

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 15, 2011
7:00 PM**

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

Audience members present

Kyle called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Christina made a motion to accept the minutes of February 8 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Selectman Sinclair joined the meeting at this time.

The following candidates for office addressed the audience:

- Kyle Andrews: Selectman. He thanked Christina and Miles for working with him during these last two years. He enjoys the position and is looking for the opportunity to continue serve the Town in this capacity.
- Darlene Andrews: Treasurer. Ms. Andrews was appointed by Miles and Christina last May when the former treasurer resigned. She really enjoys the position and asks that she be voted in on March 8.
- Ken Gould: Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA). Mr. Gould currently serves as an Alternate on the ZBA. He says he has no personal agenda and tries to have an open mind. Being on the ZBA has opened his eyes to some of the inefficiencies in governmental processes.
- Lou Lieto: School Board. Mr. Lieto served on the Budget Committee a few years ago and was appointed to serve the remainder of this year on the School Board. His back ground includes serving 8 years on a School Board in another state in a district with similar dynamics to Newfound. He says he has a strong interest in primary and secondary education.

Sharon Nelson announced that Deb Johnson is running as a write-in for the Planning Board. Due to a scheduling conflict she was unable to file for the office and thus will not appear on the ballot.

Miles gave the following updates:

- An amendment increasing the proposed school budget by approximately \$921,000 was passed at Friday night's deliberative session. The proposed budget is still less than the default budget.
- We Log has been contacted on two occasions since last week regarding the bill for the damage done on Sculptured Rocks Road. The Administrative Assistant has been able to speak with the secretary for We Log who was unable to assist her. The owner is away until Friday.

Pam has spoken with one utility appraiser regarding the Wind Farm, has a call in to one other and will be speaking with Gary Roberge from Avitar on Wednesday morning.

Christina made a motion to sign the letters to our three representatives and Senator Forrester opposing LSR 930, Kyle 2nd, so voted. LSR 930 is a draft of proposed legislation allowing auto dealerships the ability to handle vehicle registrations.

HB 457 is legislation intended to reduce the property tax and lien interest rates by 50%. One of the objections to this bill is that it might provide an incentive for taxpayers to reprioritize their financial obligations and put their tax obligations at the bottom of the list if they have credit card or other debts with higher interest rates. Currently, Towns have mechanisms to assist taxpayers, such as abatements. **Kyle made a motion to sign the letters to our three representatives and Senator Forrester opposing HB 457, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Miles made a motion to sign the 2011 MS6, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Christina made a motion to sign the 2011 Town Warrant, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Kyle made a motion to sign the elderly exemption for Kimball, Christina 2nd, so voted.

The Board discussed the current assessed values for Town buildings recently submitted by American Appraisers. This company is hired by the Local Government Center to appraise buildings for insurance purposes. The Board adjusted the value of the former Town Offices including contents. They would like Pam to get some information regarding insurance costs for tax deeded properties that include buildings as well as additional information regarding the contents of the Town Garage.

This year's Town Report has several more pages in it than last year as well as two color photos. Because of this the price per book is higher. The Board decided to get as many copies of the Town Report as \$1,000 (budgeted amount) will buy; up to 250 copies.

Pam reported that Gordon Coursey believes Dave Leone's timber cut is exempt from Timber Tax. The Board asked her to contact Jesse Bushaw from the Department of Revenue regarding this. **Miles motioned to table this until they receive additional information, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

The Board will look into the price of heat tape for the roof on the Town House as there are several ice dams on the building.

The Board has not heard from Mr. Yetman. They last contacted him via letter in January and it has been over a month. **Miles made a motion to have Pam file a claim with the Town's insurance over the timber that was cut on Yetman's property, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

The Board will look at the snow that Mr. Hutchins is moving across the road from his house on Sculptured Rocks Road. There is a large bank there now that is compacted. Ron Madan told the Board that the Road Agent is unable to wing back in that area because of the compacted snow, and that the pile is beginning to extend into the road. He is also concerned about visibility issues. **Miles made a motion to table this until next week, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

Miles motioned to not have a Select Board meeting on March 8 due to the election, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Due to a scheduling conflict the Administrative Assistant's annual review has been rescheduled for March 15 at 6:00pm.

The Board scheduled a work session for March 8 at 6:00pm.

Christina said coverage for the Library is a little sporadic and she asks people to please call before coming to verify that they are open. The Trustee's intent is to keep the Library open on Saturdays from 10 to 2 and also to hire a librarian in order to keep those regular hours.

Slim Spafford asked if the Town has received any final census numbers as he read that the census was complete. To date the Town has not received any final numbers. Christina stated that she has a contact that might be able to assist her with this information.

Kyle made a motion to adjourn at 8:53pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant