

*Town of Groton Selectmen's Office*  
*754 North Groton Road*  
*Groton, NH 03241*  
*(603)744-9190 phone*  
*(603)744-3382 fax*  
[selectmen@grotonnh.org](mailto:selectmen@grotonnh.org)

February 2, 2021

Dear Groton resident,

As you are aware, the Select Board is preparing a warrant article for the March 2021 Town Meeting regarding the proposed new Public Works Building/Highway garage and to request to bond what is needed for the remainder.

The Select Board has had previous meetings to try to supply the Town with as much information as possible regarding this building before the vote. These meetings have also allowed the Townspeople to bring forward suggestions, questions and concerns. Some of the major items from these meetings that was discussed were the building plans and costs were reviewed, the USDA grant for \$250,000.00 was discussed, using money from Capital Reserve Funds, closing some Capital Reserve Funds, and it was mentioned that a bond will be needed for the remainder of the costs.

The reason the Select Board is bringing this before the Town again is because we feel the numbers are better, the municipal bond rates are very low right now and we have an opportunity for a grant for the first time in all the years we have been looking into a new building.

The project cost estimate is \$1,083,409.00. In March 2021, the Town will be presented with a building and a request to bond **\$685,000.00**. Below are the reasons why we do not have to bond the entire project and only need to bond \$685,000.00.

- The Town has applied for, and has been awarded contingent on the Towns vote at the March Town Meeting, a USDA grant for \$250,000.00 for the building. If the Town doesn't vote in favor of the building in March, we will lose the \$250,000.00. In order to receive the grant, an entire building needs to be put up, it cannot be done in phases.
- The Select Board took the advice from the townspeople from previous meetings and worked with the architects to get the cost down.
- The Select Board is planning on applying \$50,000.00 from the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund to this project.
- The Select Board received a suggestion from a resident to close the Fire & equipment Capital Reserve Fund and the Perambulation Capital Reserve Fund which would allow another \$98,000 from these funds to put in the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund to apply towards this building.

It is no doubt to everyone that a new highway garage is needed in Town. The current building has been flooded many times. This has led to damages to the building that needed to be repaired

which in turn makes the insurance go up. This has also led to loss of vehicles, equipment, tools, materials, supplies and so much more. The current garage is in the flood zone and will experience more flooding if something isn't done. Also, due to the fact that the building is in a flood zone, we cannot keep the building where it is and make any changes to the existing building. If we do, we would be required to follow the flood insurance program and this would be costly to bring the building into compliance with this program.

As of right now, all of the major projects in Town, besides River Road, have been taken care of over the last few years. The roads are in the best shape they have been in a long time, the bridge has been replaced, and other projects have been completed. We cannot predict the future, but for what we see at this time, there is not going to be anything big on the warrant besides this building with the exception of River Road in the near future.

We have put a lot of time and thought into this. As tax payers too, we take this very seriously and are working hard to make sure the tax rate doesn't continue to go up every year. The last few years the tax rate has been higher due to the projects that needed to get done and due to storm damages that had to be repaired. The Town portion of the tax rate will not be raised due to the building, in fact, since there are less projects in the foreseeable future, the tax rate should go down.

We feel that this is the best chance the Town has to do this building and we feel if we do not do this building now with the grant opportunity and the rates as low as they are, we do not know when this Town will ever be in a position to do this.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact the Select Board's Office at (603)744-9190. Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Sincerely,

John Rescigno (Chair), Tony Albert and Ron Madan  
Groton Select Board