

Groton Village Board of Trustees

Monday September 21, 2020 - 7:00pm

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

Board Members

Trustee Conger
Trustee Morey
Trustee Walpole
Trustee Holl
Mayor Neville

Others in attendance:

Nancy Niswender - Clerk
Charles Rankin - Admin
Lt. Troy Boice
Alvin Howell - WWTP
Steve Teeter - Elec Suprv
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.
Lee Shurtleff
Ben Nelson - GFD

David A Herrick, TG Miller
Tim Alger - CCC
Andrew Sullivan
Rick Uhl (left early)

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Audit of claims and approval thereof.

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the claims presented for review, Seconded by Trustee Walpole , all in favor, carried.

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

Abstract #4

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| GENERAL | 135,510.69 |
| WATER | 14,042.04 |
| SEWER | 15,763.07 |
| ELECTRIC | 61,660.15 |
| JOINT REC | 29.99 |

Monthly Department Reports:

Electric Supervisor Teeter

- Mike completed his 2nd week of apprenticeship - next scheduled in October. Then he will be done with his second year.
- Last week we all completed yearly requirement of Pole Top Rescue - Scheduled to go back to Endicott on Oct 5th for the 6th class of safety training.
- Working with Cortland - trying to set up some dates for OSHA hearing test in October.
- We have been doing tree trimming, helping DPW with paving
- Finished pole set and bill sent to insurance for the accident with Alnye Truck.
- Hoping to start working on Library transformer tomorrow.

DPW Supervisor Shurtleff Report Submitted:

Department of Public Works

August 17 – September 21, 2020

Completed Work/Projects:

- Remove sidewalk and tree at 102 Corona Ave.
- Repair a section of sidewalk on Main St.
- Locate and regrade sewer manholes on Spring St.
- Repair curb and drainage problem on Barrows St.
- Clean up a large tree on Elm St. – storm damage.
- Dig and retire an old water service on Spring St.
- Clean out ditch lines on Barrows St.
- Sewer Main Flushing and camera inspection – CT Male
- Remove tree and sidewalk at 102 Main St.
- Milling and prepare Spring St. for paving.

Schedule of Work

- Finish driveway approaches on Spring St.
- Catch basin needed on Clark St.
- Haul in sand for winter
- Close and winterize park and pool
- Finished paving on Spring St & leveled to manholes.
- Ready to move on to next step in the Sewer project.

Additional Comments:

Mayor asked about the contractors on the Racker project.

Contractors for Racker's center is not the one doing the sewer lines.

Suprv. Shurtleff is in contact and is checking in on the project.

Lt. Boice - Police Department Report:

- Monthly report for August 2020 - Total of 249 complaints, which was below normal. For the year we have 48% increase in calls.

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1/1/19 - 8/31/19 | 1932 complaints |
| 1/1/20-8/31/20 | 2864 complaints |

- Police Commissioners would like to have the Village Board review the letter from Officer Ninivaggi during executive session.
- A lot of recent incidents with teenagers stealing cars.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

Everything going well, odor is less.

Trustee Conger Reported on Recreation and Youth Committees:

Joint Recreation -

- Summer Programs: Hiking full with 14 participants , Tennis and Dance Camp cancelled due to low registrations
- Pool- COVID procedures at the pool went well this summer. Staff and patrons did exceptionally well at following new guidelines and procedures. Patron visits were very low this summer. We had a total of 800 registered users but our daily average was under 40 people per day visiting the pool. Total visits= 1,740 for the season.
- Take Home Crafts- Craft packets were very popular this summer. A total of 945 packets were given out on M/W/F's. Crafts were 100% gone each day.
- Yoga in the Park- This program is held on Wednesday's from 6-7pm at Groton Memorial Park by Katelynne Wagner. Most days 4-5 people are attending. Outdoor classes will continue depending on weather. Classes will be moved inside when needed.

Fall Programming:

- Youth XC- Cancelled for the fall
- Youth Soccer- Cancelled
- Youth Football & Cheer- Cancelled

Grants & Professional Development:

- Trail Grant- Cancelled for 2020, 2021 tentative
- Park Pavilion Roof Grant- Cancelled for 2020, 2021 tentative
- Concerts Grant Award: Will be held until 2021 season.
- 2021 Winterfest Grant will most likely not be available.

Trail Committee:

- Jennifer Jones is adding a geocache box to the trail.
- Scott Weeks said there has been vandalism on the trails near the park. Someone has been taking off the trail markers but they have been replaced and the trail committee will continue to monitor.
- Jennifer Jones wanted to point out and thank the DPW for maintaining the trail and their support since the trails have opened.
- This fall or next spring the trail committee plans to connect the lower loop with park trail.

Youth Committee

Program Manger Report from Shelley Lester:

- Interviews for the Program Manager were held with 2 candidates being interviewed. Those present for the interview process were: Glenn Morey and Betty Conger from the Groton Joint Youth Commission, CCE - Shelley Lester, Tompkins County RYS Kate Shanks-Booth, CCE - Megan Tiff and CCE - Athena Steinkraus. Shelley Lester conducted a second, more in-depth interview with one candidate. She also contacted references. Recommendations from the interviewers to offer the position to Nicholas Wagner. Tentatively accepted.

Report: Rural Youth Services Director Kate Shanks-Booth

- Not much to report, many Zoom meetings and staff are returning from vacation. She is expecting a 20% cut in State Aid funding and a possible 12% reduction in local funds.

Report from Fire Chief Ben Nelson submitted:

- 130 Fire and Rescue Calls
- 586 Ambulance Calls
- 716 Total Calls YTD

- New paramedic is picking up hours on the schedule.
- A Cornell student is looking for a location for volunteer membership for experience - currently lives in Ithaca as a student. As she is not a member of Groton and may only be around for a few years, can we consider her for membership. The GFD Board discussed this and would have to look at amending their by-laws to add a new membership classification.
- The Village Board agreed the GFD to amend their by-laws to add a new classification.
- Logan Griffin has completed his physical.

Code Officer Andersen Reported:

- 25 Roofing and Window Permits this year (last year we had a total of 36) \$130,000 of work being done.
- 41 Building permits (last year we had a total of 40) just over million dollars of work being done.

- Dollar General coming along a lot of work being done. They need to pay for their signage.
- Library is coming along good - had to do some additional work.
- Mobile home park has been repaved - watch the speed bumps.
- 102 Corona Ave - finishing up. Price of lumber slowing them down.
- Has been looking at some of the items Skip Schell mentioned in his letter.
- Some of the sidewalks are in bad shape and we will need to decide on how to process. We should put together a letter that highlights all of the items the village offers. We need to look at the code to see what our sidewalk rules are - both sides of road? We should look at the sidewalk spec as part of the handout. Look at NYCOM guides - to see if they have guidelines.

Action Items:

- Trustee Conger made a motion to adopt a Resolution to adopt October 6-12th as Public Power Seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- Mayor Neville appointed Hillari Ninivaggi as full time Police Officer at a rate of \$23.28 per hour beginning October 1st.
- A discussion of Employee health insurance plan types. A comparison of the plan types Excellus PPO and Platinum were reviewed.
Trustee Conger made a motion to present the options to the employees and let them decide if they which to switch to a different plan based on a majority vote. Seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Holl made a motion for approval for Southern Tier Foodbank to hold a once a month food giveaway drive through at the Main St. Village Pavilion. Seconded by trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.
- A discussion of Halloween activities followed: Due to COVID many do not want to take the risk. Too many for trunk or treat - and drive throughs could be a concern with traffic backups. GFD will look at what they could do safely, possibly on Conger Blvd.

Trustee Holl made a motion to allow Groton Fire Department to organize a Halloween activity plan that would follow the CDC safety guidelines, Seconded by Trustee Walpole, all in favor, carried.

Old Business

- Rick Uhl was scheduled to provide an update on the Elm Street project, but left the meeting before he could report.
 - Tim Alger of Complete Concepts did a presentation on the building project design. Building designs were reviewed and next steps would be to hire an architect to render drawings that can be used for the bid process.
 - Commissioner Walpole mentioned that Chris Dempsey discussed a new proposal with him and would like to Village to consider:
He would be willing to take \$850,000 for the property on Gerald Moses Dr.
The bank would definitely be willing to buy the main street lot back.
He also mentioned he would be willing to buy the Walpole Waterworks property and the Village would keep the rights.
The consensus at this time is we are too far into our current project to change direction.
 - Chris Dempsey removed a tree and replaced the sidewalk in front of their building - the tree roots were wrapped around gas lines and cables and recommended it should not be replaced. Suprv. Shurtleff discussed the issue and agreed.
 - Mike Holl - Discussed having official social media sites, that would allow information to be posted. Clerk Niswender said that they will look into what is allowed that would not infringe on the public's free speech. NYCOM training is this week and we will look into what classes may be available concerning this.
 - Lee Shurtleff discussed the Swift 911 program that we could sign up for. It is used for notifications such as: road closures, elections and water main breaks.
- 8:40pm Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss a specific request from an employee, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.
- 8:53pm Trustee Conger made a motion to return from exec session, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.
- Trustee Walpole made a motion to honor Hillari Ninivaggi's request to give her credit toward longevity for her part-time hours as FTE equivalent. Seconded by Trustee Holl, all in favor, carried.
 - Trustee Holl made a motion to change the weekly work hours of the police from 43 hours to 40 hours to base overtime. Seconded by Trustee Conger , all in favor, carried.

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday October 19, 2020 7pm

Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn at 8:54

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Niswender
Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator