

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2019

Present: Mayor Neville, Trustees Morey, Conger, Holl, and Walpole, Chad Shurtleff - DPW Supv, Mike Andersen - Code Enf, Steve Teeter- Elec Utl. Supv., Lt. Troy Boice, Police OIC, Admin Charles Rankin, Deputy Chief Rick Neville-GFD, Jeff Cronk, Scott Weeks, Jennifer Jones-Rec Dir., Waylon DeGraw, Vicki Marks-Deputy Clerk.

Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

Trustee Morey requested that in the Wastewater report in August 19, 2019 minutes be changed from "muffin monster" to "waste grinder".

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes, with edited wording, of the August 19, 2019 board meetings, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the claims and adjustments presented for review.

Budget Adjustment:

A1990.4 Contingency Fund \$2,500.00	A7140.4 Parks & Rec Cont.	\$2,500.00
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Seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried. The above adjustments and claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

Abstract #4

GENERAL	\$ 126,485.53	ELECTRIC	\$ 85,017.94
WATER	\$ 17,075.60	JOINT REC	\$ 3,728.64
SEWER	\$ 10,117.28	BUILDING CAP	\$ 20.64
PARK CAPITAL	\$ 17,657.43		

Monthly department reports.

Trustee Conger reported:

Joint Recreation

Fall Programs:

Fall youth soccer – registrations numbers are good.

Youth Cheer and Football – registrations are low.

Youth Cross Country will also be starting in a couple of weeks – Race Oct. 12th

Possible new youth tennis programs for the fall. Possibly Mike Scaglione will coach.

Winter Programs:

Youth basketball may be moving into a league with Cortland, Homer, Tully, McGraw, Marathon and Dryden for the 2019/20 season. All the games will be held in Cortland with professional referees-not youth.

Youth wrestling (Jan or Feb).

Summer Concert Grant due in October.

Cabin Fever Grant has been submitted.

Summer programs:

Concert series approximately 2,000 people attended this year. Received \$900 from the RH Park Foundation Grant and total cost was \$1304 minus some supplies sold to booster club for a total cost of \$1269.

Attendance of the concert in 2012 was 200 and 2018 was 2100. The increase was due to moving the concerts from the Conger Blvd. to the American Legion, which was beneficiary to everybody.

Recreation programs in the last 7 years has increased in number of participants:

2012/92 to 2019/443 – 273% increase with income 2019 of \$1494.00, servicing & feeding a lot of kids.

Discussion on pool details – staffing for the future, rules updated, Guard area and bathroom plans.

Discussion on Summer concert details.

Youth Commission

Weekly enrollment ranging from 32 in the early weeks to 43 campers. They had five field trips. In cooperation with the Groton Library, campers attended many programs, including Disc Dogs and Birding with Peter Harrity. Older campers got swimming lessons for 6 weeks. Lunches were through the Summer Feeding Program and snacks were provided through the Groton Harvest Grant.

Groton Harvest: Over 8,000 lbs. of produce were given out over the 8 Children's Markets held with the average of 85 children weekly. Each kid was allowed 10lbs each, of fresh produce to take home. 8 youth were employed through the Grant or Workforce NY. Parent survey – 27 of 30 ate more produce, 25 of 30 reported their children tried something new and 24 out of 30 said the market positively impacted their food budget.

Coming events: Fall programming is underway. **Mondays** is an introductory session to elementary children to programming and exploring fun fall activities. **Tuesday and Thursday** – Middle school: My side of the Mountain activities in preparation for their trip to the Catskills in October. **Wednesday** – **Groton Pride** (Middle school) – Community service projects including Trail Clean-Up and plans for Trunk or Treat. **Tuesday & Thursday** – Lunch Bunch, Junior High activities and games.

Tween Nights at the Groton Library will start up on a monthly basis on a Friday night. Youth can watch a movie, do crafts, play Mind Craft and enjoy pizza and snacks in a safe and supervised setting.

Electric:

Supv Teeter reported work completed:

First of the month Mike Perkins finished his 3rd week of training and next month will start his 4th week. At that time Mike will complete his first year of a four-year program.

Working on Cayuga St. line to the VVMHP, trimming and clearing, etc.

Hired Bill Higgins to bulldoze a path, dumped bank run gravel to build road to get truck back in there.

Spent 3-4 days trimming of brush on that new road

A lot of tree trimming – maybe because of wet summer seems to be more growth this year.

Mowed and trimmed the high line, Town will brush hog bank later this month.

Working on Spring St. replacing a pole for service to new building for Racker Center.
Trying to get as much time in the bucket for Mike.

Read meters

Non-pay disconnects

Repaired streetlights

Replaced transformer leads on Elm St.

