

The Town of Groton Select Board Minutes, April 7, 2015 (Approved)

The duly warned meeting of the Groton Select Board of April 7, 2015 was held at the Groton Community

The following members were in attendance: Peter Lyon, Gary Lamberton, Andrew Dorset

Attendance for the regular meeting included: VAOT District Project Manager, Shauna Clifford,  
(Treasurer: Lisa Hart, Carrie Peters – first 20 minutes)

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM

Background: Annually the VAOT District Project Manager meets with each town to review their spending, certify their compliance to codes & standards, and review grant requests. Shauna also provides general advice & council to the Select Board to help in managing the town highways and associated structures.

The following items were discussed;

- The Town has received \$6,365.05 from the State sourced via the 3 cent adjustment on the Grand list that was implemented by the Governor to assist with disaster recovery efforts.
- The Weldon Bridge grant refund to the town is most likely being held up due to the failure of the State Audit. The Town currently has a \$52,118.29 loan from Union Bank to cover the cost. When the funds are ultimately received, there will be a shortfall due to the cost overrun on the project. Shauna will help the town process a State grant to cover the shortfall which will have an 80/20 split meaning that the town will need to be prepared to cover the 20%.
- The Town has not posted weight limits on its roads in the spring of the last two years and is wondering about potential damage to the roads, the Board requested Shauna's view. Shauna responded that it is a local decision pointing out that not every road within a town has to be posted. Shauna suggested contacting other towns such as Hardwick to see how they manage. Shauna also pointed out that once posted there are no exceptions allowed.
- Discussed certificate of compliance to codes & standards which the Board will review and sign at its next meeting. For highway structures, if in compliance there is a 90/10 State/local cost split and if not in compliance there is a 80/20 State/local cost split. For Highways, If in compliance there is a 80/20 State/local cost split and if not in compliance there is a 70/30 State/local cost split.
- The Board asked Shauna if she could help with the engineering for sidewalk improvements since the voters approved \$15,000 in this year's budget. Shauna pointed out if the sidewalk is in the State ROW that she would be involved however the best approach would be to work with the NVDA. Peter agreed to contact Doug Morton at the NVDA to determine how to best approach.
- Shauna reported that the town is not in the cue to participate in the District 7 Highway Grant Program this year however she recommended submitting a prioritize list of request so that if funding became available, we would be ready to participate. The deadline to submit request is April 17 which is the day after the next Boards meeting. Gary agreed to ask Brent for a list of potential projects which could be reviewed at an additional meeting before the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board requested Engineering support for Ricker Mills Road where it is washing heavily toward Ricker Pond. Shauna recommended looking for a better back roads grant and agreed to contact Brent to see if she could help.

- The Board asked Shauna her opinion on the best time horizon of years for a town highway plan. Shauna felt that a five year plan was best with a review and the inclusion of a year taking place each year to continuously maintain a five year horizon. Andrew reviewed an approach he has utilized to establish priorities by year. This approach is used by team of people where each person considers a number of variables to consider importance. The sum of the results of each of the members is then used to establish a final prioritized plan.
- The town is required to certify to Shauna that we spend at least \$300 per mile on class 1, 2 &3 roads. In reviewing the 2015 approved budget, the spending per mile is \$8,431 so the criteria was satisfied. The town has 6.8 miles of Class 2 roads, 24.12 miles of Class 3 roads, and 10.73 miles of class 4 roads.

The Board expressed its deep thank you to Shauna for her support of the Town of Groton and that her skills and help are very much appreciated!

Andrew moved, Peter seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn (at 935 AM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon