

TOWN OF GROTON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
April 4, 2023

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

**Audience Members Present**

John called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING RSA 74:10- REGARDING ONE'S LIABILITY TO BE TAXED**

**John motioned to open the public hearing regarding RSA 74:10 at 7:02pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

John explained that RSA 74:10 indicates that Towns who use the inventory form, must hold a public hearing to discuss one's liability to be taxed, but there are no guidelines on discussion other than this. John asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding this. Sara reminded everyone that the inventories are due April 15th.

Slim asked if this is new. John and Sara explained that this meeting is posted and takes place every year as we are required to since we use the inventory form.

**Hearing no other comments or questions, John motioned to close the public hearing at 7:04pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

**John motioned to approve the Work Session Meeting minutes of March 21, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**John motioned to approve the Non-Public Work Session Meeting minutes of March 21, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**John motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of March 21, 2023 as written, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Junkyard properties*

The Select Board reviewed the Junkyard List to decide which properties should be visited again this year. Below are the properties referred to by their case numbers:

#1: Keep as yearly check- new owner- leave on to make sure it is in compliance with the new owner

#2: Keep as yearly check

#3: Keep as yearly check

#4: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#5: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#6: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#7: Keep as yearly check and the owner should be applying for his junkyard license

#8: Keep as yearly check

#9: Keep as yearly check

#10: Keep as yearly check- new owner- leave on to make sure it is in compliance with the new owner

#11: Keep as yearly check

Sara will reach out to Audrey to see when she will be able to do the inspections and then will send the letters with that information.

#### *Reports of cut/yield certificates*

The Town received three reports of cuts from Green Acre Woodlands. The information is as follows:

- Map 10 Lot 42: The Town received a report of cut for Map 10 Lot 42 on Halls Brook Road for a cut of about 15 acres. The amount of the tax is \$351.88. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 10 Lot 42, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
- Map 9 Lot 2: The Town received a report of cut for Map 9 Lot 2 on Old Coach Road for a cut of about 5 acres. The amount of the tax is \$259.89. **John motioned to sign the yield certificate for Map 9 Lot 2, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

#### *Intent to Cut- Map 1 Lot 75*

The owner submitted an intent for Map 1 Lot 75 for his property located on River Road. This is about a 55- acre cut. No bond is needed. **John motioned to sign intent to cut for Map 1 Lot 75, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

#### *Building Permit Map 6 Lot 63-6*

Sara explained that this is the building permit for a shed that was previously denied only because of the way zoning was written before that you cannot have a shed on your property if there is no building on it. They have been approved for a building permit for their house and have the release form on file for that. This is just for the shed so they can store equipment in it while building their house. **John motioned to approve the building permit for Map 6 Lot 63-6 since it went before the planning board previously, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

#### *Release of Municipal Liability Map 10 Lot 4*

Sara explained that at the last meeting a building permit was approved that went before the Planning Board but the release form was not signed. **John motioned to sign the release form for Map 10 Lot 4, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

#### *Class VI Road Letter from resident on Old Rumney Road*

A resident sent a letter to the Select Board with their plans for road maintenance for Old Rumney Road 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 the Class VI Road improvements request for Old Rumney Road, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

#### *National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Acknowledgement Form*

The Town received our yearly reminder of your community's responsibilities as a participating community of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Community participation status, date of NFIP entry, and current map date is included in the attached document for all New Hampshire communities.

They also included the Community Acknowledgment Form which the Town needs to fill out to confirm we received the information and to provide a contact. Sara asked the Select Board if they want the contact to be one of them or if it should be her. They agreed it should be Sara. Sara will complete this form and send it in.

#### *MIT Plans*

MIT submitted plans which the Planning Board reviewed at their meeting on March 29, 2023. The Select Board looked at the plans for the road and the parking lot during the work session and will present their recommendations to the Planning Board.

## SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

### *Groton Historical Society Request*

The Groton Historical Society seeks permission for the use of the townhouse on Memorial Day, May 29, 2023 to hold a program. They would also need someone to open the building at 10am and lock it up at approximately 1pm. Sara will email back that this is all set and request that someone remind the Select Board the week before so we can make sure someone is here to open the building.

### *PA-29 Applications for property tax credits/exemptions*

The Town received two applications for property tax credits/exemptions.

- The first application is for the All-Veterans Credit and they did attach a DD214 which shows an honorable discharge. There were no questions. **John motioned to approve the All-Veterans Tax Credit, Tony 2nd, so voted.**
- The second application is for the All-Veterans Credit and the elderly exemption. For the All-Veterans Credit they submitted a DD214 which shows an honorable discharge. However, for the elderly exemption they did not submit the supporting documents that are needed to see if they qualify. Sara will send them a letter requesting the information. **John motioned to approve the All-Veterans Tax Credit but to table the elderly exemption until the support documents are received, Tony 2nd, so voted.**

### *Transfer Station*

The Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday April 9, 2023 due to Easter.

### *HB349 Hearing Update*

John mentioned that we had the hearing on HB349 in front of the Senate Education Committee today. It went very successfully. There were a lot of people that spoke in support and a few that spoke against it. There was an amendment that was submitted. The common theme was that all the people that opposed the bill all started out by saying they oppose the bill but if it passes that they would support the amendment. Now the Senate Education Committee will discuss this and if they accept the amendment it will have to go before the house again and then back to the senate. The amendment is to change the time so that it wouldn't allow the four years. They want the Towns to vote on it at Town Meeting in 2024 and then we will have a year from then to figure out the exit plan. Tony said that if the bill passes without the amendment it will be the four years. The amendment hasn't passed yet.

Ann asked why they wouldn't allow two years after the vote at Town Meeting. She said that it could be decided in a year but it will probably take longer than a year to get the ducks in a row. John said the four years was a good amount of time to fully think things through and plan it out so it was a smooth transition for the children and a smooth transition for Newfound School District in regards to them losing students and the other changes. He thinks that they foresee it as happening so they are trying to put it to the towns that are leaving. John said he felt it went very well.

Slim said that Fran Wendelboe had a letter and from his understating it stated that she was going to have it amended at the Senate hearing to make it that it all has to be done and sealed by this September. He asked if that was submitted or not. John said that she couldn't do that legally but that did not happen. Slim asked again what the amendment that was submitted was for. John stated that we vote on it at Town Meeting in March 2024 and then we have a year after that.

John said that Pierre made a comment during his statement that the kids will have no place to go for high school. He doesn't know if this means they don't attend to exercise the options of our students tuitioning into

Newfound School or if he was just saying that out of anger. Ann said if he does that then they can say that other students cannot attend our school. John said it is a silly thing because there would be kids that wanted to attend Newfound so there would be income in to Newfound with the tuition payments so why would you want to give up revenue. Tony agreed and said that he thinks a lot of it is just out of anger right now. They are upset that this is happening.

Sara said that they say in one breath that this bill is not what is good for the kids but then in the next breath make comments like they will not accept our kids at Newfound. If this is what is best for the kids, they wouldn't take that option away.

Tony said when this first went to the house we were hoping for more votes in favor than against but it passed the house 18 to 2 in favor so that was a good sign. This is unique and it doesn't set precedent for other school districts which was a concern. This can only happen here because they are the only town which owns the school.

### **DEPARTMENT ITEMS:**

#### *Police Department*

Chief Bagan wanted to provide an update on the nail situation. He said that he looked into other avenues of security monitors. He was contacted back by two out of the three companies he reached out to. He believes the numbers he is getting are cost ineffective and the cost definitely outweighs the benefits. For example, one of the mobile trailer units was \$27,000.00. Slim asked what that is supposed to do. He said it is a mobile trailer that has surveillance cameras on it so you can monitor the road.

John said it seems like this last incident may not have been intentional. Chief Bagan said he is still up in the air on the first one. This second one it still doesn't appear to be. Tony said that Travis found some in Hebron. Chief Bagan said that he was going to mention that he talked to Chief Austin in Hebron and he had a nail spill issue in the same time frame. Chief said this probably happens more than we all realize.

Chief said he thinks these initial cameras are off the table. The Select Board agreed. Chief said you can rent them for \$3,500 a month which is also expensive. He said there really is not an affordable option. We had one event last year and one event this year so far so we would keep them out for 365 days for that kind of cost just in hopes that we would catch someone. He doesn't recommend going that direction. He said he got push back when we first did the radar signs. In this case the cost definitely outweighs the benefit.

Chief said that there was a mention of using trail cameras but he doesn't feel they would be effective for moving traffic and they are prone to theft and people tampering with them.

Chief said he spoke to the Groton Town Highway Department. On a positive note, they said when they looked, they didn't find any additional nails from what Chief had picked up that Monday and Tuesday. He is sure he didn't get them all but believes he got the majority and he hasn't had any new reports on this since then.

Tony said he talked to Dan from the DOT last week. Dan said they went out three days in a row checking the State Roads and they didn't find anything.

Chief feels we can put it to rest for the moment. Slim said that he had two of them and he picked up 13 nails.

*Letter to culvert on NGR*

Tony asked if we should send a letter to the State about our concerns with the culvert on the State portion of North Groton Road. John agreed that we should. Tony said that we should send it to both Concord and Enfield. Sara will create the letter and have it ready when they sign checks on Tuesday. **John motioned to come in and sign the letter when it is ready, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

**Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 7:29pm, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, so voted.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith  
Administrative Assistant