

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
February 11, 2014**

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

The following candidates for office addressed the audience:

Ron Madan - Select Board
Robert Ferriere - Select Board
Lou Lieto - Moderator
Sharon Nelson - Cemetery Trustee
Pamela Ferriere - Supervisor of the Checklist
Jiri Hajek - Zoning Board

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the minutes of February 4 as written, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

OLD BUSINESS

Primex Loss Mitigation Agreement

Miles motioned to sign the Primex Loss Mitigation Agreement, Christina 2nd, so voted. The Company asks the Town to keep them informed of all potential Unemployment and Workers' Compensation, and Property Liability issues.

NEW BUSINESS

New Hampshire Police Standards & Training Forms A & I

Christina motioned to sign the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Forms A & I, Kyle 2nd, so voted. EJ Thompson is Groton's new full time Police Officer.

Warrant for Executive Councilor Vote

Miles motioned to sign the warrant for Executive Councilor, Christina 2nd, so voted. The Town will be voting on this position at this year's annual Town Election.

Logging Operation on Sculptured Rocks Road

There was some discussion regarding a logging operation on Sculptured Rocks Road. The Board could not recall if there was a signed Intent to Cut for this operation. They asked Pam to look into it.

Potential Warrant Article

In 1995 the Town voted to establish a Playground Expendable Trust Fund. At the 2004 Annual Town

Meeting, the Town voted to change the name and purpose of the fund, and enacted that change. In November of 2004, the Town received a letter from the Department of Revenue (DRA) disallowing the vote because a tally vote is required whenever the purpose of a Capital Reserve Fund is changed, and no tally was recorded. Some administrative changes were taking place at that time and it appears as though this letter was not acted upon. For housekeeping purposes, the DRA has proposed a warrant article to ratify the vote of 2004. The Board agreed with the language submitted by the DRA and will add this article to the warrant.

2014 Town Report Cover

Town and Country Reprographics submitted two cover design samples for this year's Town Report. The Board asked the audience to make the decision for which design to use. They also agreed to order 250 copies of the Report.

Workers' Compensation Notice of Compliance

Christina motioned to sign the Workers' Compensation Notice of Compliance, Kyle 2nd, so voted.

Kimball Hill Property Appraisal

M.H. Beecy Appraisal Services submitted a preliminary assessment of the Kimball Hill tract owned by TimberVest. The Board will attempt to arrange a meeting for Tuesday, February 18 at 5:30 pm with appraiser Marsha Beecy, Brian Hotz from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and any Kimball Hill Committee members who wish to attend to discuss strategy for moving forward with negotiating a purchase and sales agreement. The Board will clarify exactly what is considered confidential/nonpublic during the negotiating time, including whether or not the appraisal is a nonpublic document during the process. Miles would like to participate in the negotiations and asked Kyle and Christina to think about whether or not the Board will be involved in the negotiations or if an assigned Committee would handle them up to the final decision process. Both Kyle and Christina would like to be involved but will think about to what extent.

Select Board Meeting/Work Session on March 11

There will be no Select Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 11 (Town Elections). The Board will have a work session beginning at 4:00 pm. The Library Trustees are planning to have a food sale during Town Meeting on Saturday, March 15.

6-Wheeler

The 6-wheeler broke down during the last storm, and had to be towed to International in Manchester. They have submitted a bill for \$62.50 for towing as the warranty only covers a certain amount. The Board and Road Agent are opposed to paying the bill. The truck has been towed on a number of other occasions with no additional cost associated with it so this towing should be no different. In addition, the Town lost a load of asphalt last summer when the truck broke down. The Company can now "share our pain." The Road Agent is preparing a letter to the Company. The Board would like this letter to be ready for their review by next week's meeting.

House Bill 1549

Miles gave the audience an update on the meeting that the Board had with Howard Moffett. Mr. Moffett is co-sponsoring legislation to correct the way the DRA is assessing renewable energy projects that have a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with the municipality. The way it stands now the value

given by the DRA for the Groton Wind project is about 1.5 times the value of the Town as a whole, and significantly higher than the imputed value of the PILOT. This has a negative affect on the Town's county taxes which will increase by approximately 1.5 times and eat up more that ½ of the PILOT. The bill is scheduled to be heard by the Municipal and County Government Committee next week (exact date and time not yet known). None of Groton's legislators are on the committee. The Board has already sent a letter to them supporting legislation to change the way the DRA is assessing these projects. Mr. Moffett requested that any or all Board members come down to testify at the hearing, and prepare a summary sheet detailing how the current method of valuation affects Groton. The Board is willing to attend but cannot commit until they know the day/time for the hearing. The Board also discussed whether or not the bill can be amended to be retroactive for the 2013 and 2014 tax years (Coos project for 2013, Groton & Coos projects for 2014).

Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:30 pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant