

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
April 2, 2024

In Attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert, Ron Madan and Sara Smith (Town Administrator)

Audience Members Present

John called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC HEARING RSA 74:10- REGARDING ONE'S LIABILITY TO BE TAXED

John motioned to open the public hearing regarding RSA 74:10 at 7:00pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John read the RSA and explained that RSA 74:10 indicates that Towns who use the inventory form, must hold a public hearing to discuss one's liability to be taxed, but there are no guidelines on discussion other than this. John asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding this. Sara reminded everyone that the inventories are due April 15th and can be mailed in or dropped off to the Select Board office.

Hearing no comments or questions, John motioned to close the public hearing at 7:02pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Tony motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of March 19, 2024 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. John abstained.

Tony motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of March 19, 2024 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. John abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Works Building Bids

The sealed bids were due today. The Select Board received two bids. They opened the following bids:

- Triple Construction:
 - Public Works Building total: 878,714.00
 - Salt Shed total: \$201,176.00
 - ADA parking Area: \$15,834.00
 - Gutters & Downspouts: \$5,917.00
 - Combined total: \$1,101,641.00
- Kuplin Land Services:
 - Public Works Building total: \$803,614.25
 - Salt Shed total: \$124,931.40
 - Combined total: \$928,545.65

USDA and the Architect have to review these bids and the architect will provide recommendation. John mentioned that the USDA is requiring items that we didn't originally plan on such as dishwasher, gutters, and other items. Ann asked why a dishwasher would be required. We are not sure. She also asked if the plan is to do a metal roof and it is. She stated it doesn't make sense to do gutters with a metal roof. Everyone agreed. John said he thinks because it is a federal grant, that there are other federal requirements that come in to play. The Select Board agreed that they recommend the lowest bidder. **John motioned to table these bids until USDA and the Engineer have reviewed them, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Heath asked if we can talk to USDA and see if there is anything we can do to lower this. Tony said we cannot move forward with the project right now because we currently do not have enough money. This means we wouldn't be able to take any bid because it is more than what the town voted on. Sara explained that since the warrant article stated an exact amount and that the grant would be applied to it, that we cannot do anything else at this time because the Town did not vote and approve the higher amount. We cannot go over what the town approved to appropriate. Heath asked if we could decide to not use the grant and then some of these requirements would no longer have to be done. This would lower the cost. He also asked if we do not continue with the grant, if could we part it out and get started on projects with the money that we do have. Sara said we would have to reach out to our attorney to see if we didn't do the grant if we would have to have a special town meeting or wait until next year at town meeting. She said that we would have to have the town vote and approve the higher amount or vote to move forward without the grant. Either way this would either take a special town meeting or have to wait until next year's town meeting. The Select Board asked Sara to reach out to the attorney and explain the situation and see what the next steps would be. Tony said that if we didn't move forward with the grant, it looks like we have enough money to do the site work, septic, the building and the electrical. The rest would have to wait until next year.

Junkyard properties

The Select Board reviewed the Junkyard List to decide which properties should be visited again this year. Below are the properties referred to by their case numbers:

#1: Audrey recommended to remove from the list. The Select Board agree.

#2: Keep as yearly check

#3: Audrey recommended to remove from the list. The Select Board agree.

#4: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#5: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#6: the owner is deceased and his ex-wife is working on cleaning up the property. She will not be filing for a junkyard permit. The Select Board agreed to keep this on here for now.

#7: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#8: Keep as yearly check

#9: Keep as yearly check

#10: Keep as yearly check- new owner- leave on to make sure it is in compliance with the new owner

#11: Keep as yearly check

Sara will reach out to Audrey to see when she will be able to do the inspections and then will send the letters with that information.

Building Permit Map 3 Lot 6-2

The Town received a building permit for Map 3 Lot 6-2 on Brock Lane. This is for roof mounted solar panels. This is on a private road so it went before the Planning Board recommends the Select Board approve the building permit subject to any deed or road covenants and all road maintenance obligations of the applicant. The do not have the release form on file so Sara sent it to them and informed them that this needs to be signed before permit is. **John motioned to sign the building permit for Map 1 Lot 97-1 contingent on the release form being received, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Reports of cuts/yield certificates

The Town received three reports of cuts/yield certificates.

- The Town received a report of cut for Map 7 Lot 31, operation # 23-193-03-T. This was for a 7-acre cut on North Groton Road. The amount of the tax is \$691.02. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 7 Lot 31, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

- The Town received a report of cut for Map 9 Lot 2, operation # 23-193-04-T. This was for a 6.5-acre cut on Old Coach Road. The amount of the tax is \$204.49. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 9 Lot 2, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
- The Town received a report of cut for Map 6 Lot 3 & 2-1, operation # 23-193-15-T. This was for an 8-acre cut on North Groton Road. The amount of the tax is \$2,205.47. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 6 Lots 3 & 2-1, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

MS-535 and representation letter

The auditor sent the MS-535 and the representation letter to be reviewed and signed by the Select Board. The MS-535 is the financial report of the budget. Sara reviewed this and sent some questions back to the auditor and all adds up. The representation letter is a letter stating that the Select Board understands that the Select Board has reviewed the MS-535 and all supporting documents, they are not aware of any misstatements in the preparation, no adjustments need to be made, etc. The Select Board reviewed the MS-535 and was okay with the amounts. **John motioned to sign the MS535 and the representation letter, Tony 2nd, so voted.** Sara will send this to DRA and put this on the website.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Steering Committee

John mentioned that the Steering Committee met last week. There is not much they can do right now until Hebron votes in May. They did discuss the school board. They will appoint someone from each town for the initial board and then when the next town meeting comes around this will be voted on. It will also go before state board for approval as well.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Police Department

Chief Bagan said all is good and there is nothing to report.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:30pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Town Administrator