

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SEPT. 18, 2017 7 PM

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Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7 pm.

Present were: Mayor Neville, Trustees Conger, Morey and Holl, Mike Andersen-Code Enf. Officer, Lance Coit-Fire Chief, Chad Shurtleff-DPW Supervisor, Tim Williams – Police OIC, Ben Nelson-Deputy Fire Chief, Jennifer Foote-Dean

Absent was: Trustee Evener

Pledge of allegiance.

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21st meeting, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

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

General Fund

From Contingent Fund – 1990.4 - \$130.00

To: Police Contractual – 3120.2 - \$130.00

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

GENERAL (A4)	\$27,597.32	JOINT REC (J4)	\$47.91
WATER (F4)	17,982.75	CAPITAL-Strm Swr (HHS4)	1,508.32
SEWER (G4)	13,354.61	COM DEV (PI 17-9)	1,034.96
ELECTRIC (E4)	50,191.74		

Sewer – Trustee Morey reported that one blower at the plant may have to be replaced. Alvin (Howell's) summer help did a fine job this summer painting, etc.

Youth Commission – Trustee Conger reported that the summer camp was a success. Some field trips were added this year. Lunches for the program seem to be an ongoing issue, food quality is lacking. There will be major staff changes next year, due to college graduations. Community base service initiative sponsored a lemonade stand and raised \$400. Fall programs are under way at the schools. The Commission will be participating in the annual Halloween party at the Legion with the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary.

Joint Recreation - Trustee Conger reported that Recreation Director Jennifer Jones gave her final report the summer programs. The net cost of the summer concerts was only \$394. There were 299 participants in the summer programs. The craft shack at the park had 1,050 visits overall from the youth. Swim lessons had 298, down slightly from last year. The guards give back night netted \$315. Fall programs – soccer, football and cheerleading are under way. An adult ballroom dancing will be offered this winter. A baby sitting course will also be offered. Cabin Fever Festival will be on Saturday, March 3, 2018.

Police – Lt. Williams reported that the Dept. has had 1,526 calls to date, up slightly from last year. All vehicles are running fine at the moment. Fall firearm qualifications will be Oct. 10, 11 and 12.

Code Enforcement – Code Enf. Officer Andersen reported that 38 building permits have been issued to date. Also, 30 roofing and siding permits. All the work at 123 Clark St. garage demolition has been completed. 156 inspections apartment and business inspections have been performed. Code Enf. Officer Andersen subbed for the Town officer last week since he was on vacation.

Fire/Ambulance – Chief Coit reported the Dept. has responded to 632 call year to date. There were nine calls yesterday alone. The Dept. responded to four structure fires in the last month, some were mutual aid. The Dept. has been reviewing candidates for the full-time EMS position and recommend Joe Doeing for the position.

Mayor Neville appointed Joseph Doeing as Critical Care Technician, full-time. Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the appointment at a rate of \$18 per hour, contingent upon all applicable Civil Service requirements being met, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Public Works – DPW Supervisor Shurtleff reported that the Dept. worked mostly on maintenance items during the past month. Sidewalks were pressure washed for Olde Home Days and general cleanup was performed thereafter. A 15 inch drain pipe on Elm Street was replaced that has been problematic. A hydrant was replaced on South Main St. Baken Ave. and Barrows Streets were patched. Supervisor Shurtleff and Rick Neville made a trip to Viking Corp. to see the progress on the new dump truck. The truck should be ready for delivery the first part of November. The Dept. has cleaned up as much as possible in the Blanchard Heights area which had the washout issues in July. The Dept. is planning to use some grant money to extend pool deck at the park in the area of the craft shack. It will provide some seating for parents during swim lessons. The Dept. will also be finishing some clean up work at the park.

Public Comments: Jennifer Foote-Dean came before the board to state that the “Trunk or Treat” will be held on October 31st on the Schara lot from 5 to 7 pm. There are already 10 signed up already.

Recorded for membership in the Fire Dept.: Michael Perkins – CW Conger Hose Co. #2.

Trustee Conger offered the following resolution:

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 1-7 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 Holl, carried.

Admin. Rankin noted that energy efficient light bulbs will be given to customers beginning with the September billing in part of the celebration of Public Power Week.

Trustee Holl made a motion made a motion to retain Municipal Solutions as the Village's fiscal advisor in regards to the borrowings outlined in the bond resolution adopted in July and August, and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve a five year extension to the Joint Recreation Agreement with the Town of Groton and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Groton and Groton Central School District, in effect until 2022, and authorize the Mayor to execute both agreements, seconded by Trustee Morey.

Trustee Conger offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION
OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF THE
DEDUCTIBILITY OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXES**

WHEREAS Congress is giving serious consideration to eliminating the federal income tax deduction for state and local taxes;

WHEREAS this deduction, which has been in place for more than 100 years, is heavily utilized by residents of our community and our State;

WHEREAS New York residents already pay more into the federal treasury than the federal government returns to New York;

WHEREAS the state and local tax deduction is a fundamental principle of federalism and without it our residents would be faced with double taxation as they would be forced to pay federal income taxes on the taxes they pay to state and local governments;

WHEREAS this federal cost shift onto local governments would place extreme pressure on municipal budgets, including diminished revenue for essential local government investments, including public safety and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS increased federal taxation and reduced municipal services will harm our local housing market, decrease home values and erode our local tax base,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of Groton expresses its strong opposition to any tax reform proposal that would eliminate the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction and urges Representative Tom Reed to join us in publicly opposing any such proposal.

Seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

There was discussion on sidewalks. It was decided to hold off on enforcement until after the first of the year.

Admin. Rankin reported on the Tompkins County Shared Service Plan. The 3rd and final required public hearing was held on Sept. 6th and it was approved to be forwarded to the State.

Admin. Rankin thanked the Village Board for allowing him to attend 30 NYCOM Fall Training Schools and displayed the plaque he received by NYCOM for this milestone.

Trustee Conger made a motion to move into executive session to discuss pending litigation and possible purchase of real property, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion to move out of executive session, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried. There were no votes taken or resolutions adopted during the session.

A meeting was scheduled for Monday, Oct. 2, 2017 at 7 pm to discuss the new building project.

At 8:40 pm, the meeting was adjourned to Monday, Oct. 2 at 7 pm.



CHARLES V. RANKIN
Village Clerk

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ADJOURNED MEETING OF SEPT. 18, 2017
OCT. 2, 2017 **7 PM**

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Present were: Mayor Neville, Trustee Conger, Deputy Treasurer Nancy Niswender, DPW Supervisor Chad Shurtleff, Tim Williams-Police OIC, Lance Coit-Fire Chief, Don Scheffler-Town Supervisor, Rich Cunningham-Thoma Development Consultants, and others

[Due to lack of quorum, no official minutes of this meeting were taken. The meeting was mostly discussion in regards to the building of a new facility for the Fire Dept., Police Dept. and Village Office at 308 Main Street.]



CHARLES V. RANKIN
Village Clerk