

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
January 7, 2014**

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

The Board has hired Everett Knighton as a part-time police officer for the Groton Police Department. Mr. Knighton lives in Hebron and comes highly recommended by the Grafton County Sheriff's Department. He will be attending the part-time academy next month. **Christina motioned to sign the Police Standards and Training forms A & I, Miles 2nd, so voted. Miles motioned to sign Form C for the Academy, Kyle 2nd, so voted.**

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the minutes of December 16 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted, Miles abstaining as he was not in attendance for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Permit Application for Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH)

Christina motioned to draft a letter to the State Fire Marshal's office requesting a review of PSNH's tower colocation project, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Intent to Cut for JH Treehouse

Christina motioned to approve the Intent to Cut for JH Treehouse with permission to exceed the posted 15 ton weight limit subject to the Road Agent's discretion/determination regarding when the road will no longer support the exceeded limit, Miles 2nd, so voted. A letter granting permission to exceed the weight limit until rescinded on the recommendation of the Road Agent will accompany the signed Intent.

Rumney Fire Contract Proposal

The contract proposal is to extend last year's contract terms until March 31, 2014. At that time a new contract/terms will begin. The Town of Rumney has not yet submitted the terms for the new contract, and has billed the extended contract at 6 months with the notation that the new contract will reflect the revised payment schedule for 2014-2015. The Board is not comfortable with these terms. In addition, Fire Chief Roger Thompson is exploring the possibility of receiving fire service from the Town of Wentworth. **Kyle motioned to table this contract until next week, Christina 2nd, so voted.**

FairPoint Interrogatories

The Board will review the final interrogatories as soon as possible. Mitchell Municipal would like the authorized signature page submitted this week.

Groton Wind Assessment

The Board is available to meet with a representative of the Wind Farm during a work session on January 21 after 4:00 pm. The Board would like Iberdrola to submit alternate days/times if they are unable to meet on the 21st.

NEW BUSINESS

Lou Lieto

Conservation Commission Budget Proposal

The Board reviewed the budget request submitted by the Conservation Commission, and have agreed to the proposed amount.

Elections

Lou confirmed the following poll hours:

- January 21: Special Election, 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
- March 11: Town Election/Special Election, 11:00 am - 7:00 pm.

2014 Proposed Legislative Bills

The Board reviewed the following proposed legislative bills:

- HB 1368 relative to inquiries into criminal records on employment applications: opposed
- HB 1549 relative to assessment of renewable generation facility property subject to a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes agreement: concur
- HB 1455-Local relative to the authority of municipalities to enter into agreements for payments in lieu of taxes: opposed
- HB 1156-FN relative to making changes to the right-to-know law: opposed

Letters to the Town's Representatives and Senator will be drafted for the Board's review.

Transfer Station

Monitoring/Repair Costs

The Board reviewed the additional expenses incurred at the Transfer Station for monitoring and well repair. Consultant Suzanne Wall suggested deferring \$1,500 of her costs to 2014. They agreed that if there are sufficient funds in the 2013 Transfer Station budget, then these expenses should not be deferred.

Lighting

Any members of the Board who have not looked at the different lighting options currently at the Transfer Station will do so by next week.

January-June Workers' Compensation Renewal Confirmation

Previously, the Board had decided to switch to Primex beginning January 1, 2014 for Workers' Compensation insurance and July 1, 2014 for Property/Liability insurance. Unfortunately, due to a timing issue the Town will remain with Property/Liability Trust until July 2014 for both policies. The Board

explained that beginning in early October they sought quotes for Workers' Compensation and Property/Liability insurance as the current policies were expiring on December 31, 2013 and June 30, 2014 respectively. Some information from the Town's current insurance carrier was needed in order to receive quotes. The current carrier's policy requires that a 45 day notice be given before cancelling, however, the carrier did not submit the necessary information until the beginning of December which did not leave the Board the necessary time frame to review the quotes and cancel the policy. Christina stated that she has a call into the company regarding this. The Board will wait until the next meeting for the results of this call to decide whether or not to sign the renewal confirmation.

Supervisors of the Checklist Appointment

The Supervisors of the Checklist have appointed Pamela Ferriere to fill the vacant position.

Regional Planning Commission

The Board will investigate whether or not the Town must belong to a Region Planning Commission and get a quote from the Lakes Region Planning Commission for services.

Northern Tools Account

It appears that the Town has had a charge account with Northern Tools for a number of years. It is not clear if this account is active or not as it has not been used since before 2007. The Board agreed, if active, that the account should be cancelled.

Surplus Electronic Equipment

The Town has a number of pieces of electronic equipment that are no longer being used. The Board will look at the items and then discuss options for disposing of this equipment.

Atlantic Wind LLC

Atlantic Wind LLC (the Wild Meadows Wind Farm Project) has submitted an application to the Site Evaluation Committee. As an abutting Town, the Board has been notified of the submission, and may request intervener status. The Board does not anticipate any reason why they would actively participate in the hearing process nor do they believe it is in the best interest of the Town to have intervener status.

Schedule Meetings

- Public hearing for the proposed 2014 budget: Tuesday, February 4 at 6:00 pm with the Select Board meeting to follow. Snow date is Wednesday, February 5 at 6:00 pm.
- Candidate's Night: Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 pm. Candidate's who cannot attend this meeting should contact the Select Board to arrange an alternate time.
- Town Meeting: Saturday, March 15 at 9:00 am. Snow date is Sunday, March 16 at 9:00 am.
- Select Board Work Sessions: Tuesday, January 14 & 28 at 5:00 pm, Tuesday, January 21 at 4:00 pm.

Kyle motioned to adjourn at 9:08 pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant