

# Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, August 19, 2019

Present: Mayor Neville, Trustees Morey, Conger, and Walpole, Nancy Niswender - Clerk/Treas, Chad Shurtleff - DPW Supv, Ben Nelson -Fire Chief, Mike Andersen - Code Enf, Steve Teeter- Elec Utl. Supv., Lt. Troy Boice, Police OIC, Admin Charles Rankin, GFD Rick Neville, Lee Shurtleff, Attn. Peter Grossman, Trustee Holl absent.

Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15 & July 29, 2019 board meetings, seconded by Trustee Walpole, carried.

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

Budget Adjustments:

F8340.1 Trans Pers Serv	\$600	F8320.1 Source Pers Serv	\$600
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Seconded by Trustee Conger, carried. The above adjustments and claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

### **Abstract #3**

GENERAL	\$118,521.63	ELECTRIC	\$ 58,166.93
WATER	\$ 21,386.03	JOINT REC	\$ 5,253.17
SEWER	\$ 10,807.14		

## **Monthly department reports.**

### **Electric:**

#### **Supv Teeter reported:**

Report on the substation: Help from the Village of Greene and our DPW. We found 13 cracked insulators, missed time frame to get it turned back on, but were able to get it done. We found one adjustment that needed to be repaired. We found some switches on the front that were pitted and burnt and have ordered replacements – due in 10-12 weeks. We will not need to shut down to replace them.

August 15<sup>th</sup> - Yearly Pole top rescue training certification done.

In contact with Diversified Testing - They conduct testing on our bucket truck and digger every Fall. They have put us on their list, they will get a hold of us with a date.

Big tree limb on Elm St between Williams and Church. It broke a pole and pulled services all the way up to Hilltop place. It took about 4 hours to put it all back up.

We completed some maintenance on storage building, meter testing building, generator building.

Upgrading various electric systems including Olde Chatham Cheese Factory.

Mayor Neville asked how many areas you can shut down separately. Supv. Teeter said there are sections we can shut off and turn areas back on as things are fixed.

**DPW:**

**Supv Shurtleff report submitted:**

**Department of Public Works  
July 15 – August 19, 2019**

**Completed Work/Projects:**

- Installed a new water service at the Car Wash - This separates it from the laundry mat. They both have their own meters now. It appears the laundry mat is up for sale.
- Conducted a tour of the water plant for Pall Trinity
- Repair curbing at 102 Williams St.
- Repair a broken drive shaft on the lawn mower
- Repair catch basin and piping at the Village office parking lot to redirect water to a better path.
- Replace oil seals & tie rods on Kubota tractor
- Install pipe & catch basins on Blanchard Hts., also grade the ditch line where needed. The Town of Groton did some ditching and did a nice job.
- Repair a broken sewer main on Roosevelt Ave.
- New water meter at 310 S. Main St.
- Summer crew staining the new trail kiosk; weeding & trimming at the Satterly bridge
- Mowing and general maintenance in the Morton Works
- Installed 5 trail head kiosks for the new trail

Will be doing paving on Blanchard Heights and hope to roll over funds to next year to do some curbing to help with storm water.

Sewer main on Roosevelt Ave was repaired.

Several sidewalks to replace; South Main St at the Bridge, East Side of Peru Road by the car wash, and some on Sykes St. Al & Joe Hays may be able to help get some done if they have time.

We have been working on the new trail system. Helping with benches and kiosks. The Joint Rec Trail committee has done a nice job creating.

### **Groton Fire Department:**

#### **Chief Ben Nelson reported:**

Calls YTD: 549 ambulance calls 102 fire calls

- Jr Firefighter Camp, average of 80 kids per night. Looking forward to next year. Possibly make some changes for next year.
- Community Night – went well.
- All set for Olde Home Days – selling food at Legion Friday and Saturday. Parade at 6pm. Building Raffle winners drawn right after parade.
- We have a vacant Chiefs position – Jamie Babcock resigned his position. This position will be vacant until January.

