

TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
June 18, 2024

**In Attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert, Ron Madan and Sara Smith (Town Administrator)**

**Audience Members Present**

John called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

**John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of May 21, 2024 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. Tony abstained.**

**John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of May 21, 2024 as written, Ron 2nd, so voted. Tony abstained.**

**John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of June 4, 2024 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Follow up on new school district conversation from the last meeting*

John mentioned that he wanted to make a comment. John said at the last meeting Nick Blodgett had made some comments and accusations about him against his character. He wanted to pointed out that he has always prided himself on honesty and integrity. He said he would never mislead anyone; it is simply not the way that he operates. He said if it was a misunderstanding than that is simply just what it was. He has always stated that it doesn't matter to him how people vote, he just expects that they come out, come to the meetings so that they can educate themselves so that they can make an educated vote when they make that vote. Like he said if there is a misunderstanding then it is a misunderstanding. He said he has always made it clear at this meeting and the school meetings that nothing takes effect until 2025. He just wanted to point that out.

Nick asked John if it was a misunderstanding or an attack on his character. John said he would say it was both. Nick asked if there is no definition between the two. John said that he knows that Nick likes integrigate people and he doesn't need to integrigate him. Nick asked "integrigate you?". John said look, bottom line is that if it was a misunderstanding then it was a misunderstanding. Nick said so call it a misunderstanding. John said Nick made the comment that John intentionally sought out peoples votes by misleading them and that is not true and it is an attack on someone's character. Nick asked if this is a quote from him that he said John misled people to change their vote? He asked if he said that? John said yes, that is what he heard. Nick said he thinks if John would recall he was only saying what he believed John had said. He told John to correct him if he is wrong. John said his comment was that John lied to get peoples votes. Nick asked if that was exactly what he said. John said pretty much. Nick said it either is or it isn't, there is no pretty much. John said whatever and that we are going to move on.

Nick said that John brought it up and he is running his mouth about it. John said I am not running my mouth about anything. Nick said yes, he is, he said that "Nick Blodgett attacked my character". John said you did. Nick said that is your opinion and just because you say it doesn't make it a fact. John said and it is your opinion as well. John said what he is stating is what he feels and Nick has his opinion and John has his opinion and that is where it stands. Nick said that John gets to bring something up but no one gets to respond. John said correct. Nick said he wants to respond because John is making a false accusation. John said well so did you so I guess we are even. Nick asked John if he heard what he said that if he made a mistake, he was here to get it corrected which is why he came to the meeting to talk to John about it. John said no and asked if he said it today or the

other day. Nick said not today, the last time he was in here before talking about it. He said that if he is spreading rumors that are untrue, tell me that they are wrong. John said they are wrong. Nick said now they are wrong. John said they were always wrong. Nick said that John just stated on the record that Nick came here making a comment on his character. John said you did. Nick said you are saying that I told people you lied to get votes. John said that is correct. Nick said that is not correct number, that can be your opinion. Just because you say it doesn't mean it is fact. John said Nick your opinion or my opinion we are done with the conversation. Thank you we are moving on. Nick asked what if he doesn't want to be done with the conversation. John said he is the Chair and he gets to make the decision when they are done. Nick said no other members get to talk about this. Tony said he wasn't at that meeting. Nick asked Ron if he was at the last meeting. Ron said he was. John said we are done with this conversation. Nick said Ron was talking to him. John said we are done. Nick said for John tell Ron to stop talking to him then, he is the one acknowledging him so he is talking to him. John said we are done Nick and I am not going to comment to you again. Nick said fair enough. Nick said to put on record that John is wrong, maybe for the first time in his life in his opinion. John said that would be the first time so thank you. Nick asked John what he said, John didn't answer and moved on to new business.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### *Chip Sealing Bids*

The bids for chip sealing were due today. We received one bid. The Select Board opened the bid which was from All States Construction, Inc. The bid had the cost per ton but didn't have an overall cost. They had \$665.00 per ton of asphalt cement and \$3.55 per square yard of chip seal but no overall total cost. The Select Board asked Sara to reach out to get the total cost. **John motioned to the table the chip seal bid until we can the total from All State Construction, Inc, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

### *Building Permit Map 6 Lot 76*

The Town received a building permit and release for municipal liability for Map 6 Lot 76 on Snoburk Lane. This is for a 30x45 garage for farm equipment with an attached 30x30 barn which will not be heated or cooled.

This is on a private road so this went before the Planning Board. The Planning Board provided the following feedback: *"Noted is the Building Permit did mention the Garage Accessory Structure was for Farm Equipment. If it hadn't, the permit would have been denied by the PB based on our Zoning Requirements. Following examination of documents presented and discussion, Deb J motions and Dave M seconds to recommend that the local governing body (Select Board) vote to authorize the issuance of the building permit, subject to Deed Covenants, the Restrictive Covenants, Road Maintenance obligations and a signed and filed Release of Municipal Liability. All members present voted unanimous approval."*

This will not be heated or cooled and does not require a DES septic. Sara did receive the release of municipal liability from the owner and the payment for this. Sara also located the restrictive covenants and included them for the Select Board to review. The covenants go over the following (short version below);

- It says RVs, campers and mobile homes can be used seasonally but not year-round. This doesn't pertain here because the permit is for a barn with garage.
- It states that completion of construction is 18 months from start of excavation.
- It talks about types of construction such as the siding, roof lines, window treatments, etc. and that it should all be of a character harmonious with the natural beauty of the surrounding woodland and rural setting.
- It states all improvements shall be kept neat, orderly and in good repair at all times and no waste or refuse or accumulation of any decaying or offensive substances and all garbage or refuse shall be in containers and removed at frequent intervals and screened from public view.
- It states no noxious, dangerous, offensive or unduly noisy activities or anything that would be a public nuisance

- It talks about severability of the declaration.
- It talks about the enforcement of the declaration.

