

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
March 21, 2023

In Attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert, Ron Madan and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant)

Audience Members Present

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of March 7, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of March 7, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Public Hearing Meeting minutes of March 7, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of March 7, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted. John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of March 14, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

DOT Letter and Road Inventory Form

The DOT sent the yearly letter which requires a letter regarding federal funding, the road inventory form if any roads were added or changed and the list of town officials and hours to update if any changes. Sara drafted the letter stating that the Town did not receive \$750,000.00 or more in federal funds. There were no changes to the Map this year since Old Fields Road and Vignone Hill Lane were added as requested last year. There were no changes to the town officials and hours. **John motioned to sign the DOT Letter and Road Inventory Form, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Class VI Road Letters from residents on Old Rumney Road and Nedeau Lane

Residents sent a letter to the Select Board with their plans for road maintenance for Old Rumney Road and Nedeau Lane and will continue to maintain the road along with removing rocks, ditching, rolling the road and filling holes and areas that may wash out due to rain, etc. **John motioned to approve both the Class VI Road improvements request for Old Rumney Road and Nedeau Lane, Ron 2nd, so voted.**

Class VI Road Letters

Sara created letters to remind everyone on Class VI roads that haven't sent in a Class VI Road work letter that they need to send letters in to explain the work they plan to do before any work can be done. **John motioned to sign the Class VI Road letters, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

MS-232

The MS-232 is the Report of Appropriations Actually Voted from Town Meeting. **John motioned to sign the MS-232 and have it submitted to the Department of Revenue, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Email from Pierre regarding School Board Meeting 3/27/23 at 630pm

Pierre sent an email inviting the Select Board to the School Board Meeting on Monday, March 27, 2023 at 6:30pm at the High School Library to discuss HB349. They are inviting all three towns. John did speak to the other two towns and right now they do not see a need to attend a school board meeting since we have no information at

this time and this is the busiest time of year for the Towns. None of the towns are attending. Sara will email Pierre to let him know that now is not a good time and we will reach back out when there is a better time.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

MRI Professional Services Agreement- Deputy Health Officer

MRI sent over the agreement to use their company for our Deputy Health Officer. **John motioned to sign the MRI Professional Services Agreement, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Avitar Letters

Avitar sent over two letters, one to NE Power and one to NE Hydro for us to put on our letterhead requesting that they send information to complete the utility values for tax year 2023 by July 1, 2023. **John motioned to sign the Avitar letters, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

Town garage update

John mentioned that now that the Town Garage passed at Town Meeting our next step is to reach out to Doug at Studio Nexxus to coordinate how we should move forward. We will need set everything up so we can put it out for bid, which has to stay open for at least 30 days. We are at a very early stage of this so there is not much going on yet.

NHEC Broadband

John mentioned that the Select Board had a meeting tonight with NHEC to get an update on broadband. As you can see they are already starting to do some work with replacing poles. They will be running the fiberoptic lines next. They are looking at quarter 4 of 2023 for the service to actually be dropped at the homes. As it gets close they will send out mailers regarding this so you can respond to these to let them know you are interested in this service so you can be added to the list. Once they are done in our area, they will move to other areas so it is critical if you are interested you let them know within the timeframe that they are in our town or it can take some time to set you up.

Joe asked what the difference with this broadband will be from what they currently have. John mentioned it will be much higher speed and more reliable service. Tony said it appears that it will be cheaper as well, depending on what package you select. Sara mentioned that some of our residents currently don't have any internet, they cannot get Spectrum or Consolidated because of where they live. This offers the service to anyone that has electric. If NHEC runs their electric to that house they will have the option for this broadband service.

Tony said this is a good thing. They also said that they will come to the Town to do a presentation once it gets closer. He explained that there is no fee to set this up, you will just have to pay the monthly charges. Even if they have to go up your driveway to run the lines, they will take care of that charge to install. 100% of Groton will be covered.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS:

Highway Department

Fred is going to take a step up and oversee the department right now. He is not the Road Agent but he will be taking the leadership role while things are being sorted out. Tony said we are fortunate to have Fred and Jeremy and Fred and may see him on the roads as an employee. He said you may see him working on the roads as well to help Fred out when Jeremy goes back to work. He will be an employee not that boss.

Joe Koslow said the Town should look at consolidating the Highway Department and the Transfer Station since they will be close. This could be restructured to have the same Supervisor for both departments. John said they

are different entities and individual entities so that could be difficult. Ron said they have different hours and responsibilities.

Police Department

Chief Bagan explained that there is another nail incident going on. The predominate number of nails was on Halls Brook. There were more scattered nails located on the west side of North Groton Road down to Sculptured Rocks Road. There hasn't been as many as last time on North Groton Road but there have been handfuls of 10-20 nails scattered here and there intermittently on the road to Sculptured Rocks Road. The bulk have been on Halls Brook, south bound side located at the stop sign where Halls Brook meets North Groton Road, near the powerlines cross over the road and then down by Route 25 which is actually in Rumney.

Tony asked if it came off truck at Route 25 and then just kept falling as they travelled up the road. Chief Bagan said he doesn't know, it could be. They are different nails then last time. Tony said we will know if they keep showing up in the same spots again. Chief said he found a large quantity and showed the bag of nails he collected. He said he believes he got most of them but is sure he didn't get all of them.

Chief said Jeremy Haney was a big help and helped Chief out for a while. Jeremy also was able to get him a rolling magnet from Dave Norman. Ruth asked if the nails are magnetic and able to be picked up with the rolling magnets. Chief said they are. Ruth said that she has two rolling magnets they could use to go around. Chief said he thought he got most of them but he thought that last time too. He canvased the road ways and if he saw them, he got out and rolled the magnet around on the road and shoulder.

Chief notified the state DOT about it when he was made aware on Monday that they were on Halls Brook Road. Sara was informed that a resident founds some on North Groton Road too so she called the DOT today so we can get ahead of it before it becomes as big of a problem as it was last time. Chief said he found more on North Groton Road today. He said he saw the DOT out looking for them.

John explained that the State DOT has been notified and the State Police as well. John said as residents of the town you should keep your eyes open. If it is malicious, so far this person has gotten away with it but the more people paying attention the better chance we have at catching them. It is an unfortunate situation but we are looking at some other means to try to see if we can catch the person

John asked Jim to put something on the community Facebook page. Jim said the Chief asked him as well so he will. Sara will put it on the Town website and the Groton NH Events Facebook page. Chief said if anyone has their own security cameras, they can check those to see if they show anything. Chief spoke to State Police as well. John said that after speaking with Chief he said that someone could chat about it with someone else so keep your eyes and ears open. Chief said it seems too coincidental but it doesn't mean that it isn't. Chief said to catch them you have to see them do it or hear them talking about it.

Tony said they asked Fred and Jeremy to go out and look at the roads and keep an eye out for them and pick them up as they see them.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Building Update

Jim asked if there will be a shovel in the ground during building season for the building. He is just looking for a guestimate on the timeframe. Tony said we are hoping so but we have to follow USDA guidelines due to the grant. We are hoping to start the site work and put the building up and then complete the rest next year if needed. The intention is to get as much up as can this summer and fall. We cannot guarantee it will all be done.

Joe said it came up at the town meeting to use locals for the work. Tony mentioned it will be put out to bid and there will be one person as the General Contractor (GC) to oversee the entire project. We will not bid out each part separately. That would take too long. John said that would delay the building progress by so much and would create so much chaos. Tony said it would be up to the GC. Joe asked if there will be a liaison with the town. John and Tony both said the select board will be very involved.

Jim said he was just glad it went through and he thinks it was great that Miles and Bill spoke in favor of it. Tony said the building committee really gave the direction this time which was helpful that Casey just put up a similar building. John said we had the right people working on it that were knowledgeable.

Joe asked how much longer the windfarm has. John mentioned that it has about 5-6 years. Tony said they do not just stop paying taxes though, he would think that they would still pay something. Sara said if they still own the land they will have to pay taxes but it will all depend on if the towers are in use to see if we get the PILOT payments. She believes those are through 2028 but would have to look up the exact date. John said we will have to look at the decommissioning of it as well.

Swearing In

Tony asked if Ruth got everyone sworn in, she said not yet, there are a few left.

Town Update

John said the town is in good shape. Over the last few years all of the roads have been worked on and are in good shape, we are in good shape for equipment and now the building passed. We are now more in a phase of maintaining what we have instead of rebuilding. Tony said the only other two big things that he sees we need is the sand shed and the covers for the Transfer Station.

Joe asked how the culverts on Sculptured Rocks Road are holding up. Tony said the one near him would have flooded at least twice and it hasn't. He said it was money well spent.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:26pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant