

TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
September 16, 2014

**In Attendance:** Christina Goodwin, Kyle Andrews, Robert Ferriere, Sara Moores (Administrative Assistant)

**Audience Members Present**

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

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- RSA 195 Committee: BHVS Village District and Bridgewater/Hebron Select Board representatives in attendance
- Mike Scala from Senator Ayotte's office will be at the Town Office Monday 9/22/14 from 10:30 am – 11:30 am

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Select Board Work Sessions at the Town House

- Tuesday September 23, 2014 at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday September 30, 2014 at 6:00 pm

Planning Board meeting at the Town House

- Wednesday September 24, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Conservation Commission meeting at the Town House

- Thursday October 9, 2014 at 7:00 pm

North Country Council Open House

- Rumney Town Office Tuesday September 30, 2014 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

**MINUTE APPROVAL:**

**Christina motioned to approve the minutes for September 2nd as written, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup> so voted.**

**RSA 195 – Bridgewater Hebron Village School (BHVS)**

Christina opened the floor to Bridgewater Selectman Terry Murphy and Hebron Selectman Pat Moriarty explaining that this is an informational session only. Mr. Murphy discussed that it may not be a sure thing that Groton would be attending BHVS in the future and Groton students may go to Bristol, New Hampton or Danbury. Christina explained that the Towns of Bridgewater and Hebron had placed an article on their warrants to create a withdrawal study committee to review if it is suitable and feasible for the towns to withdraw. She explained that once this vote is completed, a committee is created consisting of a member of the Select Board from each of the 7 towns in the district and the existing School Board. This committee makes recommendation to the Department of Education whether the withdrawal is suitable and feasible. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Moriarty explained it was never their intention to take the Groton kids out of the school and they feel the children should come first. They said it makes no sense to them for the Groton students to get on a bus and pass by this beautiful school to go to Bristol.

They explained the intention was to force the School Board to make some necessary changes. The idea was presented to expand to K-6 or K-8 but the intent was to keep the same kids there. However, when they brought this forward the administration said they would decide where to move the kids and balance the schools since there are empty classrooms in the other schools. They explained that within the 7 towns there are classrooms to fit 1800 students but currently there are only 1196 students enrolled.

The students at BHVS are in the top 90 percent in the state, but the Newfound Memorial Middle School (NMMS) is in the bottom 26 percent and have never gone above 50 percent. This is a constant problem. The Newfound Regional High School (NRHS) also has yet to go over 50 percent. They do not understand why they would continue to invest money when there is no improvement and feel it is not worth the investment. They thought they compromised on a proposal that is sitting at the School Board right now, that Jeff Levesque proposed, which was to go to K-6 throughout the district and close NMMS. The only place in the State that has stable enrollment is along the Massachusetts border. Plymouth Elementary School was designed for 900 students is down to 450 students. With the K-6, if the child stays a little longer and matures more then it will be more beneficial. A lot of schools in this area are K-8 and get better grades than what we get here. We are on top 10 in state of what we spend to educate kids but are putting out the bottom 20 percent.

Both Board members explained that they don't want to leave the School District but the problem is that nothing is changing. Mr. Murphy looked at the costs for running the schools, with 7.3 million for the high school, 4.5 million for the middle school and 2.3 million for the elementary school. They would like to get Groton to consider this for next year to see if want to join the withdrawal study as they feel that this may cause the School Board to make a decision. They want to keep the Groton kids in the school and are asking for Groton's help to give information, to let them know their ideas and what their thinking is. The kids are doing so well there. They are just trying to force change for the better and think about a different model for the kids. This is a successful school and the kids are happy there so why not keep them there. A parent that was in attendance asked if there is room for a K-8 at BHVS and Mr. Murphy explained that there is. They are only using 6 out of 10 classrooms right now. They explained that if we leave the school district it would open up the option to go to Plymouth High School which is scoring higher than Newfound. Plymouth does have room and is happy to take on more students.

Another parent that was in attendance asked what we can do. They mentioned that there is a meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm at the High School that is a continuation of the September 8th meeting. It is discussing the motion to consider making these changes. An attendee said that they cannot attend the meeting and asked if they can send a letter. Mr. Murphy mentioned that she can send it to Ruby Hill who is the Chair of the School board.

Both Hebron and Bridgewater Board members feel that Groton should put a warrant article regarding the withdrawal study on their warrant next year. Christina mentioned that as a Select Board member and a parent, it really bothered her that the Town of Gorton would not have a choice of where the kids go. She explained that her kids went to BHVS and she has one in the Middle school. She recommended that the parents should either go to the meeting or send letters. She also mentioned the other option is that for the March town meeting we put a Warrant Articles to establish a withdrawal committee. Christina mentioned and Mr. Murphy

confirmed that they would sit back and wait for us for next year if we did this. The final withdrawal gets voted on by all 7 towns so if one town is withdrawing it has less power than multiple towns withdrawing.

A parent in attendance asked if we withdraw what does that mean for high school students? They explained that they would tuition into Plymouth or Newfound school. Another one asked how the warrant article would be put on. It was explained that the Board can choose to do it or petitioners can do it, which we believe they would only need 10 or 25 signatures and this can be confirmed with the Town Clerk.

An attendee asked how long this issue has been in the school. It has been a long time. Danbury did a withdrawal committee request last year but determined the school is not being closed and they are not going through with it so the report was issued to the Department of Education that it was financially feasible but not suitable at this time.

A parent in attendance asked that the Board consider the Warrant Article on this. Kyle, Bob and Christina all feel we should and that is why we held this meeting to hear from the parents. This parent wants to stay on Board for other kids even though they only have one child left in the system. Christina explained they would be willing to do this but the people would have to come out and vote which would be at the Town Meeting. Again it was explained that it is just a study to withdraw and the people vote on it. Bob mentioned that we should have as many people as possible attend on September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to hear what they are talking about.

Christina thanked the Board members for coming out and meeting with Groton.

#### **UPDATES:**

##### *North Groton Road Project*

They will be paving tomorrow. After paving they will be setting the shoulders which will complete the project.

##### *Spectacle Pond Posting*

Christina read the posting that we posted at Spectacle Pond in regards to the abandoned boats. We need to correct the posting and will repost it with the corrections. Abandoned boats will be removed as of October 30, 2014.

##### *Fire egress exit*

Christina asked what the progress of the egress is. It was originally agreed that he would be done by the end of the month. He will be back by Thursday so Kyle will check with Matt Fysh.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### *Estimate for new decking/budget*

Christina presented the estimate for the new decking. Sara had included the budget to show what has been spent so far in the General Government Buildings budget. The estimate is around \$1,190. Looking at the budget Kyle thinks we should wait until the new budget as he doesn't want to cut the budget that close. Bob thinks the cement and lighting should be priority and then look at the decking later. The Board agreed on waiting on the deck and Kyle will mention

this to Matt Fysh on Thursday. Bob will tighten up the loose boards and rails by adding screws. The estimate will be kept on file to consider later in the year.

*Junkyard Inspection - 1214 North Groton Rd*

The Junkyard dog visited this address and the Board reviewed his notes, which state that the yard is junky but does not constitute a violation.

Christina asked how we feel about scheduling a meeting with the junkyard dog and talk to him about the different scenarios the Town has seen. Kyle is fine with this. The Board agrees that it doesn't seem as if he is being consistent. Sara will contact him to try to set something up for September 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Rumney/Groton perambulation*

Christina had asked Sara to touch base with Rumney about the \$49,000.00 perambulation. The Board agreed that we are not accepting this bid and we should wait to see what Rumney's next step is.

*Lighting replacement*

Christina presented the questions from New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) in their review of the potential grant/reimbursement application for the light replacements. The first question is what is the watts, which Sara found on the light bulb in the office. It was marked as 400 watts. The next question is how many hours a week are exterior lights on? The Board estimates that the front light will be on approximately 10-12 hours a day and the side light would be for an average of 1 hour a week. Sara will forward the responses to the NHEC and see what the next step is.

*Water for cooler*

The water test came back okay, but we are not sure how we would fill the jugs or clean them. We asked for quotes and only one place delivers to Groton and it was \$7.25 plus gas charge. Ann Joyce will bring in the jug that she gets at Walmart for \$4.62 to see if it will work with the cooler the Town has. The Board will wait to make a final decision until then.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Hobart building permit - 24 North Groton Rd*

This permit is for a 10x24 porch. **Kyle motioned to sign the Hobart building permit, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

*Intent to Cut - Route 118*

Christina reviewed the Intent to Cut for Mark and Annette Perry. It is for Map 1 Lots 3 and 4. **Christina motioned to sign the Intent to cut for Mark and Annette Perry, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

*Report of Cut*

**Christina motioned to table the report of cut until next week's meeting so she can assist Sara in creating the yield tax, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *#2 Heating Oil bids*

Our current #2 Heating Oil contract expired April 2014 with Fred Fuller. Yeaton quoted 3.56 a gallon, Fred Fuller quoted \$3.275 a gallon and Dead River quoted \$3.199 a gallon. Dead River is the cheapest quote. Sara will contact Dead River to have a contract sent to us so the Board can sign it at next meeting. **Kyle motioned to go with Dead River for our #2 Heating Oil for this season, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Memo to Trustees of the Trust Funds*

The Board reviewed the memo to transfer \$200.00 for the cemetery's perpetual care as noted on Warrant Article #13 to the Meredith Village Savings Bank (MVSB) account. **Bob motioned to sign the Memo to Trustees of the Trust Funds, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *CADY posting*

Christina explained that the Communities for Alcohol and Drug Free Youth (CADY) sponsors a drug take back day for different towns. Our site will be the Transfer Station. The Groton Police Department will collect whatever drugs are dropped off on September 27th from 10am to 2pm for disposal. This has been posted at Transfer Station and at the Town Hall and Sara will post on website.

### *Color Copier/printer volume*

Christina explained that we paid the maintenance contract fee ahead for 2014 based upon our projected costs on the old copier.. The upgrade fee is \$48.00 as we have been exceeding our color copier counts. Kyle is okay with paying the fee but suggested to have Sara call to see if there is a way to fix the default at all times to black and white for copying and printing. If this can be done we do not believe we will go over projections. Sara will contact Twin Rivers Office Machines to see if this can be done.

### *Request for Public Library Meeting*

The Board received a request for a Public Library meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> but it didn't have a time. Christina mentioned that they are looking at the future of the library. Kyle is okay with this date. Sara will let them know the date is approved and will confirm the time with them. It is preferred to use the Library but if needed they can use the other room. Christina encourages anyone who has an interest in the future of the Library to come to this meeting.

### *Permission for Snowmobile Access*

Christina presented a request from the Baker River Valley Snowmobile Club that is asking for access on our property but we are not sure where. Sara will contact them to get a location. **Christina motioned to table this until next week's meeting, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

### *Office closings*

Sara will be in a webinar tomorrow from 12pm-1pm so the office will be closed.

The Office will also be closed October 24th and October 27th-31<sup>st</sup> for Sara's wedding vacation. Ann Joyce has agreed to cover payroll and payables.

### *Meeting schedules*

The Board agreed to the following meeting and work session schedule:

October 28, 2014 – No work session or Select Board meeting

November 4, 2014 (elections) – Work Session at 5:00 pm but no Select Board meeting  
November 11, 2014 (holiday) – No work session and Select Board meeting at 7:00 pm  
December 23, 2014 (Christmas) – No work session and no Select Board meeting

*Work sessions*

For October, the Board will plan to have 6:00 pm work sessions every Tuesday for budget purposes only. If anything else is needed to be discussed then the Board will meet at 5:00 pm or 5:30 pm.

*Resignation*

Vickie Kimball, who cleaned the Town House, submitted her resignation, which will be effective October 28, 2014. The Board has agreed to post in house and on the website and any interested parties should submit an application by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Kyle motioned to adjourn at 8:47 pm, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Moores  
Administrative Assistant