They didn't see anything about barns or farms so they feel they are okay to approve the permit as long as the owner follows the restrictive covenants. Sara will send a copy of the restrictive covenants to the owner to make sure they follow them while building. **John motioned to approve the building permit for Map 6 Lot 76 and to sign the release of municipal liability, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

*Septic Plan Map 2 Lot 9 (email from the Planning Board)*

The Select Board received an email from Deb Johnson and the Planning Board regarding Map 2 Lot 9. The owners went to the Planning Board Meeting on May 29, 2024 and discussed their septic plan with the Planning Board. Deb and the Planning Board sent an email stating *"The plan, (this is a draft) of a septic design from Armand Amara, Map 2 Lot 9, 1296 North Groton Road. The issue is to place the septic at that position the design results in an intrusion by about 2 to 4 feet into the 25 ft set-back on roads (You know you cannot build closer than 25 ft of the RD) They need that set-back to be waived so they can put the double wide ADU there. They know they need to get building permits. The PB doesn't have authority to allow this, although we do not object to it. Does this need to get clearance from the Select Board because North Groton RD is a Town RD? They will then complete the plan and submit to the State. How should this be handled?"*

The owners were here and it was discussed with them. John confirmed that there really is nowhere else to put it. The owner said that the design is from Barnard and they said they did the best they could because there is a dry bed but occasionally it shows up with water. He said there is no way to do the leach field without going about 2 feet in. He said it would be under the stone wall so it wouldn't intrude. The Select Board agreed that since it was just a few feet that they would approve this. **John motioned to approve how the building and septic are located on the septic design, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Sara explained that the septic designer can now finish the plan and will have to submit the local approval to the Select Board to sign at their next meeting.

*PA-28 Inventory of taxable property forms for 2025*

John stated this is the form that states we are going to be using the inventory form like we do every year. Sara included last year's form and requested the 25 more forms for 2025. **John motioned to sign the PA-28 Inventory of taxable property forms for 2024, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

*PA-16*

John explained that the Town received the PA-16 which is the Application for reimbursement to Towns and Cities in which federal and state forest land is situated. We fill this out every year. Sara filled it out with the new Valuations from Avitar and included last year's form to be compared. **John motioned to sign the PA-16, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

*Appointment for New School Board*

John mentioned that the Select Board have discussed this and have nominated Virginia Parker to be appointed to be on the new school board for the new Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton school district. This will be formed once we get our SAU number which we hope to get soon.

*SAU4 Budget Committee Vacancy*

John mentioned that the SAU4 reached out regarding the Budget Committee. There is a vacancy on the committee for Groton and they are looking to get this filled. John stated that if anyone is interested, they can reach out to the Select Board office.

## **DEPARTMENT ITEMS:**

### *Highway Department*

Bubba mentioned the following Highway Department items:

- The finished grading the roads.
- They will be starting the road side mowing soon.

### *Police Department*

Chief Bagan stated that there was nothing to report.

## **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

### *Meeting recordings*

Nick asked if questions are allowed. John said they never haven't been. Nick asked who was going to answer, if it was going to be John. John said Nick didn't need to be sarcastic. Nick asked if he can have recordings of the meetings that we have had in the recent past. He asked if he can purchase them. Sara explained that they are on a newer recorder, we do not have tapes anymore. She said that he is welcome to come in and listen to them. She explained that we keep the recordings until the minutes are approved. She said she still has that meeting since the Select Board just approved those minutes tonight. Usually after they approve it, they delete it but she still has it now. He said okay.

Nick said with that, to the other members since he cannot address John evidently, he thinks it is interesting that they have three weeks for the Chairperson to respond to comments that they discussed in person, to analyze and interpret what was said. He wanted to say to the rest of the board that their chairperson is weak and a coward to come in here and say Nick said things that weren't said and then say pretty much that was what was said. He said that is all he wanted to say, he wanted to get his shot in too. Ron said that he wants to say that when people start arguing. Nick said he didn't start arguing. Ron said you all have your own opinions and there is a lot of that stuff that he is fortunate that can turn off. Nick said that he just wants to make sure to note on the record that our chairperson is the one who started lashing out at him. It is all in writing here the discussion that they had where Nick says a number of times because he just read it, maybe he is mistaken, he is stating what he recalls here but John wants to go run his mouth and say Nick was talking him down when he wasn't. He was just trying to get clarification. Nick said thank you. John asked if he was done with his comments and said thank you.

There were no other questions or comments from the audience.

**Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:20pm, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith  
Town Administrator