

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
May 20, 2025

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

John called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

School/Tax information

Sara explained to the Select Board that they have been fielding calls from the letter that was sent with the tax bills. Also, as the Select Board are already aware it has been all over Facebook. John was anticipating having people at tonight's meeting to discuss this. Sara has put in the Select Board folders the letter that was sent, a few notes regarding how the taxes are set and the wrong information that is out there, spreadsheets to show past tax rates and unreserved fund balance amounts and the ADM numbers. John will go over this under Select Board items and will field any questions from the audience at that time.

Gas & oil permits

Sara explained that she continues to email the gas and oil permits to Dave Coursey. She never receives a response to know if he is doing the inspections. Sara asked Tony if he has talked to Dave and if he is still doing these or if we should look at someone else to do these.

Rons term

Ron decided that with everything going on, he will not be a Selectman for the remainder of his term. He thinks it is best to be done before the budget meetings start. We know someone that said they were interested in filling in to complete his term. The Select Board agreed that we should have the new person in before budget meetings start if they are still interested. Sara said we usually start the budget meetings in October. Sara sends the Memos out and she starts working on them before then. It was agreed that Ron will continue through the end of July. The Select Board asked Sara to reach out to the person to see if they are still interested and if so to see when if this timeframe works for them.

Complaint on Handicap Ramp

A resident came in and complained that the handicap ramp here is not up to code. They recommend that we have this corrected before someone gets hurt. John said he will take a look at it but thinks that the rails make it so that they would not be able to go off the ramp.

Wentworth case

Sara attended the Fair Hearing and was the Hearing officer on 5/14/25. She has until 5/23/25 to come up with her decision. She wanted someone to review what she wrote for a decision and see if they agree with it and didn't know if it should be our attorney or the Select Board. The Select Board asked her to read to them what she wrote and they are good with her sending it as is. Sara will send it out tomorrow.

Part Time, as needed, HW applicant

Right before Fred gave his notice, the Select Board approved a Highway attendant to be an extra person only as needed for part time as an extra person in case needed for mowing, plowing, etc. on nights and weekends. His background check came back a while ago and all is good. Bubba has not needed him yet but the question came up that if he is needed and works, what will we pay him. The Select Board agreed that Bubba should be a part of this conversation.

July Meetings

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Select Board agreed to only have one meeting in July, which would be the third Tuesday of the month on July 15th. It was agreed if a lot of things come up between the last meeting in June and

the July 15th meeting that they could have a work session to go over these items. **John motioned to have just one meeting in July on July 15th and if needed to have a work session before then, Tony 2nd so voted.**

Meeting with Chief Bagan to discuss Town Ordinance

Sara provided copies of the current town ordinance that was signed in 1993. There have been some discussions about noise ordinances, quiet times, etc. The Select Board and Chief have reviewed the town ordinance and provided the following updates:

- Should we add quiet hours to the noise ordinance? Many ordinances designate "quiet hours" where certain activities are restricted, such as loading/unloading, construction, or using power tools. Sara and Chief Bagan went over other Towns noise ordinance times. Chief looked at local Towns and lot of them have it listed out as we currently do without times. The Select Board agreed that we do get asked a lot about the quiet hours and agreed to add the quiet hours of 11:00pm to 6:00am.
- Sara printed some other towns noise ordinance and there is some good wording in there that she was not sure if we should use such as:
 - Between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. it shall be unlawful to:
 - Operate or use construction/demolition vehicles, to include but not be limited to bulldozers, graders, dump trucks, backhoes, earthmoving equipment, front-end loaders and log skidders
 - Operate or use tools or construction equipment to include, but not be limited to, cement mixers, hammers, staple or nail guns, power tools (i.e., saws, drills, grinders and sanders), chain saws, lawn mowers, electric hedge trimmers, lawn edger and jackhammers.
 - Operate, play, or use any radio, television, phonograph, drum, musical instrument, sound amplifier, or similar device at such a volume that it is clearly audible at the property line of the property on which the device is being operated.
 - Fireworks or cannons.
 - The Select Board agreed to use the above wording in our noise ordinance.

There was also a discussion on if we should add the dog control laws to the ordinance. Chief Bagan stated he has had some recent issues and went to both Sara and Ruth to see if this was covered in any of the Town ordinances. They said it was not and double checked with Deb Johnson to make sure it was not in the zoning ordinance. Chief Bagan mentioned that there are RSAs on this and State laws so it is covered by that if we do not add it to the town ordinance. The Select Board agreed that since we are adding other items that we should just add this to our ordinance so they can find it all in one place.

John wanted to make sure there are fines in place and this is enforced when people do not follow the ordinance. Sara stated that the current ordinance does mentioned fines and went over what each section mentions for fines. John asked where that money goes. Chief mentioned that it goes to Ruth to deposit so it goes to the general fund.

Sara will make all of these changes but since this is so old she could not find a word document of it, only a PDF so she may have to type it all up. She will get to it once she has some extra time. Chief Bagan said that he does not think this needs to be voted on by the Town, only by the Select Board. Sara confirmed that the Select Board can discuss and sign it in one of their meetings but the Town Clerk also has to sign it.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:59pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Town Administrator