

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2009
7:00pm**

In Attendance: Michael Brogna, Miles Sinclair, Kyle Andrews, Pamela Hamel (AA)

Audience Members Present

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:04pm and read the appointments, announcements and minutes of the June 23 Selectmen's meeting. **Mike made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Miles reported that the municipalities will continue to receive the rooms & meals tax sharing at the same rate as last year, but not the revenue sharing. Also, the state's shifting of 10% of their portion of retirement system funding represents an unfunded mandate from the state. **Miles made a motion to contact LGC to ask if they will be pursuing this and let them know of the Board's support and interest in seeing this done, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike made a motion to sign the alcohol permit for the Conservation Commission and GRC Street Dance, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Mike made a motion to sign a memo to the Chief requesting police coverage at the dance, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Miles made a motion to sign the letter of interest to the State regarding Sculptured Rocks Geologic Site once Pam has made the necessary correction, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Board discussed the Primex Insurance Quote. They feel that the town has a better overall value with LGC than with Primex. **Mike made a motion to continue coverage with LGC and continue research with Primex for the future, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board would like to confirm what the junkyard initial analysis would be. If it is under \$1,500, they would like to move forward with hiring Municipal Resources to handle any junkyard issues the town has. Pam will be contacting Municipal Resources to get the numbers.

Lewis Albert addressed the Road Agent. He believes the assistants to the Road Agent are doing the RA's job. He feels that money is being wasted and that the Road Agent is doing personal work on town time, using town equipment for personal work and not supervising his men. He also wanted to know why the backhoe was left at the job site unattended. Last week he had requested a copy of the Road Agent's time sheets. Through a misunderstanding, the Board thought he would come to the office to get them and did not have anything for Mr. Albert to look at just then. **Miles made a motion provide copies of the time sheets from April 1 to June 30 free of charge, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.** The Board apologized for not having those at the meeting for Mr. Lewis. Glen Hansen explained that he has his assistants do certain tasks as they get paid a lower hourly rate and this saves the town money. The men are usually working in

pairs and he does check on their work. The backhoe was left at the job site in order to save on the wear and tear of the tires caused by traveling back and forth and the man hours to take it back and forth. He was not aware that several years back it had been vandalized. In the future he will ask a property owner near the job site if the backhoe can be left there. He has never used the Town's equipment for his own work but has on many occasions used his own heavy equipment for town work at no rental cost to the town. The town supplies the fuel. Mike Ethier asked if Glen's vehicles were insured. He also expressed concern over the vehicles being parked at the Town Garage, including the Road Agents personal equipment. He said in a warrant article the Town voted to forbid parking personal vehicles at the garage. He then said the Board should contact Belknap Tire and ask about some trailer tires that Mr. Hansen had ordered. Glen replied that his vehicles are insured and the certificate of insurance is on file in the office. He has never purchased personal items on the Town's account. The Board supports Glen in his decision to not travel back and forth with the backhoe but do believe it is best to find a more secure place to leave it overnight. They feel he has been faithful to the town, doing the best with what he has to work with. They have no reason to suspect that he has ever done personal work on town time nor used the town's equipment for his own business. By using his assistants, he has saved money. Glen also responded that he has left his personal equipment at the garage when he is using it at that end of town for town business. Miles asked Mr. Ethier and Mr. Albert if they had any proof to support their allegations and suspicions. If so, they would be glad to look at it. If all they have are unsupported suspicions, then they should not be taking cheap shots at town employees. Mr. Ethier said to call Belknap Tire to get the story. Mr. Albert had no evidence.

Kyle made a motion to send a letter of thanks to Don Merrill for the volunteer work he did at the Everett Hobart Memorial Park and to apologize for the delay to getting his supply reimbursement check out to him, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

The Zoning Board asked that the Administrative Assistant act as their in house secretary. The Board needs to discuss this before making a decision.

The Road Agent asked to set up a tentative work session with the Board for Tuesday, July 7 at 6pm.

Pam will coordinate a time for the Library Trustees and the Board to meet with Richard Verville from FEMA to discuss the grant availability for moving the Library building.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from Aladdin Financial. Aladdin Financial had been paying taxes on 61 acres in current use, 2 acres not in CU. In reviewing the CU files, it was discovered that all the property should be in CU. The abated amount comes to approximately \$600. Even though the abatement application period is over, RSA 76:16 allows the Board to abate any tax assessed for good cause shown. They recognize that the error was on the part of the Town. **Mike made a motion to grant the abatement to Aladdin Financial, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike made a motion to approve the building permit for Vignone, Map 5 Lot 160, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted. Miles said the building permit guidelines say a copy of the septic approval

is to be attached to each application. Thus far, they have not been enforcing this. This is something the Board will need to address in the future.

Board reviewed the paperwork from LGC Recruitment services. They are considering using this avenue to secure a full time Police Chief. Initial cost is \$2,100 but there are some unknown expenses including advertising. The Board would like to meet with Barry Cox to explain the program and discuss any unknowns. **Miles made a motion to have Pam contact LGC and set up this meeting, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Miles would like to talk with the Chief about the on call time. The Board believes that an officer on call should not be paid on call time for 2 towns simultaneously. They would like to clarify this with the Chief.

The Board set up a tentative work session with Chuck Stata for Thursday, July 9 at 7pm to discuss ongoing septic issues.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant