

Town of Groton  
Select Board Work Session Minutes  
January 23, 2024

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

**John called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.**

**Budget/warrant items- changes to warrant articles based on attorney feedback**

Sara explained that the attorney reviewed the warrant articles and the following articles had changes made to them:

- Article 5: the attorney recommended adding what was being paved so we added the driveways and parking areas
- Article 6: they attorney recommended we add the wording in that we have already received money from FEMA and that amount
- Article 14: I noticed that in the article we wanted to add money to that CRF once we change the name so we needed to add that amount under the amount of money to be transferred to the CRF so this raised this amount.

The Select Board are okay with these changes. Sara said she will start entering them into the DRA portal so we can get feedback from DRA before our public hearing.

John mentioned that one thing we need to keep in mind is that no one at the meetings can amend article 2 since all of the towns are voting on the same warrant article and that wording came from the attorney.

**IRS electronic filing**

Sara explained that the IRS has changed who they require to file. It is now anyone that has over 10 filings which includes 1094s, 1095s, W2s and W3s. We have more than 10 but we have never done the electronic filing and it is not as easy to sign up for it. I reached out to HealthTrust since they did webinars on this and to our auditor. HealthTrust said that it is a difficult process, especially for small towns like ours and they provided a list of vendors that could do it for us. Our auditor is all set up for online filing so they said they could take care of it for us. Sara thought it would be safer to use our auditor instead of a random vendor so she asked them for a quote on how much this will cost. They provided the quote if they take care of doing everything and a cheaper quote if Sara completes the templates they send over. The Select Board are good with this either way. Since it is filing with the government, the Select Board agreed to have Sara reach out and request the template so we can see how detailed it is and if we could complete these or if we should just have the auditor do them.

**Performance Reviews**

We need to set a date to go over performance reviews. The Select Board agreed that since the next scheduled meeting is our public hearings that we should do it at the following meeting, which is Tuesday February 20, 2024. Sara will add this to that agenda.

**Annual report cover photo**

Sara explained we need to decide on the cover for the annual town report. Sara will have the draft of this together by next week for Select Board to review. This will just be the handouts. If all is good, she will send a draft to the printers but letting them know that the warrant and budget will be updated but we do not have our hearing on this until 2/13/24. The Select Board agreed on the cover photo to use. Sara will send this to the printers so they can start on that.

#### **Public Hearing on leaving SAU4**

Sara asked the Select Board what we should have for handouts for the public hearing on SAU4.

- Sara asked if we should have copies of the articles of agreements and if should she put this online? If so, have any changes been made to these since they were last sent to us? The Select Board said yes, we should. Sara will contact Terry to see if there are any updates.
- Sara asked if we should we include the most recent letter to parents. Sara said she has already put copies of this letter to the parents online and made copies that are on the table downstairs. The Select Board said yes, we should make sure we have copies of this at the Public Hearing.
- Sara asked if there was anything else we should include? The Select Board said that we should have copies of the tax comparison spreadsheet that Sara made copies of today and put out downstairs.

#### **Flood Plain resolution & update for the Planning Board meeting next week**

Sara explained that we need to have the information for the Flood Plain updates sent back to them asap. Sara has been going back and forth with them and with Deb to make sure they have all of the information they need. Sara had emailed Deb and stated that the Planning Board needed to update the Flood Plain regulations and sent them over along with the updated site regulations. Deb said the Flood Plain Regulations should be updated by the Select Board. Sara located the 2007 Flood Plain regs and they were completed, updated and signed by the Planning Board. She sent this to Deb. She never heard back from Deb on this so she made the current updates to the Flood Plain Regs and created the National Flood Insurance resolution letter and sent to Katie and Alvina for review. She also met with Deb and explained that she emailed and printed the updated Flood Plain regulations for Deb to have herself and the Planning Board sign them at their 1/31/24 meeting. The Select Board need to sign the resolution that Sara created that will be sent over tomorrow and will be filed with the updated Flood Plain Regs after the Planning Board sign them. **John motioned to sign the National Flood insurance resolution letter, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (b) at 2:17pm, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**John motioned to return to public session at 2:22pm, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

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

#### **Rumney- Fire/EMS Contracts 2024-2025**

The Fire Contract increased by \$2,351.43 making it \$12,071.68. The EMS Contract decreased by \$9.22 making it \$1,063.91. This the contract but doesn't include the additional charges for the pay hourly for those that respond to the calls. We budgeted \$15,000.00 so we should still be all set for the calls. **John motioned to sign the Rumney Fire and Emergency Services Agreements, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Sara mentioned that the letter from from Rumney stated "The Town of Rumney Fire Department is expecting delivery of a new Fire Engine, to replace the 1992 Engine currently in service. The Rumney Board of Selectmen would like to arrange a meeting with the Groton Board of Selectmen to discuss a payment schedule for the new piece of equipment". Sara asked when they would like to schedule this and asked how we should budget for this. The budget hearing is February 13, 2024 so we should try to have the meeting before then if possible so we can change the budget if needed. Sara will email asking for their meeting schedule and let the Select Board know so they can see which one works for them. The Select Board agreed that if we cannot meet until after March that if it is agreed we will make payments towards this, the payments will not be able to start until 2025 since the 2024 budget will already be created by March.

#### **401/405 Sculptured Rocks Road**

A building permit submitted for a roof over a sawmill and it said there would not be electric or water. There was a concern brought to the Select Boards attention that there are lights at this structure. The Select Board discussed this complaint and agreed that just because there are lights at this structure doesn't mean

that there is electric at this structure, they could have run it from the other building. Sara stated that resident put the note “no electric, no water” on the permit that there is not a section that asks about this. The only section we have asks if it will be heated or cooled and if so, they need PUC approval. This structure is not being heated or cooled as it is just a roof/pavilion style structure with no sides. The complainant also stated that they are living in full time and in the past have said it was seasonal and they do not live there full time. Sara said that the mailing address we have for them is in Groton. The Select Board asked Sara to reach out to NHMA to see what the difference would be if they did live there full time. Once we hear back from NHMA the Select Board will decide the next steps.

#### **HMGP Grant**

Sara explained that there will be some grant paperwork from the grant we applied for back in 2022 that the Select Board will have to come in and sign before the next meeting. **John motioned to come in and sign the grant paperwork when it is ready, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 3:00pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant