

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2009
7:00pm**

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

Audience Members Present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:08pm and announced that Mike Brogna would be a little late. Miles read the appointments, announcements and minutes of the September 15 selectmen's meeting. Miles asked to make the following amendment:

- Page 2, paragraph 4: strike "several times" and insert "received no answer."

Miles made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Kyle 2nd, so voted, Mike abstaining as he was not present at last week's meeting.

Mike and Kyle reviewed the 2010 Plymouth Area Prosecutors proposed budget. Although the projected increase is not as much as previously thought both Mike and Kyle feel there is the potential of decreasing the amount the town spends if the new chief were to prosecute cases or if it is done on a yearly stipend basis. **Mike made a motion to sign the letter of intent to withdraw from the Plymouth Area Prosecutors Association, Kyle 2nd, so voted, Miles abstaining from the vote and all discussion.**

The Board reviewed the response from Attorney Spector concerning the Sewall zoning/building permit violations. **Miles made a motion to read the response to the public, Kyle 2nd, so voted.** The Board had forwarded the facts of this case to the attorney for comment as they had issue with what went on. In an initial phone conversation, attorney Spector said she would not feel comfortable going forward with sanctions as the property owner is taking steps to come into compliance. However, her written response seemed to indicate that she would bring suit. At Miles' request Pam sent her an email asking for clarification. She responded that she would not recommend bringing suit as the goal is to bring the property owners into compliance and currently, they are taking the steps to do so. The next step is Site Plan Review and to date the property owners have not submitted an application for this. There is also the issue of junkyard violations. **Miles made a motion that the property be included in the Junkyard Dog's follow-up, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board would like to issue a cease and desist until the owner is in compliance and discussed sending a letter asking the owner to cease until all permits are in place. They instructed Pam to be in touch with the town's attorney to get legal advice on this issue. **Miles made a motion to table this until they get legal opinion, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike made a motion to sign the Groton/Dorchester Mutual Road Aid Agreement & Addendum, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted. The agreement will be forwarded to the Dorchester Board of Selectmen.

The Board had identified 6 potential town properties for location of a cell tower. **Miles made a motion to provide the list of all town properties to the cell tower company for their review, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board reviewed the generator quotes. They would like to get some references for Paul Rizzo and Power Point Generator Power Systems. Their bid is for the complete installation, including the concrete pad, but minus the propane, propane tank and gas hook up for a Kohler model 18RES

generator. Bid amount is \$7,800. **Miles made a motion that they award the bid to Power Point in the condition that they are able to provide credible references for their work, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.** The other bids were:

- Gemini Electric: \$8,900 for a Kohler 17KW RES. This bid did not include the concrete pad.
- Powers Generator Service: \$10,875 for a Kohler 18 RES or \$8,110 for a Guardian 20KW.

The Board reviewed the propane quotes for the generator. **Miles made a motion to table this until they can get further information, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board discussed using town funds for a donation to the Lorna White Benefit Fund to support cancer support groups. Miles reported that the town had used money from the general budget to send flowers when Al Conkey's wife had passed away. However, his position remains the same. He does not feel that town funds should be used for this type of thing unless there is a specific line item for it. He is in favor of individuals contributing personal funds. After some reflection, Mike also recalled that they had learned a few years ago that public funds cannot be used to benefit any one person. As much as he would like to do this to show respect and appreciation for the chief, it is not lawful to expend tax dollars in this manner. Pam will research this to see if there is a way to do this without violating the law. **Miles made a motion to table this until they get feedback from LGC, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

Miles reported that he had a conversation with Gordon Coursey regarding the Province Road clearing. Mr. Coursey has met with Mr. Yetman and made arrangements to resolve the situation. Mr. Yetman is fine with the arrangement but would also like a letter of apology from the town. The Board will send a letter to all abutters to explain the situation. They were originally of the belief that they could give the wood to the one doing the clearing in lieu of payment for the work done, and were unaware of any restrictions on clearing the right of way. **Miles made a motion to draft a letter to send to all abutters making them aware of what has transpired, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board gave an update on the police chief search.

- LGC received 12 resumes
- Chose 5 for the oral board
- 1 withdrew due to salary
- 2 unable to schedule
- 1 cancelled oral board at last minute
- 1 candidate was interviewed and subsequently recommended to be qualified for the position.

Next step is for the Board of Selectmen to put together an oral board consisting of themselves and private citizens if they so choose. Mike asked if anyone from the audience was interested in participating. No one was. Kyle would like to know what caused 7 of the candidates to not be considered, and if it is possible for the Board to see the resumes. He said he knows someone who applied for the position but this person has not been contacted. The Board also has some questions about the 2 candidates that LGC was unable to schedule for their oral. **Mike made a motion to table this, Miles 2nd, all in favor, so voted.** Pam will be in touch with LGC. The Board would like to have more than one candidate to choose from if at all possible.

Kyle made a motion to table the Intent to Cut for Sawyer until Gordon Coursey can review it, Mike 2nd, all in favor, so voted.

The Old Home Day Committee submitted a request to reimburse Glen Hansen for gas used for the generator that powered the bouncy house during Old Home Day. **Miles made a motion to withdraw \$11.00 from the Old Home Day account for this, Kyle 2nd, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board read a letter of complaint from John Gore regarding logging trucks on Sculptured Rocks Road. Mr. Gore alleges that overloaded logging trucks are speeding past his home at 3 and 4 in the morning shaking his house. Currently, the town has no ordinance prohibiting trucking at that time of day and the Board has already put an 80,000 lb weight limit on the bridge thus restricting the limit on the road. Mike said he would not be in favor of the Board adopting an ordinance limiting trucking hours. This is something the town's people should vote on at town meeting. The Board acknowledged that Mr. Gore's house sits fairly close to the road. The speeding issue should be addressed by the police department. Pam will draft a letter of response for the Board's signature.

Mike reported that he attended one day of the Benefit Cost Analysis training to assist in grant writing applications.

Miles reported that the Tax Collectors Association puts on a 2 day conference each year. This year the conference will be held at the Balsams to the tune of almost \$600 which includes all meals and materials and a conference registration fee. State Statute requires the town to pay the Tax Collector's expenses for this conference. The Board believes Groton's Tax Collector Laura Hauser should attend this conference. However, they do not feel that the Association should be arranging conferences at such an expense to the tax payer. They would like Ms. Hauser to attend this conference and get a feel for what can be done in the future. They would also like to consider drafting a letter to the Tax Collector's Association regarding finding a more economic way to hold their annual conference.

Miles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant