

Groton Village Board of Trustees

Monday, January 15, 2018

Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7pm.

Present: Mayor Neville, Trustees Morey, Evener and Holl, Nancy Niswender - Clerk/Treas, Chad Shurtleff - DPW Supr, Lance Coit - Fire Chief, Mike Anderson - Code Enf, Officer Tim Williams, Steve Teeter- Elec Utl. Super., Charles Rankin – Administrator, Lee Shurtleff, Jennifer Foote-Dean.

Trustee Holl made a motion to accept the December 18, 2017 minutes, seconded by Trustee Evener, carried.

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

General Fund

From Contingent – 1990.4 - \$3,517.37

To: Taxes on Village Property – 1950.4 - \$3,517.37

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

GENERAL (A8)	\$ 45,537.31	JOINT REC (J8)	\$ 447.16
WATER (F8)	8,373.16	CAPITAL STORM SEWER (HSS8)	219,441.00
SEWER (G8)	4,105.95		
ELECTRIC (E8)	144,370.77		

Department Reports:

Dept of Public Works: Supervisor Shurtleff noted they have been concentrating on keeping the streets plowed. With the cold weather they have also been cleaning and painting the Village Garage to keep it in shape. There have been a few frozen water meters, but nothing too serious. The new dump truck was sent back to Stadium International due to a whining noise. They went with a heavier weight oil and it seems to be running better. The new pavilion on the Main Street property has been started. Roof is going up soon. Residents seem to be positive about it. Mayor Neville inquired about salt deliveries. Suprv. Shurtleff has ordered twice and we have used about the same as last year. Mayor Neville mentioned the concerns of a pot hole by the Hotel and whether or not anyone has contacted or heard from the State crew. Suprv. Shurtleff will give Bob Vandeburg a call.

Electric:

Supervisor Teeter reported that they have taken down the Christmas decorations in the Village and Freeville. Tree pick up has been on going and should be done at this time. Annual Safety School has started in Endicott. The first class is on Qualified Personnel. There are 8 classes each year.

Tomorrow they will be going to the Elementary School to talk with the Kindergarten am & pm classes on the Electric Dept profession. We will bring tools to show them. Two trucks are due for inspection. They will be going to Caskey's tomorrow. Have also been snow plowing and doing snow pick up. An update on the Bitcoin computer company that is operating at the old fish farm: They would like to increase their capacity. Administrator Rankin mentioned that Mark Cordero of PLM & NYMPA will be doing a rate analysis of how this affects us. Administrator Rankin has a call into to Mike Barrett to see what our capacity is. We will have to see what additional steps we will need to take. Further discussion and explanation continued.

Fire/Ambulance:

Chief Coit submitted an application for a new member to be approved. Conger Hose Co – Brandon Stanley. He wants to work with the Firehouse and Ambulance

January 3, 2018 – Annual Meeting and Election of Chiefs

Chief Coit made mention that he could not be more proud of the membership this year. Their proudest feat was the Jr Firefighter Camp. The membership has put in a number of hours this year. Firefighters must put in a minimum of 64 hours training in this year; many put a lot more hours in. Chief Coit presented and reviewed their annual call report which included 140 Fire calls, 13 MVA calls and 1 Elevator. A full report was given on calls and is attached. Chief Coit mentioned that they had no air transportations. To let the Board know with the air transports you can be held liable if the patient does not stay in the medical facility for 72 hours. If the patient does not pay they can come after the Municipality to pay. The average time for the ambulance to get to a hospital is 30 minutes. The average air transport takes approx. 26 minutes to arrive before airlifting the patient.

The regular meeting was temporarily suspended and Mayor Neville opened the Public Hearing on Local Law No. 1 of 2018, "A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c"

Clerk Niswender read the Notice of Public Hearing. Administrator Rankin mentioned we have a true 2% cap this year.

Being no comments, Trustee Evener made a motion that the Local Law No. 1 of 2018, "A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c" be adopted, and upon roll call:

Trustee Conger voted "aye",
Trustee Evener voted "aye",
Trustee Morey voted "aye",
Trustee Holl voted "aye",
Mayor Neville voted "aye".

The resolution was duly declared adopted. (Type II Action under SEQR.)

Trustee Holl made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Fire/Ambulance continued:

Chief Coit continued, Fire Department will do a Chicken BBQ and a fund raiser at the new Main Street location in April per Mayor Neville's request. He continued to discuss that the Fire Department is over budget this year due to over use of EMS funds due to the number of calls. They have held off on

equipment payments this year and have taken \$20,000 out of capital to make up for this year. They will give an itemized budget next month.

Trustee Conger mentioned that they can get a hold of the Legion for using for the BBQ. Fire Mayor Neville asked if a date was set. Chief Coit thinks it is the 3rd weekend in April. Chief Coit confirmed the date as April 28th.

Trustee Evener made a motion to approve the slate of fire chiefs for 2018: Lance Coit-Chief, Ben Nelson-Deputy Chief, Michael Neville First Assistant Chief, Richard Neville Jr – Second Assistant Chief, Rob Gallenger-Third Assistant Chief, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Trustee Evener made a motion to record the membership of Brandon Stanley Conger Hose Co – Brandon Stanley.

Lee Shurtleff made a comment to the Village Board concerning the upcoming Fire Department budget and if there are any concerns on cutting back on the budget, to please let the Fire Department know as the budget is very tight. Trustee Evener mentioned that we would be having a budget meeting in February and this would be part of the discussion.

Code Enforcer:

Code Enf. Officer Andersen wanted to notify the Village Board that he was originally hired for 12 hours a week and Apartment Inspections were done every three years, then every two years and now it has been requested that they be done every year. We have 364 apartments and rooms to be done every year as well as other buildings and businesses. We now also have building and window permits. Right now the 12 hours will probably be ok, but come April, May June it may take 15-18 hours a week or more to get all the permits and inspections completed. He has been to court 7 times and needs to go again this week. Most of the fees for permits have covered most of his salary.

Joint Recreation: No meeting this month.

Youth Commission: Trustee Conger reported on programs: Chef it up 12 in program-4 boys, 8 girls Jr High, Maker Space, Science Elementary 5 girls, 7 boys, Groton Pride 13 participants, the helped with decorations at the nursing home, Angel tree and pick up at the park, Holiday Fun, 11 participants, Girls Venture @ Cornell and attended classes like college students. In March the girls can go to Women's basketball game, Lunch Bunch Monica meets with school children and does a 10-15 min program. Summer Camp cost will go up to \$100 a week (\$5 increase) to help cover the increase in minimum wages. The fee will go up as well for the before and after care. Cabin Fever is March 3rd at the High School.

Police: Lt. Williams 2018 current calls to date 99, 2017 total calls - 2020, 2016 total calls - 2098.

They are working on a few felony investigations Officer Smith 1st day is Monday, Policy & Procedures. Officer Pinette just completed FTO Trainer. Four officers now have this training which helps get new officers up to speed.

Wastewater Treatment Plant: Trustee Morey reported that the weather is causing issues at the plant messing up the mixers. Alvin is looking for solutions. The part for the conveyor is due in this week.

Public Comments: Jennifer Foote –Dean Reported on Groton Free Community Night: 2015 – 150, 2016 - 250, 2017- 400+ it is growing every year.

They are looking at additional funding through Tompkins County Youth Services Pitch Contest. Collaboration is key. This could help bring community groups together at the event. This would help to facilitate a community conversation with government officials and a recreation program survey. She would like to know if the Village is willing to support this effort. The Board agrees this is a great program and will sponsor the program.

Mayor Neville appointed Nancy Niswender to position of Budget Officer .

Motion made by Trustee Evener to appoint Patty Miller to a five-year term on the Groton Housing Authority, ending Jan. 30, 2023, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Motion made by Trustee Conger to appoint Angela Conger as Part Time Recreation Assistant - Non Competitive Class, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Motion made by Trustee Evener to authorize Mayor to sign CT Male contract for \$3,450.00 Survey of Blanchard Heights, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Motion made by Trustee Evener to approve noise permit for Ben Conger Inn - August 25, 2018 until 3:00am, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Motion made by Trustee Evener for the Village to use State and/or County bid prices for 2018 for the purchase of asphalt and bituminous materials and kerosene, diesel and unleaded fuels, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

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

Budget meeting scheduled for Saturday February 24, 2018 at 9am.

Trustee Conger made a motion to go into Executive Sessions at 8:03pm, seconded by Trustee Evener, carried.

Trustee Evener made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:45pm, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Trustee made a motion to retro pay paramedics for 2017 calendar year holiday pay for additional hours based on a 12 hour a day schedule, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Motion made by Trustee Conger to adjourn the meeting at: 8:46pm seconded by Trustee Evener, carried.

Nancy Niswender
Village Clerk