Rubbered up service on South Main St. for painter

Put eaves trough on generator building on Conger Blvd.

Hooked up new 200-amp service on Beechwood Dr.

Shut off & turn on for electrician to hook up generator at 210 Gerald Moses Dr.

Helped install hiking trail sign's & benches

Set up for Groton Olde Home Days

Picked up the chipper from repair shop

Hauled material for roadway on Cayuga St.

Got hybrid inspected

Repaired sink at the Fire Station

DPW:

Supv Shurtleff reported:

Completed Work/Projects:

- Regrade Railroad Ave. with limestone crusher run – was rough and had some complaints
- Set up and clean up for Olde Home Days – was a successful year
- Repair 4 leaks in the Fire Dept. roof – many seams to fix – holding up so far
- Park & Pool comes to an end. Had an awesome group of lifeguards this year – they kept the place clean and picked up. If they had any problems, they called to let him know.
- Repair Street Sweeper
- Rebuild 180' of curbing on Barrows St.
- Replace sidewalk at the S. Main St. bridge
- Haul in stone for stockpile (200 Tons)
- Respond to a house fire – Davis Rd., McLean
- Replace sidewalk on Sykes St. & Peru Rd.
- Help redesign the trail on W. Hill – property dispute
- Remove a large stump at 302 W. South St.
- Read water meters
- Respond to a car accident – 700 block of Peru Rd.

Schedule of Work

- Close up the pool area for winter
- Paving project – Blanchard Heights
- Patching as needed
- Curbing & drainage on Walpole Rd.
- Water, sewer project Spring St. (Rackers)

Groton Fire Department:

Deputy Chief Richard Neville reported:

Calls YTD: 597 -ambulance calls / 117 -fire calls (total of 714)

Groton Olde Home Days was a huge success for the – sold out of food about ½ way thru the after-parade crowd. A thank you to the Legion for their help.

Assisted McLean with a house fire on Davis Rd on 9/6/19. All Mclean's fire trucks were out of service for hose test.

Michael Howell was appointed into Pioneers, working on guidelines to separate his employment as an Paramedic and volunteer time.

Fire Department annual clam bake is October 5, 2019 – noon to 5pm.

September 15th - Fire Dept. cooked at the Annual Corn Harvest for the NYS Draft Horse Club.

Preparing for the School Public Education on Fire Awareness week and trunk or treat.

Code Enforcement

Code Officer Anderson reported:

- Building Permits = 31 / 7 of them since Sept. 1, 2019 - \$196,000
- Roofing and Window Permits = 32 / 6 of them since Sept. 1, 2019 = \$219,000
- 184 main St. – new roofing work – 1 layer of Cedar Shakes and 6 layers of shingles were found on this roof.
- Old Chatham Creamery gave temporary Certificate of Occupancy until Sept. 27, 2019.
- Notified 317 E. Cortland St. – trash removal
- 200 W. South St. received their Certificate of Completion

Police Report

Lt. Boice reported:

Oct. 2-3-4, 2019 dates for shooting range training – 3-8pm

There has been some break in's in the Carpenter, Hillcrest & Pleasant St. area – put warning on the Village website.

Mayor Neville commended the Groton Police Dept. for a job well done at Groton Olde Home Days and the officers walking Main St. – good to be visible.

Wastewater

Trustee Walpole reported:

Alvin reported business as usual, everything is running smooth.

Completed the preventative maintenance on the main blowers at the plant.

As reported before that two actuator motors are antiquated as need replacing. Alvin is working on getting prices and bids for next budget.

Memorial Park

The Park is buttoned up for the season except for the bathrooms, which are left open until evening so that people have access.

Grant funds used for – 2 new lifeguard chairs (received but not installed), new circulator pump for kiddie pool (received but not installed), new tables (arrived today), and new playground equipment (not yet received). All should be installed before winter except for playground equipment which will be installed in the Spring.

Jean – no report

Asked if she there is any job description of contact information for each of the committee's that the board members are on.

Admin Rankin said that he would review these committees for additional information.

Chuck

Steve, Nancy, Olivia and Chuck attended the MEUA annual conference in Fairport NY.

Discussion on energy conservation and the long-term agreement to extended 2040 contract is on the Governor's desk. After signing then each Village Board will need to pass a resolution.

During the month of October will be handing out led light bulbs with every electric bill paid in full.

Action Items

Trustee Holl made a motion to open Public Hearing for Local Law #2 Repealing Chapter 112 "Freestyle Sport Facility" and Public Hearing for Local Law #3 Amending Chapter 173, "Streets and Sidewalks", seconded by Trustee Morey.

Mayor Neville read the Public Notice for the public hearing for Local Laws #2 & 3 and a brief discussion followed.

Trustee Holl made a motion to accept Local Law #2 Repealing Chapter 112 "Freestyle Sport Facility" seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Holl made a motion to accept for Local Law #3 Amending Chapter 173, "Streets and Sidewalks" seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Holl made a motion for a Resolution to adopt October 6-12th as Public Power Week,

To Commemorate Our Hometown Electric Utility and Its Tradition of Service

WHEREAS, we, the citizens of Village of Groton, place high value on local control over community services and therefore have chosen to operate a community-owned, locally controlled, not-for-profit electric utility and, as consumers and owners of our electric utility, have a direct say in utility operations and policies; and

WHEREAS, Groton Municipal Electric provides our homes, businesses, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at not-for-profit rates; and

WHEREAS, Groton Municipal Electric is a valuable community asset that contributes substantially to the well-being of local citizens through energy efficiency, customer service, environmental protection, economic development, and safety awareness; and

WHEREAS, as this community's public power system, Groton Municipal Electric first and only purpose is to work in partnership with its customer-owners to furnish an essential public service and the best customer service to community citizens at lower-cost rates;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that Groton Municipal Electric will continue to work to bring lower-cost, safe, reliable electricity to community homes and businesses just as it has since 1933, the year when the utility was created to serve all the citizens of Village of Groton; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the week of October 6-12 as Public Power Week to recognize Groton Municipal Electric for its contributions to the community and to educate consumer-owners, policy makers, and employees on the benefits of public power; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that our community joins hands with more than 2,000 other public power systems in the United States in this celebration of public power, which is best for consumers, business, the community, and the nation.

Seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

Mayor Neville read aloud the Proclamation to designate October 1st as "Phil English Day".

WHEREAS the **American Legion Carrington Fuller Post 800** has been welcoming Veterans since their charter in 1921; and

WHEREAS **Phil English** has been a lifetime resident of Groton and is the oldest member of the American Legion Carrington Fuller Post 800 and has been a member for over 70 years; and

WHEREAS **Phil English** will be 95 on October 1st and is one of the last World War II vets in our area; and

WHEREAS **Phil English** served with pride from November 1943 to November 1945 with Patton's Third Army, Third Calvary; and

WHEREAS **Phil English** was at the "Battle of the Bulge" and

WHEREAS the **Village of Groton** wishes to honor **Phil English** for his service to our country and our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER NEVILLE, Mayor of the Village of Groton, do hereby proclaim Tuesday,

October 1, 2019 as: *"Phil English DAY"*

Discussion on the Proposal for Engineering Service for project entitled "Village of Groton Engineering Planning Grant Trunk Sewer and WTP Evaluation". This project is funded by New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC)

Scope of Work

- Manhole Inspections
- CCTV inspections/Monitoring/Pipe Investigative Work
- WTP Headworks Review
- Evaluation for upgrades to the WWTP headworks
- Evaluation for upgrades to the wastewater collection system trunk sewer
- Reporting

Project goal is to prepare an approvable engineering report identifying the type and extent of repairs necessary to the trunk sewer and manholes within the project limits and the WWTP headworks, the anticipated construction cost, and any potential sources of funding. The Village intends to provide all or a portion of their matching funds via "in-kind" services. The Village Board would like updated reports on these findings.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve the C.T. Male Associates Proposal for Engineering Planning Grant, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

New Business

Trail and Property update from Jennifer Jones, Scott Weeks and Jeff Cronk.

There was a concern about part of the new trail that is not on Village or Town property, this has been resolved by moving the trail approximately 100' from the property line.

New kiosks and benches installed for new trails.

A lot of usage, many positive comments including that the trails are not always "easy" as the rating said, but a good challenge.

There are plans to expand the trails next year.

Ideas of having a plan to "adopt a trail" for maintaining, clearing, etc. Example – Groton Cross Country Team has adopted the trail area behind the High School.

After a lengthy discussion regarding whether to close or post the trails during hunting season for the safety of all people; the Board concurred to post the property with signs for no hunting, no motorized vehicles (only maintenance), no snowmobiles & warning/caution/at own risk during this year's hunting season with no closures of the trail.

No Old Business

Public Comments

Deputy Chief Rick Neville reported that the FD will be meeting with a Morton Building representative to review ideas for property at 308 Main St. lot.

Trustee Walpole stated that he had a message from the owner of 101 Gerald Moses Dr. -the old Plastisol, that the asking price had dropped.

Mr. Neville reaffirmed that they are not interested in the property, Fire Department wants to remain on Main St., and the FD will contact owner of this decision.

Trustee Morey made a motion to adjourn to executive session, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried

Trustee Morey made a motion to return from executive session at 8:56pm, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:57pm.

Vicki Marks

Village Deputy Clerk