### **Code Enforcement**

#### **Code Officer Anderson reported:**

Cheese plant – State Inspectors coming in Friday. Thursday final walk through, also waiting for the final electric inspection. Currently doing test runs.

- Roofing Permits, \$116,000
- 22 Building Permits, \$72,000

Mr. Pirro pressure washing building on Main.

Seven Eleven cleaning up for future showing. There are no interested buyers at this time.

First National Bank of Groton looking to do an expansion. They will submit information.

Received a call from a real estate company concerning the use of space and area of the laundry mat.

Lt. Boice mentioned that on 184 Main – Police Officers have been instructed to have residents move off of the sidewalk if more than 3-4 people.

Code Officer Anderson has received calls about bed bugs, he can only inspect when the apartment is empty.

### **Police Report**

#### **Lt. Boice reported:**

The fall training is scheduled for the first week of October

Gave away 8 bicycles at Community night out.

Interviewed a new potential Part Time Officer Bryan Morse.

Would like to look at extending the police hours coverage on the next budget especially in the summer.

**Trustee Conger reported:**

**Joint Recreation:**

New Trail opening this weekend.

Guards give back event is tonight. This is a program for the kids.

Labor Day 5k, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Youth Cross County this fall

Youth Football new league. Games will be held at central locations with certified referees.

Leon Brockway from the school will be attending Joint Rec Committee Meetings as an alternative for Monica Dykeman.

Chief Nelson asked if the football could contact him for EMT coverage. - He should speak with Jennifer Jones.

**Youth Commission**

*61 Campers this year with weekly enrollment this year 32-43 maximum of any week was 50.*

*Youth Employment - Summer camp had 4 youths employed and 6 through the Harvest Grant.*

*Workforce NY – 3 paid assistants at Summer camp and 4 at the free farmers market.*

*Groton Harvest continues this week – over 200 kids attending and up to 900 lbs. of food distributed.*

*Groton Children's Harvest is giving away more than any other site including Elmira and Watkins Glen.*

*My side of the Mountain in October camping trip in the Catskills.*

**Memorial Park**

Trustee Walpole reported: - The park looks beautiful and the slide has been repaired.

**Wastewater**

He has been painting. White rags coming through the system have decreased and the waste grinder is working well.

Two actuator motors on the tanks. One motor has been replaced – these motors are obsolete and need to look at budgeting for replacements.

We are now taking our sludge to a different place that will completely dry and make it accepted by landfills.

### **Action Items**

Trustee Morey made a motion to have the Mayor appoint Part Time Police Officer – Bryan Morse – at a rate of \$20.40 per hour, seconded by Trustee Conger.

Mayor Neville appointed Bryan Morse as PT Police Officer at \$20.40 per hour.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve the open container exception for Anna Parks picnic on August 31, 2019 seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Groton Labor Day 5K on September 2, 2019, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

### **Old Business**

**Discussion on the Blanchard Heights project** and easement on Spring Street.

Attorney Grossman: We did get a copy of the easement, but they removed part of the easement area and he explained that we need that area as it is not accessible.

The agreement with Carmen Munson, has been finalized. The Mayor will sign the agreement and Carmen will be in tomorrow to sign it.

**Discussion on the Franziska Racker's Center Project** – Gary Wood approached Supv Shurtleff

Clerk Niswender commented she spoke with Ron Jones from Racker's. They are all set to go to bid once they finalize the details on the water flow for the sprinkler system. They hope to begin the construction as soon as they can and hope to be well under way before snow flies.

They are willing to present a commitment letter and did ask what we would like to see in it and how formal it needed to be. Peter Grossman will talk with their attorney Pagano tomorrow to discuss commitment and possible letter of credit.

We should have Brian Klumpp schedule in a survey. Suprv. Shurtleff will get water flow tomorrow.

