

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES AUGUST 1, 2011  
APPROVED**

**Present:** Anna Eliot, Chairman; George Dillon, Jr., Vice Chairman;; Stuart M. Schulman

**Absent:** Peter Cunningham, Clerk; Joshua A. Degen,

**Also Present:** Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

*Ms. Eliot called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda.*

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. Mr. Haddad stated at the last meeting the Board voted to support the expenditure of \$3,000 to evaluate the feasibility of locating a new Center Fire Station at the end of Station Avenue on Town owned land under the control of the Electric Light Department. As directed, Selectman Dillon and Mr. Haddad met with representatives of the Light Department to determine the scope of the evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation will be to determine the cost of sitting the Fire Station on the surplus land and what the potential savings would be working cooperatively with the Light Department as they construct their new facilities on Station Avenue as well. Mr. Haddad noted that at the meeting the issue that the Board may not be comfortable paying the Light Department for land that is already owned by the Town of Groton, albeit under the control of the Light Department. The Light Department has requested that before the evaluation is commenced a commitment for compensation needed to be approved. This compensation would be based on the "total package" of cost/savings by placing the Fire Station on this land.

Kevin Kelly and Kevin Lindemere of GELD were present to answer questions. Mr. Dillon stated that Town Meeting wants questions answered and the Board needs to do the best it can to determine if the site is viable for a Fire Station. Mr. Dillon indicated that in his mind, viability meant an adequate area for both GELD and the Groton Fire Department, acceptability by the Fire Department, access to Broadmeadow and a reasonable purchase/site development cost. Mr. Lindemere stated emphatically that the rate-payers of GELD need to be compensated for previous land purchases. Mr. Lindemere cautioned the Board that without a commitment of compensation GELD would not authorize work to be done on the site, having Town Meeting questions go unanswered. Mr. Lindemere referred to the MOU between GELD and the Town.

Mr. Dillon reiterated that whether the site is viable needed to be answered and that if the starting compensation is 199k and an additional 40k is to remove the garage/storage building the Board is starting at 240k in cost to the Town. Mr. Lindemere stated that if the site is deemed viable then the rate-payers must remain whole. Mr. Schulman stated that any land purchase is determined by Town Meeting and not the Board. Mr. Schulman was confused as to why GELD was demanding such a request from the Board at this time. Mr. Lindemere stated that GELD was responding to an argument that rate-payers did not have to be compensated for land deemed owned by the taxpayer. Ms. Eliot was concerned with GELD making evaluation of the site conditional on commitment of a payment.

*Mr. Schulman moved to support compensation to GELD with a 199k CAP, should the property on Station Ave be selected as a new fire station sire, subject to Town Meeting appropriation. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-yes, 1-no, 2 absent.*

**INTERFAITH COUNCIL-SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> COMMENMORATION**

Steve Boczenowski updated the Board that there will be an event on September 11<sup>th</sup> representing all faiths in the community. Mr. Boczenowski invited the Board to the event.

**PRESCOTT-REUSE COMMITTEE-UPDATE**

Ms. Eliot stated that the CPC funds appropriated to the Prescott Reuse to have a feasibility study done? Ms. Eliot stated that a survey was sent out through GELD bills to get a sense of what the community wanted to see happen with

the Prescott School. The results of the survey were handed to the Board. [Documents 1-Survey Results] Ms. Eliot reported that the results indicated that the respondents wanted to see mixed use, commercial and community development on the Prescott School site. Ms. Eliot stated that the Committee needed to revise the RFP to reflect the results of the survey. Mr. Haddad stated that he has the RFP and could post it according to Procurement laws.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED**

2. Mr. Haddad reported that a spreadsheet was developed by the Town Accountant providing the Board with a Top level Income/Expense Summary of the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget of the Groton Pool and Golf Center. A eight month budget in FY2011 and requested that Town meeting support this budget based on the fact that there would be no taxpayer funds used to support the Pool and Golf Center in FY11. The Pool and Gold Center came in on budget, and even returned a slight profit to the General Fund in FY11. Mr. Haddad stated that he would continue to monitor the viability of the club and continue to provide the Board with updates as we move through FY12. Mr. Dillon noted that a fundraiser for the Pool and Golf Center has been scheduled for Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. [Documents 2-Accountants Spreadsheet]
3. Mr. Haddad reported that testing has concluded for a potential installation of a septic system at the Tarbell School. The results of the testing proved that there is acceptable depths of soil that provided an acceptable percolation rate. Mr. Haddad reported that now the Town can move forward with a design to upgrade the septic system for the School. The upgrade will allow the Town to replace the system up to the existing approved capacity of the property. The capacity is for 700 gallons per day, which is equivalent to a 140 student school, a six bedroom house or a 9,000 square foot office building. Attached is a letter from Ross Engineering explaining the results of the testing and proposed next steps. Mr. Haddad recommended that the Board authorize him to move forward with the system design and plan on bringing an article to the Fall Town Meeting to appropriate the necessary funding to repair septic system. The estimated cost for engineering and surveying services is \$3,600. [Documents 3-Ross Report] Mr. Schulman asked if there was enough capacity. Mr. Haddad stated there was.  
*Mr. Dillon moved to authorize \$3600 for engineering costs for Tarbell and to support a Fall Town Meeting Article to replenish available funds. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.*
4. Mr. Haddad reported that the Dog By-law Review Committee has been working very hard over the last several months reviewing the current Dog Bylaw to determine if any changes need to be made. They have developed a draft of proposed changes to deal with various issues, including dealing with so-called "dangerous" dogs. The draft bylaw is on the Town's webpage and a series of public hearings have been scheduled. The committee plans on brining any proposed changes to the October 17, 2011 Fall Town Meeting.
5. Mr. Haddad enclosed a draft of Goals and Objectives developed by the Board from the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to adopt these Goals and Objectives. [Documents 4-Goals and Objectives FY12]
6. Mr. Haddad reported that the Groton Military Community Covenant Committee was recommending that Veteran's Agent Robert Johnson be appointed to the committee.  
*Mr. Dillon moved to appoint Robert Johnson to the Groton Military Community Covenant Committee to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.*
7. Mr. Haddad reported that he has spoken to Selina Shaw, Boxborough Town Administrator, about continuing the Town's Intermunicipal Agreement for a shared Building Commissioner. Until Ms. Shaw return from vacation Mr. Haddad reported that he has appointed Mike Kinney as the Local Inspector to get us through the summer/early fall. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town was saving money since neither inpector is eligible for benefits. The IMS will be reevaluated.
8. Mr. Haddad stated that on Friday a meeting and site inspection was done with Val Prest and our building inspector at hazel Grove Park. Don Black was also present. The inspection was in response to a letter

forwarded from a committee member raising concerns about building conditions at Hazel Grove Park. After a brief walk around it was the opinion of Mr. Prest, our structural engineer that one of the buildings is in need of help. Mr. Prest estimated the cost to repair would be about \$250k. Mr. Prest's recommendation would be to dismantle the structure and label it for future reconstruction. A rough cost would be around 40K for that task.

9. Mr. Haddad stated that the check for \$100k from the settling of the Groton Residential Gardens litigation has been received. Mr. Haddad stated that the agreement was to install a traffic light with the funds or anything the Board of Selectmen may direct the monies to go. Mr. Haddad suggested that this be placed on a future agenda.

10. Mr. Haddad reported needed a vote of the Board for a determination of consent for K&P to represent Ashby and Groton, both Town use K&P.

*Mr. Dillon moved to authorize K&P to represent Ashby and Groton. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.*

### MINUTES

*Mr. Dillon moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 27, 2011. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. [Documents 5-Draft Minutes 6-27-11]*

*Mr. Dillon moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 11, 2011 as amended. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. [Documents 6-Draft Minutes 7-11-11]*

*Mr. Dillon moved to approve the work session meeting minutes of July 18, 2011. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried. [Documents 7-Draft Minutes 7-18-11]*

### ADJOURNMENT

*Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn at 8:20pm. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
George F. Dillon, Jr.,

\_\_\_\_\_ respectfully submitted,  
Patrice Garvin  
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 8-15-11