

Groton Village Board of Trustees

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7pm.

Present: Mayor Neville, Trustees Morey, Conger and Holl, Nancy Niswender - Clerk/Treas, Chad Shurtleff - DPW Supr, Ben Nelson - Fire Chief, Mike Andersen - Code Enf, Steve Teeter- Elec Utl. Supv., Charles Rankin – Administrator, William Troy- Village Attorney, Lee Shurtleff GFD, Mike Neville GFD, Norfe Pirro, Crystal Clark, Sheldon Clark and Terry Walpole - Trustee Elect.

Trustee Morey made a motion to accept the January 15, 2018 minutes, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

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

General Fund

From Ambulance Pers Serv – 4540.1 - \$1,500.00

To: Ambulance Driver - 4540.11 - \$1500.00

Joint Rec Fund

From Contingent – 1990.4 – \$38.28

To: Girls Basketball – 7145.43 - \$38.28

Seconded by Trustee Morey carried. The above claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

GENERAL (A9)	\$ 42,607.91	ELECTRIC (E9)	\$ 167,725.07
WATER (F9)	36,139.03	JOINT REC (J9)	2,289.18
SEWER (G9)	18,075.95		

Department Reports:

DPW:

Suprv. Shurtleff reported that they have been picking up snow on Main Street, Library and parking lots (several times). They have been working on the Pavilion and are almost done and hope to get electric installed. They have been working on bad water meters and inside items. They had hope to refurbish the pool slide but it is beyond repair and he is looking into a new replacement. They will need to go to Syracuse to get a fire hydrant replacement due to a car accident. The fire hydrant is due to be installed this week. The department has also been working on general shop maintenance and getting ready for spring. Some discussion followed on road conditions – they will look at and be sure they are taken care of. Discussion followed of salt deliveries, Suprv Shurtleff mentioned they should be done for this year and should have enough to start the year next season.

Electric:

Supervisor Teeter reported that they will be taking oil samples from the substation- this gives transformer history. Over the last couple of weeks, they have been helping trim trees with the Towns of Groton and Dryden as well as in the Village. The annual glove and safety equipment testing is due in March. Transformers have been put up and moved over for those areas that were overloaded. There have been a couple of call outs: Fire on Spring St, Beechwood power out due to a squirrel. We have been reviewing applications for the electric lineman position.

Administrator Rankin: An application has been designed for Commercial Electric over 400amp service. This is to keep control of the bitcoin companies coming in to the village to take advantage of the lower electric rates. NYMPA is looking in to filing a tariff with the PSC for a different PPA rate for these companies.

Fire/Ambulance:

Acting Chief Ben Nelson reported that they have had 123 EMS calls and 23 Fire calls and if this track continues it would double the amount of calls. The fire department did well with the chicken BBQ.

Lee Shurtleff presented a Fire Department budget history for review and discussed items of concern and increased expenses.

Code Enforcer:

Code Enf. Officer Andersen reported that the construction on 200 South St (Sr Housing) has had delays due to finding that there were no fire walls between apartments, and they found drainage separation issues as well. This is a 2 ½ million-dollar project to upgrade the apartment complex. Dunkin Donuts expected to be ready for inspection in 2-3 weeks. The residence on 214 Elm St has been given 30 days to clean up or Ithaca Housing will stop all section 8 funding. Architectural plans for the Dematteo project at 113 Church St have been submitted. Dave Dematteo held an open house this past week.

314 Elm Street property – 1 wall of the foundation is being replaced.

Spring time is coming and we need to address trash being put out early in bags. Legally all trash is to be put in containers. Possibly we could make up stickers or door hangers to put on doors of addresses not following this law.

Discussion followed on if the Town of Groton was going to have a clean-up day. Suprv Shurtleff said they haven't had one in quite a while. We would need help if it was to be considered. Possibly help from Tompkins County Sheriffs – Suprv. Shurtleff will look into.

Joint Recreation:

Trustee Conger reported:

Youth Basketball has one more month, K-2 girls has 19 participants

Youth wrestling for grades 2-6 runs from Feb 15 – April

Cabin Fever Festival is March 3rd will feature Crossroads the Clown, Cayuga Nature Center, Roller-skating Party. They have received a grant from Tompkins County for \$1000 to help with the event.

They are starting on spring programming.

The Dance without Limits program was cancelled due to lack of participation.

Zumba Classes going strong.

American Red Cross Babysitting Class is scheduled to be held Feb 25, 2018 here at the Village Office,

Youth baseball and softball applications are online. Planning for summer programs has begun and possibly will include a Jr Lifeguard program.

Jennifer Foote-Dean will be presenting a summer sampler program for youth on April 20th or 27th as part of a requirement for her TC3 class along with one of her classmates.

Youth Commission: Trustee Conger reported on programs:

Dream it Build it – 10 Jr High Students participating

Animal Planet – Tuesdays – Environmental awareness - Elementary School

Homework Helpers– 13 participants – help with homework.

Lunch Bunch – Middle School – 31 participants.

Girls Venture – 6 grade girls went to SU women's basketball.

Trustee Conger also noted that she received a call from Ruth Williams, the Food Bank Coordinator from Binghamton. The Groton Assembly of God is stopping sponsorship. They are looking for another sponsor agency to provide a place to hand out food for the local families. (Approx. 90-100 served per month) They would like to possibly use the Main St Pavilion. She will ask the American Legion for volunteers.

Public Comments:

Norfe Pirro came in to discuss: 6 weeks ago, a resident of one of his properties -166 Main Street threw a couch into the creek out back of the building. He reported the resident was seen doing this. He said he gave contact information to the Police Department and requested they charge her, but the Police Department was unwilling to go into Ithaca to pick her up. He stated they should file a complaint with the local court and charge her the cost (and not him), so that she is held accountable for her actions.

Mayor Neville commented he would need to speak with Officer Williams and Trustee Holl said he would speak with Officer Williams as well.

Sheldon and Crystal Clark presented a letter to the Village board from their thirteen-year-old son Garret Clark. Garret expressed interest in purchasing the skate park items in the abandoned skate park. He states he has been saving his Christmas and Birthday money for this. Discussion followed and it was decided that there should be an ad placed in the shopper to allow for sealed bids for a fair price.

Trustee Holl made a motion to approve travel to the 2018 PERMA conference May 24- 25 at the Sagamore Resort in Bolton Landing, NY for Administrator Rankin and Clerk-Treasurer Niswender, and to approve travel to the 2018 NYCOM Annual meeting May 6-8 for Administrator Rankin seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Mayor Neville appointed Olivia (Proper) Howarth as Deputy Treasurer Trainee at a rate of \$15.75/hr.

Trustee Holl made a motion to approve an exception to the open container law for The First National Bank of Groton family picnic to be held July 21, 2018 at the Memorial Park pavilion, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve Trustee Conger to attend the Groton Rotary Special meeting representing the Village, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Discussion Items:

Trustee Conger made a motion to make a \$100 donation to the Library Fund in memory of John Watkins, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Building Committee update:

Mayor Neville reported on the February 12th meeting, we met with a second architect and are waiting on a proposal so we can compare. We are working on the kickoff in April. The Fire department will be holding a chicken BBQ to bring awareness to the building project and hopefully bring in some more volunteers for the fire department. We have a band coming in and possibly bring in picnic tables and a tent. Hopefully the Rec department would like to help do some activities. Administrator Rankin will be putting a newsletter together.

The Pavilion will be open for use of non-profit organizations and groups to use, with a \$25 deposit, which will be returned once the area is inspected.

Trustee Holl wanted to bring up that the ambulance did a great job on a recent personal call.

A discussion followed on whether we should put up a sign – Park at your own risk. (not responsible for contents in cars), we have insurance coverage. Administrator Rankin mentioned the defect law should cover us for 90 days. Attorney Troy stated we should be covered even if the sign wasn't up. We will look into putting up a sign.

Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn to executive session, and to include DPW Suprv. Shurtleff and Trustee Elect Walpole at 7:51pm, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion to return from executive session at 8:18pm, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Motion made by Trustee Conger to adjourn the meeting at: 8:20pm to Saturday, February 24th at 9am for Budget Work Session seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Nancy Niswender
Village Clerk

Groton Village Board of Trustees

Adjourned meeting of February 20, 2018

February 24, 2018 – 9am

Mayor Neville reconvened the meeting of February 20th at 9am.

Present were: Mayor Neville, Trustees Conger, Holl and Morey, Nancy Niswender - Clerk Treasurer, Chad Shurtleff – Supervisor DPW, Charles Rankin -Administrator, Alvin Howell – WWTP Operator and Terry Walpole -Trustee candidate.

The Board held a budget work session.

The meeting was closed at 12:45 pm.

Nancy Niswender
Village Clerk