

Groton Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, December 16, 2019

Present: Mayor Neville, Trustees Morey, Conger, Holl and Walpole, Nancy Niswender - Clerk/Treas, Chad Shurtleff - DPW Supv, Ben Nelson -Fire Chief, Steve Teeter- Elec Utl. Supv. Lt. Troy Boice, Police OIC, Rick Neville Jr., GFD Admin Charles Rankin, Mile Perkins, Andrew Sullivan, Groton Independent.

Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

Trustee Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2019 board meeting, seconded by Trustee Morey.

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

General Fund:

Per year end audit adjustment, the 2018-19 budget is adjusted as follows:

A9015.8 Police Retirement	\$613.00	A9010.8 State Retirement	\$613.00
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2019/2020 Budget

A9060.8 Med Ins.	\$600.00	A9089.8 Other Med Ins.	\$600.00
A511 Apropr Reserv	\$ 2.20	A9950.9 TFR to HP	\$ 2.20

Joint Rec:

Increase in Income and Expense to account for additional registrations and expenses.

J2001 Basketball Income	\$1,020.00	J7145.43 Basketball Expense	\$1,020.00
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Seconded by Trustee Holl, carried. The above adjustments and claims paid are covered by the following lists of abstracts of audited vouchers:

Abstract # 7

GENERAL	\$ 148,249.27	ELECTRIC	\$122,037.10
WATER	\$ 5,292.89	JOINT REC	\$ 3,378.00
SEWER	\$ 12,837.94		

Monthly department reports:

Electric:

Supv Teeter reported:

Tree Trimming

Holiday Decorations

New Phone Lines run for new system

Yearly Safety School – 1st week of January

Sewer Plant – Helped Alvin work on a motor that was being overloaded. Tore pipework apart and removed polymer. Cleaned and now running. Additional items to be examined.

DPW:

Supv Shurtleff submitted his monthly report:

**Department of Public Works
November 18 – December 16, 2019**

Completed Work/Projects:

- Complete leaf pickup detail
- Repair a hole in the road and plugged catch basin
- Begin grading gravel hauled to the park
- Rake the yard at the office and clean out gutters
- Trim trees on Church St.
- Plow and salt as needed 12/2/19 – 12" snow fall
- Move snow off Main St. as needed
- Replace the transmission pan & brakes on truck #48
- Decorate the CR pavilion for the tree lighting
- Begin working on the kitchen area at the office
- Install the new snow blade on the tractor

Schedule of Work

- Locate manholes for the sewer study
- Finish the kitchen project @ the main office
- Refurbish the guard shack @ the park
- Repair broken fire hydrants

Groton Fire Department:

Chief Ben Nelson reported:

Calls YTD: just broke over 1,000 dispatch calls - 833 ambulance calls - 176 fire calls. The actual call report will be presented next month.

Mutual Aid calls – one in Freeville

The annual tree lighting was successful last week with the help of the Village and Bun Appetit. Comment from a child "It was Truly Magical!" Hot dogs a big hit.

Election of Officers January 8th, Banquet January 18th

Ed Smith has been 60 years with Fire Department as of 2019.

Ambulance calls are up due to Nursing home calls – Typically 60 per year – this year over 250. They don't have as many RN's on the schedule and LPN's cannot do what EMT's/Paramedics can do, especially falls. This is putting a heavy burden on the ambulance and many others. They did hire another RN recently to cover nights.

Code Enforcement

Code Officer Anderson submitted his report:

Code Enforcement for month highlights.

I shut down the apartments at 133 Cayuga St. For lack of Fire Safety inspection. The new owners have taken over. So far has removed 5 dumpsters of trash from the building.

The new home at 3 Valley View is complete and C of O issued. (Kasey Dunn)

I issued an Order of Remedy to Judith Wittko of 302 W. Cortland St. for property maintenance.

I issued an Order of Remedy to Richard Baker of 202 Barrows St. for property maintenance.

I issued an Order of Remedy to the owner of the Main St. Pizzeria for not installing a Grease Trap in the business.

I sent a letter to Jeff Toolan about holding events at the Hotel without first having his Fire Safety inspection. And that the rooms he is renting out need a Fire Safety inspection.

Mr. Pirro asked me to shut down one of his apartments as it is Roach infested and it is hard for him to remove the occupant. I did inspect the apartment and found it to be inhabitable due to the unsanitary conditions and the amount of fire load. I posted the apartment and gave the occupant 36 hrs. to leave.

Have done 8 Fire Safety inspections for November. 39 Building Permits for the year
36 Roofing and Window permits for the year

Police Report

Lt. Boice reported:

2 overdoses – this weekend. One saved and one on life support.

2692 calls - 1,100 calls more than last year. Larceny & domestics are a large share.

New bail reform training today.

Trustee Conger reported:

Joint Recreation:

76 youth are taking part in basketball starting in January. All games will be in Cortland or Homer.

Gym schedules have easier to work with this year.

Youth Wrestling started last week with Jeff Brockway, 2nd – 6th grade. Tournaments in January & February.

American Red Cross Babysitting Classes will be held in February.

Cabin Fever is February 29th. They have DJ, bounce house, Crossroads the Clown and photo booth.
Roller-skating will be from 6-8.

Grants –Summer Concert grant done, Cabin Fever awarded \$1,000, Trail Grant – Final report submitted and will be offered again this year.

Youth Commission

Current Programs include **Ag Adventures** with 10 elementary students, **Holiday Gift Makers**, 12 elementary students enrolled, and 12 middle school students, **Cooking with Groton Harvest** has 18 Students enrolled.

December 5 is Intergenerational Training.

March 20 and 21 Monica will be a presenter at the Network for Youth Success Conference.

Groton Fresh Program: 23 youth were able to take home the first dinner bags of pasta primavera. 3 youth were trained on how to make the bags and track data and responses from the families. Tween Night at the Library had 14 participants who enjoyed a movie, snacks, 3D printing, computer games and more.

Wastewater

Trustee Walpole reported:

No report

Admin Rankin

Action Items:

IDA met and authorized to have the property turned over to the Village. We will also need to dedicate the undedicated portion of Gerald Moses Dr.

As there has been no movement in the IDA property and there is required annual reporting, the IDA would like to dissolve.

This was done in two stages – the first part was dedicated in 2011, and the second now.

The IDA owes the Village \$12,500. One lot was sold and \$37,500 was paid back to the village. The remaining property and bank balances would be turned back over to the Village and the request is to have the Village forgive the \$12,500.

Once the properties have all been transferred then the IDA will then need to petition the State Legislature to sponsor a bill to dissolve.

Trustee Holl made a motion to accept the resolution authorizing acquisition of Property of the Village of Groton Industrial Development Agency as stated, seconded by Trustee Morey.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to adopt the resolution accepting the IDA offer of dedication of the southern section of Gerald Moses Drive, pending the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Holl.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to schedule the public hearing for the dedication of Gerald Moses Drive on January 20, 2020 at 7:40, seconded by Trustee Holl.

Trustee Holl made a motion to accept the resolution to forgo the \$12,500 owed to the Village from the IDA as part of the dissolution, seconded by Trustee Walpole.

Trustee Holl made a motion to schedule the public hearing for Local Law #1 to override the tax cap for the January 20, 2020 meeting at 7:30pm, seconded by Trustee Walpole.

Trustee Walpole made a motion to approve travel and attendance for Clerk Niswender to the GFOA Conference April 1st- 3rd, 2020, seconded by Trustee Conger.

Trustee Holl made a motion to of Fire/Ambulance Contracts with the Town (Fire \$145,000, Ambulance \$163,500), seconded by Trustee Morey.

Clerk Niswender Reported:

The Verizon phone update issues were reviewed.

Windows 7 is no longer supported and we will need to upgrade our computers and also replace some of those that will not accept the upgrade.

Other Items:

The school STEAM group designed some banners and the Village Board of Trustees reviewed and selected number 6. The banner will need to have some updates. Trustee Conger will contact the school.

Chief Nelson Fire Department presented an application for Matthew Whittaker for Hook and Ladder. The application was accepted and recorded.

Trustee Conger made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 7:45pm to discuss an employee's status, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion to return from executive session at 8:01pm, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Employee wages, contracts and training were discussed.

Trustee Holl made a motion to increase Mike Perkins hourly wage to \$20.00 per hour due to his completion of his first year of apprentice lineman training, seconded by Trustee Conger.

Trustee Conger made a motion made to adjourn 8:04 pm

Nancy Niswender
Clerk Treasurer