

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
July 19, 2011
7:00 PM**

In Attendance: Miles Sinclair, Ron Madan, Kyle Andrews, Pamela Hamel (Administrative Assistant)

Audience Members Present

Miles called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

Miles motioned to approve the minutes of July 5 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Update

Hazardous tree removal has been scheduled for Saturday, July 23, at 9:00am.

Old Rumney Road

Pam spoke with Tom Hahn from FORECO as Jon Martin no longer works for the company. It is Mr. Hahn's understanding that only the first ditch needed mitigating, and that the condition of the two remaining ditches was close to how they had been originally. They will not be doing improvements to the Holden Road as there will be no logging in that area this year although they have put water bars in the road to stop any further erosion. It was the Board's intention to have all three ditches mitigated, and Marina Chase pointed out that the minutes of the meeting clearly indicate that. **Kyle made a motion to table this until next week so he can look at the work that was done, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

We Log

The Board reviewed the paperwork to file a claim against We Log for failure to pay for the damage done to Sculptured Rocks Road. Miles reported that the \$72 filing fee covers basic mail service. If mail service is unsuccessful the Sheriff's Department will be utilized to serve the complaint resulting in additional fees. **Ron made a motion to file a small claim, Kyle 2nd, so voted.** The Board will not use the Town's attorney for this. Miles has volunteered to do the paperwork. Pam will get the official company name and ownership from the Secretary of State.

Decommissioning Guarantee Authorization Forms

The Board set up a work session to discuss the Decommissioning Guarantee Authorization for Monday, July 25 at 6:00pm.

Ditching/Water Issue

All Board members have had an opportunity to view the area of concern. Kyle wanted to know why they were ditching along the road if water does not travel down that way. Ron explained that when they cleaned out the culvert last year the water flow changed. Prior to that, it was running through the ditch area repaired by the Road Agent last year. Helen Santoro says that all the water now runs on to her property. She does not believe the culvert is working correctly and says the ditch is higher since working on it last year, thus preventing the water from flowing down it. Ms. Santoro claims there is a three foot difference, and she believes the ditches should be level. Kyle asked if there was any way to get some of that water to travel down the ditch line. Miles stated not the way it is right now. The design is working the way it was originally intended to work. As long as the water is able to run through the pipe it will not run down the ditch. The way it is currently designed the water will not come out of the catch basin to run down the ditch unless the culvert cannot accommodate it. If the culvert cannot take all the water the catch

basin will fill and finally spill over to run down the ditch. Although the ditch may be a little higher now that is not the reason why the water is running onto Ms. Santoro's property. But because the culvert had been plugged for many years the water was running down the ditch only. Ron stated that the ditch area had been washed out and was repaired. However, when they discovered the plugged culvert and cleaned it out, it caused the water to run the way it was originally intended to. He added that the road agent had suggested installing a section of pipe at the end of the culvert to carry the water further toward the tree line, thus alleviating the issue that Ms. Santoro is having on her property. Miles expressed that the Board needed to exercise caution in regards to whether or not this is a Town solution or a private solution. The culvert is working and draining as it was intended. Dave Leone said the state had the rights to where the water would flow. The Town would have some responsibility to keep the channel clean but as far as adding additional pipe that would be on Ms. Santoro's property, he feels this would be a private issue. Celine Richer asked that if the Town creates the hazard are they not responsible to also mitigate it. Dave Leone stated that in 1950 through 1954 when project was done, the area where the water drained was not developed. **Miles made a motion to table this until they can do some research with any information available prior to making a decision, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

Yetman Site Visit

The Local Government Center (LGC) will visit the Yetman property on August 9 at 10:00am. LGC will contact Mr. Yetman. This is in regards to the cutting that was done when the right of way was cleared in 2009.

Park Equipment

Miles and Kyle agreed to install the new soccer nets and baseball bases on Wednesday afternoon at about 5:00pm.

Set up Work Sessions

The Board set up a work session for August 2 at 6:00pm with Avitar followed by Chuck Stata at 6:30pm. They will meet with Road Agent Glen Hansen at 7:00pm on Monday the 25th.

Sandra Hutchins

Sandra Hutchins asked when the ditch above their property was going to be repaired. The Board said they would check with the Road Agent for a time frame. Mrs. Hutchins claims she and her husband have been trying for many years to get this resolved. Pam will contact Glen for a time frame and let Mrs. Hutchins know. The Board wants a realistic time frame; one that he can keep.

Mrs. Hutchins also said the town portion of the motor vehicle fees listed on her registration are not itemized so it does not show what the correct total is, and when she asked the Town Clerk to itemize it, the Clerk told her she could not. Mrs. Hutchins contacted the state and was told that the Select Board should be the one to deal with this. Miles said that the Board has no authority over the State or the Town Clerk on this issue. Pam said it sounds like a State software problem. Mrs. Hutchins said that she expects this to be corrected as currently it is not professional. The Board said they can ask the Town Clerk about it but it is beyond their authority. Deputy Town Clerk Ann Joyce said there is a minimum that must be collected, and that the Town Clerk had printed out this information, given a copy to Mrs. Hutchins and explained all the fees.

Cleaning Position Interviews

The Board asked Pam to confirm one applicant's interest in the cleaning position (applicant applied for a Transfer Station job). Once this is known an interview schedule will be set.

Lou Lieto

As a member of the Newfound School Board (NSB), Mr. Lieto wanted to inform the Board and Town regarding an issue that has come up before the Board. The Town of Bristol has approached the NSB and

asked them to consider hiring a school resource officer (SRO). This officer would be an employee of the Bristol Police Department but contracted to do work within the school. They were told that the Department had received 1500 contacts from various school personnel over the last two years. The NSB asked for details and conducted their own investigation. In general they feel that this is not a bad idea but they need more information. They compared the Chief's documentation to their notes, and they can document 40 contacts per the 9 month school year representing a tremendous range of issues. All these reports originated on school property but the incidents did not necessarily occur there. Many times disclosures are made to a trusted teacher or counselor of an incident that took place off school property. Some may be determined to have no merit. The NSB is investigating including the need for a SRO, and if necessary, whether full-time or part-time, etc. The NSB is seriously considering this however no vote has been taken. The Superintendent will visit each of town's Chiefs of Police to get their input. Thus far their opinions are varied. Some have said that this is a way for the Bristol Police Department to add another officer to their roster. Mr. Lieto does not hold that opinion. Sharon Nelson asked if there is a way that the district can have more authority and control over the resource officer other than the Bristol Police Department. Mr. Lieto said one way this can be accomplished is by having a job description. Chuck Stata asked if additional facilities for this position would be needed such as additional offices. Mr. Lieto responded that this is part of the current discussions however; no new office space would be needed. A full-time position would cost about \$70,000 including salary and benefits. The NSB would not be looking to supply a vehicle. This would come from the Bristol Police Department. Also, they are not looking to spend an additional \$70,000 but they would like to have this resource available for the students. He reported that Skip Reilly had suggested using a retired police officer as a part-time SRO as they can work so many hours per week/year without endangering their retirement. This can be a win/win situation as this would be someone with a lot of experience and possibly already known in the community, and retirement and benefits would not be paid. However the Bristol Chief was not receptive to this at first pass. Miles said the district is well behind the curve in incorporating SROs . They can be a very valuable resource. First and foremost the SRO is a police officer who answers to the Chief of Police, and he could be used by the department for special details, over-time etc. There is a need to have a common understanding between the district and the school as to what to expect. However, the numbers do not seem to justify a full time position. He is curious what the true motivation for this is. Districts are questioning whether to retain their current SROs. Mr. Lieto mentioned that the district used to have a SRO; the position was funded with grant money. Some board members do not want to see this funded via grant money. Miles said that in his opinion, of greater concern is the fact that the vast majority of kids do not use seat belts. A tragedy as a result of this will affect these kids more that what the SRO will address.

Slim Spafford said he heard that the Business Manager and the Superintendent have asked for a raise. Mr. Lieto responded that they did not ask for a raise but the Board gave them one, he thinks it was 2.5%. Mr. Rosner has saved the district a lot of money. The Board evaluated Ms. Ross and gave her a raise. Neither one had a raise last year. Sharon Nelson asked what Ms. Ross' current salary is (before the raise). Mr. Lieto did not know the exact number but it is approximately \$100,000.

Carbon Monoxide Detector

Kyle will purchase a new Carbon Monoxide detector to replace the one recently removed.

Financial Policy/Welfare Guidelines

Pam hopes to have the Welfare Guidelines ready for review by Friday. The Board will address the Financial Policy as soon as they are finished with the Guidelines.

Rego Junkyard License Renewal

Ron made a motion to send a letter to Mr. Rego regarding the exemplary way he keeps his junkyard, and to sign his renewal license, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

2011 Potential Deed List

The Board reviewed the potential deed list. The deed date is August 29. They will visit any properties still on the list in mid August.

2011 Application for Reimbursement for Federal and State Forest Land

Miles motioned to execute the form to get reimbursed through the State, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Intent to Cut for Gardiner Hall, Map 8 Lot , Rte 3a

Kyle motion to sign the Intent to Cut for Gardiner Hall, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Groton Old Home Day Committee Request

Ron made a motion to accept their request to use the debit card for the online purchase of trophies and ribbons, and the Wal-Mart card for other items, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Pam will assist with the online purchase. The committee will return a slip for Wal-Mart purchases. The Town will be reimbursed from the Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund. Old Home Day is scheduled for August 20 from 11:00am-5:00pm at the Everett Hobart Memorial Park. The softball game begins at 4:00pm. Anyone interested in playing should contact Miles.

PDF Authorization for 2011 Tax Rate

Miles motioned to sign the 2011 PDF authorization form for the tax rate, Ron 2nd, so voted.

Caring Community Network Community Needs Survey

The Caring Community Network of the Twin Rivers has asked residents to fill out a Community Needs Survey. Surveys are available at the Select Board's office.

Questions and Comments

Pam Yinger reported that the Groton Historical Society (GHS) has had a nice reception at their museum, and stated that they will be putting in a handicap access ramp this year. She asked for permission to cut down a tree that is currently in the way of the project. The Board said that they have no jurisdiction over this as the Town does not own the property. Jo O'Connor told Ms. Yinger that the GHS is a private enterprise and has nothing to do with the Town.

Dave Leone commented that the Board had recently issued a building permit to Judy Hilliard. He asked if they were aware that on June 3, 2007, she was issued an administrative order to have an approved septic installed by September 1, 2007. No septic has been installed. He also said that she had not been grandfathered. Miles said that he was aware through discussions with the Health Officer (HO) that there had been ongoing issues there that involved the Department of Environmental Services (DES), and the HO kept after them for a resolution. DES issued the order and ultimately changed their decision on it, signing off on the existing system. The applicant got all their acquired approvals from DES for this building project. Ron said he knew there was a problem but DES was in charge of this and had ruled on this. Kyle concurred. Miles stated that he was aware that DES did what they typically do with this circumstance; they signed off on the current system. The bottom line is that this was their decision, and it overturned that administrative order. So there was no justification in his opinion to deny the building permit. This is a DES issue.

Kyle made a motion to adjourn at 9:05pm, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant