

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 4, 2002
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
"APPROVED"**

Present: Clerk Dann Chamberlin, Member Thomas P. McCuin, Jr., Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen and Administrative Secretary Doris T. Wheeler.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Chamberlin noted that he presented the First Parish Church of Groton a proclamation, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, at a dedication for the addition to the church. He congratulated the congregation.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS BUDGET

Maintenance Superintendent John Estabrook was present for the discussion. He went over his proposed budget for FY03. He will submit articles to be included in the ATM Warrant for the following Capital projects:

\$38,500- Repairs to the exterior of the Public Safety Building. He said that a lot of the trim work was rotting away.

\$20,000- Overflow parking lot at the Public Safety Building.

\$18,000- Shingle the roof of Squannacook Hall. He will look into the cost for 35-year shingles.

\$20,000- Refurbish the windows at Legion Hall.

\$16,000- Basement wall/door at Town Hall. The inside door to the bulkhead doesn't serve its purpose. It is not sealed. It will be framed and a sliding door will be installed. One wall has to be pointed in the basement. A lot of silt is being washed away.

Mr. Chamberlin and Mr. McCuin agreed that the overflow parking at the Public Safety Building would be nice to have, but it was not essential. The other items they thought were justified.

Minor Capital items:

Public Safety Building

HVAC repairs

Tree and brush removal

Squannacook Hall

Replace tile floors in the kitchen and serving area

Pave and extend parking area

Legion Hall

Paint wood floors in the back half of the building

Reset front step to entrance

Put crushed stone around the building

Town Hall

HVAC duct work repairs

Senior Center

Replace door and frame and install storage closet for extra tables

Install 8 square ft. of asphalt area by the entrance to the handicap ramp

Enlarge the office area – The Board did not support this request.

Sportsmen's Club

Install fire alarm system

Repair the back exterior wall

Repair walls and chimney

Mr. Chamberlin noted that the Town had not purchased the Sportsmen's Club yet and said these requests may be premature. Ms. Kitchen said this was a checklist of things that would need to be done if it was used for municipal use. The list will be helpful for the Town to decide whether this building is worth purchasing.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Highway Surveyor Tom Delaney was present for the discussion. He said that the bulk of the budget was for wages. The wages were level funded at this point because the Union needs to negotiate its raise. The Expense line showed a slight

increase. Crack Seal/Road Maintenance was up substantially because nothing has been added for Ch 90 funds for paving for FY03. The only Minor Capital requests were for a new power angle snowplow and a calcium chloride applicator.

ATM articles - Capital requests:

\$16,000- Wing plow

\$25,000- New pickup truck

\$120,000- New front end loader

\$100,000- Engineering for the underground wiring

He noted that he would be presenting the Board with a P&S for the W. Groton Service Station next week for its signature. The insurance company is taking care of the clean up prior to the Town taking it over.

SEWER COMMISSION

Chairman Karl Johnson, Harlan Fitch and Jim Gmeiner were present. Mr. Johnson said that the Sewer Commission would be facing some fairly heavy costs in the next 3-4 years. He noted that there were 425 ratepayers. The Town is experiencing an inflow and infiltration problem. A study for the remediation of this problem will be conducted. Also, within the next 2 years DEP will be requiring the Town to do a comprehensive wastewater plan and assessment. Although the Pepperell plant is expanding, it is limited and may not allow for Groton to expand capacity. These are just things that the Town needs to think about and to decide whether the cost should be borne completely by the ratepayers or whether it would be reasonable to have the Town cover part of it. Mr. Chamberlin expressed his concern that the Town could have a State mandate to conduct a study costing between \$200,000-700,000 without the State paying any part.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY

Police Chief Mulhern presented a new Domestic Violence Policy to be implemented for the Police Department. This was the State required policy for the departments who participate in the community policing grant funds program. He requested that the Selectmen approve the policy. He said the policy was almost identical to the one presently in place.

Mr. McCuin moved approval of the Domestic Violence Policy mandated by the State, identified as Policy & Procedure No. 2.05, dated Feb. 4, and recommended by Chief Mulhern. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Open Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. McCuin moved to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant scheduled for April 29, 2002, (at 7:30 PM), immediately and to close it for submission of articles at Noon on Thursday, March 7. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Appointment of Station Avenue Directions Advisory Committee

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of the following individuals: Frank A. Mastrangelo, Virginia C. Wood and Robert Win Nordblom, to the Station Avenue Directions Advisory Committee, term to expire June 30, 2003. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Award Bid for Town Report

Mr. McCuin moved to award the bid for the 2001 Annual Town Report to Athol Press, Inc., as specified in its quote for 900 books. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

Consolidation of Financial Officers

Ms. Kitchen said that it had come to her attention that there might have been a misunderstanding last week during the discussion concerning the consolidation of financial offices. She said that someone told her that she said that there was a termination involved. She apologized if that is what she said. It was not what she meant. The Fire Chief resigned; he was not fired.

Pepperell Bounds

Ms. Kitchen and the Highway Surveyor will be attending a meeting with Mass Highway at the Pepperell Town Hall on Feb. 5 to discuss the Pepperell Bounds.

Sportsmen's Club

Ms. Kitchen had someone take a look at the cesspool at the Sportsmen's Club. She was told not to bother doing a Title 5.

GDRSD Budget Meeting

The GDRSD School Committee is holding a joint meeting with the Dunstable and Groton Finance Committees and Selectmen on Feb. 27, at 7:30 PM, at the High School Library.

Isabel Beal

Mr. McCuin said that it was with profound sadness that he say that Groton lost an absolute treasure in losing Isabel Beal. He said she would be missed beyond words. The calling hours are on Wed., with the funeral Thurs. morning. She was a great historian of the Town. Mr. Chamberlin echoed that she was a walking encyclopedia of Groton historical knowledge.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:36 PM Mr. McCuin moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Approved: _____
Dann Chamberlin, Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,
Doris T. Wheeler
Administrative Secretary