

**Town of Groton  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2009  
7:00pm**

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

**Audience Members Present**

Mike called the meeting to order at 6:59pm and read the appointments, announcements and minutes of the November 10 selectmen's meeting.

**Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

Shelley Winchenbach, TWC representative, is willing to meet with the Board. However, she is not available until after the New Year. **Mike made a motion to table this until a date is set, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board will be meeting with Randall and Donna Goslin on Tuesday, November 24 at 9:00am to discuss removing the trees from the Cockermonth River.

**Mike made a motion to sign the contract with Eastern Analytical for landfill water and gas testing, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

Gordon Coursey expressed some concern over how long it is taking to find a new Police Chief, and the lack of current police coverage. The Board explained that they have been actively pursuing filling the position with a full time working chief. They have 3 interviews scheduled for Thursday evening. They also explained that over that last few months several candidates have dropped out because of salary. In the mean time, the town is limited to part time coverage. Mr. Coursey expressed frustration that he had made an appointment to see a police officer but the officer who was on duty had a call and was unable to keep the appointment. He feels he should have somehow been contacted or a note left on the door at the very least. Miles explained that it is not always possible for an officer to leave a note as he could be responding to an emergency. Mike would like Mr. Coursey's concerns passed on to Chief White.

**Mike made a motion to grant the School Budget Committee permission to use the Town Hall on November 19, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

Miles explained that when setting the tax rate, the Board retained \$200,269 of the unexpended fund balance. However, to date there is about \$154,000 in uncollected taxes. Thus the town only has about \$46,000 in reserve.

The Board reviewed the Intent to Excavate for Rego. The Planning Board has granted him an exception to excavate up to 1,800 yards of material without securing a permit. However, they are requiring him to submit a reclamation plan. The Board questioned whether or not the Planning Board has the authority to grant this exception without first having seen the reclamation plan. **Miles made a motion to table this until they have that answer, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

**Miles made a motion to accept Jackie Brogna's resignation, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted, Mike abstaining.** Mrs. Brogna has been cleaning the town house. The position will be advertized in the paper and posted in town. Wage is \$10 an hour for approximately 2 hours per week. **Mike made a motion to run the ad, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

**Mike made a motion to sign the Hebron/Groton Ambulance & Fire Agreement, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.** This is a 3 year contract (from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2013), and is an increase of \$2,500, from \$22,500 to \$25,000 annually. Groton Fire Chief Roger Thompson believes this is a good deal for the coverage.

**Mike made a motion to sign the Final 2009 Tax Warrant, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all favor so voted.**

The Board would like Pam to print one final copy of the EOP indicating where the changes have been made. After reviewing the changes, the Board will either schedule a work session with Mike Lemieux if necessary or sign the plan.

The Fire Chief submitted a request to expend \$450 from his budget to purchase fire equipment. **Mike made a motion to tell the Chief to go ahead, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.** The Board appreciates the Fire Chief keeping them informed of his expenditures. They would also like to see the fire trailer.

**Miles made a motion to draft a memo to all Department Heads asking that they return as much money as possible to the general fund, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.** The Board feels that having money left over in the budget does not mean that it has to be spent.

The DRA would like municipalities to fill out a survey indicating the likelihood of filing the MS forms electronically. The Selectmen's office has the ability to scan the signature page. The Board discussed how this would affect other departments and the time it would take for the administrative assistant to scan these documents for them. It would be a cost savings to file this way, and Pam feels that as long as the correct procedures are in place there shouldn't be a problem doing this. She stressed the importance of having a submission deadline so she is not caught having to scan and forward paperwork at a time when she is busiest. Electronic signature might also be an option.

Groton received approximately \$3,600 of FEMA flood money for damage done along North Groton Road during the summer of 2008. **Miles made a motion to direct Glen Hansen to complete the work as laid out in the grant, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

Pam Yinger spoke on behalf of the Groton Historical Society. The GHS is asking if someone in the Selectmen's office can email the Weirs Times with the GHS program schedule. Miles asked why the Historical Society is not doing this themselves. He also feels that the town should not become involved as a go between for various organizations that are not a part of town government or a town committee. Ms. Yinger was uncertain as to why the Historical Society is not contacting the Weirs Times, and feels it is best if GHS President Roland Bixby speak with the Board about this request.

**Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Hamel  
Administrative Assistant