

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – REGULAR SESSION MINUTES – 1/2/02**

**"MINUTES APPROVED"**

**Present:** Chairman Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk Dann Chamberlin, Member Thomas P. McCuin, Jr. and Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Mr. Cunningham noted the success of 1<sup>st</sup> Night in Groton.

**BUILDING COMMISSIONER**

Building Commissioner Mike Tusino discussed his budget for FY03 and his request for a 20-hour Local Inspector position. (Currently this position is on an on-call basis to fill in for the Building Commissioner.) He said the workload has increased. In 2001 there were 460 building permits in 2000 there were 480. Although there were only around 50 new residential permits (compared to in the 80's last yr) there more commercial permits requiring more work and inspections. The new position will only require first level certification. Mr. Chamberlin suggested using Littleton as a staffing model. Mr. Tusino said he looked at Westford. He said he was meeting with the Personnel Board later that evening. Mr. Chamberlin suggested looking at Townsend, Pepperell, and Harvard, since they are more similar to Groton than Westford. Mr. Cunningham said he realized that the level of inspection on commercial was much more involved than residential. Mr. Tusino noted that the 20-hour position would not be responsible for zoning or commercial inspections.

Mr. Tusino noted that when he last met with the Personnel Board, that they felt both the Building Inspector and Water Superintendent positions were similar and that they could not put the Building Inspector at a higher grade than the Water Superintendent. The Water Superintendent pay with the stipend he receives for reading engineering plans puts him at the top step of the Building Inspector grade. Mr. Tusino requests a step increase for his position (thereby making him par with the Water Superintendent) and asked for the Selectmen's support. The Board supported Mr. Tusino going to the Personnel Board to request a step increase.

**HIGHWAY SURVEYOR – Underground Utilities & Town Center Improvements**

Highway Surveyor Tom Delaney said that he was still at the beginning stages with regard to the underground utilities. He gave an informational overview of his project to put 6000 feet of utilities underground. The work will be limited to be from the Catholic Church west of Town to the Catholic School east of Town at Old Ayer Road. Mr. Cunningham asked how the cuts in Ch. 90 funds would affect this project. Mr. Delaney said there would be little affect as Ch. 90 would only be used for paving. Mr. Cunningham asked if there were funds available through electrical utilities. Mr. Delaney said the law allows a surcharge on utility bills. Phase II of the project is underground utilities. Phase III is the paving and streetscape changes.

Mr. Chamberlin said GELD Manager Roger Beeltje is receptive to putting the utilities underground. The 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee was looking at this as well as a project for the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The Park Department is looking at period lighting. Mr. McCuin said the Cable company has to go along with the Town if the lights go underground. The Selectmen commended Mr. Delaney for taking a leadership role in this project.

At 7:40 the Board recessed until 8:00.

**MILL RUN PLACE**

Mr. Walker was present for the discussion. (He owns both sides of the road.) The concept plan has been submitted to the Planning Board. The MEPA process comments period ends next week. Mr. Chamberlin asked what the effective safe speed was around the curve. He was told that the project had been designed to State and local specs and the speed limit would be set at 35 MPH. The development of Mill Run Place will have a Hanneford Brothers store measuring 35,700 sq. ft. Mr. Walker has agreed to full EIR. Mass Highway has approved the roadway changes to Mill Street and N. Main Street. The developer has also agreed to replace the water main in that area. Mr. McCuin asked about the sewer capacity. He was told that there were 3 users on the property now and, according to Title V, flows for current and future use are the same. Mr. Cunningham said the proposed changes in the road were preferable to what is there now and recommended that we send our comments to Secretary Durand prior to the end of the comment period on Jan 7th.

**SQUANNACOOK SPORTSMAN'S CLUB P&S**

Mr. DiPietro was present for the discussion. Ms. Kitchen explained that the Town would pay \$10,000, plus recording fees for the property . Those funds would go into a scholarship fund for Groton students. Mr. DiPietro said the building was built in 1956. He said the Squannacook Sportsman's Club would turn over its funds (approximately \$7,000-8,000) to the scholarship fund as well. The purchase of this property is contingent on Town Meeting approval.

Mr. Chamberlin moved to execute and sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Squannacook Sportsman's Club. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **350<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Committee Appointment**

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Susan Peyton to the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for a term of 5 years to expire June 30, 2006. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

### **Minutes**

Mr. McCuin moved the approval of the Regular Session minutes of December 17, 2001. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

The letter Ms. Kitchen drafted regarding this years Cherry Sheet . She will also send a thank you letter to Mass Highway for completing Pleasant St. bridge construction in 6 weeks rather than the projected 3 months.

### **Vegetation Control Management**

Mr. Cunningham made note of the Vegetation Control Management Plan.

### **Charter Communications**

Charter Communications is changing its rate structure. Groton pays 1/3 more than Littleton, who has AT&T Broadband.

### **EO418**

The Town of Groton has been housing certified under EO418.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Chamberlin moved to go into executive session to consider discipline of an employee, not to reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded. Vote: McCuin – Aye, Chamberlin – Aye, Cunningham - Aye

Mr. Cunningham asked everyone not connected to the matter to leave the room.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:37 PM the Selectmen adjourned by unanimous vote.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dann Chamberlin, Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jean E. Kitchen  
Administrative Officer