

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
May 27, 2014**

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

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Terry Murphy and Derry Riddle, members of the Bridgewater/Hebron Village School District Board, addressed the Select Board and audience. The Village District was formed in 1990. It is a separate political subdivision that oversees the Bridgewater/Hebron Village School (BHVS) building and property. The school was built by the Towns of Bridgewater and Hebron and is leased to the Newfound Area School District (NASD) for \$1 a year. The Towns hold the ownership of the building and most of the materials in the building. They also pay for maintenance. The Village District are the landlords, the NASD is the tenant who determines how the school is used. The school ranks at about the 92nd percentile. In the last few years, parents have raised concerns about the educational quality that student graduating from BHVS enter into when they go on to the Newfound Memorial Middle School which ranks much lower (somewhere in the 20s). They asked the NASD for a K-8 configuration but were told that K-8 was not feasible for the NASD. At this year's Town Meeting, voters in both Hebron and Bridgewater voted to create a study committee to determine the feasibility of withdrawing from the district. It is the parents who prompted this. They see the drop from 92% to 20% in middle school and are not happy with these results, and would like their children to remain at the BHVS through grade 8. They feel that if the building is big enough, then why not allow the reconfiguration? Terry Murphy stated that if the district had a plan to change the configuration they would be willing to stay in the district. The current one size fits all model is a failing model. Regarding where they would send their students for high school: they would possibly tuition to Plymouth (which is in the 90th percentile) or Newfound. The Town of Hill has been investigating leaving the Franklin district and coming to Newfound also. There are number of schools in the state looking to withdraw from their districts.

The current contract between the Village District and the NASD states that the service area for the Village District is Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton. As far as the Village District Board is concerned, if they do withdraw, Groton children would be welcome to continue sending their children there. Research would have to be done to determine whether or not Groton would have to withdraw from the NASD. In the meantime, as a result of the warrant articles passed in March, the NASD School Board has formed the RSA 195 Committee to study the feasibility and suitability for the Village District to withdraw. Lou Lieto suggested that Groton do some investigating on their own such as contacting Rumney and Plymouth to see what the options are for them.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Christina motioned to approve the minutes of May 20 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

UPDATES

There was a concern raised last week about the type of culvert that Glen was going to use on Edgar Albert Road. Christina reported that Glen has changed his plan. He will not be using an elliptical culvert.

OLD BUSINESS

Bid Specs for Second Floor Fire Egress

The Board reviewed the bid specs for the second floor fire egress and made the following decisions:

- Heavy duty indoor/outdoor carpeting to match what is currently in the hallway is to be installed
- Determine whether or not the interior door needs to be replaced
- Change the project completion date to September 30
- Bids are to include the installation of all lighting except exterior light
- Contractor will choose the emergency lighting
- Board will choose and install exterior light. It will be wired as a switch attached to the door so when the door opens the light comes on
- Ask Kyle Andrews to review the bid specs as he had been working with the contractors
- The bid due date is good if the specs are sent out this week.

Christina motioned to distribute the bid specs after they are reviewed by former Board member Kyle Andrews, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Refrigerator/Air Conditioner Disposal Costs

The cost for the Town to dispose of units containing Freon is \$10. Currently, the Town collects \$10 for these units. The Board agreed to maintain the current fee schedule.

Fishing Derby

Miles motioned to authorize the payment of the Fishing Derby posters, trophies and buttons from the Groton Recreation Committee Revolving Fund, Bob 2nd, so voted. Marina Chase reported that the sign for the pond is ready. She stated that she did not like the wood that she had to work with and will be making a replacement sign.

Town House Exterior Light

Miles spoke with someone at Laconia Electric regarding options for the exterior light. The Town can do a retrofitting for an LED bulb. The bulb and driver cost anywhere from a little over \$400 to over \$500. There are some rebates that might be possible and an online salesperson stated that the Town should contact New Hampshire Electric COOP to ascertain if they have any rebate programs. If there are no rebate programs then it might not be worth doing this. Christina stated that she might have some info from a packet she recently received when attending the energy conference a few weeks ago. She will look into this.

All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Miles stated that June Garneau incorporated all the corrections to the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan that he had submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Hebron/Groton Perambulation

Neither Hebron nor Groton received bids for perambulating the Town line. Roy Sabourn of Sabourn Towers and Surveying will speak with the Board on Tuesday, June 3 regarding his reasons for not submitting a bid. The Hebron and Rumney Boards are invited to attend the meeting.

Deed for Land Swap

The Board directed Pam to contact the Town's Attorney regarding having a title search done for the new lot across from the Transfer Station. Before deeds are drawn up the plan will be recorded at the registry as they want the plan referenced in the deed as well as language that covers the swap. The attorney will review the deed from Green Acre Woodlands to the Town before they sign. Bob Berti had stated that Green Acre Woodlands was considering including language in the deed to protect the Town Pound. The Board supports this. The Town will issue a quitclaim deed for the lot on Old Rumney Road unless Green Acre Woodlands want to pay for a warranty deed.

Independent Contractor (Non-Employee) Work Agreement

The Board reviewed an Independent Contractor Work Agreement template and agreed to keep it as a reference tool.

Yield Tax Warrants: Faucher & Iroquois Master Fund Ltd

Miles motioned to sign the Yield Tax Warrants for Faucher, Map 2 Lots 46 & 47, Bob 2nd, so voted. Christina motioned to sign the Yield Tax Warrant for Iroquois Master Fund, Map 8 Lot 2, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Driveway Permit for Jacques, Sculptured Rocks Road

The Board reviewed the driveway permit issued by the Road Agent for Jacques, 154 Sculptured Rocks Road, and believes it is adequate based upon the Road Agents recommendations.

2013 Abatements

Bob motioned to approve the abatements for Carruth, Sime and Jackanus, Christina 2nd, so voted.

2014 Inventory Penalties

New property owners who acquired the property after the Inventory of Taxable Property (PA-28) forms were mailed will not be assessed a penalty for failure to submit the inventory.

Road Hazard on North Groton Road

Miles noted that there is a washout near a culvert off North Groton Road near Old Fields Road (Upper Birch Holdings subdivision). This section of the road is maintained by the State. The Town will contact the Department of Transportation District 2 to make them aware.

Other Business

During the earlier work session the Board brought a washout near Nedean Lane to the Road Agent's attention.

Lou Lieto asked the Board to consider submitting a letter to the Town's local, State and Federal representatives that Warrant Article 31 was passed unanimously at this year's Town Meeting. He volunteered to draft a letter for their signature. The Board agreed.

The Road Committee will have recommended bid specs ready for the Board's review by next week.

Christina motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (a&b) at 9:13 pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Miles motioned to return to public session at 9:45 pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Bob motioned to adjourn at 9:46 pm, Miles 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Hamel
Administrative Assistant