

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
October 26, 2010
7:00PM**

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

Audience members present

Miles called the meeting to order at 6:59p.m.

Miles made a motion to accept the minutes of October 19 as written, Christina 2nd, so voted.

On October 24, Miles, Christina and John Faucher worked on Sculptured Rocks Road for the third hazardous tree removal day. The fourth hazardous tree removal work day is scheduled for November 6. Any adult volunteers should meet at the Town House at 9:00am.

A conference call with We Log owner Malcolm Washburn has been set up for November 4 at 6:15pm to discuss the damage done on Sculptured Rocks Road. Repairs have begun and the final coat of asphalt will be put down this week. Miles said the original damaged area including the scuffed area and a buffer is about 20-30 feet on the outside. The cut lines made for repair are about 65-70 feet. He does not know how the Road Agent Glen Hansen came up with that amount. Kyle reported that Glen had told him that the edges would have broken up if they did not repair this entire area. Ron Madan, who did the digging there in preparation for the asphalt, said that as he went along the old asphalt continued to break up, and that Glen was trying to insure that the borders stayed intact once they lay the new asphalt. The Board would like to make sure that they are only charging for the necessary repairs to the damaged area. Kyle has not had the opportunity to visit the site yet. **Miles made a motion to table this until Kyle views the site, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Christina made a motion to sign the Powell Doomage Warrant, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Regarding the Avitar 2011 re-evaluation agreement; according to Loren Martin, Senior Assessor for Avitar, the majority of towns do not pay the addition funds for bonding based upon their long standing work relationship with the company. The Board does not believe they need to bond the work as to date Avitar has fulfilled all the responsibilities they have been contracted for. And the Board also recognizes that they could withhold some payments should the company not fulfill their obligation to complete the re-evaluation. **Miles made a motion to sign the agreement and indicate that they do not wish to purchase the bond, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

John and Jennifer Fitzpatrick have requested that the town pay 50% of their daughter's education as they have chosen to take her out of Newfound School District and place her in the Plymouth School District. **Kyle made a motion to sign the letter to Mr. and Mrs. Fitzpatrick denying their request, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

The Board has reviewed the most recent draft of the proposed agreement with Groton Wind LLC. As there have been several revisions the Board is careful to make sure that each draft contains the revisions agreed upon. In this draft they have noticed the following:

- A sentence deleted from section 7.2 that they would like reinserted
- A section deleted from 14. 2.3 that they would like reinserted
- A 90 day clause regarding the issuance of a letter of credit that the company has inserted without discussing it with the Board.

- On page 11, section 14.2.3 where it says the town “shall accept any”; Miles believes this wording should be changed.
- 14.3.2 needs some language reinserted.

The Board would like to meet with Ed Cherian again to discuss these few details and get them ironed out. Pam will try to arrange a meeting for Monday night at 6 pm.

The Board has some concerns about the contract the State would like them to sign in order to receive the grant for the repeater and portable radios. This contract is a boiler plate and ambiguous, and some aspects of it do not pertain to this type of grant. However, the State requires signature before releasing the funds. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Field Representative Paul Hatch has urged the Board to sign the paperwork and move this forward. In a letter he stated that the Town could spend a lot of time and funds to fight the system to get the language changed but at this point he wonders if this is the best thing to do for the Town. The contract is a “one size fits all” and includes language for various grants. The Board agreed. **Christina made a motion to sign the grant approval and acceptance, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

The Board met with the Department of Revenue last week to set the tax rate. Consistent with what they did last year the Board did not leave money for warrant articles but instead used it to lower the tax rate. As there is about \$200,000 in unpaid taxes, they chose to retain \$250,000 in the unreserved fund balance and use \$85,233 to lower the tax rate. The tax rate for 2011 is as follows:

- Town portion: \$4.37 down \$.04 from 2010
- Local school: \$5.06 down \$2.52 from 2010
- State Education: \$2.35 up \$.12 from 2010
- County: \$1.20 down \$.02 from 2010
- **Total \$12.98 down \$2.46 from 2010**

The Board is currently working on the 2011 budget and following the same policy as last year: towing the line. At the municipal conference Miles attended last month there was discussion regarding the state funding of education. The formula for figuring this could change in July 2011 thus requiring the town to raise an additional \$131,000 in education taxes, all of which would be due at the 2nd billing in December. There is proposed legislation to allow municipalities to include in the 1st billing of 2011 one half of any additional funds that need to be raised.

Miles made a motion to sign the 2010 tax collector’s warrant, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Christina made a motion to sign the Hansen building permit, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to allow Judy Demers and Bonnie Lane use of the Town Hall for the Senior’s Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20 from 12-4, Miles 2nd, so voted.

The North Country Council is looking for communities who have a 10 year plan for transportation improvements to submit a project. **Miles made a motion to fill out a project information sheet for a 10 year plan for the Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Christina made a motion to sign the Right to Inter, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Maxam has submitted a building permit renewal for their proposed office/maintenance building. They had received a special exception and building permits for this building and a detonator magazine in 2008. The detonator magazine had been built but the office/maintenance building had not. The Board is now questioning whether or not Site Plan Review would be required as it has been adopted in the interim.

Miles made a motion to table this until they hear from Local Government Center, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

The Administrative Assistant will be attending one day of the Local Government Center annual conference on November 18. The office will be closed that day.

A resident had approached Miles to let him know that there is a foreclosure sign posted on Gerald David's mobile home, and this resident has heard that the mortgage company is looking to move the trailer. There are \$2,402 of back taxes owed on this mobile home. The Board agreed to have Miles go up to the property to get some contact information for the mortgage company to let them know of the town's interest in this property.

Miles made a motion to grant the Groton Historical Society's request to use the Town Hall for their meeting on November 8, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Miles had reported to Pam that someone had been working on Nedeau Lane, which is a Class VI road, without first approaching the Board. Pam has passed this information on to Glen Hansen and is waiting to hear back from him.

Kyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm, Miles 2nd, so voted.