

August 28, 2014 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Select Board: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, Nathan Puffer

Zoning Administrator: Brad Houghton, First Constable: Jim Downing, Road Commissioner: Brent Smith, Treasurer: Roberta Dana, Town Clerk: Linda Nunn, Visitors: Richard & Martha Palmer, Jamie O'Connor, Bruce & Steve Genereaux

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

Gary moved, Nathan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve Reginald Guertin as the Health Officer for the Town of Groton.

Jamie O'Connor, representing Green Mountain Community Solar, provided an overview of the status of the solar project to be located at 1035 Scott Highway. They are working with the Public Service Board for a Certificate of Public Good. They do not believe that any local permitting is required however plan on working with Brad to confirm that they satisfy local requirements. Bruce Genereaux explained that the project is comprised of 13 rows of panels (total panels is 720) with each panel 3' by 5'. They proposed that the town consider participating at a cost of \$43,000 which they project to yield a 5% return on investment. Rick Palmer, a neighbor to the project, expressed a concern on the cutting of trees on the property boundary. He feels that "it does not look right" and does not want to look at solar panels. Rick stated that he is not against the project however is looking for something more esthetic and also did not like the open space in the fence. Jamie, Bruce, and Steve agreed to work with Rick and Brad to try and mitigate any concerns that exist.

Linda reported on the status of a complaint received from Patricia Grant on Sarah & Robert Demers dog. Linda has sent a notice on May 27, 2014 and another notice on August 27, 2014 to the Demers warning them to keep their dog on their property or the dog will be impounded. Linda explained that the town ordinance specifies that on the third notice the dog can be impounded. The Board asked Linda to send a letter to both parties stating that the problem needs to be resolved by Sept. 15. The Board, as part of its normally scheduled meeting on Sept 18, will make a final disposition based on the status provided and encourages both parties to attend the meeting. Patricia also complained about the way Jim treated her when meeting at her house on the dog status. After discussion with Jim, it was agreed that Gary would draft a letter to Patricia on how to move forward on this question.

Jim provided a status on the Town cruiser; there is a GM recall on the switch, the radar unit has a low voltage problem, and the brakes feel like they are failing.

Brent reported that there is enough winter salt on hand for about 4 storms. Last year the cost was \$60 per ton, this year the lowest price is at the State contract price with American Rock Salt for \$76.76 per ton. Last year the Town purchased 150 ton (the shed holds 75 ton) and Brent would like to reserve the ability to purchase 200 ton and commit to purchase 150 ton. Nathan moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to purchase 150 ton (and reserve the ability to purchase 200 ton) from American Rock Salt at a price of \$76.76 per ton.

Brent recommended paving Powder Spring Road starting at house #977 (skipping around 800' by the bridge) and ending at the Topsham town line. Brent also recommended paving Minard Hill Road starting at the 302 intersection up to the paving joint at the crests of the hill. Both projects would be a 3/4" shim

and 1" overlay. Pike Industries price per ton was \$75.97, Blacktop Inc. price per ton was \$77.65, and Bigelow Paving price per ton was \$95.01. Nathan moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve Pike Industries at a price of \$75.97 per ton and pave both Powder Spring Road and Minard Hill Road as per Brent's recommendation.

Brent reported that last year's contract with Sidney Smith Trucking could be extended another year at the same price of \$2 per yard for screening and \$2.35 per yard for trucking. When asked by the Board why the town would not do its own trucking, Brent said it was cheaper to do by Smith Trucking. Smith carries about 2 loads per hour and 14/16 yards per load where the town truck would carry 7 yards. So it is cheaper to pay Smith \$2.35 to truck the sand to the town garage. Nathan moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve Sidney Smith Trucking at \$2 per yard for screening and \$2.35 per yard for trucking.

Peter reported that he had poles being donated by GMP to install at the 302 entrance of the Highway Garage. He wanted to know if he should get volunteers to install the poles or if Brent & Phillip would help with the installation. It was agreed that Brent & Phillip would help with the installation.

Brent reported that Mark Armstrong did not submit a bid for the Powder Spring Road Bridge so Darrel Hamlett was the low bidder at \$6,500 and has started the project with a planned completion in the next couple of weeks. Roberta reported that Hamlett has requested an up-front payment of 50% of the total cost. The Board did not support the request. Nathan moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve a payment of 50% of the project once 50% of the project is complete as reviewed and approved by Brent.

The Board reviewed the budget with Roberta and highlighted the emergency services and elections as being examples of spending above the plan. The Board is looking for all Department heads to create spending plans through to the end of the year that ensure that we are not going into a deficit.

Peter reported that he had met with representative of NVDA and found out that the Town plan had recently expired. The Board agreed to request Aaron Smith (as Town Planning Commissioner) to attend the next meeting to review options to get the plan updated.

Peter reported that based on the VLCT and State Auditor feedback, rather than preprocess payroll & Purchase orders, there should be backup coverage for the Treasurer when she is on vacation. If the Treasurer is unable to obtain back up then one solution available is for the Board to hire a bookkeeper. It was agreed that Peter would contact Bill Hall to see what it would cost to have Bill attend a board meeting to discuss how to best approach.

Nathan moved, Gary seconded and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn (at 10:20 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon