

Groton Village Board of Trustees

Monday July 20, 2020 - 7:00pm

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

Board Members

Trustee Conger
Trustee Morey
Trustee Walpole
Trustee Holl
Mayor Neville

Other in attendance:

Nancy Niswender - Clerk
Charles Rankin - Admin
Lt. Troy Boice
Alvin Howell - WWTP
Steve Teeter - Elec Suprv
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.
Andrew Sullivan

Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15 & 24, 2020 Board Meetings, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

Audit of claims and approval thereof.

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

Grant Received:

A2071 United Way Grant (increase Rev.)	\$3,200.00
A7310.12 Youth Pers Serv Grant (increase exp)	\$3,200.00

Seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

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

Abstract #

GENERAL	110,082.67
WATER	18,904.07
SEWER	26,498.06
ELECTRIC	80,014.52
JOINT REC	204.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS	7,394.00

Monthly Department Reports:

Electric Supervisor Teeter

- Catching up from a few weeks shut down.
- Replacing bad poles
- Getting back to safety training in Endicott
- Mike Perkins finished his 2nd year of line school
- Library box and transformer pad to be put in once the Library has the area cleared.

DPW Supervisor Shurtleff Report Submitted:

Department of Public Works

June 15 – July 20, 2020

Completed Work/Projects:

- Trim trees and brush away from water towers
- Locate and repair a broken cub valve 106 Beechwood
- Remove the engine from the sewer flusher for repairs
- Install new pump and filter for wading pool
- Install one new filter for the big pool
- Replace guard chairs at the main pool
- Finish guard shack refurbish project
 - Plumbing
 - New wall board – painted
 - Electric upgrades
 - Shelving and countertop
- Finish changing stall upgrades in the girl's bathroom
- Finish normal pool opening items
- Install a 6" extension on a new fire hydrant
- Assist a contractor installing sewer main for Racker Center (Spring St.)
- Dig out potholes on S. Main and repair
- Replace a sewer manhole lid and patch the area
- Repair the street sweeper and begin street sweeping
- Repair a broken storm water pipe on W. Cortland
- Water plant repairs by Pall Trinity

Schedule of Work

- Replace broken fire hydrant on Cayuga St.
- Install 2 catch basins
- Repair curbing on Barrows St.
- Prepare for paving on Spring St.

Additional Comments:

- Pool number of occupants down - used minimally
- Pall Trinity gave some suggestions for future upgrades on the water plant.
- Reviewed issues with sewer jetter - had John Mackey diagnose it and it was cheaper to replace it with a new remanufactured engine than repairing it.
- Racker Center project on Spring St is moving forward - the sewer mains are being installed
- This part of Spring St is on list to be paved this year.
- There are some repairs to be done to the playground after inspection. Due to budget we will take care of next year. They are not safety issues.

The Mayor asked about the possible reduction in CHIPS funding, and Surv. Shurtleff mentioned we are holding back on additional paving this year until funding is secure.

Trustee Morey asked about the playground area and if it was opened.

Supervisor Shurtleff said the playground is open, but basketball courts are not at this time.

Lt. Boice - Police Department Report:

- Number of calls up 51.5% from last year - Domestic disputes and additional Juvenile issues.
- He would like to bring on a full timer on October 1st.

Mike Andersen - Code Officer Reported:

- Library Project - \$829,000 addition - daily checks performed
- Dollar General applied for sign permit on Main St.
- Racker Center applied for their permit on a 6 bedroom family home.- \$504,000 est - waiting on plan details.
- Mobile Home park will be paving - resident with issues.
- 23 Building permits \$1,450,000
- \$67,000 roofing and window permits
- Only 1 pool has been an issue and was taken back down.
- Once housing inspections are allowed - have 400 places to inspect.

Trustee Conger Reported on Recreation and Youth Committees:

- No meetings have been held.
- Janice Johnson - Tompkins County Youth Commission for 30 years - is retiring.
- Free food at the park - Kids farmers market this week.

Report from Fire Chief Ben Nelson submitted:

Good evening.

Very little to report this month. Fire and ambulance calls are steady and were sitting about normal for this time of year with almost 450 ambulance calls and a little over 90 fire calls.

The fireworks went as smooth as ever. I heard a lot of positive comments, as well as a fair amount of complaints. With the complaints came just as many people defending the presentation we put on. I want to thank the village board, and especially Mayor Neville for the amazing support of the fireworks show.

We have been discussing the summer events and there really aren't any to discuss. We are still discussing a summer camp, but with the volatility of COVID-19 and the way a fire camp would have to be run, we are struggling to put something together. Several of our members have said that they would not put their kids in any camp this year, and wouldn't be willing to help with ours. Its a big gamble right now. So the board of wardens has decided to postpone indefinitely for 2020. If there is a chance to do a camp safely this year, we will certainly look to have it.

Action Items

Trustee Holl made a motion to approve Kandi's Grant Application for Pandemic Relief from the Community Development fund - \$1,500.00, seconded by Trustee Conger, all in favor, carried

The Sewer Jetter Engine was not running properly and was inspected to find a cracked block and head gasket blown and needed to be replaced and reinstalled.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to adopt a Resolution subject to Permissive Referendum to transfer up to \$7,500.00 from MVE Reserves to Streets Capital for replacement of Sewer Jetter Engine.

Seconded by Trustee Conger, all in favor, carried.

Old Business

Discussion of Appointment - Nancy Niswender to Provisional Admin

Trustee Conger made a motion for the Mayor to approve the appointment of Nancy Niswender as Provisional Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Mayor Neville made the appointment of Nancy Niswender as Provisional Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator, effective immediately.

New Business

Discussion of Village response of current COVID requirements and Mask Wearing - Public, Police, Village Staff
Trustee Holl reported from the Police Commissioners meeting that Lt. Boice reviewed that the Police would be wearing masks when entering buildings or when social distancing is not possible.

Clerk Niswender reviewed the office procedures of mask wearing, social distancing and office cleaning and encouraged all employees to follow the recommended guidelines.

We received the 30 day notice of NYS Liquor Authority renewal application from Carrington-Fuller Post No. 800, Inc. The American Legion

Clerk Niswender reviewed the email from Drew Snell, Owasco Inspection. on Storm Drain Emblems - The Village Board and DPW Supervisor Shurtleff agreed to have the emblems placed.

The Village Board would like to send a thank you to Chris Dempsey for his great job of having the trim painted on the Firehall.

Admin Rankin shared information on Chris Dempsey Property on Gerald Moses Drive.

He has a possible buyer - and asked if the Village has any available funds to help - possibly a 0- % loan? We will need to discuss it further with him. Possibly a Community Development Grant. The Village Board agrees that we would help if we are able.

Discussion of Waste Water Treatment Plant:

We have had some complaints of smell and have had a back pile of bio-solids that we should process. Several options have been researched of ways to handle the bio-solids to help reduce the rising cost of disposal. Alternative transportation and other solutions may be available including land spreading. The Mayor mentioned if this option is viable, there are 250 acres possible for land spreading.

Mayor appointed Trustee Walpole as liaison to help with the project. He will work with Clerk Niswender to get the necessary paperwork together for a premeeting with NYS DEC to discuss options including Bio-Spreading.

A discussion with WWTP Operator Howell explained that the Bio-Solids have been treated and testing is done to ensure they are safe. There are many steps and organizations including NYSDEC and Tompkins County Soil and Water that we will need to discuss this with.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to persue the land spreading option, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.

No Public Comments

- 7:54pm Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.
- 8:35pm Trustee Conger made a motion to return from Executive Session, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.
No action taken during executive session.
Next Monthly Meeting - Monday August 17, 2020
- 8:36pm Trustee Morey made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Niswender
Village Clerk