

Groton Village Board of Trustees

Monday August 17, 2020 - 7:00pm

7:00pm Mayor Neville welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Board Members

Trustee Conger
Trustee Morey
Trustee Walpole
Trustee Holl
Mayor Neville

Others in attendance:

Nancy Niswender - Clerk
Charles Rankin - Admin
Lt. Troy Boice
Alvin Howell - WWTP
Steve Teeter - Elec Suprv
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.
Lee Shurtleff
Ben Nelson - GFD

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2020 Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

Audit of claims and approval thereof.

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

A511	Approp Resv.	\$	7,394.00
to			
A9950.9	Tfr Capital Project to HM Fund	\$	7,394.00

Seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

The claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

Abstract #3

GENERAL	103,965.13
WATER	26,010.84
SEWER	11,291.55
ELECTRIC	62,386.85

Monthly Department Reports:

Electric Supervisor Teeter

- There was a broken pole on 38 & 222 due to an accident. Marathon came in and helped. No loss of power. One more in front of Post Office to repair - waiting on parts.
- Library - Installed the box pad and waiting on the conduit and the Library contractors to finish.
- We have been doing a lot of tree trimming this month.
- We will be going to Endicott tomorrow for training.
- Sep/Oct - Bucket and digger boom testing is due to be done.
- Mayor Neville commented that he heard all good things on the quick response of the Electric and the Police departments for the pole repair.

DPW Supervisor Shurtleff Report Submitted:

Department of Public Works

July 20 – August 17, 2020

Completed Work/Projects:

- Prepare park and pool every morning
- Mowing & trimming on a regular basis
- Repair Main St. & Elm St. intersection
- Replace leaking valves at the water plant
- Flush several sections of sewer main
- Repair broken catch basin on Gerald Moses Dr.
- Replace broken fire hydrant at 188 Cayuga St.
- Repair storm water pipes on Spring St.
- Sewer manhole inspection with CT Male
- Replace & raise manhole frames on Spring St.
- Repair two water main valves on Spring St.
- Replace one 8" valve on Spring St.
- Assist with broken electric pole on Main St.
- Remove sidewalk on Corona Ave.
- Take down large pine tree on Corona Ave.

Schedule of Work

- Close pool area
- Install a catch basin on Barrows St. & Clark St.
- Paving on Spring St.

Additional Comments:

- Pool Guards did a fantastic job this year.
- CHIPS funding is reported to be at 20% cut

Lt. Boice - Police Department Report:

- We are 900 plus calls up from last year.
- Mostly domestics and juvenile problems at this time.

Trustee Conger Reported on Recreation and Youth Committees:

Joint Recreation -

- Most actives have been done online.
- Trail Committee has a trail walk which features Izzy's Book.
- Trail grants have not been determined.
- Adopt a program for the trail system is being discussed. The track team and the Scouting groups are looking at adopting trails
- Reorganization of school board - Liam Brockway Jr. will be a member of the committee.
- New school youth representatives will be searched this year.

Youth Committee

Program Manger Report from Shelley Lester: Interviews for the Program Manager will be on August 26.

- Assistant Director Juliana Quaresma has left CCE. Some other program areas are operating in person programs. If you have suggestions for areas in Groton that could hold programs, send to Shelley. Initial ideas were area churches, Masonic Hall, American Legion Pavilion.
- The CCE Annual Duck Race (fund raiser) will be virtual on September 13th. Ducks are still available.
- Shelley presented the draft budget for 2021. It is \$52,332.00, down from \$59,374.00. The difference being that a new program manager's wage will be lower. Motion by Glenn to accept the draft budget, second by Pegi, motion carried.

Report: Rural Youth Services Director Kate Shanks-Booth

- Shannon has been permanently transferred to the Workforce Development program. Janice Johnson has retired, after 30 years' service to the Rural Youth Services programs. Budget cuts are at 12%. The office is at 3 full time staff, instead of 4 ½ or 5 staff. Looking to hire a new staff at 35 hours per week.

Report from Fire Chief Ben Nelson submitted:

- Application for: Logan Griffin - Hooks. Approved and put on file.
- Physicals are getting difficult to schedule. We have one scheduled in a month.
- 508 Ambulance
- 619 Total Calls YTD
- One of our local facilities has gone through some administration changes and things are getting better.

Old Business

Discussion of Waste Water Treatment Plant:

Clerk Niswender gave an update on the WWTP research of removing bio-solids. She contacted the Town of Groton to inquire on local laws concerning land spreading. The town and village attorneys will review the information to determine what is allowed. She also contacted Tompkins County Soil and Water and they will discuss the details with NYS DEC to determine the next steps of research. Alvin Howell - WWTP operator has also looked into other disposal options including other landfills and other modes of transportation including the details of the Village obtaining a permit to do the transportation.

New Business

In the future it would be appreciated that any reporters contact the Mayor, Village Administrator or Department heads on any details or clarification on any items before printing an article.

An application was submitted and reviewed by the Board of Trustees and Mayor Neville appointed Samantha Fishman as Part-Time Paramedic at a rate of \$17.66 per hour.

Discussion and Approval of Antique Tractor Show to benefit FFA on Either September 5th or 12th.

- Trustee Conger made a motion to accept the request from Fay Benson to hold the Antique Tractor Show on September 5th or 12th to benefit the FFA, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

The Sheriffs department has asked if our local police would monitor local events and areas.

Discussion of Water Treatment Plant repairs.

- Supervisor Shurtleff discussed the condition of the Pall Trinity Skid - Water Treatment Tank and the repairs that would be necessary.
- A proposed quote from PALL Water systems was presented.
- Trustee Morey made a motion to adopt a resolution subject to permissive referendum to transfer up to \$10,000.00 from the Water Treatment Plant Capital Reserve to the Water Fund for Repairs to the Water Filtration Plant. Seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

A memorandum of understanding between the Village of Groton Police Department and the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department was discussed.

- Trustee Conger made a motion to adopt a resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign the MOU between the Village of Groton Police Department and the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

Allen Moore - asked why there was a build up of the bio-solids at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

It was explained: The press broke and we were unable to get the necessary parts for a couple of months so the bio-solids built up and couldn't get it dried out.

He then asked: How would the land spreading work?

It was explained: It will be determined by DEC and other agencies and that pathogen test are done regularly.

Police Fingerprinting discussion:

- LT. Boice discussed the fingerprinting process and the fact that people are coming in from other areas to get fingerprinted. In order to continue to provide our residents with the free service, he recommends that we charge Town residents a small fee and other out of area residents a little higher fee.
- We do the manual procedure and residents will need to bring their card for processing.

The new requirements from DPS concerning the Electric and Water Penalties and shutoff's were discussed. The guidelines will be changed depending on the current status of the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Clerk Niswender also mentioned that in addition to all of the lost revenue from penalties, the Village Sales Tax revenue is also down by \$44,222 since March.

Administrator Rankin gave an update on IEEP incentives and the Insulation Program.

He mentioned we should actively let public know, list on the web site and possibly an ad in the shopper.

Village Elections are scheduled to be held September 15, 2020

The Annual Organizational Meeting is set for September 21st, at 6:45pm.

At this time Mayor Neville honored Lee Shurtleff for being elected NYS Fire Chief president and presented him with a proclamation which declared Saturday, August 29 as "Lee Shurtleff Day"

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday September 21, 2020 7pm

Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn at 7:51pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Niswender