

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES DECEMBER 20, 2010
APPROVED**

Present: Stuart M. Schulman, Chairman; Anna Eliot, Vice Chairman; George Dillon, Jr., Clerk; Peter Cunningham

Absent: Joshua A. Degen

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

Mr. Schulman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda for the public. Mr. Schulman also announced many local activities and local businesses in town.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad stated that the values were certified and asked the Board to reaffirm their vote.
Ms. Eliot moved to reaffirm their vote for a tax classification of a factor one being a single tax rate for the Town. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

2. Mr. Haddad stated that a search for an Assistant Town Accountant to replace April Iannacone, who was recently appointed to the new DPW Office Assistant position has been filled. Mr. Haddad reported that Sarah Mahoney of 29 Bixby Hill Road, West Groton has been chosen to fill the vacant position. Ms. Mahoney has 17 years of bank experience working as a teller, accounts processor, deposits service supervisor and customer service representative. Ms. Mahoney is a member of the Groton Cemetery Association. The position is a union position, Grade 7, Step 1 (\$20.53/hour). Mr. Haddad asked that the Board ratify this appointment.
Mr. Dillon moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Sarah Mahoney as Assistant Town Accountant, Grade 7 Step 1. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

3. Mr. Haddad reported that the Town of Ayer, Groton, Lancaster, Lunenburg and Townsend are in the process of entering a Memorandum of Agreement for participation in the joint operation of a regional hazardous products collection facility. Kopleman and Paige is Town Counsel to all of these communities and in order for them to review the document they need each of the Communities to consent to this representation.
[Document #1-Ltr from Counsel requesting consent] Ms. Eliot asked if other communities have signed the consent. Mr. Haddad stated that he would find out and report back to the Board.
Mr. Cunningham moved to allow the consent to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to participate in a joint operation of a regional hazardous products collection facility. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

4. Mr. Haddad received the results of the survey completed by Ross Engineering for Jenkins Road as voted by Town Meeting and delineated by the Board. The survey was completed on Town property abutting the Friedrich's property. Mr. Haddad explained that the Town is trying to determine if the layout of Jenkins Road still existed or had it eroded into the Nashua River. The Town's assumption was that if it still existed in one area, there was a high probability that it did not erode at all into the Nashua River. According to the Survey completed by Ross, it appears that Jenkins Road is still intact. Mr. Haddad distributed the survey.
[Document #2-Ross Survey Jenkins Road] At the January 10th Meeting this issue would be discussed further.

5. Mr. Haddad stated that at the January 3, 2011 meeting he would propose his FY12 budget presentation.

ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS CONTNUED

Mr. Haddad requested that the Board approve a new Common Victualler license application that was received from the Blackbird Café. Ms. Catherine Kenney, Manager briefly described her new business.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the Common Victualler License to the Blackbird Café located at 491 Main Street, Unit E; to expire December 31, 2011. Hours of Operation Daily 6am-6pm. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the following remaining licenses with contingencies:

Groton Convenience, dba Groton General Store, located at 871 Boston Road
Vimuben Patel, Manager

Wine & Malt Package Store License & CVL

Hours of Operation Mon – Fri 10am to 6pm, Sat 8am-9pm & Sun 8am-8pm. License to expire December 31, 2011

Contingent on Receipt of Quarterly Tax Payment

Nine West Main Properties Inc., dba Clover Farm Market, located at 9 West Main Street
Janice Hurst, Manager

Wine & Malt Package Store License, CVL & Entertainment License

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 8:30am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm; Licenses to expire December 31, 2011.

Contingent on Liquor License FEE & Certificate of Insurance

Groton Stagecoach Inn and Tavern Inc., dba The Old Groton Inn, located at 128 Main St.
George Pergantis, Manager

All Alcohol Inn holder License, CVL, Daily Entertainment and Sunday Entertainment License

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 6am -1pm; Licenses to expire December 31, 2011.

Contingent on Certificate of Insurance & Sunday Entertainment Fee

Gibbet Hill Grill LLC, dba Gibbet Hill Grill Restaurant and Function Hall, located at 61 Lowell Road
Thomas Totman, Manager

All Alcohol Restaurant License (2) & CVL (2)

Hours of Operation: Daily 4pm-10pm, Licenses to expire December 31, 2011

Groton Country Club, located at 94 Lovers Lane Function Hall & Snack Bar
Robert Whalen, Manager

CVL, Entertainment License and Sunday Entertainment License

Hours of Operation: Daily 8am-1am, Licenses to expire December 31, 2011

Groton Exchange Inc., located at 318 Main Street
Paul Palmer, Manager

CVL

Hours of Operation: Daily 6am – 10pm. License to expire December 31, 2011

Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

SELECTMAN LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Cunningham reported that he would present the Squannacook River Rail Trail Committee Report at the January 10th Selectmen’s meeting. Mr. Dillon stated that he attended the Board of Trade meeting and encouraged local businesses to join. Ms. Eliot mentioned the Board of Trade meeting and also noted that the Prescott Reuse

Committee would be seeking funds from the CPC for funding for a feasibility study on the building. Mr. Schulman noted the Affordable Housing Trust and its application to the CPC.

OTHER BUSINESS-STATION AVENUE

Mr. Haddad explained the Station Ave. RFP Committees process for reviewing the bid responses received on December 9th. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town received three responses for the RFP all for Phase 1 of the project. All three applicants were interviewed and ranked. Once the applicants were ranked the price proposals were opened.

Mr. Haddad stated that the committee was unanimous in selecting Dore & Whittier, along with Gale Associates. Mr. Haddad asked the applicant why Phase II was not bid on. Respondents stated that it was hard to bid on the second phase because they were unsure of where the building would go once done. Mr. Haddad recommended awarding the bid to Dore & Whittier along with Gale Associates, subject to negotiating the final contract.

Mr. Kelly, manager of GELD stated that he had concerns with the price. Mr. Cunningham asked what jumped out to the committee about the top applicant. Mr. Haddad stated that he has dealt with this type of project and that Dale & Whittier have good projects in other towns. Also Gale Associates has a relationship with the Town.

Mr. Dillon asked if negotiations to reduce the price with Dore & Whittier are unsuccessful is the second choice qualified to do the project. Mr. Haddad stated that there was one other bidder he felt could do the job. Mr. Chris Christie, GELD Commissioner stated that the other bidder was equally qualified and that Dore & Whittier's price was too high and GELD was looking for the best value. Mr. Haddad reiterated that the committee unanimously selected Whittier & Dore and that the price needed to be negotiated. Mr. Kevin Lindemere, GELD Commissioner stated that there was a very large price difference between the first and second choice and noted a 65% disparity. Mr. Haddad said that it was not an apple to apples comparison between the first and second choice so saying it's a 65% disparity is misleading. The board agreed that negotiations needed to occur with Whittier & Dore.

A representative from Helene-Karl a local firm that identified himself as the second bidder urged the Board to choose his firm because they are qualified and locally owned. Mr. Schulman asked that this item be brought back to the Board.

MINUTES

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the regular session minutes of November 22, 2010. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document #3-Draft Minutes 11-22-10]

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session at 7:50pm. TO consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote, Cunningham-yes, Dillon-yes, Eliot-yes, Schulman-yes. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
George F. Dillon, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 1-24-11