town by Monday, August 21, 2023 by 4:00pm and they would be opened during this Select Board meeting.

The Select Board opened the proposals which were submitted by ME Latulippe and Morrison Construction LLC.

- ME Latulippe's quote was for \$226,700.00.
- Morrisons quote was for \$224,771.00.

This is more than we thought it would be. We do not have the money for the entire project right now. We may have to wait until we can vote on it at Town Meeting to do the entire project. Also, we need to wait to get the total and project descriptions from FEMA to make sure it matches and that no changes need to be made.

Bubba suggested that the Town have him starting working on some of the ditching since this is important and there is money for this between the budget and the disaster relief fund. The Select Board agreed this was a good idea. Sara will contact both bidders to let them know who the project was awarded to and that Morrisons will be contacted with more details.

**John motioned to tentatively award the project to Morrison Construction LLC with the understanding that the entire project cannot be completed until we get either FEMA money or vote on it at Town Meeting in March, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup> so voted.**

*Local septic approval- Map 2 Lot 41*

The septic designer mailed in a Septic Plan and local approval for Map 2 Lot 41. All the information is correct.

**John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 2 Lot 41, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

*Local septic approval- Map 1 Lot 55*

The septic designer mailed in a Septic Plan and local approval for Map 1 Lot 55. All the information is correct.

**John motioned to sign the local septic approval for Map 1 Lot 55, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

*MS-434*

The MS-434 is the estimate revenues for Groton which is due by September 1st. Sara submitted this as an FYI. The Select Board does not need to sign it but needs to review it. The DRA will review and send their revised MS-434 for the Select Board to review. The Select Board did not have any questions or concerns.

*MS-1*

The MS1 is due by September 1st to the DRA. Sara will be completing this either the end of this week or next week once Avitar enters all of their information. However, we do not meet again until after September 1st so Sara will have this done and need to submit them before that meeting. **John motioned to come in and sign the MS-1 once it is completed, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**SELECT BOARD ITEMS:**

*Intent to Cut- Map 7 Lot 21*

The logger mailed in an intent to cut for Map 7 Lot 21 for a 10-acre cut. All the information is correct and no bond is required. **John motioned to sign the intent to cut for Map 7 Lot 21, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

*Intent to Cut- Map 7 Lot 11*

The logger mailed in an intent to cut for Map 7 Lot 11 for a 35-acre cut. All the information is correct and no bond is required. **John motioned to sign the intent to cut for Map 7 Lot 11, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Public Notice*

John informed everyone that the Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton Planning Group will be meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Bridgewater Town Hall. They will be meeting with the Interim Superintendent of the Newfound Area School District and members from the Newfound Area School District School Board. The Public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

### *Highway Building Update*

John wanted to let the Town know where we stand at this time with the new Highway Building. There were updated plans that were required by USDA that the Select Board approved. They are now in the hands of USDA waiting for their approval. Once we receive this, we can move forward with the bidding. Tony mentioned that it will still be a while once this starts because after the requests for bids are posted we have to wait 30 days for the bids so this will be another 4-6 weeks after we receive the approval from USDA to move forward before any work will begin. It is frustrating but we have to follow the process.

### **DEPARTMENT ITEMS:**

#### *Police Department*

Chief Bagan said there was nothing to report at this time. Summer has been slow. Sculptured Rocks has been busy at time but not overflowing.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

#### *Old Home Day*

John said that Old Home Day took place on Saturday, August 19, 2023. He said there was a good turnout, everyone had a great time and the band was great. There was a lot more kids this year and more raffles. John thanked Gina for setting it up and Sara for the behind-the-scenes work. A lot of people asked about fireworks which did not take place this year. If the Town wants fireworks, we will need to look at this for the future and look at adding money to the Old Home Day budget.

### **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant