

# Groton Village Board of Trustees

Tuesday February 16, 2021 7pm

7pm Mayor Neville welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **Board Members**

Trustee Conger  
Trustee Morey  
Trustee Walpole - via Zoom  
Mayor Neville

## **Others in attendance:**

Nancy Niswender - Clerk  
Chad Shurtleff - DPW Suprv.  
Lee Shurtleff - Village Historian  
Steve Teeter - Elec Suprv.  
Mike Anderson - Code Officer

Charles Rankin - PT Admin  
Lt. Troy Boice

## **Absent**

Trustee Holl

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2021 Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

## **Audit of claims and approval thereof.**

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the claims presented for review,

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

### **Abstract #9**

GENERAL	\$	188,079.32
WATER	\$	26,000.61
SEWER	\$	10,685.38
ELECTRIC	\$	140,142.54

Seconded by Trustee Morey , all in favor, carried.

- Mayor Neville Designated Nancy Niswender - Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator as Fair Housing Officer
- A discussion followed on the possibility of resuming the charge of water/sewer penalties. We have lost \$10,143 in penalties since discontinuing in April 2020.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to resume charging late penalties on the March 2021 Billing, seconded by Trustee Morey, all in favor, carried.
- Trustee Conger made a motion to appoint Angela Conger to serve on the TCCOG - Tompkins County Broadband Infrastructure Development Committee, seconded by Trustee Morey , carried.
- We received a letter from Tompkins County Historical Commission with an offer to create a street sign in the We will send a letter of support of this project. We will place it down by welcome sign by waste water treatment.

## **New Building Discussion**

Clerk Niswender reported that the Building Committee and Board have received references to research. We will move back to the Building Committee for the next steps. Trustee Holl asked to mention that we should consider hiring someone to monitor the project for us. The Mayor would like the project to go back to the Building Committee to keep the numbers down The building committee will then report to the Village Board.

## Monthly Department Reports:

### Electric: Supervisor Teeter

- Helped With snow plowing
- Trucks inspected, Some will need a little work
- Yearly Inventory
- Started Spring Stray Voltage Testing

## Department of Public Works

### **Supervisor Shurtleff**

**January 18 – February 16, 2021**

### Completed Work/Projects:

- Plowing and salting on a regular basis.
- Remove snow & ice at Fire Station roof for repairs.
- Repair valves and an air leak at the water plant.
- Work on furnace, heaters, and roof at the Fire Station.
- Respond to a car accident on Rt. 222.
- Move snow from side streets that are full from snowstorm 2/2-2/3.
- Plow and haul snow after the storm.
- Repair truck #46 – broken rim.
- New tires on the skid steer loader.
- Dig out all fire hydrants.
- Monthly water samples.

### Schedule of Work

- Remove snow as needed.
- Repair leaks on the Fire Station roof.

Mayor Neville mentioned he had heard from several residents that the crew did an excellent job with snow clean up. He asked how the salt was holding out. Supervisor Shurtleff said they had ordered 330 ton and used some left of last years and have about the same as last year.

### Fire Department: Fire Chief Ben Nelson Reported

- With Lances help, did some hoeing out and ready to do some painting
- Fire station employees and volunteers - responding from home until further notice.
- Structure fire on E. South St. - a cooking fire.

Trustee Walpole asked about Summerhill request for service contract. They had a small sliver that they were asking Groton to consider covering. The amount of area is small and due to the cost of insurance and other items, it would not be a benefit to the GFD. The Board of Wardens voted unanimously not to continue discussions.

### Code Officer Andersen Reported:

- 501 Spring St - Rackers, coming along good. They need to replace the house trap, all interior being put in.
- Cayuga St - DeMatteo -Turning 111 Cayuga St. house into a 2 family - extending a parking lot.
- Library looking to be done the beginning of March - a little more to do in kitchen area.
- Groton Hotel - tried to get ahold of Jeff Toolan - unable to reach by phone or mail or in person
- Complaint on Speedway - on ada compliance. This is an ADA complaint and he will look into it

### Sewer

Supervisor Shurtleff mentioned : Auger - that takes pressed out of building, is frozen - Alvin Working on it.

## **Police Department Report:**

### **Lt Boice Reported:**

- Police Reform Process has been started.
- Survey has been sent out to all Village addresses.
- The survey will be compiled and added to the report.
- We will schedule a Public Hearing once the survey's are in.
- The plan will be updated with any items that stand out from the survey.
- The final plan will be presented to Board at the March Meeting.
- The report and certification will then need to be sent to the State.

## **Joint Rec - Trustee Conger reported:**

### **Winter Programming**

- Youth Basketball- TBD- Depends on guidance and facility use. A few coaches are still interested in leading teams or skill programs if possible.
- Youth Wrestling- Postponed until next year.
- Art Programming- Color Theory Classes at the legion for kids after school, pending grant award.
- Babysitting Class- Scheduled for March 6th at the Legion community room.

### **School Facility Use**

- No change so far. The athletic director is unable to give me any information at this time but will keep us updated.

### **Spring Planning**

- Pending the use of school facilities, youth baseball & softball will be running while following COVID guidelines. Any programming that is allowed, we will be doing. Younger groups are planned to be at the park and will be moved to school if possible. More planning is required for 10&12U. I'm hoping that outdoor field use at the school will be allowed by spring. We need to get youth outdoors and active anyway possible.

### **2021 Summer Planning**

- Five out of eight 2021 Concerts are scheduled. The plan is to add food trucks this year as well. At this point the Legion has agreed to let us use the facility for concerts this year.
- Summer camp planning is tentative. I am hopeful for "back to normalish" summer programming. Camps confirmed at this point are Art, Hiking, Trail Maint, and Sewing.
- Farmer's Market with CCE

## **Youth Services - Trustee Conger reported:**

Nick Wagner is doing a good job. He is adding a lot of new programs.

Thank you to Lee for use of the Masonic Lodge.

Nick Wagner: Mondays program was Delicious Destinations Culinary Adventures. 9 children registered, 6 in attendance, due to COVID quarantines. Food recipes from Mexico (Enchiladas, Mexican rice, guacamole salad, churros) and Italy (pizza, antipasto, breadsticks and Italian wedding cookies). Week 3 included from USA- burgers, mac and cheese, green bean casserole, and chocolate chip cookies.

Tuesday & Friday: Outdoor Adventures total 17 children. Sledding, fort building, campfire building & cooking, snow painting. One session was held, when it was too cold, was held at the bowling alley. Thank you to the Van Atta's and Hometown Pizza for the free food and bowling.

Wednesday: 15 participants. Awesome Science with the Ithaca Sciencenter. Program about chemical reactions with dry ice.

Thursday: Dance Lessons with Camille: 9 children. Working hard to perfect dances for a socially distanced, safe recital in the spring. This group continues to grow, with 4 sessions so far. Hoping to add a third session in the evening.

Nick continues to do training online. Program attendance continues to increase!!

Suggestion of a program: We need a logo/slogan. How about a program with the youth to create that?

## **Presentation from Village Historian Shurtleff**

**Lee Shurtleff - Village Historian** gave a history on the Groton Bridge Manufacturing Company. Due to an article in the Cortland Standard that mentioned there is a Bridge on Freese Rd. What would be the feasibility if we were to obtain the trusses and cross section, possible line the walking trail with bridges and call it the Groton Bridge Walk. He spoke with an engineer Gary Wood on what would be required to do a project like this. Some people in Rotary and a few others that might be interested in doing something with this. Include a kiosk that shows the history and photos. Possibly some of the other groups may like to help with landscaping. Possibly mount some of the cast iron signs. Maybe get the STEAM lab to help with some of the items. He contacted Dan Lamb the Town of Dryden supervisor and they may be willing to move the parts of the bridge here. Lee is willing to head this up.

The Village Board is in favor of Lee moving forward with researching this process.

8:02pm Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss specific personnel concerns , seconded by Trustee Morey , carried.

8:15pm Trustee Conger made a motion to return from exec session, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

8:16pm Trustee Conger made a motion to suspend the meeting to the February 27, 2021 budget workshop at 9am

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Niswender  
Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator

## **Groton Village Board of Trustees**

**Saturday 27, 2021 9am**

**Village Board of Trustees meeting from, Tuesday 16, 2021 reconvened at 9am.**

The Village Board and Budget Officer met to discuss the upcoming 2021-22 budget  
The tentative budget was reviewed and will be updated. The Village Board will meet again in March.

Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn at 11:45am.