

**Town of Groton  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2010  
7:00pm**

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

**Audience Members Present**

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. Appointments, announcements and minutes of the February 2<sup>nd</sup> selectmen's meeting were read. Mike asked to amend the motion on page one, paragraph 7 to read 'Mike made a motion to set Tuesday, February 16 for candidate's night and to set aside time for any candidate that may not be able to make it on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup>.' **Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike introduced Groton's new Chief of Police, Jonathan Dickerson, to the audience. Chief Dickerson thanked the Board, the people of Groton, and the members of the Groton PD for this opportunity to serve the community. Chief Dickerson has over 20 years of experience in Massachusetts and more recently served as a part time officer on the Plymouth PD. At this time he is scheduled to attend the full time academy beginning in April.

The Board has recently discovered that the petition warrant article submitted by Donna Arena needs to be on the official ballot. At last week's meeting Ms. Arena was informed that the article was written incorrectly and would need to be amended from the floor. However, this option is not available for ballot questions. The town's attorney has counseled the Board that they can change the article so it will be worded correctly. **Miles made a motion to contact Donna Arena and ask if she is okay with the Board changing the wording for the ballot, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board reviewed the two warrant articles concerning leasing town property. There was some confusion over the intent of the article drafted by the attorney granting the Board authority to enter into a five year lease without further vote of the town. This article is drafted with verbiage from the statute and would include renewals. The second article is specific for leasing property for a cell tower and is necessary if the first article is voted down.

The Cemetery Trustees had submitted a warrant article to replace the fencing at the North Groton Cemetery. They would like to use \$500 from the North Groton Cemetery trust fund to offset the cost of this fencing. **Miles made a motion that since the proposal for using \$500 from the trust fund was not specifically disclosed at the budget hearing then the trustees should amend the article from the floor, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

After reviewing the photo's submitted for the cover of the Town Report, **Mike made a motion to use the photo of the Haselton Mill and include a caption, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

The Board reviewed the memo to department heads concerning prudent spending. The memo contained a small mistake. **Mike made a motion to send the memo to all Department Heads once corrected, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

As a part of their cost analysis for build out, TWC business class is in the process of contacting the few businesses on Sculptured Rocks Road to determine if they are interested in service. The Board will hear back from them once the analysis is finished.

**Mike made a motion to sign the new hire paperwork for the Chief of Police, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.** This paperwork is necessary for Police Standards and Training.

**Mike made a motion to sign the OHRV grant authorization letter, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.** At Jimmy Albert's request the Board will verify that this is not a 50/50 grant.

**Mike made a motion to transfer ownership of the Glock 31, 357 caliber weapon to Chief White, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.** Jimmy Albert expressed concern that this might set a precedent, that others who retire might also want something. Miles explained that Chief White had made this request and the Board feels that it is reasonable. They would also give consideration to other employees on a case by case basis.

**Mike made a motion to sign the abatement for Map 1 Lot 96, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.** The town deeded this property in August and the administrative assistant forgot to change the property's status to exempt. This abatement is on paper only, no money exchanged.

The Board did not sign the abatement for the unknown property. At this time they still do not know the status of this property, and are concerned they will not be able to resolve this without a survey. Christina McClay asked if there was a statute of limitations for back taxes. This would need to be researched. The Board would like Pam to contact DRA concerning this issue. Currently, no one has been receiving a tax bill for this 1 acre lot. **Miles made a motion to table this until they hear back from the DRA, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

Vickie Kimball, as head of the GRC, has requested a key to the Town House. The GRC holds monthly meetings here as well as special events. Most department and committee heads have keys to the building. Miles expressed concern about having control over the number of keys to the building that are out. In addition, he would like to make sure that arrangements for access have been made for those who have been granted permission to use the hall. He has received calls at home the day of the event because no arrangements were made. Mike suggested having a key that could be signed out for those who need access on a one time basis. **Mike made a motion to give Vickie Kimball a key, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.** The Board will discuss having a sign out key at a later time.

**Mike made a motion to appoint Glen Hansen as the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste representative for Groton, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

The next safety committee meeting has been scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

**Mike made a motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Yinger, Map 5 Lot 66, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

Mike informed the other Board members that Gordon Coursey had reported someone was cutting on Dodge Road. **Mike made a motion to contact Jesse Bushaw to check out the cut on Dodge Road, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

**Mike made a motion to sign the Timber Tax Warrant for Green Acre Woodlands, Map 9 Lot 2, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

**Mike made a motion to sign the Timber Tax Warrant for Green Acre Woodlands, Map 1 Lots 29, 33, and 25, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

Jimmy Albert asked for clarification on whether or not the Board has the authority to move money from one department to another. Mike replied that they do have this authority, and it is their responsibility to make sure that they do not exceed the overall dollar value that is approved at Town Meeting. He said that since he has been on the Board he has never had to move money from one department to another. Mr. Albert disagreed with that statement. He said that when he was road agent, Mike had transferred money out of the Highway Department to use for other expenses. Mr. Albert had a paper with Mike's signature acknowledging that this had taken place.

Mike explained that at that time (his first year in office) he was not in favor of the town paying for those expenses as no bills were ever produced for his review, nor did he sign the checks for those expenses. He was adamantly against it. However, he was out voted by the remaining Board members. Once that money had been expended it was his responsibility as a member of the Board to find the money in the general budget to pay for it. He did not agree with what happened. Mr. Albert said he was unable to do his job properly that year as his budget was reduced by \$10,000 to pay for those expenses.

Pam Yinger requested an additional railing for the stairway. The Board has already verified with the Fire Chief that there is sufficient room to add this rail. They have taken the measurements. Mike apologized that it has not gotten any further than that. He will get pricing for the rail.

**Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21pm, Miles 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, so voted.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Hamel  
Administrative Assistant