

# Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday September 17, 2018

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, WWT Plant Operator Alvin Howell, Atty Peter Grossman, Andrew Sullivan, Ithaca Times.

Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2018 board meeting, seconded by Trustee Conger.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve the claims presented for review, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried. The above adjustments and claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

## **Abstract 4**

|         |               |           |              |
|---------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| GENERAL | \$ 259,512.86 | ELECTRIC  | \$ 73,380.09 |
| WATER   | \$ 18,879.33  | JOINT REC | \$ 28.84     |
| SEWER   | \$ 15,034.09  |           |              |

Monthly department reports.

## **Electric:**

### **Supv Teeter reported:**

The chipper had some repairs needed and parts should be in tomorrow. The crew replaced some bad poles. Diversify will be coming in to do some maintenance and testing on the bucket and digger. Substation will have our annual oil testing in March, we are working on bids.

LED lights – Supv Teeter has some prices and they will be covered by IEEP. This is half of what is needed at this time and has been approved by the light board. LED light bulbs are in for the annual giveaway for Public Power Week.

## **DPW:**

### **Supv Shurtleff reported:**

Paving was the big project for the month. Stretch of road on Elm Street from Mack St to the Village line, a section on Barrows St and all the side streets off South Main St. Cleaned up Elm Street to straighten things up. Bills came in a bit higher than anticipated, due to extra time and equipment and supplies needed. We will be reviewing options in the budget to make up the difference. Drainage on side streets is much better. Also working on patch work. Lawn work is winding down. The park is winding down.

Getting ready for leaf pick up and winter projects.

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant:**

#### **WWT Plant Operator – Howell reported:**

Summer has gone well. We did a lot of painting around the area inside and out. In August the press was having issues. Several companies were contacted. It was discovered that on the press the “wipes” should be replaced every 3,000 hours. There is 9,000 hours on this machine and needed to replace the wipes. This was not a budgeted item, so it is an additional expense and will be calculated into the budget in the future. The motor also needed to be replaced as it was placed at the bottom, got wet and burnt out. It will take additional time to get the sludge to dry out due to the issues.

Received quotes for the Headworks project to begin preparing for the items needed.

Alvin would like to add computer items for the system in the budget. There are other items in the plant that will need to be upgraded.

### **Groton Fire Department:**

#### **Chief Ben Nelson reported:**

The department provided mutual aid in Locke and Dryden. Ambulance and Fire about 700 calls YTD. The new truck has arrived and are looking to sell the old truck.

Annual inspection clam bake coming up and planning on a trip to the schools.

### **Code Enforcement**

#### **Code Officer Anderson reported:**

WWT plant has been having problems with grease. Code Enf Anderson has added some items concerning grease traps to business inspections. Main St Pizzeria has been presented and mentioned the business should be grandfathered in, but this is not allowed in building codes. Discussion followed on grease traps and outside dumpsters. Any business that has grease producing cooking should have a grease trap. This is part of the property maintenance code and is in our sewer use law. This year a check item on the safety check list for grease traps was added in and so far, all have complied with the exception of Main St. Pizzeria.

Project is coming along well on 200 South St. They are working on exit lights and exit signs. Fire Chief Nelson asked about the fire alarm system and if Code Enf Anderson inspected those. The main system is inactivated until construction is done and the new system is activated.

Dairy plant on Gerald Moses Dr. reported they hope to be in the plant Sept – Oct and operation the first of the year with about 30 employees.

Permits – 29 roofing permits – total of \$286,000 worth of work for roofing and windows. 21 building permits - \$564,000 worth of work.

We received a complaint from resident about the sidewalks on Peru Road. A letter was sent to all area residents to clear up grass and weeds and the DPW will inspect and determine what needs to be replaced.

We received a complaint about exotic pets. Mike looked up code and found if you have an alligator or crocodile over 5 ft you have to report it and have it registered, any snake over 10 ft has to be registered.

He looked up other areas code and possibly we may need to look at updating our code to include other pets.

### **Police Report**

#### **Lt. Williams reported:**

It has been fairly quiet 1285 calls ytd – same number about August 7<sup>th</sup> last year. Two new hires about half way through FTO program. New Tahoe is in, currently getting graphics done. Have one quote in for changing equipment over, waiting on second quote. We will use whatever we can from previous vehicle, light bar, one of the interior partitions, radios, monitors. We will transition the 2014 from the 2010 and auction the 2010. Hopefully this will cover the cost of the outfitting of the new vehicle.

### **Joint Recreation:**

#### **Trustee Conger reported:**

2160 attended the summer concert series. Season cost to Village \$844

Summer recreation program made money for the first time. The guards did the give back program. The 5 bags of food collected for the food pantry came up missing. They did not discover what happened. We will need find a better system in the future.

Trunk or Treat – Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. 5:30 – 7:00. Main Street 3:30 – 5: 00.

National Night Out event sponsored by the Girl Scouts had an estimate of over 350 people in attendance. A bit less than last year, but there were some other events going on at the same time. But still a big success.

#### **Youth Commission**

There were 68 unduplicated campers. Two field trips, and a Cornell group PRYDE came out and interviewed the kids this year. The lunch program was expanded this year including the park, the library and the camp serving over 100 kids every day. Groton youth harvest farmers market - 750 kids, 7000 lbs. OF produce, and 500 books distributed. This program will continue monthly at the library.

Youth employment – 4 teens at summer camp – 4 at Groton Harvest summer camp and workforce had 2 teens with paid assistance at summer camp.

County Legislative budget has been put in for next year with an increase of 2% increase (\$462) - \$23,585.00 for youth programs.

Rethink poverty – a community action program Trustee Conger will participate in.

### **Admin Rankin reported:**

MEUA conference – Nancy, Steve, and I attended last week. Emphasis over the next few years, energy efficiency programs, electric vehicles and energy storage. Associations are looking at what would be required. If there are any mandates, possibly IEEP funds could cover some of the costs.

### **Board Reviews**

- Mayor Neville appointed the following to the Police Commissioners:  
Gary Rightmire to fill a vacant 3 yr. position which expires 2019
- Trustee Conger made a motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing Clerk Treasurer Nancy Niswender to sign Tompkins County Personnel forms MSD428A Forms, seconded by, Trustee Morey, carried.

### **Public Comments:**

#### **Ithaca Times – Andrew Sullivan**

Question and explanation of Public Power Week. Admin Rankin explained how municipal power works, publicly owned and profits are put back into the system and how the public is educated and given a free LED Light Bulb. MDS428A forms were also explained.

**Sidewalk policy** – Clerk Treasurer Niswender reported we have received information from Jay Franklin at the Tompkins County Assessment Office and it was recommended to have our attorney review the NYS laws concerning sidewalk policies for Villages. Atty Grossman will review and get back with us. We will continue with our current policy. Discussion followed on our current code and we will update once the decision is made.

Trustee Morey made a motion to executive session to discuss an employee salary, Trustee Conger 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to come out of executive session, Trustee Conger 2<sup>nd</sup>.

No motions made during executive session.

Trustee Walpole made a motion made to adjourn at 9:31 pm