**Administrator Rankin** discussed the two local laws he has been updating:

A LOCAL LAW REPEALING CHAPTER 112 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF GROTON, "FREESTYLE SPORTS FACILITY".

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 112 of the Code of the Village of Groton, "Freestyle Sports Facility", is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 2. This local law shall take effect immediately.

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A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 173 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF GROTON, "STREETS AND SIDEWALKS", TO AMEND SECTION 173-4 (A), (B) AND 173-4 (C), AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 173-4 (D).

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Groton as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 173 of the Code of the Village of Groton is hereby amended to amend Section 173-4 as follows:

**§ 173-4 Prohibited activities.**

- a. No persons shall ride a bicycle, in-line skates, roller blades, or skateboards upon any of the sidewalks in the Village of Groton.
- b. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride any in-line skates, roller blades or other similar contrivances on any street in the Village of Groton.
- c. It shall be unlawful for any person to coast sleighs, sleds, toboggans, snow boards, or other similar contrivances on any street in the Village of Groton.
- d. No person shall engage in ballplaying on any of the streets in the Village of Groton.

Section 2. This local law shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York.

Clerk Niswender will post in the local paper and set up for approval next month meeting.

Admin Rankin working on the park code, he would like to attend Joint Rec, meeting

IDA issue – We did get a letter back and need to catch up annual reports, 2017 done, will work on 2018 and need to wait until our certified audit is done for the 2019. Need to dedicate south end of street.

Peter Grossman, as long as you have assets and file the reports you can continue with the IDA.

Admin Rankin: Two - ten years periods that were approved. Ended in 2003.

Peter Grossman mentioned that it would be good to have the IDA do a resolution to have the Village take the title and have a dedication of the street.

## **New Business**

### **Update on 2020 Census - Trustee Conger**

Went to a meeting at the Tompkins County Public Library – Census in April next year – all short form. There will be 9 questions. The census should include all residence on April 1<sup>st</sup> including college students. Library's will be used – all online. They will also use mobile units that will help with the School House Gardens, the senior center and anyone else that may need help. Jobs available \$17 - \$20 hr.

### **Update on United Way Summers of Service and Community Care Fund & Campaign - Clerk Niswender**

Julian Sammons - 10th grader from Ithaca High School was selected to be an intern for us for the United Way Summers of Service program.

He has learned the Laserfiche program and has scanned several documents that we which to keep as permanent into the Laserfiche program, scanned several other reports that we need to keep for 6 years, but can dispose of and has worked on numerous spreadsheet projects and filing projects. We were given a \$1,600 grant from the United Way Summers of Service Program. This program is funded throughout the Cornell Student United Way fund raising efforts to provide High School Students with actual work time experience and to help the organizations the United Way funds. We also receive United Way Community Care funds through the Groton Community Council to help support our Joint Rec Summer program.

The United Way has requested that organizations that are funded through the Community Care fund to consider running a workplace campaign to support their efforts. This would allow employees to give donations to the United Way or to the non-profit of their choice through the United Way through payroll deduction.

Clerk Niswender would like to set this up. Are there any questions or concerns? None mentioned – VBT agreed ok to go ahead.

**Verizon Phone update by Clerk Niswender.** The Verizon Phone bill has gone up dramatically in the past few months. About double. After several phone calls, emails I have been unsuccessful in getting any answers or solutions. As we were previously looking into a VOIP system for the majority of the village phones, we moved this process along quicker. We have upgraded the internet, which was needed anyway and are awaiting a report from planned first to five to Verizon Wireless to give us a quote on equipment and service. I will update you as soon as I get the quote.

**Public Comments**

Peter Grossman - for the Fire Department: His kids loved the event at Stewart Park and the Yellow Fire Department Truck.

Trustee Conger Department of assessment correction for Gerald Westlund – Senior Citizen Exemption to be adjusted second, Trustee Morey

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

Mayor Neville made a motion to return from executive session at 9:40pm, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion made to adjourn 9:43pm

Nancy Niswender  
Clerk Treasurer