

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
July 16, 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 July 2, 2024 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.
John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of July 2, 2024 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.
John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of July 3, 2024 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Transfer Station Paving Bids

The bids for paving the Transfer Station were due today. We received two bids. The Select Board opened the bids.

- The first one was from Bryant Paving. The bid was for \$37,800.00.
- The second one was from BlakTop Paving. The bid was for \$40,027.36.

John motioned to the award the project to Bryant Paving as they are the lowest bidder and to sign the agreement, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Jennifer Larochelle- Library

Jennifer wanted to meet with the town to talk about the library in Hebron. She brought stats for the Hebron Library. Groton used to use this library for a yearly fee. They also use the library for events, book readings, movie nights, Fish and Game presentations. The last Fish and Game presentation had 18 people. With the new configuration of the school, they wanted to reach out to Groton because they wanted to extend these services to our residents. They would like to expand the hours, make it available to the kids, etc. Bristol Library has an agreement with SAU4 and we do not know if they will do it with the new district.

They used to offer the services to Groton for \$2,000 a year. They are not looking for a fee but looking to extend it to us due to school situation. There would be no fee they just want to extend the library to Groton residents and they will have a similar meeting with Bridgewater. It would be the three towns sharing the library that are also forming the new school district together but the costs would be all on Hebron. They want to extend the library, set it up with handicap accessibility and they are working with engineers on a plan. They are also working on a \$100,000.00 grant.

John said that one of the concerns for residents when we did pay for the library before, is the residents that live on River Road it is too far for them. Jennifer said that the overdrive will be handy in this case because if they have a library card, they can use this online service and it will be free. The Groton residents will get a library card for the library and there is no cost.

The Select board agreed this sounds good. Tony asked how we should promote this. Jen said we have to get to the library card out there. John said we can put it on our website. Sara said we do have a email list that we use now too. Jennifer said that once you have a card you can sign up for MailChimp and then you will get all library

information sent to you about events and things going on. Sara asked Jennifer to send her the information on this and she will send the email to the residents and put it on our website.

Jennifer said that when we had combined before, Groton had a voting rep on the board. This time it would be a non-voting rep as a liaison but it would allow someone to be there and know what is going on. She said that Alison Bagley might be good for that. The Select Board said that once we have the information on it, we can reach out to Alison to see if she would be interested. The Select Board thanked Jennifer for coming.

Updated Local Septic Approval Map 2 Lot 9

The septic designer dropped off an updated local septic approval and plan for Map 2 Lot 9. This is the plan that the Select Board approved at the last meeting. The state wanted an additional profile and to have a larger label put on it. The actual design itself has not changed and is the same as what was handed in last time. **John motioned to sign the updated local septic approval for Map 2 Lot 9, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Junkyard Reports/Letters

John explained that our junkyard inspector from MRI went out and visited properties that either have junkyards or have junkyard concerns and submitted the reports to the Select Board for review. There was one property that she found in violation and one that she had to reschedule but the rest are now in compliance. Sara noticed that on one of them she noted they had a junkyard license and they do not so Sara reached out to let her know. She said she will do a follow up visit and have a discussion with the owner now that she knows that. We will not send the letter or report at this time.

Sara stated that the first two compliance letters also have a recommendation from Audrey to remove from the yearly inspection list. The Select Board agreed.

Sara also mentioned that one of the properties was in compliance for the junkyard aspect but that Audrey was deeply concerned with the condition of the residential structure, as it has deteriorated since last year. She said if there are children living in this house, their situation should be evaluated by the appropriate agency. Sara asked the Select Board, Tony more specifically because he is also the Health Officer, what the Town should do about this concern. Tony asked Sara to email Audrey.

Sara also mentioned that for the property that is in violation, Audrey stated that it doesn't appear that this location has picked up any of the junk and/or garbage, and there are two unregistered vehicles. She said a letter of violation could be written, although she wonders whether a subsequent fine or court appearance would move this toward compliance. Sara drafted the letter and asked the Select Board if she should send this and then if he doesn't respond or clean up in 30 days move forward with the attorney for a fine or court appearance. The Select Board agreed to send the letter now and flag it to check in 30 days and if nothing has been done to have the attorney send a letter. **John motioned to sign all of the junkyard letters, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Junkyard Renewals

Sara stated that anyone with junkyard licenses has to have their Junkyard Renewal Application in because the current licenses expired on July 1st. We currently have four properties that have junkyard licenses. One person has passed away and Audrey recommended a renewal for that one, which is listed below. That leaves three other junkyards. One out of the three is the one that she had to reschedule so she still hasn't been out and the other two she stated was okay to renew. However, we have only received the renewal application for one of these properties. Therefore, the Select Board have two junkyard renewals to sign today.

- For the first one, the owner submitted a junkyard renewal application along with the background check and all supporting documents on June 26, 2024. Sara sent the background check out to the State of NH and it was received back with nothing to report. Audrey Cline has done the inspection and said

the Select Board are good to approve this renewal. **John motioned to sign the junkyard renewal application, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

- For the second one, Audrey completed the inspection and she advised that since the owner passed away and the ex-wife is dealing with cleaning up the property, that the Select Board issue the 2024 license while she continues to clean up the property. **John motioned to sign the junkyard renewal application, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Public Works Building Update

The Town finally got the go ahead to award the project to Kuplin Land Services, LLC. This was awarded in a work session on July 3, 2024. There is a requirement that there has to be a preconstruction meeting between USDA, the architect, the contractor, and the Town before any work can begin. We worked hard to schedule this meeting soon after the July 3, 2024 meeting. Kuplin Land Services will begin working on the site work and will order the building. They said if they order it now, it will be here about the second week in October.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Building Permit - Map 5 Lot 65

The Town received a building permit for Map 5 Lot 65 on North Groton Road. This is for a 80x20 lean to attached to the back of the steel building for extra personal storage. **John motioned to approve and sign the building permit for Map 5 Lot 65, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Building Permit - Map 6 Lot 111

The Town received a building permit for Map 6 Lot 111 on North Groton Road. This is a renewal as they submitted permit 22-07 that was approved in 2022. They did remove the existing garage and shed but they did not get the new garage or new bedroom built so they are submitting the same permit again. This is to build a new garage that is 420 sf and to do an addition of a new bedroom that will be 400 sf. They do have the PUC approval and the DES septic approval. **John motioned to approve and sign the building permit for Map 6 Lot 111, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Police Department

Chief Bagan stated that he had nothing new to report. He has been working on completing his trainings.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:17pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Town Administrator