

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
April 29, 2014**

In Attendance: Christina Goodwin, Miles Sinclair, Robert Ferriere, Pamela Hamel (Administrative Assistant)

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the minutes of April 22 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

UPDATES

HB 1549

The Board travelled to Concord to testify before Senate Ways and Means Committee in favor of HB1549, which deals with renewable energy Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements. The Board feels that the bill had a favorable standing as there was no opposition expressed at the hearing. If passed, the bill would benefit the Town of Groton.

RSA 195 Committee

This Committee has been formed as a result of warrants articles passed by the Towns of Bridgewater and Hebron, to explore the possibility of the Bridgewater/Hebron School withdrawing from the district. Children from Groton and small group from Alexandria attend this school as well. Christina reported that Groton's representative on the School Board, Jeffrey Levesque, was asked to recuse himself as he has been very vocal with his opinion about the issue, publicly announcing it on a website. Christina is now the only representative for Groton. She is concerned that Mr. Levesque's opinion might be construed as Groton's opinion. At this time Groton has no formal opinion. The RSA 195 Committee formed 2 subcommittees: Education Model and Financial. Each will investigate different aspects of a potential withdrawal and report back to the entire Committee. The Select Board representatives from Hebron and Bridgewater, who were at the meeting, stated that even if the school withdraws, it is not their intent to make Groton students leave. Hebron and Bridgewater own the building and have their own School Board. They believe there are some major issues with the district as a whole, and are concerned about the quality of education their students receive once they move onto the middle school. The Newfound Memorial Middle School ranks 93rd out of 127. The RSA 195 Committee has 180 days to make a recommendation to the State Department of Education regarding the feasibility and suitability of a withdrawal. The next meeting is June 16 at 6:00 pm.

Pole License

Christina stated that she needs additional time to review other license samples and asked to table this discussion until she is prepared. The Board agreed.

Exterior Light

Miles took the bulb out of the light over the door and brought it to Laconia Electric to see if they could test it there but they could not. A replacement bulb costs approximately \$22. Miles was also informed that this light fixture has a ballast in it, but he has not yet determined if the ballast needs replacing. He was not

getting a voltage reading there but still needs to look into this further. To replace the ballast costs about \$100.

OLD BUSINESS

USDA Certification of Compliance with Federal Requirements/Laws

Pam and Christina worked together to come up with some wording addressing the Town's need for the grant. The Board is fine with it. It will either render the Town eligible or not. The Board reviewed everything that the Town has regarding the use of drugs and alcohol for employees. Although the policies are not extensive the Town does have guidelines prohibiting the use of drugs and alcohol on the job. Also, the former insurance carrier offered an EAP program. The Board is not aware of whether or not the current carrier also offers a program.

Christina motioned to sign the USDA Certification and corresponding letter, Miles 2nd, so voted.

RSA 95:1

Glen Hansen does not feel that this RSA determines how the Road Agent can use his donated equipment. If he were receiving over \$200 in payment, then according to the RSA the Board would have to bid those jobs out. If these projects have to be bid out, then the Highway budget does not have enough funds in the rental line to cover. Glen also feels that trying to determine how long it will take to do a project is very difficult. A project might take 2 hours, 4 hours or longer depending upon what they come upon. Glen discussed what would happen if they had problems while renting equipment: he would be operating it and if he is hurt the Town's Workers' Comp covers this; if he damages something while using rental equipment the Town's insurance covers it. It would be the same if he was using his own equipment. In addition, the costs for renting are astronomical. He believes that what he is doing is a service which is not under the RSA. He is not charging himself out as a private operator to run the machine. He is acting as a rental agency and the Highway Department personnel will operate the equipment. The problem with renting out equipment is if you get bad weather, we pay to have the equipment and we are not able to use it, plus the added costs of delivery. He also feels that if they do end up soliciting bids the Town will not receive any as that seems very common. Miles believes that they had asked the Road Agent to consider this when submitting his budget, and this is how work was done before Glen took this position. What is unique is that up to this point Glen has been willing to donate his equipment free of charge to the Town. Christina stated that in the past they have minutes which state that Glen will use the equipment and receive fuel for it, but there is no memorandum of understanding or signed agreement. She asked if a memorandum of understanding would work for this and cover liability. Miles stated liability is a concern as well as damage to equipment, accidents and other concerns. He spoke with someone who has been involved with the Town, and something they discussed is that Glen will not always be working here and donating his equipment. The taxpayers need to understand the costs to maintain the roads. He feels that they need to avoid the day that Glen leaves and, immediately after, that next budget explodes when none of this equipment is available and the Town now has to pay for all of this. Glen said that he had in mind the usage of his equipment for a set fee for the year. This is what he budgeted for, and someone else through the bid process can match that. Bob suggested that Glen make a list of needs for equipment for various jobs and bid it out this way. This would be apples for apples, and from what he knows of Glen his bid would probably be the lowest but at least they would have gone through the bid process. Glen stated that the equipment rented is to be used by the Highway Department as he is responsible for the roads and does not want a hired contractor who might not know how to correctly maintain the roads. Miles stated that Glen would have to keep an eye on contractors just as he did when they did the road project last year. In addition, he does not think that a contractor will be able to compete as they have expenses that Glen does not have and probably get a higher hourly rate than what Glen gets. Glen will have a list of projects, the rental equipment necessary and the number of hours to complete those projects for the summer

construction season for the Board's review next week.

Glen has 4 culvert replacements on the list for this year. He has received his Culvert Maintainer License and now only has to report to the Department of Environmental Services quarterly when a culvert has been replaced.

Groton All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption

Christina read the plan and has some concerns with wording, timing (dates), miles of new and improved roads, responsibility of the Road Committee, etc. She does not know how important these are or if they need to be addressed before signing the plan. Miles said it appears that some of the corrections that were submitted to June Garneau prior to the plan going to FEMA also were not addressed. His biggest concern is that Ms. Garneau already took much longer than she should have to finish the plan, and if they make a number of changes will it have to be resubmitted to FEMA for approval again. The purpose is for the Town to have a plan to reduce hazards that could affect the Town. It is not a perfect document. The Board agreed that if she can make changes without having to resubmit to FEMA then the corrections should be made. If not, they will adopt the plan. They would also like to know what kinds of changes can be made once the plan is adopted. **Christina motioned to table this until next week, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Yield Tax Warrant for Green Acre Woodlands

Christina motioned to sign the Yield Tax Warrant for Green Acre Woodlands, Bob 2nd so voted.

Driveway Permit for Map 6 Lot 1

The State said that the Town should install the driveway per the plan and not worry about the GPS points.

Easement for Map 6 Lot 1

The Board will meet Friday at 4pm to look at the potential easement area and verify where the boundary line is on the lot across from the Transfer Station.

Meeting with Iberdrola Representatives

The Fire Chief is unable to attend the May 6 meeting. The meeting was rescheduled for May 13.

Maxam Letter

Bob motioned to sign the letter to Maxam, Christina 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS

Building Permit for Hamel, Map 2 Lot 25 Old Rumney Road

Christina motioned to approve the building permit for Hamel, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Meredith Village Savings Bank (MVSB)

Miles motioned to sign the MVSB signature cards for the Park and Rec Revolving Fund, Bob 2nd, so voted. The Branch Development Manager would like to meet with the Town to discuss the Bank's products and services. The Board does not feel that they need to meet with a bank representative at this time unless they have something specific that they are offering.

WEB Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Pam will take a short webinar on changes to the WEB EOC on Wednesday at 10 am.

Current Use Application for Thompson, Map 6 Lot 20

Christina motioned to sign the Current Use Application for Map 6 Lot 20, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Groton Historical Society (GHS)

GHS will be hosting a Civil War program on Thursday, July 3 at 7:00pm. **Bob motioned to grant GHS permission to use the building on July 3rd, Miles 2nd, so voted.** Mike McKinley of Bristol will speak about the effects of war on the families of Gettysburg soldiers.

Fishing Derby

The Conservation Commission (CC) is hosting a Fishing Derby and would like to know if some of the costs can be paid for out of the Park and Rec. Revolving Fund. Christina suggested and the Board agreed that the CC submit a list of their expenses for the Fishing Derby that they would like to come from that account before they make a final decision.

Work Sessions

The Board scheduled a work session for Tuesday, May 27 at 6:00 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS

Christina announced that Genesis Behavioral Health is hosting community forums “The Heart & Hope of Mental Illness” on Tuesday, May 20 in Plymouth and Wednesday, May 21 in Laconia. She also passed an invitation to the 14th Annual Regional Prevention Summit sponsored by CADY on to Chief Pivirotto.

Highway Safety Committee

Christina reported that the Highway Safety Committee has met and discussed ways to improve safety. They will have some recommendations for the Board’s review at one of the upcoming meetings.

Chief Pivirotto

The Chief noted that a number of residences are not numbered. He asked Jo O’Connor to put a reminder in her column that all houses should have their 911 number clearly posted.

The Chief asked the Board if one of his officers could borrow a couple of tables. The Board has allowed people to use the tables in the past, and is fine with this as long as the tables come back right after the event and undamaged.

Miles motioned to adjourn at 9:09 pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant