

**Town of Groton
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2010
7:00pm**

In Attendance: Miles Sinclair, Kyle Andrews, Christina McClay, Pamela Hamel (AA)

Audience Members Present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. **Kyle made a motion to nominate Miles for the chairman's position, Christina 2nd, so voted, Miles abstaining.**

The following people were sworn into office by Town Clerk Laura Hauser:

Sharon Nelson—Newfound School Budget Committee

Jennifer Burnett—Planning Board

Frank Grelle—Zoning Board

Pamela Yinger—Supervisor of the Checklist

Pamela Hamel—Supervisor of the Checklist

Miles read the appointments, announcements and minutes of the March 3rd selectmen's meeting. **Miles made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Miles summarized Fire Chief Roger Thompson's report on the Minnich Property. He visited the site on March 5 accompanied by someone from the New Hampshire EPA office. A second visit will be necessary as snow cover made it impossible to complete their investigation. At this time this issue is in the hands of EPA.

The Board reviewed the vacuum cleaner quotes submitted by Judy Demers. **Kyle made a motion to buy the Bissell from Lowes, Christina 2nd, so voted.** Frank Grelle gave them a 10% off coupon toward the purchase of the vacuum.

The Board discussed the building permit guidelines and whether or not the intent was for anyone who is doing an alteration to be required to have a permit. To date, permits have not been issued for alterations that have not included additional square footage. However, the language in the guidelines indicates that permits would be needed. Ken Martell will be altering his roof structure. He submitted a permit application and fee. **Miles made a motion to sign the building permit for Mr. Martell, Kyle 2nd, so voted.** After investigation, should the Board conclude that no permit is necessary, Mr. Martell's fee will be returned.

Miles made a motion to contact as many former select board members as possible to determine the intent of the guidelines, Kyle 2nd, so voted. Former selectman Dave Leone said the original intent for building permits was to flag that there is a change in value. Pam mentioned that since she has been working for the town the inventories have been used to determine change in value that was not new construction.

Miles explained that someone is willing to donate the materials needed to install a second handrail in the stairwell leading to the second floor if Miles is willing to install it. **Kyle made a motion to accept this gift and have Miles install it, Christina 2nd, so voted, Miles abstaining.**

Chief White has expressed an interest in purchasing his weapon. The Board is willing to agree to this. Chief White submitted a proposal for \$250. The Board will get another appraisal before making a final decision. Chuck Stata was under the impression the Bill Jolly had purchased his weapon. The Board has no knowledge of this. At this time Dave Leone submitted a letter which could fall under employee review thus is non public.

Miles made a motion to allow Chief White to purchase the hand gun for what is determined to be fair market value, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to sign a building permit for Michelle Escobar, Map 2 Lot 50, Christina 2nd, so voted.

T-Mobile would like to know if they need to go before the Planning Board and /or Zoning Board as well as get a building permit in order to add 2 antennas to the existing cell tower on Tenney Mountain. Gary Easson said the FCC considers the tower a structure and the antennas radiating elements, similar to adding lights to a building. He does not consider them to be structures. The Board would like to get a direct response from the Planning Board and ZBA whether or not they believe T-Mobile needs to go before them. The Planning Board is meeting on March 31st. ZBA member Patty Bailey will be contacting the other members for their input. **Miles made a motion to table this until they hear back from the Boards, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

The Fairpoint bill for the Transfer Station phone is indicating 70+ calls made during the week. Miles has spoken to Jerry Berry who says he only makes one or two calls per Wednesday shift. The town has contacted Fairpoint on several occasions to try to get this resolved to no avail. The Transfer Station phone plan allows for a certain number of calls per month before additional fees are charged. Although the additional amount is small, the town should not have to pay this. Dave Leone and Barbara Goodwin both commented that they have had to deal with faulty Fairpoint equipment that was logging calls to their accounts that they had not made. **Miles made a motion to draft a letter to Fairpoint letting them know that they will not be paying any additional fees and await their response, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

The Town's attorney, Walter Mitchell, reviewed the proposed Groton Wind LLC decommissioning agreement. He cannot recommend that the Board sign this agreement as he has several concerns with it. **Miles made a motion to schedule a work session with Groton Wind LLC to discuss this, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Kevin Maass submitted an application for current use. Assessor Mark Stetson and DRA representative Sam Greene have reviewed it. The application is in order except for the need to list dimensions on the map. Mr. Maass is also requesting the additional recreation discount. However, this means that he would not be able to post that portion of his land that would be in current use to disallow recreational use. He could continue to prohibit ATV's, dirt bikes and 4 wheelers from his land. He also needs to submit the \$16 recording fee. **Kyle made a motion to send a letter to Mr. Maass with the Board's findings, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

After reviewing the veteran's credit application, **Miles made a motion to approve the application for Christine Grzesik, Map 7 Lot 35, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Chief Dickerson would like to appoint 2 additional part time police officers to the department. The two officers he has now work full time in other towns and he is concerned that there will not be sufficient coverage when he is away at the academy due to their availability. He posted the positions on the Groton PD website and at the Town House, and has 2 candidates he would like the Board to consider. Miles believes the Board should take their time before hiring anyone as from past experience he knows how important it is to gather all the information before making the choice. He understands the need for coverage but also realizes that the town can depend upon mutual aid if necessary. He also likes to have options and would like to see the position advertised. Kyle trusts the chief's judgment and decision on this. He would like to see a probationary period. Part time officers are considered employees at will. Christine does not feel comfortable making a decision on this tonight. The Chief would like a decision as soon as possible. He stressed that he would not jeopardize the reputation of the town or the police department by choosing the wrong candidates. **Miles made a motion to table this until at least next week, Christina 2nd, so voted.** The Board will try to set up a non public work session to discuss the candidates.

The Town currently has about \$200,000 in the PDIP account and \$9,466 in the Meredith Village Savings Bank account. This is the money they have to work with until the next tax bills are sent out. Before that time, there will be 3 school bills amounting to \$183,000 due. There are approximately \$223,855 owed in back taxes. The Board is facing a possible cash flow problem if some of this tax money does not come in. **Miles made a motion to contact LGC, DRA and, as a last option, the town's attorney to find out what their legal options are, Kyle 2nd, so voted.** Slim expressed that since there is this cash flow problem now might not be a good time to be considering additional police officers as they must be outfitted. Chuck Stata asked about selling some town properties. This option is being considered.

Kyle made a motion to grant the GRC's request for money for the dance, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to appoint Glen Hansen as the contact person for debris removal on condition that he is willing to accept the appointment, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to send a letter to National Grid letting them know that they are forbidden to spray the power lines in the Town of Groton, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Christina made a motion to accept and sign the Fire and EMS contract with Rumney, deferring payment until the July 1st due date, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Annual inventories will be mailed out by March 24.

The Board reviewed the emergency contact list that will be used if the alarm company must contact someone after hours. Chief Dickerson will be listed first, followed by the Board of Selectmen and the Administrative Assistant.

The Board would like to know the current status of former Chief White. They were under the impression that once Chief Dickerson was settled he would no longer be on the Groton PD. Pam will verify.

Gary Easson submitted a bid for the radios/repeater. He felt the Board should know that the repeater being considered is not multi-purpose. It will only do one channel at a time. Pam will forward this bid to Emergency Management Director Mike Lemieux.

Kyle made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes during the selectmen's meeting, Christina 2nd, so voted. A copy of the minutes will still be available for audience members. The Board would like Pam to try to email the minutes to them by Friday so they can have them read before Tuesday's meeting.

The Library Trustees are in the process of getting paperwork ready to apply for a grant to move the library and old town office buildings. At this time it is not known if they have missed the deadline. Dave Leone asked the Board if they had considered the warrant article to dispose of those offices and how this might affect what the trustees are trying to accomplish. The Board is aware of this article.

Miles made a motion to go into a non public session, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to go back into public session at 10:03pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles made a motion to adjourn at 10:05pm, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant