

**Minutes of the Town Meeting  
Groton, New Hampshire  
March 9, 2010**

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

**The Results are as follows:**

<b>SELECTMAN 3 year term</b>	<b>Christina McClay</b>
<b>MODERATOR 2 year term</b>	<b>Louis R. Lieto</b>
<b>ROAD AGENT 3 year term</b>	<b>Glen R. Hansen</b>
<b>LIBRARY TRUSTEE 3 year term</b>	<b>Christina McClay</b>
<b>PLANNING BOARD 3 year term</b>	<b>Celine A. Richer</b>
<b>PLANNING BOARD 3 year term</b>	<b>Jennifer Burnett</b>
<b>PLANNING BOARD 1 year term</b>	<b>Deborah B. Johnson</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST 6 year term</b>	<b>Pam Hamel</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST 2 year term</b>	<b>Pamela K. Yinger</b>
<b>CEMETERY TRUSTEE 3 year term</b>	<b>Roberta Smolinsky</b>
<b>TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS 3 year term</b>	<b>Roberta Smolinsky</b>
<b>ZONING BOARD 2 year term</b>	<b>Frank Grelle</b>
<b>ZONING BOARD 3 year term</b>	<b>Glen R. Hansen</b>
<b>ZONING BOARD 3 year term</b>	<b>Patti D. Bailey</b>

ARTICLE 2: “Do you approve of having 2 sessions for the annual town meeting in this town, the first session for choice of town officers elected by an official ballot and other action required to be inserted on said official ballot and the second session, on a date set by the selectmen, for transaction of other business?”

Article 2 **Passed**

124 to 44

**DELIBERATIVE SESSION  
MARCH 9, 2010**

Attendees were:

Board of Selectmen: Miles Sinclair, Kyle Andrews

Administrative Assistant: Pamela Hamel

Town Clerk /Tax Collector: Laura Hauser

Town Moderator: Louis Lieto

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Louis Lieto, Town Moderator.

**Louis Lieto asked everyone to stand and recite the pledge of allegiance. After welcoming everyone he discussed the conduct and rules of the meeting. Only registered voters of the town can vote, only town residents may speak unless there is no objection from the town to let a nonresident speak and all discussion must go through the moderator. He discussed the process of calling a question, a point of order, motions to amend and speaking only to the article on the floor. Different from meetings in the past, the ballot clerks would continue to count Article 1 and Article 2 under the supervision of the assistant moderator while the meeting was in session.**

**Miles Sinclair, Selectmen asked to address an issue before the meeting proceeded explaining why there are only two selectmen in attendance. He read Michael Brogna's, Chairmen of the Select boards letter of resignation dated March 3, 2010. Miles submits it, it is accepted and they thank him for his years of service.**

ARTICLE 3: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred twenty-six thousand, nine hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$526,997), which represents the **Operating Budget** for the ensuing year. Said sum does not include special or individual articles addressed.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Miles discusses the increase in costs for the towns fire contracts with Hebron and Rumney. Also, that the Board of Selectmen applied 75,000 dollars from the unexpended fund balance directly towards reducing the tax rate.**

**James Albert is recognized to speak and makes a motion to amend and it is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Louis Albert.**

Amendment to ARTICLE 3: I move to delete from the 2010 budget the appropriations (shown on page 13 of the town report) of \$ 3,000 each under 4153.3 and 4153.4 as attorney fees for junkyard compliance and junkyard compliance.

**The moderator explains that it is legal to suggest to reduce the budget by a dollar amount but you are not allowed to reduce a line item. How to spend the money in the budget is the select boards decision.**

**James Albert wants to proceed with the way it is written.**

Amendment to ARTICLE 3 **FAILS**

**Michael Brogna makes a motion to amend and Helen Matterson 2nds it.**

Amendment #2 to ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to rise and appropriate the sum of \$530,997 as the operating budget for the ensuing year. Said sum does not include special or individual articles addressed.

**Mike Brogna says he is aware that the board of selectmen have the authority of how to spend the money in the budget but his intention is for the extra funds to be donated for the purchase and installation of the veterans monument proposed by the Groton Historical Society.**

**It is asked if anyone from the Historical Society would address the question if the historical Society needs money for the veteran's monument project.**

**Mr. Bixby, President of the Groton historical Society is not a Groton town resident and it is asked if there is no objection to him speaking. There is no objection.**

**Mr. Bixby informs the Town that the Groton Historical Society does not need town money for the project.**

**Amendment #2 to ARTICLE 3 FAILS**

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred twenty-six thousand nine hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$526,997), which represents the **Operating Budget** for the ensuing year. Said sum does not include special or individual articles addressed.

**ARTICLE 3 PASSED** as written

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the preparation and shimming of Groton Roads.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Glen Hansen, Groton Road Agent is called up to address the article.**

**Glen Hansen explains that the roads need to be fixed and the \$20,000 dollars would be used for materials and he and his crew would do the work on the roads with his personal equipment.**

**It was asked if the intent of the article is to pay Glen for fixing the roads.**

**Miles Sinclair responded for the board saying that they support Glen and this article. It is likely that the job would be given to Glen.**

**ARTICLE 4 PASSED** as written

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand, nine hundred dollars (\$3,900) for on call time pay for the Police Department.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds**

**Chief Jonathan Dickerson responds to the question of if there is a schedule for the full time officer or on call officer and when no one is on duty. He explains that the schedule is based on demand of calls in the past when there has been the most need.**

**He is asked to clarify when an officer is on call where and how are they available.**

**Moderator notifies everyone that polls are closing.**

**Chief Dickerson clarifies that the on call officer would be at their place of residence, available by phone and ready to go at a moments notice.**

A motion is made to call the question and 2<sup>nd</sup> **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 5 PASSED** as written  
46 to 23

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for deposit into the Town House Capital Reserve Fund.

**Pamela Hamel says there is \$8,023 in the Capital Reserve Fund.**

**It is asked if the warrant articles are passed if it will raise our tax rate.**

**Miles Sinclair responds that if all the special warrant articles are passed the Town would have to raise \$79,823 and it would raise our tax rate. There is no fluff in the budget. There is no extra money for emergencies that is why these warrants are being brought to the people for them to decide. There is no law that mandates how much the Town must have in the Capital Reserve Fund.**

**It was asked what is the Capital Reserve Fund is for.**

**Miles Sinclair explains that it is for the maintenance and repair of the Groton Town House.**

A motion is made to call the question and 2<sup>nd</sup> **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 6 PASSED** as written  
39 to 25

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for deposit into the Truck/Sander Capital Reserve Fund.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Miles Sinclair says there is \$21,907 in the Truck/Sander Fund.**

**It is asked what a sander will cost.**

**Glen Hansen, Road Agent explains that a new truck with sander and plow would cost about \$132,000 dollars and the truck the Town owns is eleven years old with 51,698 miles and 6472 hrs on it. It will need maintenance and some day need to be replaced.**

**It is suggested that money be put aside for the future cost of replacing the truck.**

A motion is made to call the question and 2<sup>nd</sup> **PASSED**

ARTICLE 7 **PASSED** as written

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for deposit into the Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Gerald Easson 2nds. Miles explains that it is like a savings account for purchasing equipment that the Town deems necessary in the future. There is about \$22,392 dollars in the fund.**

**It is presented that the Town needs to rely on its selves and be self sufficient, not rely on other communities.**

ARTICLE 8 **PASSED** as written

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for deposit into the Disaster Relief Capital Reserve Fund.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Miles Sinclair reminds people of the past floods. This is another savings account and there is \$37,846 in the fund.**

**Michael Brogna explains why money is needed in this fund. In 2005 because of the flood \$26,000 dollars had to be used to clean up an oil leak at the Town shed which practically drained the fund.**

A motion is made to call the question and 2<sup>nd</sup> **PASSED**

ARTICLE 9 **PASSED** as written

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for deposit into the Atwell/Orange Brook Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Miles speaks for the article. There is about \$21,000 dollars in the fund and it must be inspected every two years at no cost to the Town.**

**It is mentioned that it would probably cost \$100,000 dollars to replace the bridge and we should save up now.**

ARTICLE 10 **PASSED** as written

**Miles Sinclair calls a point of order. A motion is made and seconded to restrict the reconsideration of Article 3 through Article 10.**

**Restricting Reconsideration PASSES**

**A break is taken. Louis Lieto called meeting back to order at 7:25 pm.**

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5000) for deposit into the Fire & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Miles explains that the fund was established for Groton to start its own fire department. There is \$50,582 dollars in the fund.**

**Miles Sinclair is opposed because right now it is more cost effective to pay other towns then to staff and operate our own fire Department.**

**Kyle Andrews is for raising the money because as costs rise for fire protection from other towns and as our Town grows it would make more sense to have our own fire department. We may not need our own fire station now but some day we will.**

A motion is made to call the question and 2<sup>nd</sup> **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 11 FAILS**

20 to 31

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for deposit into the Perambulation Non Capital Reserve Fund.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Miles Sinclair explains that it is the law to have boundaries verified every 7 years. Although the law is not strictly adhered to he would like to comply with the law and the Town is over due to have the boundaries verified.**

**The point is made that the majority of the state is not in compliance and with the \$5, 000 dollars that is already in the account we could do a couple of boundaries.**

**It is asked if the proposed land for the Groton Wind Farm Project is on any boundaries and could it cause a problem.**

**Miles Sinclair speaks for the select board, saying that yes the proposed land for the Groton Wind Farm is by the Plymouth/Groton boundary. The boundaries should be verified so the Town does not lose out on tax revenue.**

**Pam Hamel states that the Plymouth line was surveyed in1998 and we do not need the extra money to verify that boundary.**

**Miles Sinclair says the select board is responsible to have this done and they would be willing to verify the Plymouth lines with the information that they have.**

**ARTICLE 12 FAILS**

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of repairing and maintaining Province Road.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Miles asks the Road Agent to speak for the article.**

**Glen Hansen, Road Agent informs the Town that the funds will be used for ditching, cleaning up previous blasting and the installation of gravel.**

**It is asked why we are spending the money on a seasonal road.**

**Michael Brogna responds that it is a class 5 summer maintained road. It is the Towns responsibility to maintain it.**

**Chuck Stata states a benefit to maintaining Province Road. Two years ago the Town received over \$5,000 dollars from FEMA for damages to the road from the flood because we could prove that we maintain the road.**

**It is asked how many people use Province Road.**

**Glen Hansen responds that in one day he counted 34 cars.**

A motion is made to call the question and 2<sup>nd</sup> **PASSED**

**ARTICLE 13 PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) for support of the Newfound Lake Region Association (NLRA)

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds.**

**Miles is in favor of the article because about 40% of the water that ends up in Newfound Lake comes from Groton. They give recommendations for towns to achieve better practices to preserve resources.**

**Kyle Andrews believes that although a large portion of water that comes from Groton ends up in Newfound Lake we receive no benefit, pass or access into the lake with out paying.**

**It is stated that we do benefit by helping improve watershed it improves our towns streams and ponds. There is an educational benefit. They work with the schools through programs like the Audubon Society and teach good logging practices.**

**A resident would like to hear the opinion of the Conservation Commission or Planning Board on this subject. There was no one from those boards who spoke on the subject**

#### **ARTICLE 14 FAILS**

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand, twenty-four dollars (\$6,024) for the purchase of digital radios, a repeater and licensing, with two thousand, six hundred fifty-two dollars (\$2,652) to come from grant money, two thousand, six hundred fifty-two dollars (\$2,652) to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2009 and the balance of seven hundred twenty dollars (\$720) to come from general taxation. Funding of this article is contingent on the town receiving the offsetting grant money.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Miles informs everyone that this was an article last year that passed but because they needed to instate an emergency operations plan they were not able to get grant money by the years end and that is why it is being represented on the warrant. The costs are the same as last year except the \$720 dollars for licensing.**

**It is asked if they are anticipating attaching the repeater to a cell tower and what are the cost and where if there is no cell tower erected.**

**Mike Lemieux, Emergency Management Director responds that if the cell tower were not erected at the transfer station then the repeater would be attached to the Groton Town House. The only additional cost would be if we already mounted it to the Town House and then later had to move it to a cell tower.**

A motion is made to call the question and 2<sup>nd</sup> **PASSED**

#### **ARTICLE 15 PASSES as written**

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand, nine hundred dollars (\$3,900) to replace the fencing at the North Groton Cemetery.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds.**

#### **Pamela Hamel makes a motion to amend and is 2nd**

Amendment to ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand, two hundred dollars (\$1,200) to replace the fencing at the North Groton Cemetery.

**Pamela Hamel speaks for the article explaining that they would like replacing the high maintenance picket fence with a historical post and chain fence. There are 25 granite posts behind the picket fence and they would connect them with painted black galvanized chain.**

**Miles Sinclair makes people aware that there is a law that the Town must provide a good and sufficient fence but want the people of the Town to decide.**

**It was suggested that they use lilac bushes.**

**A cemetery volunteer discusses the poor condition of the fence and that the cemetery trustees have not asked for money from the Town since 1997 and they need the Towns help.**

**Peter Bailey makes a motion to table this article. There is no 2<sup>nd</sup>. It goes to vote.**

**Amendment to ARTICLE 16 PASSES**

**ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand, three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$2,325) to install a water treatment system in the Town House.**

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Miles Sinclair explains that this addresses the issue of hard water and rust in the water. This would be for a commercial water treatment system. Because this is an emergency shelter they did not suggest a residential system. Miles is in favor of a less expensive residential system.**

**It is asked if there is a professional, expert who can tell us that a residential system will work and we wont be wasting our money.**

**Miles responds that in his opinion the residential system would be sufficient but the quote from the professionals is for a commercial system.**

**A motion is made to call the question and 2<sup>nd</sup> PASSED**

**ARTICLE 17 PASSES as written**

**ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand, one hundred seventy-four dollars (\$3,174) to replace two rear tires and rims on the backhoe.**

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds. Miles defers to the Road Agent.**

**Glen Hansen, Road Agent explains that there is no tread on the tires and he has shopped around for the best price. They are calcium filled tires. Calcium is corrosive and the rims are leaking**

**He is asked how many quotes did he get.**

**Glen says he got two quotes that were very close in cost. He did replace the front tires when he first started as road agent.**

**It is suggested that the town buys a trailer so we do not wear out the tires.**

ARTICLE 18 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will vote, pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, III, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to rent or lease municipal property for a term of up to 5 years without further vote or ratification of the town. This authority shall remain in effect until specifically rescinded by the legislative body at any duly warned meeting provided that the term of any lease entered into prior to the rescission shall remain in effect.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds.**

**Miles makes people aware that article 19 and article 20 are related and have to do with the proposed lease agreement of erecting a cell tower on town owned property. Revenue could be generated through lease agreements. If article 19 is passed they do not need to take action for article 20 but the town may want to pass Article 20, which is more restrictive.**

**It is asked how will the Towns people be notified every five years when it is up for renewal.**

**Miles responds that it is public information and there should be public notice through the agenda and selectmen's meeting but is not sure weather there will be a public posting. He sees this as a benefit to the Town because it will improve cell reception and make space for any radio needs the Town has. It is written to be general so they have flexibility to rent or lease town property that is most appropriate.**

**Pamela Hamel states that this is just giving the selectmen the opportunity to enter into an agreement and if this is not passed the selectmen cannot do anything until next year.**

A motion is made to call the question and 2<sup>nd</sup> **PASSED**

ARTICLE 19 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 20: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease for an initial 5 year period with multiple 5 year renewal periods, in accordance with RSA 41:11-a and on such conditions and terms that they deem appropriate, a portion of town owned property, for the limited purpose of construction of a telecommunications tower, which will also provide antenna space for Emergency Services and further provide enhanced and more reliable communication to the aforementioned services, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds.**

**Miles asks the people to move on this article even though it may not be need because the people have approved article 19.**

**The selectmen are thanked for bringing a warrant article to the people that will make money instead of costing the Town money.**

ARTICLE 20 **PASSES** as written

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

**Miles Sinclair accepts it as written and Kyle Andrews 2nds.**

**Pamela Hamel asks if anyone has any suggestion or would like to see something in the town report to please let her know.**

ARTICLE 21 **PASSES** as written

There was a motion made and seconded to adjourn the Town Meeting, motion was **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.

This is a true attest of warrant and the Groton Town Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2010.

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Laura J. Hauser, Groton Town Clerk