

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
May 13, 2014**

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the minutes of May 6 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

APPOINTMENTS

Groton Wind/Iberdrola

Iberdrola Asset Manager Rob Batarags and Groton Wind Plant Manager Ryan Haley discussed the new Fire Suppression systems to be installed in the wind turbines. This is a new design for an Iberdrola turbine. The Company wanted to let the Board know that there could be false alarms especially during the first year. In the agreement that they have with the State Fire Marshal, under certain circumstances an audible alarm will be triggered in the Portland Oregon control center. This in turn triggers an automatic 911 call first, followed by a call to the Groton Plant Manager or the employee who is on call. Typically, Iberdrola responds by sending their own personnel to the site to investigate before 911 is called. Ryan Haley spoke with Groton Fire Chief Roger Thompson and Rumney Fire Chief Dave Coursey. Chief Coursey feels that Rumney needs to respond to all the 911 calls. Roger believes this is unnecessary. If an alarm is activated for a fire that is 300 feet in the air the Rumney Fire Department is not authorized to go into a turbine and there will not be anything that they can do. This will be a waste of taxpayer funds. However, this is being mandated by the State Fire Marshal. Roger is going to speak with Chief Coursey about limiting the response to one truck, two men and the Chief. He will contact Lakes Region Dispatch to pass this along when they tone the call, and adjust the tone so that Hebron will not respond to a fire alarm at the Wind Farm unless it is a building fire. Roger expressed concern that on a number of occasions the Fire Marshal has either visited the site or contacted Chief Coursey to discuss issues and has not bothered to contact Roger as the Groton Fire Chief. He has called the office on more than one occasion to address this but has received no return calls. They circumvent him on matters dealing with the Wind Farm. The Board will send a letter to the Fire Marshal's office regarding their lack of contact. Roger will let the Board know about his discussion with Chief Coursey.

UPDATES

HB 1549

Christina reported that HB 1549 was passed by the Senate last week. It was a voice vote with no "nays". The bill will now go to the Governor for signature. The Board will send a letter of thanks and appreciation to Howard Moffett for his work on this bill.

Electronics Disposal Day

Miles reported that he is not able to be here on May 31 to assist with Electronics Disposal Day. Bob volunteered to take his place.

OLD BUSINESS

Culvert on Sculptured Rocks Road

Glen is looking to get a pavement saw to even out the edges of the pavement, and use his skid steer to rip up the asphalt, add gravel and compact it. Miles will look at it this week. **Christina motioned to table this until the next meeting, Miles 2nd, so voted.**

Highway Equipment

Bristol is open to a barter arrangement but the use of the grader is not subject to barter. The chipper is something that they would barter with. Pam reported that she could only locate one company that will rent a grader. Nortrax wants \$3,200 a week plus \$800 for delivery. Volvo does not do grader rental. E.W. Sleeper does not have one. The Board directed Pam to contact Milton Cat regarding a possible rental. They will also explore contracting the job out: grader, roller and operator. **Christina motioned to table this until next week, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

DRA 2013 Notification of Total Equalized Valuations

Scott Dickman from the Department of Revenue (DRA) said that State Statute requires Companies to supply financial information to the DRA and also prohibits the DRA from releasing the information. He stated that they use the income approach, gross capacity, power purchase agreement, tax credits and accelerated depreciation. The cost approach is the most useful during the first three years. He also made a comment that potentially, at the local level, towns may not reflect the market value of a facility in their PILOT and that the Department cannot rely upon the local municipality's agreement. At this time the Board feels that the Governor will sign HB 1549 so they do not have to go through with filing an appeal of DRA's assessment.

Fan Installation Bids

Christina motioned to award the bid to install ceiling fans in the garage to Gary's Electric/Security and to require 30 days to complete the project, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Class VI Roads

The Board reviewed the list of abutters on the Town's Class VI roads and determined who to send letters to regarding doing road improvements. **Christina motioned to send letters to six owners who have property on Class VI roads, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Pole Licenses

The Board reviewed 2 samples of pole licenses and chose the license and application that was submitted by the attorney. Pam will prepare letters for the Board's signature for the next meeting. These letters will introduce the newly adopted pole license to the users.

Town Sign

The Board reviewed and approved the proof for the new granite Town Offices sign.

All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Miles and Christina submitted their list of corrections for the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Pam will

forward these to June Garneau. Once the changes are made the Board will set a date to adopt the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Spring Tax Warrant

Miles motioned to sign the 2014 Spring Tax Warrant, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Doug Millett

Doug Millett received a letter from the Town regarding Ken Knowlton's proposed initial 2014 inspection of his property. He reviewed a timeline of last year's inspections. He stated that he was told that he needed to register his vehicle and did so but he does not believe that the law required this. He feels that he is in compliance with what he had to do. He also stated that he can have up to 5 antique vehicles on the property. He believes it is a waste of taxpayer money to have Ken Knowlton inspect the property again and sees this as harassment. The Board reviewed Mr. Knowlton's final inspection report from 2013 which states that Mr. Millett was marginally in violation and needed to register his wrecker. Miles reported that in the spring they have Mr. Knowlton inspect the marginal properties to make sure that property owners have not slipped back. They are not saying that Mr. Millett has more to do. It is not intended to be harassment, they are just double checking. Christina stated that there are a number of properties that he will visit. Last year there was a property owner who had been in compliance and slipped out, thus there are properties in Town that he needs to periodically check. The Board is being consistent and adhering to the policy that they have been following. Mr. Millett stated that he will allow Mr. Knowlton to come onto the property and he will voice that he feels that he is being harassed. Miles made him aware that does not have to let Ken Knowlton onto the property. Mr. Millett will allow him on the lot and will accompany him during the inspection. He would also like a copy of all the inspection reports.

Yield Tax Warrant for Powers, Map 1 Lot 54

Christina motioned to sign the Yield Tax Warrant for James Powers, Map 1 Lot 54, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Conservation Commission Request

Miles reported that at a recent Conservation Commission (CC) meeting, concern was expressed about potential liability for the public to use the Town Pond area. The Board agreed to install signage, "Use These Facilities at your own Risk", to let people know that the Town is not liable. The Board granted the CC's request to use some tables from the park for the fishing derby. Bob Ferriere's appointment to the CC has expired. He would like to be appointed for 3 years. **Christina motioned to approve the appointment of Bob Ferriere to the Conservation Commission for a 3 year term, Miles 2nd, so voted, Bob recusing himself.**

Marina Chase stated that she has a sign at her house that says Groton Conservation Land that her husband made. Miles made arrangements to stop by to pick it up and also inquired on the possibility of the Chase's making another sign.

Old Home Day (OHD)

Christina will contact Vicki Kimball and Pam Yinger to schedule an OHD Committee meeting for Monday, June 2 at 5:00 pm.

Christina motioned to go into non-public pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (c, d) at 9:05 pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to return to public session at 9:43 pm, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Miles motioned to adjourn at 9:44 pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant