

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Present: Mayor Neville, Trustees Morey, Conger, Holl and Walpole, Nancy Niswender - Clerk/Treas, Chad Shurtleff - DPW Supv, Ben Nelson -Fire Chief, Mike Andersen - Code Enf, Steve Teeter- Elec Utl. Supv., Lt. Tim Williams, Police OIC, Admin Charles Rankin, Linda Carlisle, Carmen Munson, Tim Buckley, Glenn Morey, Andrew Sullivan, Rae Avery, Carl Cote', Kayla Esparza, Emily Kratzer, Phillip Esparza, Mark Humphrey, Lee Shurtleff.

Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2018 board meeting, seconded by Trustee Holl .

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the claims presented for review, and to adjust the budget as follows:

General Fund

From: Contingent Fund-1990.4-\$2,238.00	To: Streets 5110.4 -	\$1,550.00
	Clerk/Treas Cont 1410.4	\$ 300.00
	Insurance 1910.4	\$ 388.00
From: Attorney Spec 1410.41 - \$3,000.00	To: Attorney 1420.4	\$3,000.00
From: Streets Equip 5110.2 - \$8,050.00	To: Streets Equip 5110.4	\$8,050.00
Add to Misc Income 2770 -\$6,800.00	and Police Cont 3120.4	\$6,800.00

Seconded by Trustee Holl, carried. The above adjustments and claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

Abstract #8

GENERAL	\$ 65,664.82	ELECTRIC	\$ 105,162.18
WATER	\$ 9,163.86	BUILDING	\$ 49,753.50
SEWER	\$ 14,306.04		

Public Hearing rescheduled for Local Law #1 to override the tax cap for the February 19, 2019 meeting at 7:30pm.

Monthly department reports.

Electric:

Supv Teeter reported:

The Electric Department has started yearly safety training. The first two class were on Qualified Personnel and Silica Dust. The next class will be in May.

30 LED Street Lights are in. All but 5 of these have been installed. We have been changing out security lights.

In January - Two trucks passed inspection. They have spent the last few days helping DPW with snow removal.

We have completed a service upgrade on West Cortland in an old house being fixed up and another one on McKinley that has not been hooked up in several years.

There was a problem with the new plow and it was taken back to Syracuse and was covered under warranty.

DPW:

Supv Shurtleff submitted and reviewed the following report:

Department of Public Works

December 18, 2018-January 23, 2019

Completed Work/Projects:

- Plowing snow on a regular basis.
- Finishing plumbing repairs at the Village Garage.
- Responded to several fire calls:
 - Car fire on Stauber Rd.
 - Car accident in McLean
 - Stand by at Cortlandville Fire Dept.
- Cleaning maintenance on the siphon manhole.
- Install the new snow plow on truck #46.
- Clean out several catch basins.
- Organizing Inventory (water lines).
- Cold patching potholes.
- Assist contractors working on water services:
 - 714 S. Main St.
 - 166 Cayuga St.
- Clean in place and maintenance on the filter plant.
- Several mechanical repairs to equipment.

There has been a lot of snow plowing and clean up from the recent storms. We have been working in teams - helping homeowners with sidewalks to get them cleared before school is opened. Everyone has done a great job.

The crew continued cleaning up a lot of the leaves that create flooding problems.

We also had a couple of water leaks that needed to be dealt with.

We will need to discuss some water filtration plant upgrades and the Wastewater plant has been freezing and we will need to be looking into that as well.

Mayor inquired about another piece of equipment that was able to assist with salting. Many people have commented and are happy with the work being done. Chad Shurtleff replied they did purchase an salt spreader to help with areas.

Groton Fire Department:

Chief Ben Nelson reported:

2018 EMS/Fire Report

126 Fire Calls

816 Ambulance Calls

Estimated losses \$162,100

January 2, 2019 Elections were held.

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the slate of fire chiefs for 2019: Chief - Ben Nelson, Deputy Chief - Richard Neville Jr, First Assistant Chief - Rob Gallinger, Second Assistant Chief - Eric Deforrest, Third Assistant - Chief Jamie Babcock, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

802 Engine is listed on Auctions International and was purchased by a buyer out of New Jersey.

YTD this year 2019:

49 EMS Calls

10 Fire Calls

Code Enforcement

Code Officer Anderson reported:

2018 Year End Report:

31 - Building permits - Cost of work = \$701,493.00 - Permit fee - \$2,550.00

49 - Roof/Window permits - Cost of work = \$435,280.00 - Permit fee - \$1,834.00

46 - Building Fire Safety Inspections, Including 173 Apartments - Fees \$1,720.00

Total of Permit work = \$1,136,773.00

Total Fees brought in = \$6,054.00

He met yesterday with the library - William Marshall - New addition on the building is looking good.

He met with Sr Housing - Exterior work is done, they still need to do some work on carpeting and handrails.

He met with Alvin and discussed problems with grease. Discussed the the Village has an ordinance that allows the water to be shut off. Hopefully we will get the one that has been reluctant on getting it done.

The Cheese plant is getting pretty close to being finished. Hoping for the end of February. Walk through was completed a couple weeks ago.

Two training courses are coming up to maintain his certification. - One in Oneonta and one in Liverpool.

Police Report

Lt. Williams reported:

2018- 1762 calls YTD - get details from Lt William's report - Down a little bit from 2017 - 2020 last year. 2010 Tahoe was auctioned for \$6,800 - We accepted the bid. They will hopefully be in to pick up in the next few days.

Troy Boice - has started his training period which will be shorter due to his past experience. Kyle Davenport submitted his resignation - He moved to Candor. Things are going well with personnel now and we should be able to cover all shifts.

January calls to date 188 - This will be up again as we are adding to Main St foot patrols and property checks.

Joint Recreation:

Trustee Conger reported:

Winter Programming -

Youth Basketball:

34 Boys - 3rd - 6th grade.

30 Girls - 3rd - 6th grade.

Girls K-3 program will be starting on Saturdays.

Trustee Holl mentioned they found coaches for Boys K-2.

Wrestling beginning in February - Modified Coach Jeff Brockway

Training is available for potential coaches through videos and paper materials.

Cabin Fever planning has begun. The event is on March 2nd. We have received a grant of \$1,000 for Cabin Fever.

Summer lifeguard classes in Dryden in Cortland.

Summer Concert - \$900 grant

Trail Committee has been working on a community trail and gaining permissions from private property owners. They will be working on a grant.

Youth Commission

No meeting - this month

Wastewater

Clerk Niswender reported:

Alvin mentioned he was having problems with mixer fan. If it continues they have found a repair shop in Syracuse that can repair it if it continues to be a problem. We have purchased a weight balancer for lab work. This was purchased last in the 1960's and is not calibrating properly.

Other Items

Admin Rankin Reported:

Massena - got an injunction from the courts and should hear back from the judge soon.

Tompkins County Health Care Consortium is looking for an Executive Director - \$80,000-\$90,000

Trustee Conger Reported:

Tompkins County Council of Governments - noted we are losing AIM funding.

The amount the Village is losing is \$19,000. Tomorrow we will be meeting and stating a resolution.

Trustee Conger read the Resolution. The Board agrees to support the resolution. Admin Rankin made phone calls to Senator's Lifton and Seward's office noting the Village of Groton's opposition of the AIM elimination. Discussion continued on AIM.

Trustee Conger made a motion for the Village to prepare and have the Mayor sign a similar letter, Seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Public Comments:

Carmen Munson –Received the letter from the Mayor last week. Peter Grossman noted that the Constitutional limits state that you cannot make a gift to an individual. There is an exemption if it is a furtherance of a municipal purpose. We are looking further into the drainage to justify Village assets if it is even practical to fix it. We were trying to figure if there was a project that could do that and would be more community wide.

The Board decided to send a letter, to state that we can't promise anything. We are keeping an eye on it and will help in an emergency situation.

Further discussion continued.

Mayor Neville mentioned - In September - We met with Carmen and stated it could not be done for personal gain.

Carmen said she called Barden Homes - and spoke with someone and informed them of the situation.

Admin Rankin - Bob Walpole - Estate of Regan - Village bought it from Bob Regan and then sold to Barden and then as lots were sold off the Village was paid - at 1/13th of each lot as sold. The Village gave subsidies from the grant for the homeowners toward subsidies.

The Village would be willing to speak with Barden Homes if Carmen is able to get them here.

Mayor Neville discussed the logging procedure and hiring Forecon. He reviewed a packet of information that was provided by Forecon.

Chad Shurtleff - John Negley - Tompkins County provided a survey of property above Blanchard Heights.

CT Male - produced a survey - \$2,500. We moved away from this as the cost was estimated to be over \$500,000.

Carl Cote' - Carmen's Brother supporting Carmen and would like to see the Village help the situation.

Phil Esparza - proposed the question - If stormwater takes over what would happen with other properties?

Peter Grossman - The Village is not responsible to guarantee there is not floods or water run-off.

Jen Hammond - Discussed work done on a neighboring property. Chad Shurtleff mentioned it was a village right of way they were maintaining. Discussion continued on the retention pond and who is responsible for maintenance. Jen Hammond was told that this is not her property and they should not be on the property.

Peter Grossman - Village always looks for Grant Money and again it needs to be for a project that helps the community as a whole and more than one person.

Motion made by Trustee Holl for the Village to use State and/or County bid prices for 2019 for the purchase of asphalt and bituminous materials and kerosene, diesel and unleaded fuels, seconded by Trustee Morey , carried.

Motion made by Trustee Conger to participate in the Tompkins County Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium, seconded by Trustee Morey .

Peter Grossman reviewed the 115 Park Street encroachment request. The Village has never given easements or encroachment agreements, instead we offer a lease agreement. The owner is required to have the area covered by insurance. Peter Grossman will prepare a lease agreement with a insurance liability of \$1,000,000 and annual rent of \$50.

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign a lease agreement seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Mayor made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues on 2 employees and to meet with our attorney at 8:31 pm, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

Trustee made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:12 pm, seconded by Trustee

Trustee made a motion to adjourn 9:13pm

Nancy Niswender
Clerk Treasurer